

Priority Area B: Economic Stability

- Unemployment
- Poverty

Goal

Achieve equitable economic wellbeing, stability, and security so all CT residents have the opportunity to work here, and can afford to live, stay, and retire here.

B1: Increase the percentage of all CT residents who can meet their living expenses and have the ability to contribute at least 10% of their earnings towards savings by 2025.

Strategies

- B1.1. Conduct a continuous impact assessment of wage increases across sectors.
- B1.2. Promote the extension of and participation in the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) Saves program beyond 2020.
- B1.3. Promote banking polices that minimize the cost of bank accounts, incentivize savings, and support those with a poor banking history or lack of banking experience.
- B1.4. Maintain, sustain, expand policies and systems that address income security with respect to key living expenses (e.g., housing, taxes, childcare, health care).
- B1.5. Promote the value of pre-tax retirement savings and health savings account opportunities to employers of all sizes.
- B1.6. Partner with financial institutions and school districts to encourage children to open a savings account.

B2: Increase the amount of capital investment in communities and local businesses to support workforce development, community development, and entrepreneurship by 2025.

Strategies

- B2.1. Expand affordable broad band internet and cellphone access across the state and seek public or subsidized broadband access program for geographic areas and lower income residents, so all people can work from anywhere. (See also A1.1, D3.3, D4.4, D5.2)
- B2.2. Partner with financial services to provide and promote multiple community banking options and settings (e.g., low interest loans, incentives for bank locations in low income communities).
- B2.3. Partner with local businesses, the media, public schools, vocational schools, and community colleges to promote education and opportunities for vocational/trade careers. (See also B3.3, B4.1, B4.2)
- B2.4. Partner with funders to promote business startup grants and venture capital across the board with specific outreach to minority owned businesses, and to expand business incubators to underserved communities (ecosystems for small businesses).
- B2.5. Educate on green sector jobs to facilitate a job sector shift.
- B2.6. Enhance document management system to provide centralized, uniform, 24x7 access to government documents that support timely business growth.
- B2.7. Educate about the impact of low-cost drivers' education to enable young people access to personal transportation and cost-effective auto insurance.
- B2.8. Promote the inclusion of minority businesses and small businesses in community and industry networking events. (See also B5.1)

B3: Increase the number of employers who invest in employee retention and wellness programs/policies that support the continuity of their work by 2025.

Strategies

- B3.1. Establish partnerships between the business community and community support networks to offer Employee Assistance Program (EAP), behavioral health and substance abuse, general wellness, and childcare options for all employees.
- B3.2. Promote and encourage participation in the network of community groups (e.g., libraries, chambers of commerce, etc.) that offer skills-building workshops to sustain workforce education and development.
- B3.3. Promote incentives and risk mitigation for employers who invest in vocational education and retention strategies (e.g., tax breaks). (See also B2.3, B4.1, B4.2)
- B3.4. Educate decision-makers and communities about the value of equitable distribution of state funds for behavioral health to increase availability of behavioral health services that support working while receiving treatment (e.g., behavioral health/substance use treatment center hours and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) outlets in alignment with work hours).
- B3.5. Educate on the impact of do-not-compete clauses for businesses and employees across the state.
- B3.6. Partner with the United Way to expand the 211 system to facilitate increased awareness of available services (i.e., connect multiple directories within 211). (See also C1.5, D4.3)

B4: Increase the number of opportunities for children, young adults, adults, and retirees/older adults for equitable, affordable education on career development and personal finance by 2025.

Strategies

- B4.1. Promote the benefits of enrollment in Vocational education. (See also B2.3, B3.3, B4.2)
- B4.2. Build/expand partnerships between employers and community colleges to expand apprenticeships and employment opportunities for entry level positions (e.g., Pratt & Whitney). (See also B2.3, B3.3, B4.1)
- B4.3. Educate on the value of a policy to include good financial management as part of the curriculum for youth, teens, and young adults.
- B4.4. Educate on the value of employer offered tuition reimbursement.
- B4.5. Increase opportunities for those receiving public assistance to receive education on personal finance.
- B4.6. Promote the value to large employers to offer on the job financial empowerment training to their employees, to smaller employers, and throughout the community.
- B4.7. Partner with state associations that address the needs the unemployed, retired/senior community (e.g., United Way, senior centers) to promote financial wellness.

B5: Increase the number of employers across sectors that offer equitable and sustainable employment opportunities for all levels and demographics by 2025.

Strategies

- B5.1. Promote the inclusion of minority businesses and small businesses in community and industry networking events. (See also B2.8)
- B5.2. Promote prison-to-work opportunities by facilitating transfer to gainful employment based on acquired skills.
- B5.3. Capitalize on and promote healthy living and green spaces in state, especially in low resources neighborhoods, to attract employers and employees. (See also Priority D)
- B5.4. Invest in jobs directed toward sustainable development, healthy living, culture/arts, green energy, and technology.
- B5.5. Promote recruitment and selection of underrepresented groups, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
- B5.6. Collaborate with employers to select and implement curricula (including a common language, tools, and frameworks) to elevate awareness of and eliminate systemic racism and inherent bias. (See also D5.1)