

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford

State Legislative Policy Priorities for 2024

Committing to an Anti-Hate Culture

- Expand anti-hate/antisemitism education for teachers, students, families, universities, communities, and elected officials, including the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. We support the recommendations of the Governor's Hate Crimes Advisory Council.
- Promote policies that support justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all public entities and private organizations and companies. These initiatives should specifically include religious considerations such as, but not limited to, honoring the observance of Jewish holidays and traditions, as well as antisemitism education as referenced above.

Promoting Civic Education and Community Building

- Support efforts to adopt no-excuse absentee ballots.
- Support programs to educate people of all ages about democratic principles, how their government works, and how to participate in democracy.
- Support gun safety and the reduction and prevention of gun violence. Review and consider the recommendations of the Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention.

Supporting Nonprofits

- Protect and enhance funding for non-profits to allow them to continue to provide high quality services.
- Remain vigilant that non-profit organizations continue to be exempt from property taxes.

Protecting Religious Institutions

- Continue to provide additional state funding, as necessary, for critical security for religious institutions and faith-related non-profits.

Supporting our Most Vulnerable Populations

- Address food insecurity and enhance access to nutritious food through SNAP, Meals on Wheels, school lunches, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, additional advocacy, and public education.
- Building upon health care initiatives previously passed, 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.
- Work collaboratively to address persistent workforce challenges in providing direct care.

- Support programs that enhance energy efficiency and independence, particularly for low-income people.
- Support environmental justice initiatives and protect vulnerable populations that are especially susceptible to the effects of climate change.
- Work with community-based organizations to support the needs of asylees and refugees coming to Connecticut.

Fostering Economic Growth and Education

- Continue to build productive business partnerships between Connecticut and Israel, including by working with CT Innovations and University of Connecticut, investing in trade, and promoting Israeli business expansions in Connecticut.
- Support efforts to recruit, train, and grow Connecticut's workforce.
- Support efforts to help schools and caregivers 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.

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