

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford Legislative Policy Priorities for 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a devastating impact on our community and partner agencies. As a result of the pandemic, Greater Hartford residents are facing higher levels of unemployment, food and housing insecurity, and medical challenges - and the services of our partner agencies have been strained to the limit. COVID-19 relief for impacted individuals and service agencies is at the top of our 2022 legislative agenda.

Supporting Nonprofits

- Ensure that non-profit organizations remain exempt from property taxes.
- Protect funding levels for non-profits to allow them to continue to provide high quality services.

Protecting Religious Institutions

- Continue state funding and release state funds already allocated for security for religious institutions and faith-related non-profits, such as the Jewish Community Centers.

Supporting our Most Vulnerable Populations

- Continue to enhance access to nutritious food through protecting SNAP and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, and additional advocacy and public education.
- Improve access to affordable, high-quality health care for all, including behavioral health. This includes the preservation and expansion of HUSKY (Connecticut's Medicaid program) as well as efforts to recruit and retain more behavioral health professionals.
- Establish a plan to address the unmet needs of people who require services through the Department of Developmental Services, and their families.
- Support environmental justice initiatives and protect vulnerable populations that are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change.

Fostering Economic Growth and Education

- Support services to retrain and re-employ Connecticut's workforce that has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis.
- Continue to build productive business partnerships between Connecticut and Israel, including by investing in trade and promoting Israeli businesses expanding in Connecticut.
- Support efforts to help schools and parents in the vital task of teaching children to read, including through virtual means. *We applaud the efforts of programs such as Federation's Children's Reading Partners in their efforts to promote literacy.*



Committing to an Anti-Hate Culture

- Expand anti-hate/antisemitism education for teachers, students, families, and elected officials. Review and consider the recommendations of the Governor's Hate Crimes Advisory Council.
- Support gun safety and the reduction and prevention of gun violence. Review and consider the forthcoming recommendations of the Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee.

Promoting Civic Engagement

- Support the continued use of no-excuse absentee ballots by modifying state statutes.
- We support a yes vote on the Constitutional amendment question regarding early voting.
- Promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all public and private organizations and systems.

Bringing Our Core Values to Life for Every Generation

Since 1945, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford has been a community leader and change agent, working with a diverse set of partners to create a thriving, caring and connected Jewish network of 30,000 people in Greater Hartford, in Israel and in 60+ Jewish communities that need our help around the world. In Greater Hartford we work closely with 20+ partners. Every day we are caring for the neediest, bringing Jewish ideas to life for all ages and inspiring a new generation of community leaders connecting all faiths.

Federation's work is guided by three core Jewish values:

- Tzedakah (charity and social justice)
- Tikkun Olam (improving the world)
- Torah (Jewish learning)

Towns We Serve

Avon	Cromwell	Glastonbury	New Britain	Somers	Vernon
Barkhamsted	East Granby	Granby	New Hartford	South Windsor	West Hartford
Berlin	East Hartford	Hartford	Newington	Southington	West Simsbury
Bloomfield	East Windsor	Hebron	Plainville	Stafford Springs	Wethersfield
Bristol	Ellington	Manchester	Rockville	Suffield	Windsor
Burlington	Enfield	Meriden	Rocky Hill	Tolland	Windsor Locks
Canton	Farmington	Middletown	Simsbury	Unionville	

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JEWISH COMMUNITY
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