



# CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

Supporting Children and Families to Thrive

*Published: September 2023. Financial Information and Program Quick Facts from 2022.*



Dear Connecticut Children's Colleagues, Partners and Supporters,

As the only freestanding children's hospital in the state of Connecticut, Connecticut Children's proudly continues to extend our impact in both clinical care and community health. In doing so, our clinicians and experts work to address all of the needs faced by children and families, including medical, social-emotional, environmental and other areas to promote optimal health, development and well-being.

We continue to take important steps to promote children's well-being and to address mental health concerns early on, so crisis treatment can be avoided.

Throughout all of our work, we continue to embrace the importance of addressing healthcare disparities and ensuring a focus on equity in all we do. Through our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we continue to look for opportunities across the organization to strengthen our culture to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for our team members, patients and families, and community partners.

At Connecticut Children's, we are proud of our clinical and community focus that strengthens families and positions children to thrive.

Sincerely,

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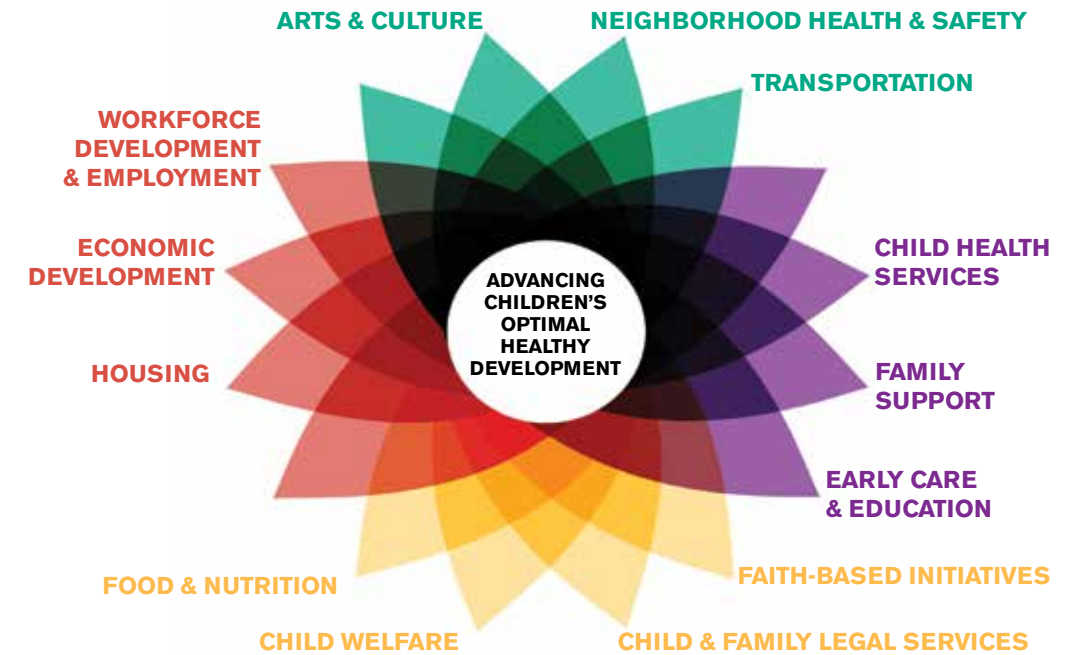
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## ABOUT CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH

As a reflection of its commitment to strengthening communities and families to promote children's optimal health, development, and well-being, Connecticut Children's supports the Office for Community Child Health (the Office). The Office houses the many programs and resources that connect the larger organization to community opportunities that contribute to the health and well-being of Connecticut's children. The Office's programs address critical issues in children's lives that have the potential to adversely affect their health and development. The Office serves as an innovator, this helps to inform efforts in other communities. The Office's programs engage in rigorous data collection and measurement to ensure that their efforts are effective. Through the Office, Connecticut Children's ensures that families have access to a comprehensive system of community programs and services that support them in promoting their children's optimal healthy development.



# HOW DO WE DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT?

Connecticut Children's is committed to promoting children's optimal development and well-being, in addition to its primary focus on excellence in medical care to advance children's health. Connecticut Children's also embraces a broader definition of community benefit beyond what the federal government requires. Connecticut Children's is committed to strengthening communities and their families.

Connecticut Children's offers more than 17 community-oriented programs that work to strengthen children, families and communities by directly addressing needs identified during our triennial Community Health Needs Assessments. We report on our progress addressing those needs in our annual Community Benefit Report.

As you will see in this report, our community benefit reporting includes uncompensated care, research, and education, in accordance with federal requirements. However, we also report on additional community building activities that address the social determinants of health, which are the conditions in which people live, work and play. Such determinants have a profound impact on overall health, development and life outcomes, especially for families in economically challenged neighborhoods that are more likely to be underserved by the healthcare sector and other child-serving sectors.

Our community building work includes addressing healthy, stable, and secure housing, access to nutritious food, access to healthcare, educational and occupational opportunities, safe neighborhoods and violence prevention, among other areas.

**Our Total Community Benefit in FY2022:**

**\$113.28  
million**



## OUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT BY CATEGORY

\$81.29  
million

Services for Uninsured or  
Underinsured Patients

About 55% of patients treated at Connecticut Children's rely on Medicaid for insurance, which does not fully reimburse the cost of care. Connecticut Children's also provides significant services to children and families who lack health insurance and cannot pay for medical care.

\$22.68  
million

Education for Health  
Professionals

Connecticut Children's serves as the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine and maintains a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. We offer undergraduate medical education; graduate medical residency and fellowship programs; and post-graduate continuing medical education. We also offer training and education programs for nursing, social work, and other clinical areas of focus.

\$5.61  
million

Research Operating  
Expenses

Connecticut Children's invests in research to develop, test, and deploy the latest advances in medical and surgical care. We are a partner of The Jackson Laboratory, a genomics research center. Our physicians regularly present their research studies at conferences, publish their work in peer-reviewed journals, and author books or chapters of books. Expenses in this category reflect costs related to maintaining our research infrastructure.

\$3.71  
million

Community Building and  
Health Improvement  
Efforts

Connecticut Children's community-focused work includes the efforts of Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health (the Office) and Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA). This category includes: infrastructure support for the Office; annual dues paid to SINA; legislative advocacy efforts; counselors employed to enroll families in Medicaid; time employees spend serving on Boards of Directors for outside organizations; and time employees put toward our annual Day of Caring and United Way campaigns.





# ADDRESSING NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Connecticut Children's conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2022. In that CHNA, Hartford residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders identified areas of need affecting the health and well-being of Hartford residents through focus groups, a survey of Hartford Public School nurses and social workers, available data sets, and other sources of information. Connecticut Children's 2022 CHNA identified five priority areas that significantly affect the health and well-being of Hartford families:

- Educational & Occupational Opportunities
- Safe Neighborhoods & Violence Prevention
- Access to Nutritious Food
- Access to Healthcare
- Healthy, Stable & Secure Housing

Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health programs and other departments at Connecticut Children's develop strategies to help address the needs identified in the CHNA and we report our progress annually in our Community Benefit Report.

## EDUCATIONAL, OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITY & WELL-BEING

During the discovery period for this CHNA, residents mentioned the connection between a strong education and the ability to obtain future occupational opportunities. Significant needs exist to improve educational and occupational opportunities for children and families in Hartford in order to enhance overall health and well-being. As we know, education, job opportunities and income are social determinants of health and more educational and occupational opportunities are needed in order to help increase children's well-being.

*Connecticut Children's is helping address this need through:*

### North Hartford Ascend Promise Neighborhoods Grant

Supported by a major Promise Neighborhoods grant from the US Department of Education, North Hartford Ascend is a cradle-to-career effort helping children and families living in the North Hartford Promise Zone, which includes Clay Arsenal, Northeast, and Upper Albany neighborhoods, to have access to the support and resources they need to reach their full potential. In partnership with the community and a multi-disciplinary, cross-sector team, Connecticut Children's is partnering with community-based organizations, community leaders, and residents to integrate achievement-oriented schools with vital community services and programs within a cohesive, integrated, and coordinated care navigation system. Major accomplishments include:

- Our inaugural Ascend Community Conversation in October 2021, emceed by the Mayor, announcing Connecticut Children's was awarded the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods Grant. We had over 100 attendees participate in the hybrid meeting.
- We continued to host monthly community conversations throughout 2022, with the exception of July and December. Each community conversation had between 40 and 90 participants.
- The collaborative governance framework was also launched in early 2022. The collaborative governance framework included representation from 17 partner agencies.
- In Spring 2022, we launched efforts to integrate community into the collaborative governance framework via the Resident and Community Advisory Group (RCAG) and Community Governance Seats. The Resident and Community Advisory Group is composed of representatives from existing community groups, such as and including the Neighborhood Revitalization Zones, who serve as liaisons between Ascend and their respective group. Community governance seats embedded community members directly into the governing bodies. Community members applied or were nominated to fill community governance seats. De-identified applications were reviewed by the community and family engagement work group. At least two community members were integrated into each governing body. Between both approaches, we engaged about 25 community members during the reporting period. RCAG and community governance seats went live Fall 2022. Both of these were designed in collaboration with representatives from the Neighborhood Revitalization Zones.
- Lived experience, personal or professional, was a preferred qualification for the Ascend Program Manager and Ascend Program Coordinator positions recruited by Connecticut Children's. Postings were marketed and distributed at the Ascend Community Conversations.

### SINA Walk to Work Program

Through our membership in the Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA), Connecticut Children's supports the Walk to Work (WTW) program, which has placed over 140 Hartford residents in good paying jobs at Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children's. SINA's Career Navigator partners with local workforce training providers who help identify candidates and then support individuals with resume assistance, career coaching, mock interviews and direct connections with human resources and hiring managers. Individuals who are hired at the SINA member institutions receive competitive wages, educational and training advancement, and the chance for career growth. The convenience of working close to home is also a significant benefit for families that struggle to afford cars and car insurance and thus must depend upon public transportation options, which can be unreliable. Neighborhood families who participate are better financially positioned to pay for healthy food, child care, transportation, out-of-pocket medical expenses and attend college.

### Imagination Library

Connecticut Children's, the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and other partners support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This program provides a free subscription that mails age-appropriate books to children in Hartford monthly until they turn 5 years old. This program helps to expand their home libraries and shows our commitment to supporting childhood language development, literacy, social-emotional well-being, and educational outcomes. Since August 2020, our Dolly Parton Imagination Library program has delivered over 84,000 books to Hartford children under 5 years old, serving a total of 6,800 children (4,500 actively enrolled; 2,300 graduated). The program is actively reaching 64% of eligible children in the City.

### Program Numbers

City of Hartford: Enrollment (as of May 2023)

- Active: 4,500 children
- Graduated : 2,300 children
- Total: 6,800 children
- Books Delivered; 84,164 (as of May 2023)





## Easy Breathing

The award-winning and evidence-based asthma management program, Easy Breathing, continues to provide state-of-the-art support to primary care clinicians throughout Connecticut. Since October 2022, the program has received more than 10 requests from the pediatric primary care community for training in the Easy Breathing program. With some support from Connecticut Children's Care Network, our Easy Breathing Physician Champion, Dr. Caleb Wasser, was able to train more than 30 pediatricians across Connecticut in Easy Breathing. Because of the increased request for trainings, more than 1,000 children in Connecticut were enrolled in Easy Breathing and received guidelines-concordant asthma care.

In addition to more pediatricians receiving guidelines-based trainings, the Easy Breathing program was also updated to reflect the paradigm shift in asthma management. In 2020, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute released the 2020 Focused Update to Asthma Management Guidelines. This focused update includes strong recommendations for the provision of SMART therapy (single maintenance and reliever therapy) to individuals with asthma who are not well controlled on current therapy. Whereas conventional asthma therapy recommends two separate inhalers, one for maintenance and one for relief, SMART therapy combines two drugs into one inhaler. This allows individuals to use the same inhaler for both preventative and rescue treatments, leading to less confusion between inhalers. Easy Breathing was adapted to accommodate SMART therapy and requests for training on SMART therapy by community pediatricians have been in high demand.

All individuals with asthma should have an asthma treatment plan at home for proper self-management. The goal of the treatment plan is to ensure shared-decision making between providers and patients, but also to ensure caregivers' understanding of what to do every day and when their child with asthma is sick and experiencing symptoms. Because of SMART therapy, the Asthma Center has been developing a SMART asthma treatment plan with the community that is understandable at the appropriate reading level for families. We are excited to release this template to all Easy Breathing providers as they continue to provide state-of-the-art asthma care to their patients.

The Asthma Center and its Easy Breathing program continue to provide the Connecticut Children's community with access to high-quality, evidence-based asthma programs and content.

## Childhood Prosperity Lab

Childhood Prosperity Lab (the Lab) guides the development of social innovations that promote child, family and community well-being, particularly in the environments and systems where they live, learn, work, play and pray. The Lab provides consultation, technical assistance, and training on key topics like the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework to organizations working in the community addressing social drivers of health and well-being outcomes. The Lab is currently supporting Building for Health, a "no wrong door" system-level approach to enhancing health and life outcomes for children. The Lab is leading the development of an innovation model that is systems-oriented, community informed, and focused on sustainable implementation.

Childhood Prosperity Lab is also engaged in the Help Me Grow Goal-Concordant Care Learning Community. The Lab is positioned to leverage key learnings of the study and explore the necessary inputs and conditions to disseminate promising practices across the Help Me Grow national affiliate network.

## SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS & VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Ensuring residents have safe neighborhoods to live in was among the top needs identified by those interviewed for the 2022 CHNA, including a need for enhanced violence prevention efforts.

*Connecticut Children's is helping address this need through:*

### Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)

With support of the City of Hartford and engagement of residents and community-based organizations, the three Level 1 trauma centers in Hartford (Connecticut Children's, Saint Francis Hospital and Hartford Hospital) are developing the Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program Strengthening Collaborative. The collaborative is a multi-level model for hospital-based efforts with our community partners. Rigorous evaluation metrics are being deployed to show what works and how to best focus efforts to meet community goals. In our first year of work, the hospitals treated 231 gunshot wound victims and successfully connected 70% of the gunshot wound victims to supportive services post-discharge. The ongoing violence in the City of Hartford is a threat to the health, wellness, and prosperity of children, families, individuals, and neighborhoods. Violence takes many forms including interpersonal violence (bullying, assault, shootings), domestic violence (emotional, physical, sexual), child maltreatment, and self-harm. Hartford has many community agencies and initiatives that work to stop violence. The Hartford HVIP Strengthening Collaborative is an important step in strengthening our collective approach to ending gun violence.

### New Injury Prevention Grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health

Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center (IPC), under \$2.4 million in funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) and in consultation with the Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention, will award grants to community-based agencies to provide community violence intervention and prevention (CVIP) services. Eight awards will be made to organizations throughout Connecticut. Awardees will engage in projects that address community violence and gun violence by proposing a new project or support for an existing project. Awardees must evaluate project implementation at the formative, process, and outcome level. They must also serve a defined population and target a specific, defined geographic area: city, neighborhood, census tract, or street.

### Gun Buyback

Connecticut Children's works with our hospital partners and the Hartford Police Department to implement a gun buyback program in the Fall of each year. This is coordinated with a statewide effort called #KeepKidsSafe. An average of 40,000 people die from firearm injuries in the United States annually. Initiatives like the #KeepKidsSafe Connecticut Statewide Gun Buyback Program are designed to raise awareness in order to reduce injuries and fatalities. In 2022 residents turned in 47 guns, including 1 AK-47, and, in addition, 79 gun safes were distributed.

Over the past 13 years, the Capital Region Gun Buyback Program in Hartford has collected over 1,500 unwanted firearms from owners in the Greater Hartford region.

## ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOODS

During conversations informing the 2022 CHNA, residents and participants in the key informant prioritization session recognized access to nutritious food as a great concern based on focus group feedback, with their neighborhoods often referred to as “food deserts” that provide little access to fresh fruit, vegetables and non-processed items. The lack of nutritious food options leads to higher rates of obesity, diabetes and other chronic health problems, residents stated.

*Connecticut Children's is helping address this need through:*

### **Produce Prescription Program**

The Start Childhood Off Right (SCOR) program continues to improve access to healthy foods for our patient families who screen positive for food insecurity in the Emergency Department by providing them with a \$20 voucher for fresh produce. As of May 2023, we had enrolled over 700 families in the study, with 40% of them screening positive for food insecurity. In the ED, we have installed a small refrigerator that is stocked with fruits and vegetables by Hartford Food System that we can distribute directly during the visit. We have recently expanded the program to include food insecurity screening and voucher distribution in the Primary Care South office on 100 Retreat Avenue, and the Hartford Food System Mobile Market is outside of the building twice a week. With the assistance of the Hartford HealthCare food pantry, we have recruited three local Hartford grocery stores to redeem the vouchers as well.

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

During conversations informing the 2022 CHNA, residents and participants in the key informant prioritization session recognized access to healthcare as a major concern. Residents, key informants, school nurses and school social workers all raised it as an issue. A lack of access to healthcare is known to cause poor health and well-being for the entire family. In addition, a lack of healthcare access for parents can lead to added stress and worry, which is a social determinant of health for the family, especially for young children.

*Connecticut Children's is helping address this need through:*

### **Connecticut Newborn Screening Network**

This year, the focus of the Connecticut Newborn Screening (NBS) Network (the Network) on long-term follow-up of infants with conditions identified through NBS had a broad impact. Improvements included upward trends in key quality metrics, strengthening the readiness of adolescents with sickle cell disease for the transition from pediatric to adult care, and implementation of program improvements in direct response to family and provider input. The Network connected 23 families to the Center for Care Coordination and spent \$5,062.03 for medical food and formula for uninsured and/or underinsured families. Behind the scenes, Network staff triaged over 1,000 calls from parents and medical providers to the Connecticut NBS hotline. For over 100 families, the Network provided immediate support by linking them to a specialist, discussing the result with their primary care provider, educating them on the process, and recommending the next steps in the evaluation to rule in or rule out a condition.



### **Help Me Grow National Center Goal Concordant Care**

Goal Concordant Care (GCC), in the context of Help Me Grow (HMG) National Center, is a strength-based approach to eliciting parents' goals for their child's well-being that ensures those goals drive the process of developmental promotion, early identification of concerns and need, referral to helpful programs and services, and linkage to those supports. It offers an opportunity to advance a paradigm shift where parents and caregivers are partners in decision-making and resources provided are in concordance with goals, aspirations and values of the family. This past year, the HMG National Center examined the potential for GCC amongst its affiliate systems through developing a learning community and testing GCC-related enhancement strategies. Preliminary findings indicate that eliciting, documenting, and sharing goals has the potential to improve how affiliates serve families. Specifically, HMG affiliates can better match information, referrals, and follow-up activities to holistic intents of families, with the potential for greater follow-through.

## Center for Care Coordination

Connecticut Children's Center for Care Coordination (the Center) supported over 2,000 patients and their families in FY22. Highlights of its work include:

- maintaining our grant from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, which provides a total of \$2 million over five years to support the expansion of community-based efforts to address pandemic-related needs of families and provide increased behavioral health care coordination;
- engaging community-based pediatric providers through Connecticut Children's Care Network to ensure patients of Care Network providers can easily access needed clinical and community-based services. This work is funded by the DPH grant, along with additional grant and endowment dollars; and
- implementing a new model of integrated care coordination at Connecticut Children's that leverages organizational synergies, Lean improvements, and technology platforms to provide best in class services to children and families. The model integrates four departments to provide care across the continuum: inpatient case management, inpatient/outpatient social work, community care coordination, and behavioral health social work in the Emergency Department.

Connecticut Children's Center for Care Coordination continues to support the Care Coordination Collaborative Model, which improves collaboration among care coordinators from diverse sectors in order to connect children and families to effective services and reduce duplication of services across sectors. The model brings care coordinators together for periodic meetings as part of the North Central Regional Care Coordination Collaborative to learn how to help families access available services; to review challenging cases and develop solutions for families; and to advocate for policy level solutions to help families address the challenges they face in connecting to services. It also serves as a model for other care coordination collaboratives around the state.

## Educating Practices

Educating Practices continues to provide pediatric providers with timely, evidence-based clinical information and office tools, and helps them connect to community and state resources so they are able to implement practice changes. The pediatric providers are taking what they learn and applying it to the care they provide to their patients every day. This application of new knowledge increases access to the most up-to-date, evidence-based, and high quality children's healthcare possible. In calendar year 2022, the Educating Practices program delivered 25 presentations on seven different topics to 22 different practices and 466 health care providers. The topics for the presentations included:

- Developmental Screening
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Update to Asthma Guidelines (Easy Breathing)
- Trauma
- Obesity Prevention
- Breastfeeding Basics
- Lead

## Connecticut Children's Leaders in Advanced Solutions in Pediatrics (CLASP)

Through the CLASP Co-Management Program, Connecticut Children's specialists help primary care providers expand the care they deliver to patients by providing up-to-date first-line management for common diagnoses, clear indications for referral to specialists, patient/caregiver handouts, and other resources. This co-management structure is designed to expand pediatric primary care provider's scope of practice, reduce unnecessary testing and treatment, and reduce low-value specialist referrals to improve timely access to care. This past year, we formed a new CLASP Committee, comprised of seven community pediatricians from all over Connecticut, which serves to review and approve all new and updated CLASP tools. Through new processes of continual improvement, we are on track to reach our goal to ensure that all tools are updated biennially. We have standardized onboarding of Care Network pediatricians and have developed a system for regular communication of updates to referring providers in the regular, monthly email communications. As a result, we have increased our reach to 678 verified CLASP users, a 21% increase from the prior year.

## Hartford Youth Health Identification and Linkage (HYHIL) Program

The Health and Resources Services Administration (HRSA) awarded our HYHIL program Ryan White Part D Supplemental funding for our Youth Housing Stabilization Program. During this time, viral load suppression for youth experiencing homelessness was 43% (meaning youth were NOT taking their prescribed antiretroviral medications). According to the CDC, viral suppression refers to the percentage of people with diagnosed HIV who have less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood. It is important for people to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. Through this grant, we focused on three key components:

- 1) Established an emergency shelter appropriate for youth, particularly for LGTBQIA youth (experiencing homelessness);
- 2) Assigned a specific Housing Specialist/Navigator;
- 3) Integrated with the newly formed youth Coordinated Access Network (CAN). This latter component was mandated by HRSA.

In addition, HYHIL expanded its established partnership with the San Juan Center, Inc., that provided an "emergency rooming building" with linkage to employment/career services which we call Special Opportunities for Adolescent Residency (SOAR). SOAR served as the designated emergency placement for youth/women living with HIV and experiencing homelessness. Hence, we were able to circumvent the 'broken' homelessness response system and link youth into emergency shelter in real time (i.e., youth did not need to wait two weeks for an intake into a homeless shelter).

As we integrated into the homelessness response system in the Greater Hartford area, program staff and the housing navigator were also able to advocate for more appropriate housing processes for young women with children living with HIV and experiencing homelessness. As a result of the project, youth were linked back into medical care/treatment, Viral Load suppression increased from 46% to 90% of the served youth who were experiencing homelessness. We also found that linkage to employment increased to approximately 95%. Ninety-nine percent of youth and women who were navigated via the Housing Stabilization Project were linked to stable housing. This highlights the current success of housing as treatment and prevention for youth and women. As a result, we were invited to present our model, entitled Healthier Housing Systems = Healthier Youth Living with HIV, at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) national Hot Clinical Topics presentation in June 2023.

### Person-Centered Medical Home

As part of our Person-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) program, the National Committee for Quality Assurance recertified our Connecticut Children's Primary Care East (East Hartford) and West (Farmington) locations as Person-Centered Medical Homes in May 2023. Our newest site, Connecticut Children's Primary Care South (100 Retreat Avenue, Hartford), has successfully completed Phase 1 of the DSS Glide Path for PCMH. In response to the ongoing mental health crisis, we follow a model of integrated behavioral-medical care, with psychologists and care coordinators on site. In keeping with the PCMH model, we conduct universal screening to identify and evaluate behavioral and developmental concerns at all well-child visits. This year we expanded this screening to include a formal behavioral health screen at the 12-month visit. All three Connecticut Children's Primary Care sites participate in the Connecticut Children's Care Network, and serve as pilot sites for many programs of the Office. We continue our work on electronic documentation of Social Determinants of Health in our EHR and our participation in a learning community project to enhance goal concordant care, supported by funding from the Help Me Grow National Center.

### Resident Education in Advocacy and Community Health

The Resident Education in Advocacy and Community Health (REACH) program continues to grow within the residency program. We have maintained our work with early learning centers in the community to teach nutrition topics that are interactive and age appropriate. Educationally, the residents have had the opportunity to tutor elementary and middle school-age children from Hartford. We continue to work with food pantries and community gardens within Hartford. In the past year, we have had two residents work on grant submissions for community initiatives. One was directed at a helmet drive for appropriately fitting helmets with regards to different hair styles from our community. The other submission was to fund a project for teaching CPR and empowering middle and high school-age children in our community.

### Center for Global Health

The Center for Global Health at Connecticut Children's is a multidisciplinary center reinforcing the status of our learners, staff and faculty as world citizens and sharing opportunities to improve cultural humility to improve local patient care while simultaneously assisting our global partners so they can achieve their locally-identified pediatric healthcare goals. We host multiple yearly events at Connecticut Children's, including the Global Health Film Festival and Global Health Symposium, which provide exposure to a wide range of global health issues and facilitate sharing of experiences obtained through working with our partners in Africa and the Caribbean. Through these activities, participants better understand obstacles to healthcare and learn to employ a variety of techniques which can increase our local patients ability to obtain high quality healthcare. Here is a list of partners and trips:

- University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (known as CHUK) in Kigali, Rwanda
  - We send faculty and residents to CHUK each year to work with the pediatric program.
  - We collaborate with, visit and support pediatric critical care education through Pediatric Critical Care in Resource Limited Settings (**PCCiRLS**), a collaborative educational program supported by pediatric intensivists throughout the US and Canada.
- St. Damien Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
  - We have a pediatric resident rotation available.
  - We collaborate with, visit and support pediatric critical care education through **PCCiRLS**, a collaborative educational program supported by pediatric intensivists throughout the US and Canada.



- Justinien University Hospital in Cap-Haitain, Haiti
  - We have a pediatric resident rotation.
  - We have supported the development of a pediatric residency training program curriculum.
  - We meet monthly to review pediatric mortality and identify methods for improving patient care.
- The PCCiRLS program, of which multiple Connecticut Children's faculty are partners, collaborates with pediatricians to improve pediatric critical care training at Korle Bu Hospital in Accra, Ghana, Tibebe Ghon Specialist Hospital in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, and multiple teaching hospital in Enugu, Nigeria as well as the previously mentioned hospitals in Rwanda and Haiti. This training program includes pre-recorded didactic sessions, scripts for remote, live interactive sessions and hosted resident-led clinical case conferences.
- Neonatal Critical Care in Resource Limited Settings/Neonatal Nurses' Essential Training and Skills (NCCiRLS/NNETS [nccirls.com/nnets.html](https://nccirls.com/nnets.html)), of which multiple faculty and nurses participate, collaborates with hospitals in Kampala, Uganda to improve neonatal care through remote education and in-person skills training.
- A new partnership is being developed to support improved neonatal respiratory care at public hospitals in Jamaica. One trip has been completed and the next trip is scheduled for September 2023.





## HEALTHY, STABLE & SECURE HOUSING

During conversations informing the 2022 CHNA, residents and participants in the key informant prioritization session recognized housing as a major concern facing families in Hartford. They shared concerns related to rent being too expensive, housing being of poor quality, and referred to many property owners as “slumlords.” One resident stated, “If it wasn’t for Section 8, certain people on a fixed income couldn’t really make it because they take their whole check and pay rent.”

*Connecticut Children’s is helping address this need through:*

### **Healthy Homes**

Connecticut Children’s Healthy Homes Program (Healthy Homes) believes all children and families have a right to live in safe, stable and secure housing. Healthy Homes is committed to making homes safe and secure by removing lead paint hazards and other health and safety hazards such as asbestos, mold and pests to create better living environments for families across Connecticut. Our program helps ensure the stability of homes by requiring that property owners charge less than the maximum allowable rate established by HUD, which helps to reduce the likelihood of multiple moves by families who might otherwise be subjected to rent hikes based on market conditions. In addition, Healthy Homes coordinates its work with energy efficiency, public health and housing rehabilitation programs to foster a collaborative approach to help families access maximum resources to make their homes safe and healthy. In 2023, Healthy Homes celebrated twenty years which has resulted in over 3,300 homes made lead safe, stable and healthy.

## ENSURING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THRIVE INTO THE FUTURE

Connecticut Children's is committed to strengthening families so they are best positioned to promote their children's optimal health, development and well-being now and in the future. As this report has shown, our community-oriented work addresses the many varied factors that influence child health and well-being outcomes. We are proud that our community-oriented work, led by Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health, is a model for other local, regional and national organizations.

We are honored to have so many child advocates as partners in this work. Without such collaboration, our pioneering clinical and community-focused approaches would not be possible. We look forward to building on these collaborations going forward to ensure a bright, healthy, and equitable future for all children.

### For more information on our work, connect with us here:

**Website:** [www.connecticutchildrens.org](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutChildrens/>

**Twitter:** @ctchildrens

**Growing Healthy Blog:** [www.connecticutchildrens.org/blog](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org/blog)

### Connect with Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health:

**Website:** [www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health/](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health/)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutChildrensCommunityHealth/>

**Twitter:** @advancingkids

**Blog:** [www.advancingkids.org](http://www.advancingkids.org)

### Connecticut Children's Foundation

**Website:** [www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/](http://www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutChildrensFoundation>

**Blog:** <https://www.connecticutchildrensfoundation.org/about-us/blog>



Connecticut Children's is the only health system in Connecticut dedicated to children, providing more than 30 pediatric specialties. Kids and parents love our exceptional care offered at multiple locations in three states, and through Video Visit. Our experts and community leaders are committed to breakthrough research and innovative partnerships which have won us multiple awards. We are Magnet recognized, a designation only 7% of hospitals achieve, and U.S. News & World Report has named us a best children's hospital in the nation.

