

### **Board of Directors**

**Peter DeBiasi** Access Community Action Agency, Inc.

**Dr. Monette Ferguson**Alliance for Community
Empowerment, Inc.
(formerly ABCD)

## Amos Smith Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)

Michelle James Community Action Agency of Western CT, Inc. (CAAWC)

**Lena Rodriguez** Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)

**Dr. Marlo Greponne** Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA)

William Rybczyk New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)

**David Morgan** TEAM, Inc.

**Deborah Monahan** Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)

# Public Hearing Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly's Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Deb Polun, Executive Director Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. (CAFCA)

Supporting
House Bill 6612: An Act Concerning Nonprofit
Health and Human Services Providers

February 28, 2023

Distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for holding this public hearing today. The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) is the state association that works with Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federally designated anti-poverty agencies providing a wide variety of services to nearly 200,000 low- and moderate-income people in all 169 cities and towns across the state. I have included more information about Community Action Agencies at the end of this testimony.

House Bill 6612: An Act Concerning Nonprofit Health and Human Services Providers

CAFCA supports this proposal, <u>specifically section 4</u>, which would increase and speed up payments to nonprofit providers.

#### This section:

- Of Provides an annual cost of living adjustment for nonprofit providers, so that they can keep up with labor costs and continue to provide high-quality services;
- S Ensures nonprofits will be paid within thirty days of providing services; and,
- Streamlines administrative reporting requirements.

All of these are reasonable requests for any contractor providing services, whether on behalf of the state or a private company.

Regarding the annual cost of living increase, specifically, as minimum wage is now indexed to rise each year, it is only sensible to provide these increases to providers, so they can pass them along to staff. Without increases indexed to cost of living, providers will be mandated to increase wages — without due compensation from the state.

Please note that <u>CAFCA</u> requests that increases provided and referenced in the state budget are <u>mirrored in the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) line item</u>, in the Department of Social Services' budget; this line is how the state supports Community Action Agencies in their work to serve low-income people. That is, if, for example, providers of services through DMHAS and DDS are to receive a 6% increase, we request that the HSI line item be increased by 6% as well.

Thank you all for your consideration of this important proposal, which, ultimately, would help your neediest constituents – and as always, for your service to our state. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions: <a href="mailto:deb@cafca.org">deb@cafca.org</a> or 860-832-9438.

# More about Community Action Agencies

As the largest statewide safety net service provider, Connecticut's network of Community Action Agencies connects neighbors in need with resources that stabilize and improve lives and communities. These services and resources include, but are not limited to:

- Nutrition (inc. SNAP outreach, Meals on Wheels, and Congregate meals)
- Housing and shelter
- Asset development and financial literacy
- Energy and heating assistance
- Job training
- Early childhood care and education

Through a holistic, comprehensive, multigenerational approach, CAAs work with people in need to plan, achieve, and maintain a realistic path to short and long-term economic self-sufficiency and success.

# Services Provided by Connecticut's Community Action Agencies

	ACCE88	ALLIANCE	CAANH	CAAWC	CRT	HRA	NOI	TEAM	TVCCA
Financial Literacy & Asset Development									
Individual Development Accounts	Т	Π	Ι		x	x	Π		x
Financial Counseling	¥	x	x	¥	x	x	x	x	x
Free Income Tax Preparation		x	x	¥	x	x	x	x	¥
Child Care & Youth Development									
CT Child Day Care & School Readiness	Т	x	Π	x	x	x	×	x	¥
Head Start		x				x		x	¥
Infant-Toddler/Early Head Start		x			x	x	x	x	¥
Specialized Care & Education		_			x	x			x
Youth Dev- After School & Summer Programs		x	x		×	x		-	_
Community-wide Services			_		_				
Clothing Drive	Т	x	Г	×	x	×	Г		×
Food Drive		x		Y	x	x	x	-	Y
Toy Drive	_	x		Y	×		×	x	*
	-	_ X		-			-	-	
Criminal Justice	Т	T			x				
Halfway Houses & Re-Entry Employment & Training	-						x		
	т —					×	×		
Adult Education	_	X		¥		x	x	-	
One-Stop Employment	_							-	¥
Youth and Young Adults	¥	X	¥		X	X	X	-	¥
Vocational & Skills Training	¥	X	¥	X	X	X	X	X	
Energy Assistance & Weatherization									
Energy Assistance & Emergency Fuel	¥	X	¥	X	X	X	X	X	x
Matching Payment Programs	¥	x	¥	X	X	X	X		x
Home Energy Solutions/Weatherization					X		X		<u> </u>
Health									
Adult Incontinence Supplies		x					X	X	x
Counseling: Individual and/or Family		x	¥		X	X			
Diaper Bank		x	¥	X			X	X	x
Health Care Access/Medical Transportation					X	X	X	X	
HIV/AIDS Prevention & Counseling					x	x			
Substance Abuse Prevention & Counseling					x				
Housing & Shelter									
Affordable and/or Subsidized Housing	¥				X	x	x		x
Emergency Rental/Mortgage Payment	x	x	x	x	X	X	x	x	x
Emergency Shelter	¥				x		x		
Eviction Prevention & Mediation	¥	x		¥	x	x	x	x	x
Homelessness Prevention/Rapid Rehousing	¥	x	x		x		x		x
Supportive Housing - Adults	¥				x	x	x		¥
Supportive Housing - Youth	¥								¥
Nutrition	•	•	•						,
Children & Adult Care Food Program	¥	x	x	¥	x	x	x	×	¥
Food Pantries	x		¥	¥	x	x	x		
Meals on Wheels/Congregate Meals					x	x	x	x	¥
Summer Food Program	<b>†</b>				x			<u> </u>	_
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	¥								¥
Seniors	<del>-</del>		-						
RSVP & Senior Volunteer Programs	Т			¥	¥		×	x	¥
Senior Support Services	¥		¥		x	x	x	x	-
Strengthening Families									
			-		-	-		-	
Family Development/Parenting Education Holistic Case Management/Info & Referral		X	¥		X	X	X	x	¥
results out managementation a receilal	¥	X	¥	X	X	X	X	X	¥