



Recovering Together

CAFA's 2011 Federal Legislative Priorities

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CAFA is the association of Connecticut's 12 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), our state's federally-designated poverty-fighting agencies.

We support our members in building community, promoting public policy, and developing leaders to end poverty in Connecticut.

Our network is a statewide jobs engine that employs over 3,000 staff and directly benefits more than 300,000 people annually. We empower families and strengthen communities.

Miles To Go...

Community Action Agencies are playing an essential role in pulling Connecticut out of the recession. The perfect economic storm of the past few years have led record numbers of families to seek assistance from their local CAAs. Recovery Act funding was critical to our meeting the vastly increased community need.

We must ensure that Connecticut's recovery is sustainable and inclusive. This means **we must empower**

every family to find and keep well-paying jobs. Job training and other obvious parts of this task are crucial, but meaningful, lasting results depend on policymakers adopting a more strategic, comprehensive approach.

Congress and the President must help *all* families become productive and successful. This is how we will avoid costly social and fiscal challenges, ensure a long-term recovery, and leave a better Connecticut for our children.

Keep Families & Communities Safe

Connecticut's CAAs offer dozens of programs statewide to help keep families and communities safe. Energy and emergency fuel assistance and weatherization protect families from the bitter cold. Senior support services help seniors stay engaged and maintain their independence. Head Start and day care help children succeed and allow parents to work. Re-entry programs equip people to build new, productive lives after incarceration. And the list goes on!

We work through hundreds of strategic partnerships. **We save taxpayer dollars** by leveraging diverse funding sources and preventing the many human and fiscal costs of families in crisis. **Human suffering and unnecessary fiscal costs burden everyone, and we all benefit by their prevention.**

- **Save the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), critical funding benefiting low-income families throughout Connecticut!**
- **Preserve LIHEAP and Weatherization: 'win-wins' for homeowners, renters, green jobs, and the environment!**
- **Support early childhood programs to close the achievement gap and help Connecticut families work!**
- **Support Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to help families build savings and escape poverty!**

Our results make it clear: **CAAs are playing an essential role in pulling Connecticut out of the recession!**



US Senator Richard Blumenthal speaks at CAFA's annual conference.

Promote Proven Programs



Governor Malloy and other distinguished officials join CAA leaders at our conference.

Connecticut's CAAs are key partners in the **Human Services Infrastructure (HSI)**, our silo-busting, customer-first human service delivery system proven to equip families with the tools they need to achieve long-term economic security. **Our efforts depend on the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).**

ROMA, our Results Based Accountability system, documents our positive results on behalf of vulnerable families... and all Connecticut taxpayers.

Promote CSBG programs and preserve vital CSBG funding!

Avoid human and fiscal costs and protect Connecticut's quality of life!