CONNECTICUT FAMILIES PLAN 2.0

CHILDREN CAN THRIVE
WHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES THRIVE.
THE FEDERAL LANDSCAPE MAKES OUR WORK MORE URGENT.

Connecticut Voices for Children envisions a Connecticut where *all* children achieve their full potential, regardless of family income, race, religion or immigration status.

Our Connecticut Families Plan, launched in 2022, was designed to advance an economy that works for everyone, not just the privileged and lucky few.

We know Connecticut can:

- put more money in the pockets of hardworking families;
- create a strong and diverse workforce free from discrimination;
- ensure affordable housing and child care are accessible in every town across our state; and
- promote safe, healthy and just communities for all.

Despite all the progress that has been made, the challenges and threats are growing. We cannot allow the chaos and cruelty from Washington, DC to dictate what we do here at home. A 'business as usual' approach only worsens the harm already inflicted upon our residents, which is why **movement forward must address our new reality.**

If you still have hope, if you agree that dignity and prosperity for all matter, then we need you now, more than ever. Join us in our fight for economic and racial justice in Connecticut!

MORE MONEY IN THE POCKETS OF HARDWORKING FAMILIES

Responsibly Adjust the State's Fiscal Controls: Connecticut's spending cap and volatility cap are severely limiting lawmakers' ability to respond quickly and effectively to federal uncertainty. By adjusting the volatility cap, specifically, lawmakers can free up resources that are needed to hold children and families harmless. To be clear, we're not talking about eliminating the fiscal controls in their entirety. We're asking for additional adjustments that still allow the state to pay down unfunded liabilities and save for tomorrow while also help residents with the growing high cost of living.
Source:https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/TB-Forum_Offset-New-Federal-Cuts-Report_010826.pdf

Enact New, Progressive Revenue: Connecticut has the resources and a moral obligation to close the federal funding gap created by HR 1 (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) and other executive orders. In doing so, Connecticut can hold harmless the people who rely on critical supports and services like food assistance and health care coverage as well as resource the bold policies we're proud of that advance family economic security like universal access to early childhood education and care. More progressivity in our tax code also means a fairer tax system—one that can help protect children and families. This is needed now, more than ever, due to HR 1, which provides massive tax cut giveaways to the ultra-wealthy and corporate interests while cutting SNAP, Medicaid, ACA subsidies, higher education and more.
Source:https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/TB-Forum_Offset-New-Federal-Cuts-Report_010826.pdf

Create a Connecticut Child Tax Credit and Inflation Index the Personal Income Tax: Establishing a fully refundable state-level child tax credit and inflation indexing the personal income tax will mitigate income and wealth disparities, particularly among racial and ethnic groups, and bolster economic stability for families currently facing price hikes due to tariffs—all of which helps our economy to grow.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SOWC-2025-V2.pdf

A STRONG & DIVERSE WORKFORCE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION

Allow Parents to Plan for Care Through Predictable Scheduling: Parents too often cannot access the early care and elder care they need due to last-minute changes in their work schedules. Having predictable work scheduling is good for them as well as for educators and caregivers who are counting on providing that care for their income.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SOWC-2025-V2.pdf

Reduce Non-compete Clauses in Contracts: While it's important to keep proprietary information confidential, too many jobs include non-compete clauses in their work agreements that don't need them. Connecticut residents' opportunities to switch jobs and seek upward mobility are limited. This is a simple measure to help increase employment.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/SOWC-2025-V2.pdf

Increase Public Sector Jobs within the Department of Revenue Services (DRS): Hiring more workers at DRS has the potential to help the state collect more revenue through closing Connecticut's tax gap. It increases employment *and* increases revenue—a win-win.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/TB-Forum_Offset-New-Federal-Cuts-Report_010826.pdf

AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE HOUSING & CHILD CARE

Increase Housing Stability Through Eviction Mitigation Measures: Tenants in Connecticut should be able to call the properties they lease home, without the fear of eviction due to no fault of their own; a universal "just cause" law would provide this safeguard for families. As our economy grows increasingly uncertain, expanding the state's first-in-the-nation Right to Counsel program is a good way to help residents who face financial hardship.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Zoning-and-Displacement-Full-Report_FINAL.pdf

Stay the Course on Land-use and Zoning Reforms that Allow for More Affordable Housing: Connecticut faces a supply and demand challenge. More housing stock can be built in every town through an expansion of ADUs and expansion of public housing authorities' jurisdiction as developers. Additionally, to ensure 2025's major housing bill can take root, we support defending and strengthening the existing laws that affirmatively further fair housing.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CTs-Eviction-Paper_Part-2-Exec-Summary.pdf

Commit to Ongoing Investment in Universal Access to Early Childhood Education and Care: Connecticut's early care educators and providers are underpaid and overworked while costs are prohibitive for Connecticut families. The Legislature passed and Governor enacted bold policy when resourcing the Early Childhood Education Endowment. However, the full potential of the Endowment is only met if Connecticut commits to resourcing it every year at a minimum of the same levels it did this past year.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CTVoices-_-SOEC-2025-FINAL-11.17.pdf

SAFE, HEALTHY & JUST COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

Preserve SNAP, WIC & Health Care Coverage: Food and health go together. HR 1 reduces food assistance and institutes rigorous work requirements. Creating a parallel state program, in the federal program's image and likeness, mitigates the harm to children and families from the quick and current implementation of these new rules. HR 1 also cuts Medicaid and eliminates the Enhanced Premium Tax Credit that makes the ACA affordable. Medicaid expansions, through increased reimbursements to providers and increased coverage to children up to the age of 26 (including immigrant children), are important and *must* happen. However, the federal gaps are so large (~$850M in FY27) that scaffolding may be needed.
Source:https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Candidate-Briefing-Book_FINAL2.pdf
Source:https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/TB-Forum_Offset-New-Federal-Cuts-Report_010826.pdf

Extend Higher Education Tuition Reimbursement for Foster Youth up to the Age of 26: Foster youth are the state's legal responsibility. Connecticut can better support the youth exiting the DCF system by extending the timeframe they can access higher education resources.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025-Legislative-Update_Final.pdf

Protect Immigrant Children and Families: Immigrants enrich our communities and contribute to our economy. While HR 1 slashes food assistance and health coverage, it pumps up funding levels to federal agencies responsible for carrying out a mass deportation agenda. Residents are scared. Banning ICE agents from child care facilities, schools, hospitals, and other sensitive locations as well as limiting state and municipal use of technology and corporate contracts that support this agenda will help keep our neighborhoods and neighbors safe.
Source: https://ctvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Whats-at-Risk_Connecticut_Final.pdf