



Covenant to Care for Children

*Helping Connecticut's
Children in Need.*

1477 Park Street
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Telephone (860) 243-1806
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February 18, 2020

Public Hearing on:

H.B. 5005 An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium
Ending June 30, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am here to comment on H.B. 5005 An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2021,

I am Dr. David Santis, executive director of Covenant to Care for Children.

I am asking you to support the funding proposal for our organization (CCC) at the level proposed by the Governor (\$161,778).

Covenant to Care for Children provides a safety net for abused, neglected or impoverished children in Connecticut by providing essential support in moments that are critical for a child's ability to thrive and a family's ability to stay together.

In 2019, some of our successes included:

- Over 8,800 children in Connecticut received the basic, essential goods they needed.
- 735 received a school backpack, while 150 received assistance to purchase a school uniform
- 470 children received gently used clothing from our Community Closet
- Over 2,300 children received holiday gifts
- And the list could go on.....

Now in its thirty-third year, CCC has provided basic, essential goods to over 829,000 children throughout Connecticut.

CCC strives to allow kids to be kids in all the positive ways that make for a promising life. Our goods and services are provided to kids that are more likely not to graduate from high school,

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more likely to face chronic unemployment or underemployment, kids that have a high likelihood of being homeless at some point in their lives, without our intervention.

Again, I ask, on behalf of the children, for your support this budget season.

Thank You,

David V. Santis, Ph.D., Executive Director
Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.



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Children Served Through Covenant to Care for Children

Fiscal Year 2019

By

DCF Sub-Region

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Bridgeport | 951 |
| Stamford/Norwalk | 110 |
| New Haven/Milford | 182 |
| Meriden | 92 |
| Middletown | 94 |
| Norwich | 78 |
| Willimantic | 468 |
| Hartford | 3,098 |
| New Britain | 1,149 |
| Manchester | 1,719 |
| Danbury | 34 |
| Torrington | 113 |
| Waterbury | 10 |



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Fast Facts for Covenant to Care for Children, Inc. (CCC)

All figures are for FY19, unless otherwise noted.

Covenant to Care for Children provides for the most basic tangible needs of children in Connecticut, ages birth to 18 who are victims of abuse, neglect and/or who are impoverished.

We serve the entire state of Connecticut.

Last Fiscal year, 8,881 children statewide received basic necessities (beds, clothing, coats) through CCC's network of faith and community based organizations, volunteers, individual donors and businesses valued at \$305,197.

Our largest funder is a contract administered by the Department of Children and Families

- CCC is receiving \$161,412 in funds from the State for FY 20 to support the Adopt a Social Worker program that provides for the basic needs of children.
- The Governor's budget recommends \$161,778 for FY 21.
- A study by students from the University of Hartford, found that for each \$1 received, \$6.80 was returned to the state in goods and services.

Some basic facts about the organization:

CCC is in its 33rd year, and in that time has helped 828,943 children throughout Connecticut. Our goal is 1 Million.

Our total operating budget is \$431,777 for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

CCC has 6 employees, 3 full-time and 4 part-time.

The Adopt A Social Worker Program is understaffed at 1 full-time, 2 part-time staff members. Optimal staffing level would be 4 full-time.

Our Programs:

Adopt A Social Worker (AASW) provides basic goods for kids. Faith or community based organizations adopt a children's protective service caseworker and make an agreement to provide for the material goods needed by the child and their caregivers. No other organization in CT has

agreements with over 200 organizations to provide these basic goods for kids. There are over 1,000 volunteers connected with the program.

Critical Goods Delivery Program for children is our response to the needs of families who at risk of losing their children or who are being reunified with their children and must have certain material goods before that can happen; beds, appliances, cribs, household items.

Children's Enrichment Fund for children responds to unusual requests for children and youth. Examples are camp experiences, haircuts, lessons, tutoring, special books, or other aids.

Our Mission

Covenant to Care for Children provides a safety net for abused, neglected or impoverished children in Connecticut by providing essential support in moments that are critical for a child's ability to thrive and a family's ability to stay together.

We fulfill this mission by partnering with State agencies, faith-based communities, and other organizations that share our dedication to improving the lives and futures of at-risk children in Connecticut. Through our collaborative system of program delivery, we mobilize the generosity of caring individuals and leverage the resources of social service agencies to provide direct assistance and critical goods to families struggling to meet the basic needs of their children.



Covenant to Care for Children

*Helping Connecticut's
Children in Need.*

Providing Essential Goods to

Connecticut's Children in Need

Birth to 17

Our Goal = One Million

We have been serving
Connecticut's children in need
for more than 30 years

Help us reach our goal

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Our Programs

A *adopt a Social Worker* is the largest and oldest of our programs. Community or faith-based organizations partner with a particular social worker to provide, as far as is possible, for the necessary and special items needed by the children in that worker's caseload. This augments the provisions of the State, often assuring greater stability in a child's life.



C *hildren's Enrichment Fund* supports the "whole child" needs of youth in crisis. This fund accepts designated donations for special expenses (e.g., car seats, school uniforms, etc.). Social workers can request these funds to cover the needs of children that are not met by state government, other organizations, or our Adopt A Social Worker program.



C *ritical Goods* is our response to the needs of families who are at risk of losing their children or who must have certain material goods before they can be reunified with their children (e.g., beds, cribs, various household items). Donations of emergency and non-emergency goods are collected and delivered to families in an effort to foster safe and nurturing home environments.