



2025 ADVOCACY AGENDA



WHO WE ARE

At United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut, we are dedicated to building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Serving 27 communities across Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties, including Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk, and Stamford, we focus on addressing critical needs and creating pathways to well-being and financial security. With 42% of households living at or below the **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) threshold, our work prioritizes equity, collective action, and systemic change to foster long-term stability for all. Through strong partnerships and deep community engagement, we strive to promote inclusion and opportunity across the region.

2025 LEGISLATIVE ASKS

Support a Permanent, Refundable Connecticut Child Tax Credit

Establish a permanent \$600/child CT CTC to provide flexible, reliable income for 250,000 households and 350,000+ children. This critical support helps working families ease the financial burden of raising children.

Early Care and Education

Identify a stream of funding for the Early Childhood Care and Education Fund to provide immediate resources and long-term sustainability to parents and caregivers in the early care system. Ensure access to affordable, high-quality early care and education.

Leverage 211 to Address Youth Disconnection

Invest \$2.25M in 211 to reduce youth disconnection by funding call center specialists, a youth-focused awareness campaign, and flexible funds to bridge service gaps for 119k at-risk youth (ages 14-24).

Support Universal No-Cost School Meals

Every child has access to nutritious food, helping them succeed in school and supporting overall well-being.

Enhance 211 Call Center Capacity

Invest an additional \$2.25M to ensure the 211 system is adequately staffed, enabling the service to respond to an additional 1,740 callers per week.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Early Care and Education: Ensure access to affordable, high-quality early care and education, including implementation of the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care recommendations.

Education and Workforce Development: Invest in education and workforce development to address youth disconnection and empower youth for success.

Economic Security: Promote affordable housing, fair jobs, lower utility costs, and tax relief for working families.

Health, Food and Nutrition Security: Expand affordable healthcare, strengthen safety net programs, increase emergency feeding funding and ensure nutritious meals for children.

Systemic Reform and Fiscal Sustainability: Encourage a balanced approach to fiscal policy that promotes economic stability while protecting the critical services, including making responsible adjustments to the fiscal guardrails.