



# CAFCA

Connecticut Association  
for Community Action

## ***2021 State Legislative Policy Agenda***

### **Who we are**

The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is the state association for Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs), designated by the state and federal governments as anti-poverty agencies.

### **What we do**

CAAs provide low- and moderate-income people with comprehensive, essential health/social services, such as:

- ✓ Food, including SNAP enrollment and food pantries
- ✓ Early Child Care and Education, including Head Start
- ✓ Home Heating Assistance, including LIHEAP enrollment
- ✓ Employment and Training
- ✓ Housing, including Case Management

**CAAs are supported by federal funds and the Human Services Infrastructure-Community Action Program (HSI-CAP) line item in the Department of Social Services (DSS) budget.**

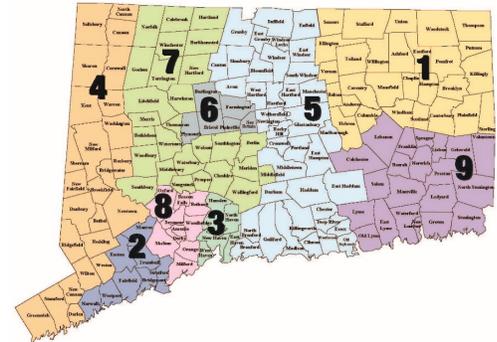
### **Response to COVID-19 & Disaster Case Management**

Since the pandemic began, Community Action Agencies *and their essential workforce* have pivoted to ensure a continuation of their services. Remote case management, document drop boxes, and additional Meals on Wheels to homebound older adults are just some of the ways CAAs remained committed to serving their customers and those impacted by COVID-19.

CAAs have also continued to take the lead on Disaster Case Management, including: helping quarantined individuals stay safe and compliant by assessing and addressing needs; providing case management and training to people in dire financial straits; and working with community partners to meet the needs of individuals and families across the state, including food.

**The need for Disaster Case Management will continue this year and beyond. See next page for how to improve Connecticut's response!**

### **Connecticut's Community Action Agencies**



1. Access Community Action Agency
2. Alliance for Community Empowerment (formerly ABCD)
3. Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH)
4. Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut (CAAWC)
5. Community Renewal Team (CRT)
6. Human Resources Agency of New Britain (HRA)
7. New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)
8. TEAM, Inc.
9. Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)

*For more information, contact CAFCA's Executive Director Deb Polun, at 860.832.9438 or Deb@cafca.org.*



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## **CAFCA's Priorities for Connecticut**

In Connecticut, and across our country, poverty hurts people of all kinds, especially people of color because of the impact of structural racism, which must be actively dismantled, in order to improve conditions for all people.

To reduce poverty and dismantle structural racism, CAFCA asks policymakers to support the following initiatives, viewed through the lens of Disaster Case Management:

- ✓ **Establish \$5 Million Client Support Fund:** Provide \$5 million of federal and/or state funding for CAAs to establish flexible "client support funds" for the working poor, or those who exceed program income limits but need help with household expenses, such as food and/or medications.
- ✓ **Streamline Program Access:** Make it easier for people – including seniors and others on fixed incomes – to apply for and stay on assistance programs, like SNAP and LIHEAP, by allowing state agencies to share information, such as income and assets. This removes the requirement for an individual to submit the same or similar information multiple times.
- ✓ **Housing/Homelessness:** Build on existing initiatives that keep people housed like eviction and foreclosure prevention. Extend the eviction moratorium until the end of 2021. Provide needed support for landlords.
- ✓ **Employment:** Support job readiness training, including interview preparation and computer skills that help people secure and maintain employment.
- ✓ **Support Community Health Workers (CHWs):** Reimburse services provided by Certified CHWs to HUSKY enrollees and state employees/retirees to improve health outcomes.

[Click here](#) to read our related information sheet about the Client Support Fund.

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