



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commission on Children



**Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes
Public Hearing
December 14, 2009**

Testimony submitted by:

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Executive Director
Connecticut Commission on Children**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of the Commission:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on the "Proposed Areas of Focus" document released by the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes. I have several recommendations based on these proposed areas.

By way of background, the Commission on Children focuses on 1) revenue generation for children and families, 2) best practices and efficiencies, 3) creating sustainable systems, 4) and a prevention lens to get the best outcomes with the least crisis or cost to the taxpayer.

The current recession is highlighting the need for enhanced agency outcomes. The nation expects three million more children to fall into poverty at a cost of 1.7 trillion dollars. In our state this will be 35,000 children at a cost of 800 million per year. With these costs and numbers, the questions are 1) How do we sandbag the land to prevent more children from falling into poverty? 2) How do we buffer the impact for those that have fallen into poverty? The answers help reveal the current flaws in our government structure and practice, which you are studying.

Families are telling us that they need service access streamlined. They cannot go to five different state departments for services that should be connected. In the current environment, parents are taking two or three buses to get signed up for food stamps and are then being told to return the next day. (Most do not return). This is for lack of workers and inventive responses to changing situations. Yet there are federal dollars right now that we could be applying for that would give us short term funds for workers. We need to be creative in government and to remember that the customer is not the agency, but the public.

Connecticut needs to streamline services, maximize federal funds and create a way of doing business that is focused on master contracting with specific goals that may change in differing contexts, as the guide. We have woefully gotten caught in thinking state procedures and protocols are the rule, rather than being the vehicle towards a shared civic goal.

The immediate challenges facing families require a coherent and intentional state plan with customer-friendly efficiencies. Specific interventions to help families in the recession, a sort of Red Cross response, highlight what you are researching. We learned that it is necessary to:

- combine, online or multiple-site application and enrollment processes for programs that serve children or families;
- cross-enroll and collocate services and interdepartmental coordination;
- require agencies to creatively adapt to different contexts. For example homeless youth are being kicked out of homeless shelters due to rules that do not apply to the current situation.
- inform the public in customer-friendly ways of services and access points.

“Proposed Areas of Focus”

Online applications, listed as #4, in the “Proposed Areas of Focus” document, offer a proven way to improve families’ access to state and federal benefits while lowering state costs over time.

Many families experience difficulties obtaining and retaining benefits.

The independent nature of various programs has led to a highly fragmented service delivery system, difficult application processes, and limited outreach to families.

This is a particular issue in Connecticut, where information about program benefits is often not well publicized and where program benefit levels or procedures change (e.g. Care 4 Kids, HUSKY) as a result of policy and budget decisions without sufficient public information and often some degree of confusion among families and community leaders.

To reduce these barriers and improve access to benefits for low-income families, states can take several steps to streamline and integrate programs, including:

- use the Internet to develop online screening tools, benefit calculators, and applications for multiple programs;
- integrate access to services through call centers and local organizations; and
- develop comprehensive state approaches by increasing outreach, bundling services, simplifying benefits, and using technology.
- combine applications for multiple programs and to provide families and those who assist them with online applications that provide easy and quick access to benefits:

States benefit by offering work support services through the Internet. 1) States can design online applications so that entered information is submitted directly to the state’s data system, freeing eligibility workers or others from having to input this information. 2) Online programs can reduce error rates by permitting clients to input personal information into the system directly by incorporating features such as drop down menus, validations, and fields individuals must complete before advancing within the system. 3) Automating information and application processes allows caseworkers to spend less time on administrative activities and more time providing direct service to clients.

In terms of online and combined applications, states have seen the following benefits:¹

¹ <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/06LOWFAM.pdf>

- After implementing its online ACCESS Florida system (<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/>), the state of Florida has saved \$83 million in administrative costs.
- Since the implementation of Florida's new program, error rates have decreased and the state has achieved a 35 percent reduction in staff with an 18 percent increase in workload.
- As of June 2006, over 85 percent of Florida's applications for benefits were received electronically.
- Through online applications, access to benefits improves for working parents who might not have flexible employment schedules and families with transportation barriers. One study found that approximately 85 percent of Pennsylvania applications for social services (through the COMPASS website (<https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass/CMHOM.aspx>), are placed from private homes – a finding that suggests low-income families may have greater access to online services than previously thought. The study also found that a little under half of all applications submitted through COMPASS occur during non-business hours.
- Online services can present information to families on additional services they might be eligible to receive and information can be presented in multiple languages.
- While the cost of setting up online services can be high, the long-term maintenance costs can be modest. Oregon Helps, which has 30,000 visitors a year, costs just \$4000 a year to operate; New Jersey reports similar operating costs.²

There are number of national resources available to Connecticut. The NGA Center for Best Practices is a leader in this area³, as is the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' Project on Program Simplification and Coordination.⁴

Here are some examples of what states have done:⁵

- Arkansas and Louisiana use information collected by the food stamp program to renew people's Medicaid eligibility.
- Oregon, Wisconsin and other states have online calculators that allow families to determine their likely benefit level.
- In parts of Ohio, families applying for child care subsidies can apply for Medicaid on the same simple form.
- The Medicaid applications in Maine and Nebraska ask families if they are interested in applying for other benefit programs.
- Louisiana, Texas, and Washington conduct many food stamp interviews by phone.
- Utah electronically scans in applicants' documentation so they do not have to supply the same documents twice.

² <http://www.cbpp.org/12-14-04tanf.pdf>

³ <http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.1f41d49be2d3d33eacdcbbeb501010a0/?vgnextoid=7fa8aa9c00ee1010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>

⁴ <http://www.cbpp.org/pubs/prosim.htm>

⁵ <http://www.cbpp.org/pubs/prosim.htm>

Through the leadership of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and with the support of the Fairfield County Community Foundation, The Community Foundations for Greater New Haven and Greater New Britain, The William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, and the CT Association for Human Services (CAHS) is launching an initiative to help low and moderate income people apply for important benefits.

CAHS will contract with Seedco (based in New York City) to adapt its widely-used electronic benefits tool, *EarnBenefits*, and work in five or six Connecticut cities with community partners to enroll 1,500-plus residents. Those community partners who are approved will be granted free access to the *EarnBenefits* screening tool, and will receive training on how to improve benefits screening through the newly developed electronic system. SNAP, Earned Income Tax Credits, and WIC will be incorporated into the *EarnBenefits* software.

I hope that the Department of Social Services will consider adopting the Earn Benefits database statewide. This is a tremendous program opportunity that links eligibility opportunities and offers the customer a way to learn how much they are eligible for.

Master Contracting, which is #5 among the “Proposed Areas of Focus”.

Our service system for children and families is organized in silos and ‘sub-silos.’ Many providers and policy leaders are making valiant efforts to meet the holistic needs of children and families. They come up against a fragmented system with categorical funding, limits on eligibility, numerous and different accounting and reporting requirements and standards that bump against one another.

There is no coherent system for young children, but programs of different sizes that are not aligned. Nor are the programs linked to a shared goal and outcomes for children. Many families choose not to use what would help their children due to the confusion and necessity of going to 10 different places. The baby in the King Solomon story is more than cut in half.

Master contracting as a proven strategy to promote both efficiency and improved outcomes. The concept shifts focus from agency to goal, allows work across silos, brings the planners and implementers together to see what is and is not working and has the potential to marry policy and its implementation across governance.

Master contracting would be ideal in areas of prevention for children. For example, a focus on child obesity reduction or reduced low birth-weight babies would save the state millions of dollars while helping the true customer. Recently, we spent 159 million on unnecessary hospitalizations for low birth-weight babies in our state. Yet, a coordinate response could easily curtail this and help babies and their mothers thrive.

Master contracting will be threatening to some. It changes how we do business. But our business should be for children, not for the agency, funding stream or protocols that people got familiar with. We need to turn the wheel around to get the vehicle in drive for the family and good child outcomes.

Prevention- Proposed area of focus #24

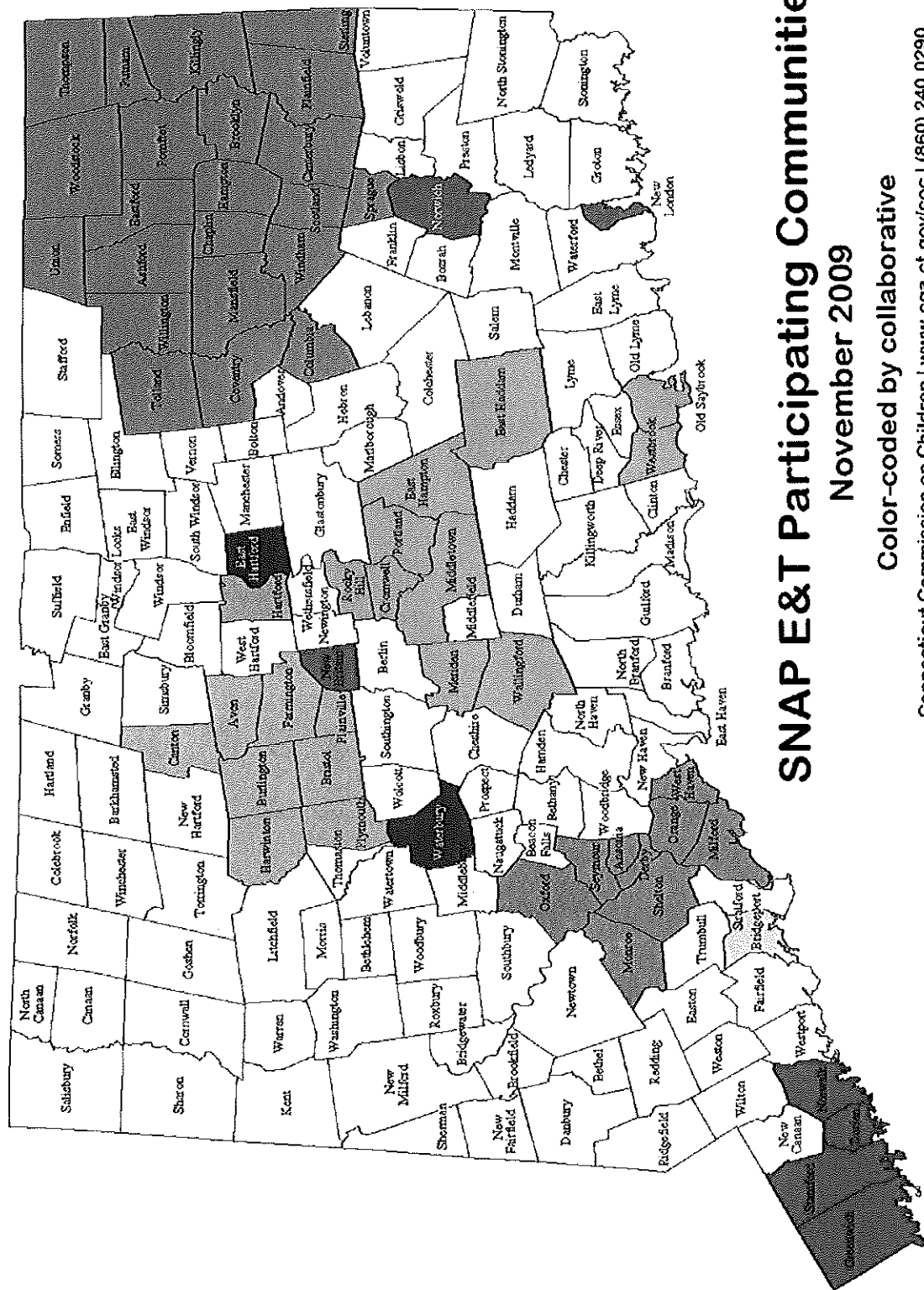
Proven preventive practice offers up good outcomes and cost savings. The Commission’s report, *A Children’s Stock Portfolio*, outlines prevention programs that offer outstanding returns on investments. Prevention practices could successfully be part of a master contract strategy. Localized, it would have a strong impact.

Federal Funding -Proposed area of focus #1c.

Connecticut does not maximize funding. As you may know, our agency brought the federal opportunity to our state of FSET 50-50 match funds. The state said they were not eligible. Then they said it was too cumbersome. Then we helped bring in technical assistance, wrote the grants for communities and you will see from the enclosed map and list, that over 95 towns have come in for this. Our state will receive over 9.25 millions dollars for employability and increased wages. This fund is uncapped and not linked to one or two year stimulus funds.

Similarly, the state has not gone fully for the TANF Emergency Funds. This would give us 130 million dollars now to address areas of hunger, homelessness, utilities, transportation, schooling and subsidized employment. I spent this week with the federal leaders on this fund. No state has been rejected. They are offering technical assistance. Yet time is of the essence here as the funds must be applied for and used before the fall of 2010.

Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to work with you to seek ways to make our state government more effective and efficient for children and families.



SNAP E&T Participating Communities

November 2009

Color-coded by collaborative

Connecticut Commission on Children | www.cga.ct.gov/coc | (860) 240.0290

SNAP-ET Collaboratives

November 2009

ESTIMATED TOTAL CONNECTICUT SNAP-ET REIMBURSEMENT:

Ansonia and The Valley.....	\$545,874.50
Bridgeport.....	\$611,471
Bristol	\$117,139
East Hartford	\$778,303
Hartford	\$1,999,398.50
Meriden-Middletown-Wallingford.....	\$576,040
New Britain	\$351,110
New Haven.....	\$1,000,000
Norwalk-Stamford.....	\$366,005
Norwich-New London.....	\$477,508
Northwest CT	\$376,958
Waterbury	\$525,976.30
<u>Windham Region.....</u>	<u>\$1,525,241</u>

STATE TOTAL **\$9,251,024.30** **90 TOWNS**

1. Ansonia and The Valley

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Birmingham Group Health Services, Inc. (BGHS) – P 2. Bridges, A Community Support System, Inc. – P 3. TEAM, Inc. (Training, Education and Management, Inc.) – P 4. Valley Regional Adult Education (VRAE) – P 5. Valley Council of Governments 6. Valley Community Foundation 7. Shelton Economic Development Corporation	1. Ansonia 2. Derby 3. Milford 4. Monroe 5. Orange 6. Oxford 7. Seymour 8. Shelton 9. West Haven	BGHS = \$270,603.50 Bridges = \$248,836 TEAM = \$7,178 VRAE = \$19,257 Total = \$545,874.50

2. Bridgeport

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Housatonic Community College (HCC) – P 2. FSW, Inc. – P 3. Bridgeport Adult Education (BAE) – P 4. ABCD – P but not yet submitting as such 5. Bridgeport Hospital 6. Fairfield County Community Foundation	1. Bridgeport	HCC = \$241,836.50 FSW = \$119,174.50 BAE = \$250,460 Total = \$611,471

3. Bristol

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Tunxis Community College (TCC) – P 2. Bristol Adult Education (BAE) – P 3. Plainville Adult and Continuing Education (PACE) – P 4. Farmington Continuing Education (FCE) – P 5. Bristol Community Organization (BCO) – P 6. Plainville Community Food Pantry 7. Plymouth Community Food Pantry	1. Avon 2. Bristol 3. Burlington 4. Canton 5. Farmington 6. Plainville 7. Plymouth	TCC = \$12,750 BAE = \$83,774 PACE = \$5,115 FCE = \$8,000 BCO = \$7,500 Total = \$117,139

4. East Hartford

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Goodwin College – P 2. Stone Academy – P 3. East Hartford Adult Education – P 4. Community Renewal Team (CRT) – P, but not yet submitting as such 5. ChildPlan 6. East Hartford Department of Social Services	East Hartford	Goodwin = \$600,000 Stone Academy = \$150,238 Adult Education = \$28,065 Total = \$778,303

5. Hartford

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Capital Community College – P 2. Hartford Adult Education – P 3. Hartford Public Library (HPL) – P 4. The Village for Children and Families – P 5. Community Renewal Team (CRT) – P 6. Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum (CPRF) – P 7. Family Life Education (FLE) – P 8. Catholic Charities (CC) – P 9. Literacy Volunteers - P 10. Hartford Health and Human Services Department (HHHSD) 11. Capital Workforce Partners (CWP) 12. Hartford Office for Youth Services (HOYS) 13. Center for Urban Research (CUR) – P	Hartford	CCC = \$606,348 Adult Education = \$445,861 HPL = \$150,000 Village = \$17,010 CRT = \$281,062 CPRF = \$300,000 FLE = \$17,952 CC = \$94,042.50 Literacy Vols = \$87,123 Total = \$1,999,398.50

6. Meriden-Middletown-Wallingford

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Middlesex Community College (MXCC) – P 2. Meriden Adult Education – P 3. Middletown Adult Education – P 4. Wallingford Adult Education – P 5. New Opportunities – P but not yet submitting as such 6. Community Renewal Team (CRT) – P but not yet submitting as such 7. Women and Families Center 8. Middlesex Coalition for Children 9. Meriden Department of Health and Human Services	1. Cromwell 2. East Haddam 3. East Hampton 4. Meriden 5. Middletown 6. Old Saybrook 7. Portland 8. Rocky Hill 9. Wallingford 10. Westbrook	MXCC = \$181,502 Meriden Adult Ed = \$ 115,695 Middletown Adult Ed = \$231,782 Wallingford Adult Ed = \$47,061 Total = \$576,040

7. New Britain

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Charter Oak State College (COSC) – P 2. New Britain Adult Education (NBAE) – P 3. Literacy Volunteers of America (LVCC) – P 4. Spanish Speaking Center of New Britain (SSCNB) – P 5. Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA) – P but not yet submitting as such 6. Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) – P 7. New Britain YWCA – P 8. Central CT State University's Institute for Technology and Business Development (CCSU ITBD) – P 9. New Britain Discovery Collaborative 10. Workforce Partners Collaborative 11. Central CT Center for the Study of Social Policy (CPPSR)	New Britain	Charter Oak = \$161,636 NBAE = \$92,500 LVCC = \$15,500 SSCNB = OIC = \$61,738 YWCA = \$19,736 CCSU ITBD = Total = \$351,110

8. New Haven

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Gateway Community College – P 2. Workforce Alliance - ? 3. Community Action Agency of New Haven - ? 4. Christian Community Action Agency - ? 5. New Haven Adult Basic Education – P 6. Easter Seals/Goodwill - ? 7. New Life Corporation - ? 8. Project MORE - ?	New Haven	?

9. Northwest Connecticut

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Northwest Community College (NWCC) – P 2. Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) – P 3. Education Connection – P 4. Western Adult Education (WERACE) – P 5. NW Regional Workforce Investment Board – P, but not submitting as such 6. New Opportunities 7. Susan B. Anthony Project 8. Easter Seals	Towns: 1. Barkhamsted 2. Bethel 3. Bethlehem 4. Bridgewater 5. Brookfield 6. Canaan 7. Colebrook 8. Cornwall 9. Danbury 10. Goshen 11. Hartland 12. Kent 13. Litchfield 14. Middlebury 15. Morris 16. New Fairfield 17. New Hartford 18. New Milford 19. Newtown 20. Norfolk 21. North Canaan 22. Plymouth 23. Redding 24. Ridgefield 25. Roxbury	NWCC = \$97,200 NVCC = \$87,488 Ed Connex = \$151,200 WERACE = \$41,070 Total = \$376,958

	26. Salisbury 27. Sharon 28. Sherman 29. Southbury 30. Thomaston 31. Torrington 32. Warren 33. Washington 34. Watertown 35. Winchester 36. Woodbury	
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10. Norwalk-Stamford

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Norwalk Community College (NCC) – P 2. Norwalk Adult Education (NAE) – P 3. New Economic Opportunities Now, Inc. (NEON) – P 4. CTE, Inc. – P 5. Stamford Adult Education – P but not yet submitting as such 6. Literacy Volunteers – Stamford/Greenwich (LV) – P but not yet submitting as such 7. Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCFF)	1. Darien 2. Greenwich 3. Norwalk 4. Stamford	NCC = \$292,077 NAE = \$50,000 NEON = \$15,180 CTE = \$8,748 Total = \$366,005

11. Norwich-New London

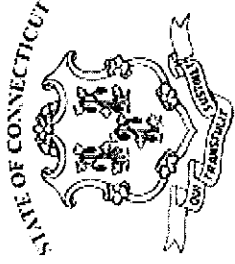
Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) – P 2. Norwich Adult Education (NAE) – P 3. New London Adult Education (NLAE) – P 4. Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA) – P but not yet submitting as such 5. Norwich Department of Human Services	1. New London 2. Norwich	- TRCC = \$86,590 - NAE = \$167,443 - NLAE = \$223,475 Total = \$477,508

12. Waterbury

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) – P 2. Waterbury Adult Education (WAE) – P 3. New Opportunities (NOW) – P 4. Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) – P 5. Family Services of Greater Waterbury – P but not yet submitting as such 6. Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury – P but not yet submitting as such 7. Connecticut Community Foundation 8. United Way of Greater Waterbury	1. Waterbury	NVCC = \$313,488 WACE = \$169,150 NOW = \$24,538.39 NRWIB = \$18,800 Total = \$525,976.30

13. Windham Region

Members (P signifies that agency is Provider, seeking reimbursement)	Towns Involved	Estimated Reimbursement
1. Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) – P 2. Eastconn Adult Education – P 3. Access, Inc. – P 4. Eastern CT State University (ECSU) – P 5. United Services, Inc. – P 6. WRCC, Inc. – P but not yet submitting as such 7. Co-Opportunity, Inc – P but not yet submitting as such 8. Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board 9. Willimantic Covenant Soup Kitchen 10. Windham Human Services Department 11. Coventry Human Services Department 12. Mansfield Human Services Department	1. Ashford 2. Brooklyn 3. Canterbury 4. Chaplin 5. Columbia 6. Coventry 7. Eastford 8. Hampton 9. Killingly 10. Mansfield 11. Plainfield 12. Pomfret 13. Putnam 14. Scotland 15. Sterling 16. Thompson 17. Tolland 18. Union 19. Willington 20. Windham 21. Woodstock	QVCC = \$256,025 EastConn = \$191,496 Access = \$11,050 ECSU = \$269,753 United Services = \$796,917 Total = \$1,525,241



Substitute Senate Bill No. 344

Public Act No. 08-161

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM AND THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD POVERTY AND PREVENTION COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) As used in sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act:

- (1) "Poverty reduction strategies" means a coordinated set of actions which may include, but is not limited to, job search and work experience; education and training, including adult basic education, high school equivalency preparation, adult literacy classes, vocational training and post-secondary education; payment of tuition; case management; related services that improve employability; income safety net services; quality child care during work and job training; family support; and reentry programs, that are based on best practices and aimed at reducing poverty or the risk of poverty for individuals and families (A) who are living in census tracts with high poverty rates, (B) whose incomes are at or below two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, and (C) who are in one or more of the following target populations: (i) Adolescent parents, (ii) older adolescents and young adults, or (iii) low-income working families; and
- (2) "Food stamp employment and training community collaborative" means a consortium of public and private providers, established pursuant to section 3 of this act, to implement poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social Services shall administer a food stamp employment and training program, authorized under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended from time to time, to provide employment and training activities, support services and other programs and services for recipients of the food stamp program. The program shall provide for the receipt of federal matching funds to the state from the United States Department of Agriculture for funds expended on behalf of food stamp recipients by state agencies, local governments, nonprofit entities, institutions of higher education and other eligible food stamp employment and training providers for employment and training activities that qualify for such matching funds under federal law and regulations. The department shall seek to maximize the use of the federal matching funds provision under the program to the fullest extent permitted by federal law.

(b) Federal grants received under the program shall be used in accordance with federal law and regulations to fund food stamp employment and training activities.

(c) The department shall select providers whose employment and training activities qualify for reimbursement under federal law and regulations to participate in the federal matching funds provision of the food stamp employment and training program. Providers shall be selected in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Social Services. In selecting providers, the department shall give priority to providers who are members of a food stamp employment and training community collaborative and whose strategies are aligned with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed pursuant to section 4-67x of the general statutes.

(d) The department shall distribute to providers pursuant to subsection (c) of this section federal matching funds in accordance with section 4 of this act. Such funds shall be used for poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social Services shall select among qualified food stamp employment and training community collaboratives to receive federal matching funds in accordance with section 4 of this act. To be considered for receipt of such funds, each collaborative shall demonstrate its capacity to implement poverty reduction strategies to the department in such form and in such manner as the Commissioner of Social Services prescribes. Each collaborative shall identify (1) its priorities for reducing child poverty in such municipality or region, (2) how funds that are received by the collaborative will be utilized, (3) community partners and resources utilized to support poverty reduction strategies, and (4) its capacity to collect relevant data and measure outcomes.

- (b) Each food stamp employment and training community collaborative shall establish a governance structure, determine membership and identify or establish a fiscal agent. A collaborative shall consist of at least five member entities representing institutions of higher education, regional workforce development boards, social services nonprofit agencies, business associations, philanthropic organizations, municipalities, community action agencies or other community partners. A majority of the membership of each collaborative shall be food stamp employment and training providers.
- (c) Funds provided to a food stamp employment and training community collaborative shall be used to implement poverty reduction strategies in a municipality or region. Such strategies shall be aligned with the recommendations of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council and its plan to reduce child poverty developed pursuant to section 4-67x of the general statutes.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, the Department of Social Services may use such funds from the federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 2 of this act as are needed for operating expenses and to employ one staff position for purposes directly related to the administration of the matching funds provision for the food stamp employment and training program, and for any fiscal year thereafter may use such funds as is necessary to operate and administer said program.

- (b) The remaining federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be used for poverty reduction strategies and distributed in the following manner: Seventy-five per cent of such remaining funds shall be provided to food stamp employment and training providers whose expenditures generated the federal matching funds on a pro-rata basis, pursuant to section 2 of this act; and twenty-five per cent of such remaining funds shall be provided to food stamp employment and training community collaboratives selected pursuant to section 3 of this act for implementation of poverty reduction strategies.

Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) On or before January 15, 2009, and annually thereafter from January 15, 2010, to January 15, 2014, inclusive, the Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations, and to the Child Poverty and Prevention Council on the amount of federal matching funds received by the state pursuant to section 2 of this act, the amount used by the Department of Social Services for operating and administrative expenses, the amounts distributed to providers and food stamp employment and training

community collaboratives pursuant to section 4 of this act, the use of such federal matching funds, including the population served, and the programs' outcomes using a results-based accountability framework.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the member agencies of the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, may work with local governments, institutions of higher education, community action agencies and other entities to continue and expand efforts, within available appropriations, to enroll eligible individuals in the food stamp program and to enroll eligible food stamp participants in education, employment and training activities.

Approved June 12, 2008