



2025 ADVOCACY AGENDA GREATER NORWALK



OUR APPROACH TO ADVOCACY

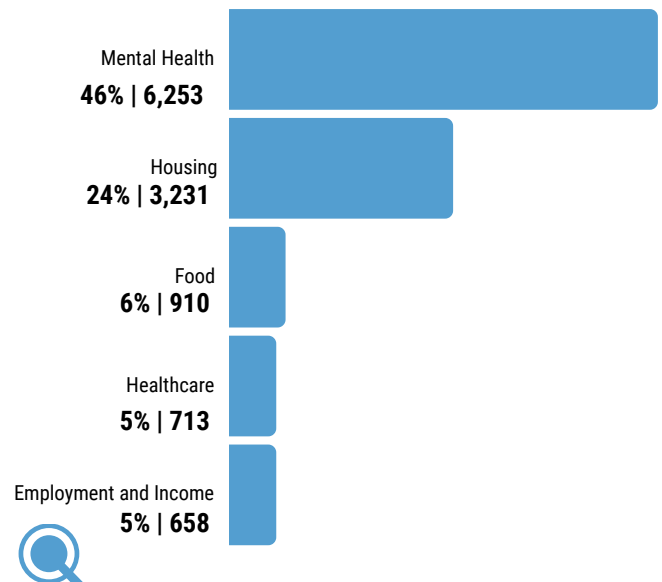
At United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut, we believe that every individual and family should have the opportunity to thrive. With 42% of households living at or below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold across Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties, ALICE households are a focal point of our work. Our advocacy efforts are rooted in equity, collective action, and a commitment to creating long-term, systemic change that fosters well-being and financial security for everyone.

ALICE 2024 REPORT

Municipality	Households ALICE and Poverty	% ALICE (inclusive of poverty)
Darien	1,161	16%
New Canaan	1,130	16%
Norwalk	15,794	45%
Weston	585	16%
Westport	2,052	21%
Wilton	1,193	19%
Total Greater Norwalk	21,915	32%

211 TOP 5 SERVICE REQUESTS 2024 - GREATER NORWALK

Total Service Requests (Call & Web): 13,550



Specific Service Request Details

- Housing: Need for temporary housing
- Mental Health: Need for therapy and counseling
- Food: Need for help buying food and access to soup kitchens
- Healthcare: Need for help accessing health insurance
- Employment & Income: Need assistance with government assistance programs



2025 LEGISLATIVE ASKS

1. **Support a Permanent, Refundable Connecticut Child Tax Credit:** A permanent, refundable Child Tax Credit at \$600 per child. In Danbury, 85% of low to moderate income families could receive up to \$8.8M in refunds, representing more than \$12M in potential local economic activity.
2. **Support Universal No-Cost School Meals:** Every child has access to nutritious food, helping them succeed in school and supporting overall well-being.
3. **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.
 - a. **Identify state funding for Cora's Kids Family Child Care Network,** serving Greater Danbury.
4. **Enhance 211 Call Center Capacity:** Invest an additional \$2 million to ensure the 211 system is adequately staffed, enabling the service to respond to an additional 2,000 callers per week.
5. **Leverage 211 to Address Youth Disconnection:** Invest \$1 million in 211 to reduce youth disconnection - Fund additional call center specialists, a youth-focused awareness campaign, and flexible funds to bridge gaps in existing services for the 119,000 young people aged 14-24 who are at risk or disconnected from school or work.
6. **Increase the State's De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate to 15%:** Increase the 15% state de minimis indirect cost rate for nonprofit organizations, aligning with federal standards.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Youth Success

1. **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.
2. **Education and Workforce Development:** Promote investments in public education and workforce development to prepare youth for a successful future.
3. **Opportunity Youth:** Support the 119K Commission's efforts to address the needs of disconnected youth by creating opportunities for education and workforce engagement.
4. **Strengthen Danbury Public Schools:** Advocate for increased and equitable funding to address budget deficits, enhance educational resources, and ensure all students have access to quality education and opportunities for success.

Economic Security

Support the expansion and accessibility of affordable housing, fair employment practices, affordable utilities, and tax relief for working families, ensuring they have the resources to meet their needs and build a stable future.

Health, Food and Nutrition Security

Advance access to affordable healthcare, increase funding for emergency feeding and social safety net programs, and promote healthy, nutritious meals for all children.

Systemic Reform and Fiscal Sustainability

Encourage a balanced approach to fiscal policy that promotes economic stability while protecting the critical services that support low- and moderate-income households, including making responsible adjustments to the fiscal guardrails and increasing the state's de minimis indirect cost rate to 15%.