



Connecticut Association for Community Action 2019 Policy Agenda

Who we are

The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is the state association for Connecticut's 9 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federal designated antipoverty agencies.

What we do

The Community Action Agency Network is Connecticut's largest statewide safety net. Well-known and trusted in our communities, CAAs provide limited income people in all 169 cities and towns with essential health and human services such as food, heating assistance, employment and training, housing, and child care. Last year, we served 293,840 residents.

To strengthen our commitment to empower people in need and improve the communities in which they live, **Connecticut's Community Action Agency Network will pursue the following priorities in the 2019 legislative session:**

- ✓ **Increase funding for the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI)-Community Action Program (CAP).** HSI-CAP is a multigenerational, integrated service delivery system that connects CAA customers with necessary tools, skills, and resources to achieve and maintain short and long-term economic independence. This funding is critical to the CAA network and a smart investment in Connecticut's future. *HSI-CAP is integral in helping CAA customers achieve positive health and economic outcomes from the critical services we provide. In the coming year, the CAA Network will have over 100 Community Health Workers (CHWs), who will serve as a liaison between individuals, communities, and health and social services to facilitate access to care, improve the quality and cultural responsiveness of service delivery, and address social determinants of health.*
- ✓ **Support Community Action's role in early childhood education programs, and increase the child daycare rate.** By investing in a multigenerational approach to early care and learning, Community Action Agencies prepare children for future success. Providing support for both children and their families as a whole is key in helping to ensure positive and improved mental, social, emotional, educational, and developmental outcomes, and in reducing the achievement gap. *Access to high-quality, early childhood care education programs is essential in helping to break the cycle of poverty. The average cost of a daycare center in Connecticut is \$11,546 per child, per year, yet the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) per child rate is \$9,000. CAFCA requests that the State increase the reimbursement to providers to \$10,000 for providing quality care to Connecticut's most important resource – our children.*
- ✓ **Invest in weatherization energy conservation measures, and inform and protect Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) customers about utility collection practices and shutoffs.** The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) provides critical heating assistance to over 80,400 limited income households helping them manage the highest overall energy costs in the country. *We are committed to assisting our customers with their energy bills and avoiding energy crises—including utility shutoffs and bad credit—due to utility debt collection and credit reporting practices.* Additionally, the CAA Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Home Energy Solutions, Income Eligible program are the state's most important resources in helping limited income families improve the energy efficiency of their home.