

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving 2022 Legislative Activity

The Hartford Foundation's broad range of public policy activity, grounded in our [grantmaking](#) and guided by [our mission and values](#), makes our work more far-reaching, sustainable, and responsive to critical community issues.

The Foundation's public policy activities include sharing data and research (including program evaluations), convening diverse voices around a particular issue, forming strategic relationships, and administrative and legislative lobbying.

At the center of our public policy work is urging policymakers to include people with lived experience in various social issues when developing interventions to address those needs. Our public policy work now includes supporting community-based advocacy by nonprofits that engages residents with lived experiences to advocate on their own behalf.

The Foundation's participation in public policy has expanded policymakers' perceptions of our role in the community. Foundation staff are now invited by advocates, legislators, and task forces to weigh in on legislative proposals and participate in working groups to develop state policy recommendations. When legislation is approved and signed into law, Foundation staff assesses the need for administrative advocacy to engage with state agency leadership and ensure that initiatives are properly implemented.

Below is a summary of the Hartford Foundation's legislative testimony from the 2022 Legislative Session of the Connecticut General Assembly. It should be noted that the Foundation's policy work acknowledges that policy leader priorities change over time and while we seek to raise up long-standing issues, we also must take advantage of the opportunities that are created each year.

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Activity	Strategic Priority	Issue	Foundation Position	Status	Linked Activity
Hartford Foundation Testimony in Support of 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 Ballot	Civic and Resident Engagement	Legislation would have extended access to mail-in and drop box voting to ensure voters can safely vote in the 2022 elections, so that more of our residents—particularly those most impacted by COVID-19—remain engaged in civic life.	The Foundation offered testimony in support of this bill 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.	While the bill was approved by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, it never came up for a vote in the Senate or House. A more limited version of the bill allowing out-of-town commuters and caretakers of the disabled or chronically ill to vote by absentee ballot was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	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 Foundation Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 471, An Act Concerning Elections and State Voting Rights	Civic and Resident Engagement	This bill would have implemented detailed procedures and remedies to afford all eligible Connecticut voters equal access to representation in our democracy. Modeled after voting rights acts in California, Washington and Oregon and similar efforts underway in New York and Virginia, the Connecticut Voting Rights Act would have	The Foundation offered testimony in support of this bill based on current efforts throughout the country to create barriers to voting, particularly for voters of color. This bill was designed to ensure that voters who feel they had been unfairly denied access to the ballot box have the ability to protect their rights and also provide more access to individuals	Bill was approved by the Government Administration and Elections Committee but never taken up for a vote in the Senate or House.	See above

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		protected voters' rights against voter suppression, improved transparency, and assisted election administrators. The legislation also would have expanded language assistance to those for whom English is an obstacle to casting their ballots.	who do not speak English as their primary language.		
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 170, An Act Requiring Housing Authorities to Provide Voter Registration Applications to Prospective Tenants	Civic and Resident Engagement	Bill required housing authorities to provide prospective tenants with voter registration applications.	The Foundation offered its support for this legislation to provide an additional opportunity to encourage qualified residents to vote and engage in the democratic process.	Subject of Housing Committee Public Hearing. Never taken up for a vote in committee.	See above
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding House Bill 5267, An Act Concerning the Department of Economic and Community Development's Strategic Planning Regarding the Promotion of Arts and Culture	Arts and Culture	Bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to include the arts and culture industries in the department's strategic state-wide marketing plan.	The Hartford Foundation submitted testimony in support of this bill, grounded in our own work to support Arts and Cultural organizations and institutions in Greater Hartford.	The bill was approved by House and Senate and signed into law 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.
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding House Bill 5001, An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health	Basic Human Needs	The bill included several proposals to expand access to children's mental health care: simplifying licensing requirements for practitioners, establishing a grant program to local school boards to hire social workers and school psychologists, and a separate grant	The Foundation offered its support for this legislation based on its investments in our local Alliance Districts. The Foundation recognizes the vital role our local school district's play in the lives of students beyond academics. This includes helping to ensure that all of students have access	The bill was overwhelmingly approved in a bipartisan fashion by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation supports a variety of community-based nonprofit providers of children's behavioral health services, including school-based mental health services.

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		<p>program for the delivery of school-based mental health services to children and adolescents. The bill also creates a new children’s behavioral health advisory committee to make additional recommendation in January 2023.</p>	<p>to nutritious food and physical and behavioral health services.</p>		
<p>Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 1, An Act Concerning Childhood Mental and Physical Health Services in School</p>	<p>Basic Human Needs</p>	<p>This omnibus legislation included a range of priorities including an evaluation of school-to-social worker and school-to-psychologist ratios, a grant program to help schools hire and retain social workers and psychologists, and launched a task force to combat ableism. The group would find opportunities to educate students about disability and develop ways to incorporate those teachings into social-emotional learning sessions. It would also give the education department the power to issue a “human services permit” to any applicant with a bachelor’s degree in social work, psychology, sociology, human services or equivalent from an accredited university and who has a minimum of four years’ work experience (or one year of experience and two years of specialized schooling in the subject). The permits are good for three years</p>	<p>The Foundation offered its support for this legislation based on its own investments in school-based health services. The Foundation offered support specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the increase in funding to assess the needs for physical and mental health services in school districts and expand these services to students. • For grants to hire and retain additional school social workers and psychologists. • For funding the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide the 36 recommended sites for expanded mental health services contained in the final report of the School-Based Health Center Expansion Working Group. • For funding to DPH to expand services of existing school-based health centers. • For including support to the 15 existing school districts 	<p>The bill was overwhelmingly approved in a bipartisan fashion by the Senate and House and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>The Foundation supports a variety of community based nonprofit providers of children’s behavioral health services, including school-based mental health services.</p>

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		and allow workers to provide mental health services in schools.	participating in the Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) and expanding participation in the LEAP program to include five additional high-need districts.		
Hartford Foundation Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 2, An Act Expanding Preschool Mental and Behavioral Services for Children	Basic Human Needs Employment Opportunities	This omnibus early childhood / mental health legislation included the provision of 24-hour mobile crisis centers; a wage supplement grant for childcare workers; and a mandate that the state’s Medicaid program(HUSKY) reimburse for services provided by social workers employed under psychologists and licensed clinical social workers. The bill also created a special fund to address social determinants of mental health . Finally, the bill included an optional tax abatement for property taxes paid by childcare centers, established a youth transitional housing fund, required the Department of Social Services to study how childcare employees could get assistance with their medical costs and would form a Children’s Health Behavioral Cabinet to recommend improvements in behavioral health policies and delivery.	The Foundation supported Senate Bill 2’s provisions to increase funding to the Office of Early Childhood for Care4Kids, expanded preschool and mental and behavioral health services, and expand child mentoring and civic engagement programs by increasing funding to Department of Children and Families for child welfare and support services. Stabilizing Connecticut’s struggling childcare system, providing universal pre-K, and supporting staff will help ensure that families with young children who need to work can have more access to quality affordable childcare services while supporting the development of our children. Increasing access to mentoring and civic engagement programs will also support the development of young children and working families. The Foundation also supported Senate Bill 2’s inclusion of greater supports for children and adolescents disconnected from school based on its	The bill was overwhelmingly approved in a bipartisan fashion by the Senate and House and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation has made substantial investments in support of early childcare and early child development. In addition, the Foundation supports a variety of community based nonprofit providers of children’s behavioral health services, including school-based mental health services. The Foundation also has invested in many basic human needs services linked to the social determinants of health and has supported work to support adolescents and opportunity youth both in and out of school.

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			<p>own investments related to opportunity youth.</p> <p>The Foundation also supported the bill's inclusion of measures to enhance families' engagement in social, emotional and academic development.</p>		
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony In Support of House Bill 5001, An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health	Basic Human Needs	<p>This legislation established a grant program to local school boards to hire social workers and school psychologists. The bill also created a new grant program for the delivery of school-based mental health services.</p>	<p>The Foundation offered its support of the bill based on its investments in local Alliance Districts. The Foundation recognizes the vital role school district's play in the lives of students beyond academics. This includes helping to ensure that all of students have access to nutritious food and physical and behavioral health services.</p>	<p>This bill was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>The Foundation supports a variety of community based nonprofit providers of children's behavioral health services, including school-based mental health services.</p>
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony In Support of House Bill 5248, An Act Concerning Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions on Occupational Licensing	Employment Opportunities	<p>This legislation allows access to a range of occupational licenses to people with criminal records by requiring consideration of whether a criminal conviction is reasonably related to the ability to safely or competently perform the duties or responsibilities associated with the license.</p>	<p>The Hartford Foundation submitted testimony in support of the bill based on the need for Connecticut to eliminate discriminatory policies and remove barriers for individuals with a criminal record seeking to obtain certain occupational licenses.</p>	<p>The bill was approved by House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</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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Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 334, An Act Establishing A Program to Make Preparing for And Taking The Commercial Learner Permit Knowledge Test Available for Incarcerated Persons	Employment Opportunities	The bill provided commercial driver’s license training to eligible incarcerated individuals reentering the community in six months or less, to support efforts to provide people with higher paying job opportunities.	The Foundation offered testimony in support of the proposal but recommended that legislators consider committing additional resources to support the costs of the actual road training and securing the commercial driver’s license, which would be cost prohibitive for many returning citizens. The Foundation also recommended that the program identify employers willing to hire returning citizens and have them meet with program participants virtually to explain the types of jobs available and what the work requires.	Bill was approved by both the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation has funded critical reentry supports to help returning citizens succeed, including preemployment training and job placement assistance offered through the Reentry Welcome Center in Hartford and the BEST Chance Program, which provides individuals with access to basic services and referrals to numerous other programs. The Foundation has also provided support to Asnuntuck Community College for its Second Chance Pell (SCP) program.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony on Senate Bill 387, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee	Employment Opportunities	This bill would implement recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee.	The Foundation offered its support of the bill’s inclusion of a community-based diversion system, and to expand it, as needed, for use by police officers instead of arresting children, when appropriate. Foundation testimony highlighted the approach taken by one of its grantees to expand support to young mothers. The Foundation also supported the legislation’s expansion of the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act to include pedestrian stops to provide additional data to prevent racial profiling by state and local law enforcement. The Foundation-supported work of the Connecticut	The bill was the subject of a Judiciary Committee public hearing but was never taken up for a vote.	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 invests in programs that remove barriers to economic success and increase social cohesion and the perception of community safety in Hartford. The Foundation offered 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.

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			<p>Institute for Youth and Police Relations can help inform approaches to reducing profiling youth of color. The Foundation also supported the bill’s proposed expansion of the membership of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee to include four persons who are able to provide a voice for those living in communities of high juvenile arrest rates, including two of whom are under twenty-six years of age and have been impacted by the juvenile justice system.</p>		
<p>Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 408, An Act Establishing A Small Business Child Care Incentive Program</p>	<p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>This bill requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, to develop and implement a small business childcare incentive program to promote the expansion of existing childcare centers and the development of new childcare centers in the state.</p>	<p>The Foundation supported the proposed legislation based on its longtime support for early childcare and development and its work to remove barriers to employment and support women-owned and minority owned small businesses. The testimony included references to the Foundation’s Career Pathways Initiative, including the results of an extensive evaluation that cited the lack of childcare as the most frequent and costliest barrier to address.</p>	<p>The bill was approved by both the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.</p>	<p>The Foundation’s work recognizes that ensuring <i>all</i> children, especially those most vulnerable, have access to high quality early childhood experiences is a critical step to removing a barrier to a parent’s employment. Since 1987, the Foundation has invested more than \$40 million in early childhood development across the Greater Hartford area. The Foundation has supported early childhood policy, funding, and program quality, recognizing their importance in ensuring optimal safety and learning outcomes for children and pathways to economic security for their families and caregivers. As part of its COVID response efforts, the</p>

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					Foundation awarded financial support to childcare providers, including assistance in applying for federal Paycheck Protection Program funds.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 487, An Act Establishing the Infant and Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative	Employment Opportunities	The bill would have utilized existing tax revenue that the Revenue Cap currently sends to the state’s robust rainy day fund to deposit \$300 to \$500 million annually into a new, non-lapsing account known as the Early Care and Family Support account. These funds would have made it possible to provide care for 10,000 to 15,000 infants and toddlers - the most critical gap in our early childcare system. This bill prioritized new childcare slots to lower income communities and those with childcare deserts.	The Foundation supported the proposed legislation based on its longtime support for early childcare and development and its work to remove barriers to employment and support women-owned and minority owned small businesses. The testimony included references to the Foundation’s Career Pathways Initiative including the results of an extensive evaluation that cited the lack of childcare as the most frequent and costliest barrier to address.	Legislation was approved by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee but never acted upon in the House or Senate.	See Above
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 471, An Act Concerning Elections and State Voting Rights	Civic and Resident Engagement	This legislation would have established detailed procedures and remedies to afford all citizens equal access to representation in our democracy. Modeled after Voting Rights Acts in California, Washington and Oregon and similar efforts underway in New York and Virginia, the Connecticut Voting Rights Act would have expanded voters’ private rights against voter suppression, improve transparency, and assist election administrators.	The Foundation offered its support of the bill based on its efforts to support voting, participating in local government, volunteering, and sharing ideas on how public resources could be used to make our community a better place. This includes the Foundation’s support of voter registration efforts focused on populations who face systemic and structural barriers to voter participation in federal, state and local elections: young adults, Latinx and	It was approved by the Government Administration and Elections Committee but never taken up for a vote in the Senate or House.	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,

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		Legislation would have also expanded language assistance to those for whom English is an obstacle to casting their ballots.	Black residents, justice-involved residents, individuals with developmental disabilities, and people living in high poverty neighborhoods.		individuals with developmental disabilities and people living in high poverty neighborhoods.
Hartford Foundation Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 168, An Act Establishing a Right to Housing	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	The bill would have established a right to housing for all residents of the state along with a Right to Housing Committee that includes a broad range of individuals representing groups that often lack access to housing. The bill included an expansive list of policy prescriptions and recommendations, particularly those focused on disproportionately impacted groups including people of color, returning citizens, and LGBTQ adults and youth. This bill also called for the expansion of state investments in affordable housing, legal aid and financial assistance.	The Foundation offered its support of this legislation based on its own efforts to provide increased access to affordable housing. The Foundation applauded the Housing Committee for including an expansive list of policy prescriptions and recommendations, particularly those focused on disproportionately impacted groups including people of color, returning citizens, and LGBTQ adults and youth. The Foundation also supported the bill’s provision to create a Right to Housing Committee whose membership includes a wide range of representation from those most impacted by a lack of access to housing.	The bill was approved by the Housing Committee but never taken up for a vote in the Senate or House.	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 on the HOME CT advisory committee that is working on legislative issues to expand access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity areas.
Hartford Foundation Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 384, An Act	Employment Opportunities	This legislation would have made technical and clarifying changes to	The Foundation offered testimony in support of the bill based on CT Baby	The bill was approved by the	As part of our efforts to dismantle structural racism and improve social

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Concerning the Connecticut Baby Bond Trust Fund Program		the nation’s first Baby Bonds program aimed at closing wealth gaps, ending generational poverty, and investing in our economy. The bill also included a change that moved forward the last year of bonding authorization so that all children in the program would have a full 18 years of investment opportunity.	Bonds being an innovative initiative that benefits those least able to save for the future and focusing on those children whose births are covered by the Medicaid program. The Foundation, in collaboration with its partners in the Connecticut Urban Opportunity Collaborative (CUOC), Fairfield County’s Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, have been working with the State Treasurer’s Office on an effort to ensure that the new CT Baby Bonds program is responsive to the needs of new parents both in the administration of the program and in supporting parents as their child grows. To accomplish these goals, CUOC is funding the creation of a Baby Bonds Parental Advisory Board to provide feedback on structure and processes. The Foundation asked that this legislation to be amended and its implementation budget reflect an ongoing commitment by policymakers to sustain the Advisory Board and parent engagement in program implementation and evaluation.	Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee but never taken up for a vote in the Senate or House.	and economic mobility for Black and Latino residents of Greater Hartford, the Hartford Foundation seeks to close the wealth gap and end generational poverty by increasing stable education and employment opportunities for adults and youth in our region facing barriers to employment.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 487, An Act Establishing the Infant and	Employment Opportunities	The bill called for long-term state investments in childcare for infants and toddlers by utilizing existing tax revenue that the Revenue Cap	The Foundation offered its support for this legislation based on past investments in early childcare (including support for home-based	The bill was approved by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding	The Foundation recognizes that ensuring all children— especially those most vulnerable— have access to high quality early childhood

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Toddler Early Care and Family Support Initiative		<p>currently sends to the state’s rainy day fund, depositing \$300 to \$500 million each year into a new, non-lapsing account known as the Early Care and Family Support account. These funds would make it possible to provide care for 10,000 to 15,000 infants and toddlers - the most critical gap in our early childcare system. This bill would have prioritized new childcare slots to lower income communities and those with childcare deserts. The Foundation also supported the bill’s inclusion of family childcare providers. The bill would have allocated funds to increase the pay of childcare providers and allocated 10 percent of the childcare grant to pay for family support services.</p>	<p>childcare providers) and the Foundation’s evaluations of its workforce development efforts which indicated one of the greatest obstacles facing low-income workers is access to quality, affordable childcare.</p>	<p>Committee but never taken up for a vote in the Senate or House.</p>	<p>experiences is a critical step to removing a barrier to employment for parents. Since 1987, the Foundation has invested more than \$40 million in early childhood development across the Greater Hartford area. The Foundation has supported early childhood policy, funding, and program quality,. As part of its COVID response efforts, the Foundation awarded financial support to childcare providers, including assistance in applying for federal Paycheck Protection Program funds.</p>
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of House Bill 5465, An Act Concerning Early Childhood Educator Salaries and Expanding Child Care Opportunities for Families	<p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>The bill would have provided support for existing school readiness and other state-funded preschool programs by increasing funding and program flexibility. The bill provided additional childcare opportunities for Connecticut families by expanding the eligibility for the Care4Kids program. In addition, the bill would have included the expansion of the number of children in family childcare homes licensed</p>	<p>The Foundation offered its support of the legislation based on its own investments in childcare and workforce development. The Foundation credited the proposal’s inclusion of resources to expand access to childcare, included home-based childcare providers.</p>	<p>The bill was approved by the Education Committee but never taken up for a vote in the House or Senate.</p>	<p>See above</p>

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		by the Commissioner of Early Childhood.			
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 111, An Act Concerning Funding for Child Care Programs	Employment Opportunities	The bill called for an increase in state funding for childcare programs.	The Foundation offered its support of the legislation based on its own investments in childcare and workforce development. The Foundation credited the proposal's effort to increase state resources to support working families.	The bill was the subject of an Appropriations Committee Public Hearing but never voted upon.	See above
Hartford Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 17, An Act Prohibiting an Institution of Higher Education from Withholding Transcripts	Employment Opportunities	The legislation would have prohibited an institution of higher education from withholding a student's transcript for failure to pay a debt owed to the institution.	The Foundation offered its support of this bill based on its own investments and support for efforts to provide access to post-secondary education for low-income Black and Latinx students. The Foundation highlighted the fact that this practice prevents students from continuing their education, transferring credits, and getting jobs. It disproportionately harms low-income students, and those who do not complete their degrees.	The bill was approved by the Higher Education Committee and Senate, but never taken up for a vote in the House.	Recognizing the value of postsecondary education and training to the economic mobility of middle- and low-income students, the Foundation provides approximately \$1.3 million in college scholarships, with more than 700 students receiving new and renewed scholarships, each year. In 2021, the Foundation provided a \$25,000 ACCESS grant to support the Student Loan Fund Borrowers' Collective in its work to develop leaders to reconstruct the systems of higher education funding and financing that disproportionately impact people of color and first-generation students.

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Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of House Bill 5136, An Act Addressing the Needs of Housing Insecure Students at Public Institutions of Higher Education	Basic Human Needs Employment Opportunities	The proposed legislation would have required Connecticut’s public institutions of higher education to assess and address homelessness and housing insecurity among students.	The Foundation offered its support of this bill based on its own efforts to increase postsecondary degree and credential completion rates among low-income, Black and Latinx students as well as efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness. The Foundation highlighted the fact that a common barrier to successful degree or credential completion for low-income students is a lack of stable housing. The Foundation recognized that the state’s public colleges and universities have limited resources to address these needs on their own and recommended that higher education partner with the Department of Housing and nonprofit housing and homelessness prevention organizations to identify existing resources.	The bill was approved by the Higher Education Committee but never taken up for a vote in the House or Senate.	Recognizing the value of postsecondary education and training to the economic mobility of middle- and low-income students, the Foundation provides approximately \$1.3 million in college scholarships, with more than 700 students receiving new and renewed scholarships, each year. The Foundation also awards approximately \$1 million to local nonprofit organizations that provide access to emergency shelter, housing subsidies, case management, eviction prevention and landlord negotiation, employment services, and other housing services to residents at risk or experiencing homelessness.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 101, An Act Concerning Workforce Development Programs for Incarcerated Person and Persons Reentering the Community	Employment Opportunities	This bill requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to evaluate workforce development programs for incarcerated persons and persons reentering the community after incarceration. The legislation also requires the Commissioner to create an employer toolkit to facilitate such persons' employment.	The Hartford Foundation offered its support of this legislation based on its own investments in creating career paths for people returning from incarceration. The Foundation stressed the importance of evaluating the landscape of programming offered to returning citizens. The Foundation also testified that community-based reentry workforce training programs need to build on programming people receive while in prison to support	The bill was approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Lamont.	The Foundation has made significant investments in support of successful re-entry of people 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 housing, education and employment opportunities.

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			continuity and avoid duplication. The Foundation applauded the effort to create an employer toolkit as persuading employers to consider hiring previously incarcerated men and women continues to be one of the most challenging obstacles.		

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Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of House Bill 5204, An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	The bill required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 plans for each municipality. • A study concerning the municipalities' performance in meeting the requirements of such plans. 	The Hartford Foundation testified in support of this proposal based on its own efforts to expand access to quality affordable housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods. Modeled after a successful New Jersey law, this proposal sought to analyze the state's actual affordable housing needs and develop a plan with shared responsibilities to meet that need. The bill would have required the state, in consultation with a diverse group of stakeholders, to develop technical assistance for municipalities as well as incentives and enforcement measures. It was projected that the passage and successful implementation could create ~ 300,000 units of market rate and affordable housing over ten years. This proposal allowed towns to develop their own plans and zone for growth by removing political barriers and help ensure that all residents have the ability to live in quality, affordable housing in high opportunity neighborhoods.	This bill was approved by the legislature's Housing Committee but never taken up for a vote in the House or 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.

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Hartford Foundation for Public Giving testimony in Support of House Bill 5429, An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Development	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	The legislation would have allowed for the “as of right” development of housing with a minimum overall gross density of fifteen dwelling units per acre located within a half-mile radius of any passenger rail or commuter rail station or any bus rapid transit station	This bill would have not only provided easier access to public transportation but also created the density necessary to make it economically viable to construct quality, affordable housing for low- and middle-income Connecticut residents. Through a Housing Advocacy Grant to the Center for Latino Progress and its Transport Hartford Academy, the Foundation is supporting efforts to include transit-oriented housing development in in the Affordable Housing Plans of West Hartford, Newington, and Windsor. In addition, the Foundation also provided a grant to Desegregate CT to support its advocacy and organizing efforts to around Transit Oriented Communities.	This bill was the subject of a Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing but never taken up for a vote.	See Above
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony on Senate Bill 169, An Act Concerning a Study of the Effects of Affordable Housing Policies in the State	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	This bill would have required a study on the effects of affordable housing policies in the state.	This bill was an attempt to begin the process of removing Connecticut’s Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure (referred to by its statutory citation as “8-30g”). Suburban towns have not all recognized their responsibility to make housing more affordable to people of diverse incomes, including essential workers, young families, and senior citizens. Despite claims to the contrary, 8-30g has had success, leading to the creation of more than 7,500	The bill was the subject of a Housing Committee public hearing but never taken up for a vote.	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

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Activity	Strategic Priority	Issue	Foundation Position	Status	Linked Activity
			affordable housing units across the state. The Foundation raised the fact that Section 8-30g does not represent an unfair intrusion on local zoning authority as it does not require any town to build housing; the regulation simply ensures that when a developer proposes building inclusionary housing, a town must show good reasons for objecting to it.		expand access to quality, affordable housing in higher opportunity areas.
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Testimony in Support of House Bill 5209, An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction	Higher Opportunity Neighborhoods	This legislation would have allow a housing authority to expand its jurisdiction to include neighboring municipalities.	The Foundation offered its support of this bill in order to provide residents with access to housing options in high and very high opportunity communities. Our strategic priorities explicitly support increased housing choice and mobility for residents to provide better access to higher paying jobs, diverse neighborhoods, and quality schools.	Bill was approved by the Housing and Judiciary Committees but never taken up for a vote in the House or Senate.	See Above