



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN SERVICES

2018 Legislative Agenda: Opportunity Connecticut

Connecticut's high quality education, productive workforce, and strong business climate helped make our state a great place to live and work. These traditions seem under threat from disparities in education, a mismatch between employee skills and employer needs, and stagnant job and economic growth. Connecticut has the ability build opportunity for all, with policies that strengthen families, generate growth, and ensure fiscal stability with a focus on reducing inequities.

Empower Family Economic Success

Help lower-income working families achieve financial security, while enabling children to grow up in equitable, safe and stable environments.

- ◆ Restore the state **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**, which was cut last year from 27.5% to 23% of the federal EITC.
- ◆ Fully fund **Care4Kids**, which allows parents to work while their children are in care.
- ◆ Build a **coordinated early childhood system** that delivers quality care and education.
- ◆ Support **two-generation strategies** that transform service delivery to improve child and parent outcomes.
- ◆ Create a sustainable mechanism to fund **lead abatement** programs.
- ◆ Phase in increases in the **minimum wage** to \$15/hour and index to inflation.

Generate Economic Growth

Foster more and better jobs, with a well-educated workforce that meets employers' needs, enabling businesses to grow and thrive in Connecticut.

- ◆ Build a better-educated workforce by providing sufficient funding for **developmental education** in community colleges, while developing a **debt-free community college** plan.
- ◆ Establish **business-driven regional sector partnerships** to plan, design and execute responsive workforce programs and services that target high-value sectors.
- ◆ Use these partnerships to prioritize workforce training for **good jobs** that pay \$15/hour or more, with insurance, leave, and retirement benefits, and viable career pathways.
- ◆ Improve **transportation infrastructure** to enhance Connecticut's geographic advantages for business and create good jobs.

Ensure State Fiscal Stability

Long-term opportunity in Connecticut requires continued investment in education and human services.

- ◆ **Repeal the bond lock provision** of the current budget, which ties the hands of future legislators to change the spending, volatility, and bond caps, thus limiting the ability of the state to meet future needs of children, families, and communities.
- ◆ **Generate sufficient revenue** to fund core services, including expanding the sales tax to more services, collecting Internet sales taxes, and maximizing federal funds.

For more detail on these proposals and our legislative priorities, visit www.cahs.org