

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving 2021 Legislative Activity

Activity	Strategic Priority	Issue	Foundation Position	Status	Linked Activity
Hartford Testimony Regarding House Joint Resolution 58, Proposing A State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting	Civic and Resident Engagement	Resolution asks voters to decide whether or not to amend the State Constitution to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot.	The Foundation offered testimony in support of this resolution based on the experiences of the 2020 election which saw one of the highest turnouts in state history, more than 650,000 people safely and conveniently cast their ballots by taking advantage of the availability of no-cost, postage-paid, absentee ballots. A State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting would make such efforts in the future even more successful, with the advantage of increased time to prepare.	Resolution was approved by House and Senate but not with the requisite votes required. Bill will be reconsidered in the next session and if approved by a simple majority in both chambers it will appear on the ballot in the November 2024 Election.	As part of its efforts to dismantle structural racism and improve social and economic mobility for Black and Latinx residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation supports civic and resident engagement in our region. Beginning in 2018, the Foundation began supporting voter registration drives focused on populations least likely to participate in federal, state and local elections: young adults, Latinx and Black residents, justice-involved residents, individuals with developmental disabilities and people living in high poverty neighborhoods.
Hartford Testimony Regarding House Joint Resolution 59, Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting	Civic and Resident Engagement	Resolution to approve an amendment to the State Constitution to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for voting in person prior to the day of election in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified voters of the state.	The Foundation offered testimony in support	Resolution was overwhelmingly approved by House and Senate and voters will vote on the Constitutional amendment until the November 2022 Election.	See above
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6119, An Act Concerning Arts, Culture and Tourism Funding	Arts and Culture	Bill increases, from ten percent to twenty-five percent, the portion of room occupancy tax revenue directed to the Tourism Fund and require forty percent of funds be allocated to arts and culture and sixty percent of such money be	The Hartford Foundation submitted testimony in strong support of this bill, grounded in our own work to support Arts and Cultural organizations and institutions in Greater Hartford.	Language from bill was included in budget implementer legislation signed by Governor Lamont	The Foundation supports many arts and cultural organizations in Greater Hartford and had emphasized the need for more stable and equitable funding for under resourced organizations led by and or supporting artists of color.

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		allocated to tourism and would change the name of the Tourism Fund to the Arts, Culture and Tourism Fund.			
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 753, An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for Purposes of Determining Legislative Districts	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods Civic and Resident Engagement	Bill provides for the adjustment of population data so as to count incarcerated persons as residents of their last town of residence rather than as residents of the town in which the correctional facility is located when determining legislative districts.	The Foundation testified in support of the bill based on the recognition that most Connecticut state prisoners come from urban communities with large black and Latino populations, but are imprisoned in rural, mostly white communities. Including incarcerated individuals in the counts of their hometowns will ensure that these communities have more equitable representation in the legislature.	Bill was passed by House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation has made significant investments in support of successful re-entry of residents returning from incarceration. The Foundation has also made significant investments in voter registration and Census participation to ensure that residents, particularly those in our urban communities, have fair representation in federal, state and local government.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 1019, An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Erasure of Criminal Records for Certain Misdemeanor and Felony Offenses, Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Erased Criminal History Record Information and Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods Employment Opportunities	The so-called "Clean Slate" bill requires certain training to members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and to require the board to provide a written explanation when denying a pardon, to streamline record erasure in the case of misdemeanors and certain felonies, waive certain fees for applicants for a pardon, allow for appointment of a deputy warden to serve as director of reentry services, establish a reentry employment advisory committee, prohibit discrimination against a person based on such person's erased criminal history record information, and enact the Connecticut Sentencing Commission's recommendations	The Hartford Foundation submitted testimony in support of the bill based on the need for Connecticut to strengthen anti-discrimination laws and remove barriers for individuals with a criminal record. Removing past criminal records is a thoughtful solution to ensure that returning citizens, who do not reoffend after release after an appropriate time period, get the second chances they deserve. The Foundation also supported the bill's prohibition of discrimination against people with an erased criminal record in employment, housing, licensing, state benefits, education, some financial products, and public accommodations.	Bill approved by House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont, despite some concerns about the inclusion of certain felonies.	The Foundation has made significant investments in support of successful re-entry of residents returning from incarceration. In addition, Foundation staff has served on a legislative working group which submitted a series of recommendations that included the need to remove barriers to previously incarcerated residents which prevent them from obtaining housing, education and employment opportunities. The Foundation also sponsored and participated in the 2020 Voices of Justice symposium which also focused on the need to remove criminal records on certain crimes after an extended period of time where no crimes have been committed.

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		with respect to misdemeanor offenses.			
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 572, An Act Concerning Community Crisis Response Teams and Reentry Centers	High Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill provides state funding to support the creation of re-entry centers in Connecticut municipalities and also create Community Crisis Response Teams to limit unneeded contact with law enforcement by dispatching appropriately qualified professionals to respond to 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls related to public assistance financial support, homelessness, substance use disorder and mental health crises.	The Foundation supported the proposed legislation to provide state funding to expand the re-entry center model in other communities. As part of its work in community safety, the Foundation supported the community response team provision recognizing the need for additional responses to certain community crises.	Bill was approved by the Public Safety and referred to the Appropriations Committee but never acted on	Foundation is primary funder of Greater Hartford Re-Entry Welcome Center and supports a variety of community safety initiatives. Previously, Foundation staff participated as member of Housing Re-Entry after Incarceration Working Group where some of the recommendations in the bill originated.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6013, An Act Concerning Property Tax Exemptions for Property Used for Charitable Purposes	Support for Nonprofit Sector	Bill requires assessors to post certain property tax exemption statement forms on such assessors' and boards' Internet web sites, specify that payments made by federal, state or local governments for the treatment, support or care of certain individuals shall not constitute housing subsidies for the	Based on our support of nonprofits, the Foundation supported this bill which would ensure that limited resources aren't diverted away from direct service provision to people in need, by forcing nonprofits to choose between costly litigation and paying taxes on property that is exempt by state law.	Bill approved by Planning and Development Committee but never acted upon in the House or Senate	The Foundation provides millions of dollars annually to local nonprofit organizations as well as additional capacity building support through its Nonprofit Support Program.

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		purposes of determining what is a charitable purpose.			
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 5481, An Act Establishing a Grant Program for Women and Minority-Owned Businesses	Employment Opportunities	Bill expands access to grant capital for businesses owned by women and people of color that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.	Foundation testified in support of bill based on our ongoing efforts to support businesses owned by women and people of color, including recent support of the Hartford Small Business Emergency Micro-Grant program.	HB 5481 was approved by the Commerce Committee but never acted upon in the House or Senate. Some additional supports for women and minority owned businesses were included in the budget signed by Governor Lamont	This past year, the Foundation partnered with the City of Hartford, Capital for Change and HEDCO to provide capital assistance to small Hartford-based businesses impacted by the COVID-19 public health and economic crises. Foundation dollars were restricted to businesses owned by persons of color and/or women, or businesses located in low-income neighborhoods in Hartford.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 092, An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Employers That Make Payments Toward Child Care Costs	Employment Opportunities	Bill provides tax credits to employers who provided financial support to cover employee child care costs	The Foundation supported this bill based on its significant investments in expanding access to quality, affordable childcare, and in recognition on the importance of childcare for people who are looking for employment opportunities. The Foundation also recommended the legislature expand the Care4Kids childcare program and provide additional support for home-based childcare providers.	Approved by Children's Committee and referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee where no further action was taken.	Based on Foundation's longstanding support of expanding access to quality, affordable childcare and efforts to provide employment opportunities for low-income Black and Latinx residents.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 86, An Act Appropriating Funds for Housing Resources for the Homeless and to Prevent Homelessness	High Opportunity Neighborhoods Basic Human Needs	Bill provides \$2.3 million additional funding annually for the Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) and 2-1-1.	The Foundation supported the bill based on its own support to local nonprofit organizations to provide access to emergency shelter, housing subsidies, case management, eviction prevention and other supports to residents' at-risk or experiencing	Provisions in bill were included in state budget that was approved by House and Senate and signed into law by Gov.	On an annual basis, the Foundation provides approximately \$1 million to local nonprofit organizations to provide access to emergency shelter, housing subsidies, case management, eviction prevention/landlord negotiation,

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			homelessness. This includes support to the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network for rapid re-housing services during the coldest months.	Lamont. Budget includes \$85.3 million in each year of the biennium, representing a \$3.4 million increase from the budgets proposed by the Governor and Legislature.	employment services, and housing services to residents' at-risk or experiencing homelessness. This includes support to the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network for rapid re-housing services during the coldest months.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 804, An Act Concerning Inclusion in Certain Communities	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill prioritizes permitting a mixture of housing options including accessory dwelling apartments and middle housing types to incrementally expand access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods. Bill would also require training for local land use commissioners to educate them on existing federal and state affordable housing laws.	Based on its effort to expand resident's access to affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods, the Foundation offered support for those provisions contained in the bill. The Foundation also supported the bill's call for providing local municipal land use commissioners with training on existing state and federal housing laws.	Approved by Housing Committee not acted upon in the Senate or House, but these sections were included in House Bill 6107 approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Hartford Foundation seeks to increase the numbers of Hartford residents living in higher opportunity neighborhoods both by increasing the opportunities in Hartford neighborhoods and by increasing the ability of Hartford residents to choose to move to other higher opportunity areas throughout the Greater Hartford region. Foundation staff currently serve as a member of the HOME CT advisory committee working on legislative issues to expand access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity areas.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 5681, An Act Concerning Municipal Opportunity Reimbursement and Educational Equity	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill provides that school building project grants for inclusive municipalities be increased by ten percentage points.	The Foundation submitted testimony supporting this bill, which would incentivize municipalities to adopt more inclusive affordable housing policies.	Bill approved by Housing Committee and no further action was taken in the House.	See above
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6239, An Act	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill requires the Department of Housing to gather data that can be used to determine whether its	The Foundation submitted testimony supporting this bill based on its support of high quality data and	Passed out of Housing and Appropriations	See above

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Concerning Housing Funding Allocation and Segregation		<p>housing programs affect economic and racial segregation</p>	<p>expanding access to affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods. A report from the Connecticut Mirror and ProPublica found that since the mid-1980s, of the 27,000 affordable housing units constructed in the state, just 10 percent were built in prosperous towns, with about 80 percent located in struggling communities, creating concentrated “pockets of poverty” in our urban areas.</p>	<p>Committee, no further action taken in the House</p>	
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6240, An Act Concerning Payment In Lieu of Taxes for State Housing Authority Properties	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p>	<p>Bill provides municipalities with 100 percent payment in lieu of taxes for state housing authority properties.</p>	<p>The Foundation submitted testimony supporting this bill which would provide a financial incentive to municipalities that expand affordable housing in their communities.</p>	<p>No Vote Taken in Housing Committee</p>	<p>See above</p>
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6430, An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p>	<p>Bill permits housing authorities to extend into expanded areas of operation within 10 miles of their original jurisdiction</p>	<p>The Foundation supported this bill which provides public housing authorities with the discretion to expand their jurisdiction to provide the residents they serve with access to housing options in high and very high opportunity communities. Our strategic priorities support increased housing choice and mobility for residents to ensure better access to higher paying jobs, diverse neighborhoods and quality schools.</p>	<p>Approved by the Housing Committee, no action taken in the House</p>	<p>See above</p>
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6431, An Act Concerning Housing Opportunities for Justice Impacted Persons	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Bill prohibits housing providers from considering a prospective tenant's criminal conviction (with the</p>	<p>The Foundation testified in support of this bill in recognition of the fact that housing is a significant barrier for people returning from incarceration</p>	<p>Bill Approved by Committee but Referred to</p>	<p>Since 2007, the Hartford Foundation has funded critical reentry supports to help returning citizens succeed, including pre-employment training</p>

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		exception of certain crimes) after certain time periods.	making it challenging to find and maintain a job or obtain training.	Appropriations – No Vote Taken	and job placement and retention assistance. Our investments in supporting returning citizens have reinforced the fact that housing is an essential resource, without which most people cannot succeed. The Foundation’s evaluation of the first year of the Greater Hartford Reentry Welcome Center and our work with homeless providers has taught us that lack of access to housing is a significant barrier for justice involved people.
Hartford Foundation Testimony regarding HB 6563, An Act Eliminating Administrative Barriers to a Community's Participation in the Federal Emergency Assistance Food Assistance Program	Basic Human Needs	The bill requires the Department of Social Services to reduce paperwork requirements for participation in the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program by community providers.	The Foundation offered its support of the bill’s effort to reduce the Department of Social Services to reduce paperwork requirements for participation in the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program to eliminate unnecessary barriers to providing all of our residents with access to food in times of crisis. This bill would reduce the burden on those who are providing critical services, allowing them to redirect critical staff resources to offer individualized supports to residents in need, as they may work to build a path to a more independent future.	Bill was never taken up for a vote by Human Services Committee	Each year, the Foundation provides more than \$2 million in Basic Human Needs grants to support both regional and local agencies in Greater Hartford. Grants are awarded to agencies for use in food programs to support current needs as well as food services during the holidays. al care items. The Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Fund has made more than 230 grants, distributing more than \$9.6 million, since the start of the pandemic. The fund initially focused on basic human needs as a result of health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

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Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 887, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes	Support for Nonprofit Sector	Bill implements Governor Lamont’s bond recommendations.	The Foundation offered testimony on the bond bill specifically related to need to recognize the critical importance of a sustainable and long-term public commitment to nonprofits, including smaller, neighborhood-based organizations. The Foundation asked the legislature to restore the \$25 million in grants-in-aid in each year of the biennium for the Nonprofit grant program, which had not been allocated the past two years.	\$10 million in FY 22 and \$25 million in FY 23 in bonding for the Nonprofit grant program was included in the final version of the bond bill approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation provides millions of dollars annually to local nonprofit organizations as well as additional capacity building support through its Nonprofit Support Program.
Hartford Foundation Testimony regarding HB 6443, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	The so-called “budget implementer bill” includes language specifying where state funding is allocated.	The Foundation offered its support for language in the bill that provides support for the Connecticut's Housing Tax Credit Contribution (HTCC) Program. The HTCC program helps nonprofit developers build affordable housing in Connecticut and gives local businesses an opportunity to invest in these projects. Administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), this program allocates state tax credits to nonprofits developing very low, low and moderate income housing in Connecticut. Private business can buy the tax credits and apply them to their public utilities tax. Nonprofit developers use the money for affordable housing development.	The bill, including the support for the Housing Tax Credit Contribution Program, was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont	The Hartford Foundation seeks to increase the numbers of Hartford residents living in higher opportunity neighborhoods both by increasing the opportunities in Hartford neighborhoods and by increasing the ability of Hartford residents to choose to move to other higher opportunity areas throughout the Greater Hartford region. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has spearheaded investment in operating support and capacity building in nonprofit developers in Hartford through the Hartford Neighborhood Development Support Collaborative, a funders collaborative facilitated by LISC CT.

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Hartford Foundation Testimony regarding SB 887, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of The State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill implements Governor Lamont’s bond recommendations.	The Foundation offered its support for the bill’s inclusion of new bond authorizations of \$55 million in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$50 million in Fiscal Year 2023 to the Housing Trust Fund. The Foundation also supported the proposed new bond authorizations for the Affordable Housing Flex Fund funded at \$100 million for each year of the biennium.	Bill was passed by House and Senate and includes funding for Housing Trust Fund and Affordable Housing Flex Fund and was signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Hartford Foundation seeks to increase the numbers of Hartford residents living in higher opportunity neighborhoods both by increasing the opportunities in Hartford neighborhoods and by increasing the ability of Hartford residents to choose to move to other higher opportunity areas throughout the Greater Hartford region.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6107, An Act Concerning the Reorganization of the Zoning Enabling Act and the Promotion of Municipal Compliance	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill restructures the Zoning Enabling Act for clarity, promotes the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act, provides an administrative mechanism to promote compliance with municipal affordable housing plans, and requires the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to convene a working group to study municipal affordable housing plans and zoning regulations.	The Hartford Foundation testified in support of the bill as it strengthens and clarifies the Zoning Enabling Act to provide guidance to municipalities as they prepare their required Affordable Housing Plans. The Foundation supported the elimination of the unnecessary and often abused phrase “character of the district” from zoning regulations. The phrase has too often been used to prevent housing diversity when evidence of these objective factors is lacking. We believe the bill’s proposal to modify the word “character” to focus on physical site characteristics and architectural context is a very important change. The Foundation also supported the bill’s call for municipalities to comply with the existing state law’s affordable housing planning requirement by January 1, 2023 as well as the requirement to include Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and	An amended version of House Bill 6107 was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	See above

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			2-4 family housing without the need for special permits, variances, or any discretionary action from municipal zoning boards.		
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6611, An Act Concerning Needs Assessment and Other Policies Regarding Affordable Housing and Development	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill provides for an assessment of the state-wide need for affordable housing and an allocation of such need to planning regions and municipalities, the creation of affordable housing planning and zoning goals for each municipality, the implementation schedule for such goals, enforcement of such goals, and state support to meet affordable housing needs beyond those met through such goals.	The Foundation testified in support of the bill which recognizes the need for a more comprehensive and long-term plan to address affordable housing need. To ensure that all Connecticut municipalities play a role in the state's efforts, the bill calls for the creation of goals around the development of affordable housing for each municipality. The bill also puts the onus on the state to provide necessary support to meet housing needs that extend beyond the collective capabilities of local municipalities. House Bill 6611 offers a new, more equitable approach to zoning that is consistent with the Foundation's efforts to support increased housing choice and mobility for residents.	While the bill was approved by the Planning and Development Committee, it never received a vote in the House and Senate, but portions of the bill were included House Bill 6107 which was signed into law.	See above

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Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6613, An Act Concerning Accessory Apartments, Middle Housing and Multifamily Housing	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill requires municipal zoning commissions to adopt regulations allowing accessory apartments, middle housing and multifamily housing	The Foundation supported this bill which would allow municipalities to permit ADUs and small multifamily housing more broadly and without undue restrictions. If approved, this bill would promote the incremental growth of the state’s lower cost housing supply, bringing new residents to town centers and transit station areas while continuing to allow municipalities to control the physical and site characteristics of their community through their zoning ordinance.	While the bill was never voted on by the Planning and Development Committee, it never received a vote in the House and Senate, but portions of the bill were included House Bill 6107 which was signed into law.	See above
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 1024, An Act Concerning Zoning Authority, Certain Design Guidelines, Qualifications of Certain Land Use Officials and Certain Sewage Disposal Systems	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill allows municipalities to require that land use applicants pay the costs of any technical review of applications, make several changes to the Zoning Enabling Act, establish requirements for zoning regulations concerning accessory apartments, mixed-use developments and multifamily housing, convene a working group to develop model design guidelines for buildings and context-appropriate streets, require certain qualifications of certain land use officials, and address the jurisdiction and capacities of certain sewage disposal systems.	The Foundation offered its support of this legislation, which, like House Bills 6107 and 6613, this bill includes a proposal to support the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Like House Bill 6107, this proposal also includes necessary language to prohibit local planning and zoning commissions from denying an application for a housing project on the basis of “immutable characteristics,” source of income, or the income levels of the people who will be living there.	While the bill was approved by the Planning and Development Committee, it never received a vote in the House and Senate, but portions of the bill were included House Bill 6107 which was signed into law.	See above

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Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 1026, An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning and Zoning Officials	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill permits municipalities to require training for members of planning commissions, zoning commissions, combined planning and zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeals.	The Foundation testified in support of the bill but asked that the committee amend the language to specifically require training for members of planning commissions, zoning commissions, combined planning and zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeals. This proposal would allow Connecticut to join neighboring states that provide a training curriculum to ensure they are provided with the educational resources needed to make important land use decisions. All new commissioners should be required to meet the minimum standard of five hours of training per year, two hours of which must relate to multifamily housing and one hour must relate to fair housing.	While the bill was approved by the Planning and Development Committee, it never received a vote in the House and Senate, but portions of the bill were included House Bill 6107 which was signed into law.	See above
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 49, An Act Increasing Opportunities for Workforce Housing Development in the State	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill establishes the workforce housing development program in opportunity zones and to create additional opportunities for workforce housing development in other parts of the state using tax credits, fee waivers and property tax abatement.	While the Foundation prioritizes its investment to support access to quality, affordable housing for Black and Latinx residents with lower incomes, creating a diversity of housing in a neighborhood is an integral component to support economic and community development in our urban communities. The Foundation endorses efforts to create more middle income housing in its urban neighborhoods. When more middle-income residents move into a jurisdiction, renting or purchasing homes, cities can collect more	Approved by Housing Committee, never taken up for a vote in the Senate.	See above

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			property tax revenues from a broader cross-section of households. By using tax credits, fee waivers and property tax abatement, this bill is a pragmatic approach to creating create additional opportunities for the development of workforce housing in opportunity zones and other parts of our state.		
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 194, An Act Establishing a Right to Housing	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill establishes a right to housing, including the rights to housing affordability, rehousing assistance for people who become homeless and protections from housing loss.	The Foundation supported this bill which directs state agencies to consider the right to housing when adopting policies and regulations prioritizing the interests of those below 50 percent of the median income. The bill includes an expansive list of policy prescriptions and recommendations for state investments including (particularly those disproportionately impacted including people of color, returning citizens, LGBTQ adults and youth), legal aid and financial assistance. The Foundation also supported the bill's provision to create a Right to Housing Committee and the creation of a Housing Advocate position within the Department of Housing to review policies and respond to concerns and complaints. The Foundation encouraged the committee to consider providing additional tools to empower the Housing Advocate to	The bill was approved by the Senate but never acted upon in the House.	See above

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			resolve complaints and grievances to ensure that existing housing discrimination laws are enforced.		
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 355, An Act Concerning a Landlord's Ability to Consider the Criminal Record of Prospective Tenants	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p> <p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Bill establishes a limited criminal records look3 back period that a landlord may use when evaluating the housing 4 application of a prospective tenant.</p>	<p>The Foundation supported this bill based on its own investments in supporting returning citizens have shown us how the stigma of incarceration undermines the ability of returning citizens who seek opportunities for housing, education, and employment to successfully reenter into the community.</p>	<p>The bill was approved by the Senate but never acted upon in the House. The passage of the "Clean Slate" bill will improve the conditions for many previously incarcerated residents.</p>	<p>The Foundation has made significant investments in support of successful re-entry of residents returning from incarceration. In addition, Foundation staff has served on a legislative working group which submitted a series of recommendations that included the need to remove barriers to previously incarcerated residents which prevent them from obtaining housing, education and employment opportunities.</p>

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<p>Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 875, An Act Concerning the Risk of Homelessness for Those Released from the Custody of the Department of Correction</p>	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p> <p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Bill requires the Department of Correction to assess the risk of homelessness for incarcerated persons released from its custody and to create a program to address such homelessness and to require additional reports to measure the extent of such homelessness.</p>	<p>Based on its own work in support of returning citizens, the Foundation endorsed the legislation, recognizing the importance of adequate transition planning before release that effectively connects returning citizens to services following release, including housing resources. Enhancing transition planning is highlighted in the recommendations in Connecticut's Commission on Equity and Opportunity's December 2018 Reentry Housing Report, developed with a diversity of housing, legal aid, other nonprofit, as well as research from foundations and other representatives. The Foundation urged legislators to continue to collect and integrate input from diverse stakeholders working to address the housing needs of returning citizens, including anchoring this work in the perspectives of people with lived experience. This will support development of a comprehensive, effective and well-resourced program.</p>	<p>Bill was never voted on by Housing Committee</p>	<p>See above</p>
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Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 880, An Act Concerning Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities for Housing Authorities	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill provides municipalities with 77 percent payment on the property tax obligation in which a housing authority is located.	The Foundation supported this bill but stated a preference for the passage of HB 6240 would provide 100 percent of taxes that would be paid for taxable properties. This bill would create an opportunity for communities to provide the state with more of these units while allowing them to maintain local property tax rolls. While this would require substantial state investments, they could provide the type of positive incentives necessary to allow municipalities to diversify their communities and create more affordable housing to strengthen the long-term future of our state. Currently it is our urban communities that are carrying the load in supporting the affordable housing needs of entire regions. They deserve to be adequately compensated for their contributions.	Bill was approved by Housing Committee but never acted upon in the Senate	The Hartford Foundation seeks to increase the numbers of Hartford residents living in higher opportunity neighborhoods both by increasing the opportunities in Hartford neighborhoods and by increasing the ability of Hartford residents to choose to move to other higher opportunity areas throughout the Greater Hartford region. Foundation staff currently serve as a member of the HOME CT advisory committee working on legislative issues to expand access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity areas.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6521, An Act Concerning Changes to Zoning and Affordable Housing Requirements Concerning Accessory Dwelling Units and Prohibiting List-Back Agreements	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	Bill requires municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units without the need for additional review by municipal zoning commissions and prohibits list-back agreements.	The Foundation supported this bill to develop a wide variety of affordable housing, including apartments, duplexes, multi-family housing and accessory dwelling units. ADUs can play a role in creating more affordable housing options for older disabled people who may need to live close by family members of caregivers and also represent an affordable option for low and middle-income residents including young adults.	Bill was never voted upon by Housing Committee, but ADU language was included in HB 6107 which was signed into law by Governor Lamont	See above

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Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6531, An Act Concerning the Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p>	<p>Bill establishes right to counsel for low-income tenants involved in evictions proceedings.</p>	<p>The Foundation supported this bill recognizing the devastating long-term impacts evictions have on families and the fact that while the vast majority of landlords in eviction proceedings have an attorney, only a small minority of tenants do. This usually results in tenants losing their cases. At a time when thousands of Connecticut households are threatened by potential evictions once existing housing moratoriums end, this legislation is a vital tool to ensuring that tenants have a more equitable opportunity to remain in their homes.</p>	<p>The bill was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont</p>	<p>See above</p>
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6532, An Act Appropriating State Funds for Mental Health Services and Housing	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods Basic Human Needs</p>	<p>Bill appropriates additional state funds to expand existing programs of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for mental health services and housing.</p>	<p>The Foundation testified in support of this bill based on its own investments to prevent and reduce homelessness. The Foundation acknowledged the challenges faced by individuals living with mental health challenges and substance abuse disorders and the need for housing support and counseling services. This proposal to allocate \$1 million to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to hire housing coordinators and \$4 million to expand DMHAS' respite services and other short-term stabilization services for individuals with substance abuse and other mental health conditions, will have a significant impact on reducing homelessness in Connecticut.</p>	<p>Bill was transferred from the Housing Committee to the Appropriations Committee and never acted upon. Additional funds for mental health and addiction services and housing were included in the budget bill signed into law by Governor Lamont</p>	<p>On an annual basis, the Foundation provides approximately \$1 million to local nonprofit organizations to provide access to emergency shelter, housing subsidies, case management, eviction prevention/landlord negotiation, employment services, and housing services to residents' at-risk or experiencing homelessness.</p>

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<p>Hartford Foundation testimony regarding SB 885, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Bill implements Governor Lamont's recommendations for general state government spending.</p>	<p>The Foundation testified on the bill's inclusion of the recommendations of the Governor's Workforce Council, specifically related to the Office of Workforce Strategy. The Foundation acknowledged the efforts to engage with businesses, nonprofits and educational institutions to better identify the state's workforce and training and educating needs. The Foundation encouraged the legislature to focus this work on equity including the provision of wraparound supports have been effective for both post-secondary credential and degree programs as well as for more traditional workforce training programs to ensure that youth and adults with the greatest barriers are able to complete their course of study.</p>	<p>Language in the bill was included in final budget bill approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>As part of the Foundation's efforts to improve social and economic mobility for Black and Latinx residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation seeks to increase stable employment opportunities for adults and youth in the region who are facing barriers to employment. Foundation President Jay Williams serves as a member of the Governor's Workforce Council. The Foundation has invested in a number of job training and college completion programs that provide a variety of wraparound services and supports for low income students of color including technology, transportation, mentoring and stipends.</p>
<p>Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding SB 005, An Act Concerning Increased Opportunities for Absentee Voting, Safe and Secure In-Person Voting and Voter Registration</p>	<p>Civic and Resident Engagement</p>	<p>The bill makes several changes to election laws designed to increase opportunities for absentee voting, safe and secure in-person voting and voter registration.</p>	<p>The Foundation offered its support for this legislation, which seeks to reduce barriers to voting and voter registration. This includes online voter registration applications for qualified residents applying for motor vehicle licenses or license renewals. Another valuable provision in this bill would ensure that eligible public high school students have the information they need to register and vote in elections The Foundation endorsed the bill's inclusion of Election Day as a state holiday and the bill's provision requiring employers to provide two</p>	<p>Senate Passed Bill, Never Voted on in House.</p>	<p>As part of its efforts to dismantle structural racism and improve social and economic mobility for Black and Latinx residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation supports civic and resident engagement in our region. Beginning in 2018, the Foundation began supporting voter registration drives focused on populations least likely to participate in federal, state and local elections: young adults, Latinx and Black residents, justice-involved residents, individuals with developmental</p>

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			<p>hours of paid time off during employees regularly scheduled work on Election Day and special election days. We know that many residents, particularly adults in low-income working families, have limited flexibility to go and cast their votes on election days.</p>		<p>disabilities and people living in high poverty neighborhoods.</p>
<p>Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 5677, An Act Concerning Medicaid Violence Preventative Services</p>	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods</p>	<p>Bill provides Medicaid funds to reimburse Violence Prevention Professionals for their services treating victims of violence in the community.</p>	<p>The Foundation testified in support of this bill which would require Violence Prevention Professionals (VPPs) to complete a nationally accredited certification program as well as have been in their position at least six months in order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. Although based in sites within the community, the Foundation testified that these services, when provided by trained and certified staff, should also be eligible for Medicaid funding.</p>	<p>The bill was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>The Foundation supports several efforts to interrupt gun-related violence in the City of Hartford. We provide resources to individual nonprofits that provide violence prevention, intervention, trauma informed care and youth development and engagement. Since November 2018, the Foundation has supported several Hartford nonprofit agencies that formed the Hartford Community Safety Coalition (CSC). Several of the organizations in the CSC provide hands-on, neighborhood-based violence prevention and intervenor services to address the public health crisis of neighborhood violence.</p>

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<p>Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding HB 6667, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee</p>	<p>Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Bill enacts the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.</p>	<p>The Foundation testified in support of this bill including recommendations to An expansion of the existing ban on suspensions and expulsions of children in preschool through grade two to twelfth grade, adoption of a “second look” provision for all youth transferred to adult court who receive sentences of incarceration. the automatic erasure of certain juvenile records, and elimination of the rarely used petition requirement that currently exists, establish a pre-arrest juvenile diversion model that holds youth accountable for low-level misbehavior while diverting them from any court processing or formal arrest record, ensure free telephone services or any other telecommunications services provided to a child confined in a correctional facility or transferred to Department of Correction, expand the membership of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee to include two community members and two youth (must be under 26 years of age) with first or second-hand justice system involvement</p>	<p>The bill was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>As part of our efforts to dismantle structural racism and improve social and economic mobility for Black and Latinx residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation invests in programs that remove barriers to economic success, and increase social cohesion and the perception of community safety in Hartford. To accomplish this, the Foundation invests in programs and systems-building to provide education, job training and other support services to returning citizens to support their success and prevent reincarceration. The Foundation offers its support of this bill based on its intent to keep children out of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and to develop options for diverting youth to other programs and mitigating the potential long-term developmental impact.</p>
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