

Connecticut Association For Community Action (CAFCA)

Partnerships that work. Results that matter.



CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – 2010

✓ ***Maintain Connecticut's Human Services Infrastructure (HSI)***

Serving every city and town in our state, Connecticut's Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are the foundational partners in the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI), a customer-focused, integrated human service delivery system that allows every person who walks through our doors to be connected to proven, comprehensive services. Nearly two decades of HSI funding cuts must stop. CAAs are a key resource in helping Connecticut's most vulnerable people move from poverty to self-sufficiency. The HSI achieves the positive results Connecticut's families deserve.

✓ ***Invest in Early Childhood Education & Reduce the Achievement Gap***

Education is the way out of poverty for most low-income children, but Connecticut's achievement gap is the worst in the nation. Research shows that a holistic, family development approach to preschool education and family literacy creates the best outcomes. Support the major publicly-funded preschool programs (DSS Child Development Centers, School Readiness, and Head Start) equitably and adequately. Preserve full-day programs for children of low-income working parents. Expand proven programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start. Fund Care4Kids (child care subsidies) so working families can afford quality preschool; restore reimbursement rates to reflect the biennial market rate survey and restore eligibility to all working families with incomes below 75% of the state median income. Maintain funding for mentoring and after-school tutoring. Every child deserves a fair shot at success.

✓ ***Let Working Families Build Assets***

Connecticut is the only New England state that has an income tax but does not have a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The federal EITC has been shown to reduce poverty for young children by nearly 25%—more than any government program. A state EITC would reward work by providing low-income working families with a refund equal to 25% of their federal EITC. Along with expanded outreach, this would increase federal EITC receipts in Connecticut and empower low-income working families to attain greater financial security and self-sufficiency.

✓ ***Strengthen the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)***

Many energy assistance customers are disabled or elderly persons whose consistent needs and fixed incomes mean they depend on the program every year. Year-round operation would allow for easier and more timely eligibility determination and smoother operation, and would ensure that as many people as possible are saved from the cold.

✓ ***Use CAAs' Reporting Expertise in Results-Based Accountability (RBA)***

To maximize effectiveness and efficiency, Connecticut's CAAs have long used the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) system. ROMA is already aligned with the General Assembly's Results-Based Accountability initiative. CAAs have the capacity and expertise to assist in advancing the RBA effort. Our annual report, available at www.cafca.org, shows how we use ROMA to document our impact and plan for the future.

✓ ***Implement Indexing for Nonprofit Human Service Providers***

Provide equitable funding to nonprofit human service providers with Department of Social Services (DSS) contracts. Nonprofits and state government have long been service partners, and nonprofits' financial stability and success are essential to the state as a whole. For nearly two decades, private provider contract rates have failed to keep pace with the rising Consumer Price Index. Critical services are being decimated, and vulnerable recipients are suffering.

For more information, please visit www.cafca.org or call (860) 832-9438.