



## Grant Guidelines for 2024

These guidelines outline the types of grants we intend to fund in 2024. They provide background on each of our strategic plan goals and a description of the projects we will consider funding within each goal area. We plan to update these guidelines every year as our funding plans evolve.

### Goal 1: Expanding health care coverage

#### What's the need?

Having health insurance is critical to having the access to staying healthy and managing illnesses. Connecticut has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of uninsured residents in the past decade, but some state residents remain shut out from coverage. Currently, undocumented residents who are not pregnant or post-partum and who are above age 15 are ineligible for Medicaid and are prohibited from purchasing coverage through the state's health insurance exchange, Access Health CT. Undocumented residents remain the highest uninsured population in Connecticut.

People with incomes just above the limit for Medicaid also struggle to afford coverage. The state now offers a plan called Covered Connecticut to offer affordable coverage options to people with incomes just above the threshold for Medicaid. It is important to understand who is getting and maintaining coverage through this new option and who is still left behind.

#### We plan to fund:

- Policy and advocacy efforts to expand HUSKY eligibility to cover more undocumented residents.
- Policy and advocacy efforts to expand Cover CT to cover people up to 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Research and data on the need for expanded coverage for people who have incomes just above the HUSKY threshold.
- Monitoring the implementation of Covered Connecticut and HUSKY expansion to better understand the experiences of those who seek or need coverage, whether they can get and maintain coverage and use it to get care, and any barriers they face.

Search our grants database for examples of projects we've funded related to coverage expansion [here](#).

### Goal 2: Sustainable funding for community health workers

#### What's the need?

Community health worker services are widely recognized as one of the extremely effective tools for advancing health equity. These services can help people get care and make sure their needs are met in ways that are respectful and culturally responsive. A law adopted in 2023 calls for the state to begin paying for community health worker services through Medicaid, a sustainable form of payment used to

fund these services in many other states. Assuring that community health worker services are widely available will also require making sure that potential employers—such as health systems and community organizations—recognize their value and are well-positioned to integrate them into their care teams.

**We plan to fund:**

- Policy and advocacy efforts that organize and mobilize the community health worker community to support the integration of the workforce into health settings.
- Piloting the integration of community health workers into health care and community settings with the goal of evaluating the impact and return on investment for the services provided.
- Policy and advocacy efforts that organize and mobilize support for funding community health workers through Medicaid.

Search our grants database for examples of projects we've funded related to community health workers [here](#).

### **Goal 3: Maternal health equity for people of color**

**What's the need?**

Data across the country and in Connecticut demonstrates the need for coordinated efforts to address maternal mortality, especially for people of color. Nationwide, maternal mortality is increasing. In Connecticut, Black people were overrepresented in deaths associated with or related to pregnancy in 2019, making up 27% of pregnancy-associated deaths and 20% of pregnancy-related deaths. There is significant momentum in the state and nationally to address the severe disparities that exist in maternal mortality and morbidity.

**We plan to fund:**

In 2024 the foundation will engage in an extensive research process and will publish a blueprint for maternal health equity for people of color in Connecticut. Many of our resources will be deployed to develop the blueprint. See below for the projects we will consider funding during this planning period. We anticipate that most grants will be made through the President's discretionary grant process.

- Policy and advocacy efforts that organize and mobilize support for funding for doulas through Medicaid.
- Monitoring the implementation of the doula certification process to better understand the experiences of those who apply for certification and any barriers they face.

Examples of funding in maternal health will be available through our [grants database](#) after awards are made.

### **Goal 4: Fostering the infrastructure for health equity**

**What's the need?**

Our overarching goal of achieving health equity for people of color could not occur without a strong field of advocates working to drive change at both the grassroots and grasstops levels. We are interested in supporting efforts to assure there is strong pool of advocates focused on improving health outcomes for people of color in Connecticut. We also believe that advancing health equity requires having access to

reliable information, which includes access to timely disaggregated health data or news coverage that informs debates about health care issues.

### We plan to fund:

CT Health does much of our work through policy and advocacy. We occasionally issue [requests for proposals](#) to support specific advocacy efforts or to find new advocacy partners. If you are interested in a grant in this goal area, the first step is to have a conversation with members of our program and policy staff. Click this link to schedule [time](#). Our grants in this area typically include:

- Support to health systems and other care providers that are implementing self-reported race, ethnicity, and preferred language data collection projects, which may include:
  - Community engagement work and public information campaigns to support patient awareness of data collection and understanding of how data will be used.
- Support for news reporting on health care to provide insight, inform debate, and ensure that critical topics reach broad audiences.

Search our grants database for examples of media projects we've funded [here](#) and race, ethnicity, and language data projects [here](#).