



# 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](#)

### 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
- [House Bill 520](#), An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction
- Awarded [\\$210,000 across 9 grants](#) to support housing policy and advocacy efforts

### 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.

### RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive Testimony: [Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 5001](#) expanding children's access to mental and behavioral health care. (HB 5001 was signed into law)
- [Senate Bill 168](#), An Act Establishing a Right to Housing.

### RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive testimony: [SB 334](#), An Act Making The Commercial Driver's License Knowledge Test Available To Certain Incarcerated Persons, (signed into law)
- [HB 5248](#), An Act Concerning Collateral Consequences Of Criminal Convictions On Occupational Licensing (signed into law)
- [SB 101](#), An Act Concerning Workforce Development Programs For Incarcerated Persons And Persons Reentering The Community After Incarceration (signed into law).

### RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive testimony: *Provisions included in* [Senate Bill 387](#), An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee, including a proposed expansion of community diversion programs and inclusion of individuals impacted by the juvenile justice system to serve on the JJPOC.

### RELATED WORK in 2022

- Supportive testimony: [Senate Bill 184](#) An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration As A Result of Covid-19 And Concerning Eligibility To Vote By Absentee Bollo.