

# Campaign for Working Connecticut



The Campaign for Working Connecticut (CWCT) is a statewide coalition of diverse stakeholders that are committed to an [Inclusive Economic Recovery](#) in Connecticut.

The COVID-19 public health crisis and resulting economic crisis have underscored the need for a stronger safety net for Connecticut workers that live paycheck to paycheck (ALICE households- Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed).

The pandemic has also amplified the need for jobseekers, workers and students to have equitable access to the knowledge, skills and pathways needed to meet employers' middle-skill talent priorities, support business/economic growth, and achieve financial security.

Household Survival Budget in Connecticut			
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Senior	Family
Housing	\$883	\$883	\$1,310
Child Care			\$1,857
Food	\$309	\$263	\$936
Transportation	\$357	\$311	\$826
Health Care	\$222	\$519	\$742
Technology	\$55	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$219	\$241	\$687
Taxes	\$364	\$374	\$1,122
Monthly Total	\$2,409	\$2,646	\$7,555
Annual Total	\$28,908	\$31,752	\$90,660
Hourly Wage	\$14.45	\$15.88	\$45.33

The ALICE Household Survival Budget is a minimum cost of living budget. Learn more at [alice.ctunitedway.org](http://alice.ctunitedway.org)

## Campaign for Working Connecticut Policy Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session

- **Establish and expand work based learning opportunities.** Support \$40 million in funds previously authorized for investment in the Apprenticeship Connecticut Initiative; as written in the new Governor's Bill (881).
- **Expand Care 4 Kids child care subsidies to low income parents participating in postsecondary education, adult basic education, job training and industry certificate programs.**
  - Connecticut is one of the only states that does not allow low-income parents enrolled in post-secondary education, job training or adult basic education to receive the child care subsidy for low income families (Care 4 Kids).
- **Expand the eligibility criteria for the Connecticut Department of Transportation U-Pass CT Program to include in-demand, noncredit education programs, as noted in the new Governors Bill (881).**
  - In addition to U-Pass expansion, there is a need for flexible stipends for those in training programs or non-credit post-secondary education programs who are unable to readily access U-PASS.
- **Address barriers to Connecticut's safety net for all workers, including those impacted by the pandemic, and make it a foundation for new career pathways.**
  - Increase supportive services funding so that those enrolled in post-secondary education, job training or adult basic education have the tools and resources necessary to successfully complete their program.

State/Territory Approved Education and Training Activities for Child Care Subsidy Eligibility (2019)\*

36				45				49			
AL	AK	AR	CO	AL	AK	AS	AR	CA	AK	AS	AR
DC	FL	GA	ID	CO	DC	FL	GA	IN	CO	DC	FL
IL	IN	IA	ME	GU	HI	ID	IL	GU	HI	ID	IL
MP	MA	MI	MN	IN	IA	KY	LA	IN	IA	KS	KY
MS	MO	MT	NE	ME	MP	MD	MA	LA	ME	MP	MD
NV	NH	NM	NY	MI	MN	MS	MO	MA	MI	MN	MS
NC	ND	OH	OK	MT	NE	NV	NH	MO	MT	NE	NV
PA	TX	VT	VI	NJ	NM	NC	ND	NH	NJ	NM	NY
VA	WA	WV	WY	OH	OK	PR	SC	NC	ND	OH	OK
				SD	TN	TX	VT	PR	RI	SC	SD
				VI	VA	WV	WY	TN	TX	VT	VI
								VA	WV	WI	WY
Adult Basic Education				Post-Secondary Education				Training			

Source: Child Care Subsidies under the CCDF Program An Overview of Policy Differences across States and Territories as of October 1, 2019

\*States/Territories shown approve these education and training activities, regardless of participation in work; Additional States/Territories allow for education and training only when the parent meets minimum work requirements.

# Campaign for Working Connecticut's Vision for Connecticut

**With the necessary investments, a focus on equity and the commitment of education, government, workforce, labor and business leaders to work together, we can:**

- Expand learning options, particularly work based, to achieve a target of 70% of workforce with relevant post-secondary degrees and certifications by 2025.
- Establish a safety net that equitably supports workers' long-term pathway to a skilled career.
- Create better access to workforce resources through the development of a skills matching portal that aligns skills and education with employer needs.
- Commit to a comprehensive and equitable approach of re-training and skill-based hiring.

## Jobs that Employ the Most CT Workers (Pre-COVID)

Occupation	Number of Jobs	Median Hourly Wage
Cashiers	45,940	\$11.49
Retail Salespersons	44,710	\$12.57
Registered Nurses	31,400	\$38.42
Customer Service Representatives	30,950	\$18.59
General and Operations Managers	30,330	\$63.13
Administrative Assistants	30,140	\$21.76
Waiters and Waitresses	29,660	\$10.57
Janitors and Cleaners	29,290	\$14.64
Office Clerks	28,420	\$17.65
Food Preparation and Service Workers	28,120	\$11.63

*Retail trade, Healthcare & Social Assistance, Accommodation & Food Service are among the job sectors hit hardest throughout the pandemic.*

## How has COVID-19 has Impacted Connecticut Workforce?

**Connecticut's most vulnerable populations have been the most directly impacted by COVID-19.**

### Workers with Low-Income

- Individuals earning less than \$35,000 comprise 64% of UI (Unemployment Insurance) claimants.
- Individuals earning less than \$75,000 comprise 90% of UI claimants.
- 57% of Black Households and 63% of Hispanic Households had earnings below the ALICE Household Survival Budget prior to the onset of COVID-19.<sup>i</sup>

### Women

- 48% of the female labor force are essential workers including health care, child care and service industry professionals.<sup>ii</sup>
- 76% of parents who had to stop working to provide child care during the pandemic are women.<sup>ii</sup>
- 75% of initial and continuing unemployment claims that were made by females, were made by females without a college degree.<sup>ii</sup>

## About Campaign for Working Connecticut

The Campaign for Working Connecticut (CWCT) is a proud member of the [Nationals Skills Coalition's State Policy Advocacy Network](#) (SkillSPAN). SkillSPAN is focused on bringing skills and job training opportunities to thousands of people through policy changes. As part of this national network, CWCT advocates for both state and federal policies in education, workforce training, adult education, career and technical education, and safety net arenas to expand economic opportunities for workers and their families while boosting the state's business capacity.

i. ALICE in Connecticut: A Financial Hardship Study- [https://alice.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020ALICEReport\\_CT\\_FINAL-8-20-20.pdf](https://alice.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020ALICEReport_CT_FINAL-8-20-20.pdf)

ii. Essential Equity: Women, Covid-19 and Rebuilding CT- <https://womenandgirls.ctdata.org/docs/Essential%20Equity%20Women%20Covid-19%20and%20Rebuilding%20CT.pdf>