



Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

State Legislative Priorities 2026

To ensure continued health care access for all, CHC/ACT recommends:

1) Facilitate implementation of HR 1 to help HUSKY enrollees maintain coverage.

HR 1 requires significant changes to Medicaid enrollment, including more frequent renewals and new work/community engagement reporting. Implementing these changes will require technology upgrades and process improvements at DSS. Data sharing, aligning requirements with other programs, and using automated verification could help reduce the burden on DSS and on applicants and enrollees.

CHC/ACT urges the legislature to make statutory changes and provide the funding needed to support streamlining methods to help residents remain insured and able to access health care. Information about what specifically is needed will become clearer over the first half of 2026.

2) Invest in CHWs. Invest in a healthier Connecticut.

Public Act 23-186 requires Connecticut to pay for Community Health Worker (CHW) services to Medicaid enrollees. While the governor allocated one-time grant funding for CHWs through the Emergency State Response Reserve, DSS has not yet implemented this requirement through the filing of a Medicaid State Plan Amendment. Additionally, ongoing funding is needed through the Medicaid program.

CHWs are essential to helping residents understand and navigate the many upcoming changes to HUSKY, Covered CT, Access Health CT, and social services programs. CHWs provide a strong return on investment – research shows savings of up to \$4 for every \$1 invested – and improve health outcomes. CHC/ACT and others are requesting \$2M in state funds to support ongoing reimbursement through Medicaid.

3) Improve access to care for uninsured & underinsured individuals.

CHC/ACT asks the state to provide funding and infrastructure support to ensure that all Connecticut residents, regardless of insurance or other status, can access primary and urgent health care.

4) Continue the State Loan Repayment Program to address workforce shortages.

Originally funded with \$7.6M in ARPA dollars, state funding is now needed to sustain this program. CHC/ACT requests \$5M in state funding to support physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, dentists, and other health professionals in loan repayment.

For more information, contact Deb Polun: dpolun@chcact.org or 860.878.7760.

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