

# CAHS

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## 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The **Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS)** works to end poverty and to engage, equip, empower all families in Connecticut to build a secure future.

CAHS supports policies that help **move families from poverty to economic success**. By investing in basic needs, asset building, work supports and training, early care and education, universal health care, and equitable tax policy, Connecticut will build strong families, healthy communities, a vibrant workforce, and a thriving economy.

### Increase Family Income and Savings

- ◆ Create a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- ◆ Raise the state's minimum wage.
- ◆ Allow workers paid sick leave.
- ◆ Promote use of free tax-preparation services and access to the federal EITC.
- ◆ Expand and strengthen the Connecticut matched-savings IDA program.

### Invest in Effective Early Care and Education

- ◆ Improve and increase access to the Care4Kids child care program for low-wage families.

### Provide Quality Health Care for Everyone

- ◆ Create a health care system that is universal, accessible, affordable, and sustainable.
- ◆ Restore continuous eligibility for HUSKY.
- ◆ Raise the income eligibility level under Medicaid for the aged, blind, and disabled.

### Improve Access to Basic Benefits

- ◆ Increase access to basic benefits such as food stamps, child nutrition, and heating assistance.
- ◆ Adequately staff DSS to reduce caseloads and improve the administration of benefit programs.

### Prepare People to Move up the Career Ladder

- ◆ Increase funding for adult basic skills and English language instruction, incumbent work training, and occupational skills training in key workforce shortage areas.
- ◆ Expand the Connecticut Workforce Advancement Grants for Education (CT-WAGE) initiative to provide financial support, tutoring, and mentoring for at-risk community college adult students.
- ◆ Phase out the financial benefit cliffs as families transition from welfare to work.
- ◆ Develop a green industry job training program through Connecticut Community Colleges.

### Curb Predatory Lending

- ◆ Address the sub-prime lending crisis by removing financial incentives for such practices and creating enforcement mechanisms in the lending industry.

*For more information: Maggie Adair, Policy Director, at 860-951-2212, ext. 239.*