

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5579

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HISPANIC AND  
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR NONPROFIT GROWTH AND STABILIZATION

**Title:** FUND.

**Vote Date:** 3/5/2025

**Vote Action:** Change of Reference to Appropriations

**PH Date:** 2/20/2025

**File No.:**

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

## REASONS FOR BILL:

To establish a fund to provide support to non-profit Community-Based Organizations (CBO) that serve Hispanic and communities of color by addressing social and economic disparities. The goal of the fund is to provide a dedicated funding stream to non-profits that will allow them to expand their ability in outreach, program development and response to community needs.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Department of Social Services \(DSS\), Shantelle Varrs, Deputy Commissioner:](#)

DSS currently provides \$1 million from the Human Resource Development – Hispanic Programs (HHD) account to provide direct services to vulnerable populations. DSS opposes the transfer of funds from the support of direct client programs and services to instead be used to improve the operational efficiencies and adopt strategies for long-term fiscal sustainability of "eligible community-based organizations". There are more appropriate resources within the state for development and support of non-profit providers. DSS is currently in the procurement process for these identified resources and any change would disrupt the existing service delivery system.

[The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity \(CWCSEO\), Megan Baker, Lead Analyst:](#) supports as a necessary and strategic measure to strengthen the non-profit sector serving the Hispanic and communities of color in CT. Additionally, the Commission does not want funds diverted from existing resources, but rather expand funding

to ensure all eligible organizations receive support without diluting already appropriated funds. CWCSEO provided supportive evidence that similar programs such as Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund (CCNSF) in New York City and a similar CCNSF established in Hartford County in 2021 have helped foster long-term sustainability, innovation and measurable community impact, while also aligning with CT's broader commitment to economic and social equity.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None offered.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None offered.

**Reported by: Chris Reddy**

**Date: 4/01/2025**