

POLICY AGENDA

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- **Two-generation strategies**
 - Monitor the implementation of the two-generation pilots, informing legislators on activities and outcomes, and protect existing funding.
 - Support legislation with technical fixes to the 2015 bill.
- **Early care and education providers**
 - Increase the quality of early care and education by increasing providers' reimbursement rates and educators' wages.
- **Integrate Discovery Communities** in the Office of Early Childhood quality improvement plan.

BENEFITS ACCESS AND INCOME SECURITY

- **Paid family and medical leave**
 - Seek approval of a paid family and medical leave insurance system in Connecticut, based on employee contributions.
- **Retirement Security**
 - Create a public retirement system in Connecticut, following the findings of the market feasibility study of the Retirement Security Board.
- **TANF reform – asset limits**
 - Eliminate restrictive asset limits for recipients of the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program. Asset testing slows the application process, and creates a strong incentive for recipients *not* to save money. Eliminating asset limits will help families save money and build assets to get out of poverty, while reducing processing time for DSS.
- **Financial education**
 - Require financial education programs in K-12 to ensure students demonstrate financial literacy competency upon graduation. Evaluate and expand existing programs and best practices.
- **Tax preparer regulation**
 - Increase transparency for paid tax preparers, requiring them to post fees, schedules and cash advance costs.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

- **Access to higher education: remedial education reform**
 - Maintain existing funding to ensure that all students have the opportunity to access and complete post- secondary education, including certificate programs.
- **Free Community College**
 - Develop a statewide initiative to guarantee tuition-free access to community college, creating a “last dollar” scholarship program.
- **For-profit college regulation:**
 - Require for-profit higher education institutions to report on graduation and job placement rates, and disclose accreditation rules and lending practices. Establish minimum spending on instruction and cap spending on marketing.
- **Access to higher education: CHET Baby Scholars accounts**
 - Work with legislators and stakeholders to attract philanthropic support to cover additional program costs resulting from changes in the enrollment process.
- **Apprenticeship set-aside**
 - Require the Department of Transportation to allocate .5 percent of federal surface transportation funding to develop and administer highway construction training and skill improvement programs for disadvantaged populations.

TAXES

- **Reinstate the state Earned Income Tax Credit** to 30% of Federal EITC.
- **Tax and spending.** With the state facing a budget deficit, CAHS advocates for:
 - A balanced response to the crisis that does not place an unfair burden on low-income families.
 - A long-term response to structural deficits that does not weaken essential state services or cut crucial investments.
- **Tax study commission results**
 - The Tax Study Commission put forth a series of proposals to reform Connecticut’s tax system. CAHS supports legislation to make the state tax system more progressive, with a focus on the property tax.

The Family Economic Success (FES) Coalition shares information and mobilizes advocates, providers, and others on policy issues that improve the lives of low-income children and families. CAHS coordinates the FES Coalition.

The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) is a statewide nonprofit agency that works **to engage, equip, and empower** all families in Connecticut to build a secure future.

