

2025 Grant Guidelines

These guidelines outline the types of grants we intend to fund in 2025. 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.

If you are interested in a grant, the first step is to have a conversation with members of our grantmaking team. You can use this [link](#) to find time.

Goal 1: Expanding health care coverage

What's the need?

Having health insurance is critical to being able to access care to stay healthy and manage 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 12 months 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. In 2025, thousands of parents and other caretakers of minor children are expected to lose HUSKY coverage because of eligibility changes adopted in 2024. Covered Connecticut offers affordable coverage options to people with incomes just above the threshold for Medicaid. It is important to understand who is accessing and maintaining coverage through this option and who is still uninsured.

We plan to fund:

- Policy and advocacy efforts to protect and expand HUSKY eligibility to cover more undocumented residents.
- Policy and advocacy efforts to protect Covered Connecticut.
- 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.
- Monitoring how parents and other caretakers who lose HUSKY coverage because of the new eligibility limits are affected and whether they get another form of coverage.

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 best 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. Our grants will support efforts to implement this law. 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 community health workers to support the integration of the workforce into clinical and nonclinical settings.
- 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](#). Check our topic guide on CHWs [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 and morbidity, especially for people of color. 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 2025, the foundation will wrap up an extensive research process and will publish a blueprint for maternal health equity for people of color in Connecticut. We anticipate that most grantmaking related to this blueprint will begin in 2026. We anticipate that most grants related to maternal health made in 2025 will be made through the President's discretionary grant process and will focus on:

- 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 and news coverage that informs debates about health care issues.

We plan to fund:

CT Health does much of our work through policy and advocacy. Many of these grants are by invitation only or we may issue [requests for proposals](#) to support specific advocacy efforts or to find new advocacy partners. In addition to our advocacy funding, 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](#).