2023 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Advance equitable access to state and federal resources for residents, nonprofits and businesses in the region aligned with Foundation mission and strategic priorities.

- Support and distribute research on state and municipal expenditures of state and federal funding, highlighting inequities in how funding is allocated and utilized.
- Sponsor and share research on community need, best practices, and evaluation data with policymakers to better inform state programming and allocation of resources.
- Promote public-private partnerships addressing the needs of historically marginalized residents, including efforts to advance racial equity in communities of color.
- Support community engagement and organizing efforts to ensure resident voice in the policy and budget allocation decision-making.

Increase the number of Hartford residents living in high opportunity neighborhoods in Hartford and the Greater Hartford region.

- Increase state investments that support the quality of housing in the City of Hartford.
- Eliminate structural barriers to Hartford residents’ access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods in the region.
- Sponsor and distribute research to educate lawmakers on the need for increased state support of affordable housing development, rental and homeownership assistance.

Increase employment opportunities for Black and Latino/a/x residents.

- Expand equitable access to education, job-training and employment opportunities.
- Increase employment and career exposure for youth, with a focus on Alliance Districts.
- Increase post-secondary degree and credential completion by Black and Latinx students.
- Remove barriers to education, job training and employment including expanding eligibility for state supported childcare and access to transportation.
- Support expansion of PACT tuition-free community college program.

RELATED WORK in 2022

- Commissioned Analysis of the ARPA
- Co-sponsored a convening with the Connecticut Council of Municipalities on ARPA dollars
- Jay Williams testified before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Select Committee on Economic Disparity & Fairness in Growth
- With Governor’s Office and CCP, hosted a virtual convening on public-private partnerships
- Grants awarded to support the Hartford Data Collaborative, Equity in Data Community of Practice, Youth Civic Data Program, Community Wellbeing Survey, Greater Hartford Community Wellbeing Index, CT Town Equity Report

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RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive Testimony: House Bill 5204, An Act Concerning A Needs Assessment And Fair Share Plans For Municipalities To Increase Affordable Housing
- Awarded $210,000 across 9 grants to support housing policy and advocacy efforts

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RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive Testimony: Senate Bill 408, An Act Establishing A Small Business Child Care Incentive Program, encouraging businesses to remove longstanding barrier to employment: adequate, affordable childcare (signed into law)
- House Bill 5267, An Act Concerning The Department Of Economic And Community Development’s Strategic Planning Regarding The Promotion Of Arts And Culture, encouraging inclusion of artists of color (signed into law).
Promote adequate and effective public sector investments that provide basic human needs for residents in the region.

Expand state supports to:
- Reduce food insecurity
- Increase homeless diversion
- Increase physical and mental health services for low-income residents, with a specific focus on health equity to improve health outcomes for people of color.
- Ensure equitable access to the internet.

Expand state support and improve coordination of services for residents returning from incarceration.

- Remove barriers and promote employment opportunities, including expanding access to education, job readiness training, and credentialing opportunities.
- Expand access and eliminate barriers to quality, affordable housing by removing discriminatory policies used by public housing authorities and private property owners.
- Increase access to mental and physical health services, including substance abuse counseling, that focus on residents returning from incarceration.

Increase state resources to support community-based safety interventions.

- Increase state support for community-based, positive youth development programming, with a focus on opportunity youth.
- Provide public sector support to clinicians, violence prevention professionals and other providers supporting youth and families impacted by community violence.
- Increase opportunities for policies to be informed by justice-impacted youth and families.
- Monitor and inform legislation that seeks to roll back the state’s national model juvenile justice reforms enacted over the past several years.

Expand state voter registration, and access to ballot initiatives and other measures to enable broader civic engagement.

- Expand voter participation and protected access to the ballot.
- Promote equitable resident civic engagement, including appointing and providing stipends for historically marginalized residents to serve on legislative task forces and commissions.