

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Senator Marilyn Moore, Co-Chair, CT General Assembly
Tanya Barrett, United Way of CT
Michael Bartley, Department of Labor
Paul Bourdoulous, Judicial Branch Support Enforcement Services
Heriberto (Eddie) Cajigas, Department of Labor (Domain 1 Committee Chair)
Daniel Cargill, CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Michael Regan (for Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos), DOC
Diana DiTunno, DSS Office of Organizational & Skill Development
Joseph DiTunno, Judicial Court Support Services Division (Domain 4 Committee Co-Chair)
Denise Drummond (for Steven Hernández), CWCSEO
Doug Edwards, Real Dads Forever
Hon. Michael Ferguson, Judicial Branch Family Support Magistrate Division
Anthony Gay, Department of Children and Families (Domain 2 Committee Chair)
Chairman Carleton Giles, Board of Pardons and Parole
Dr. Derrick Gordon, The Consultation Center at Yale University
Gerald Gore, Department of Developmental Services
Anthony (Tony) Judkins, DSS Office of Child Support Services (Domain 5 Committee Co-Chair)
Aileen Keays, UConn Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (Domain 4 Committee Co-Chair)
Nicole Kilduff, Family Strides Inc. (Provider Representative, Executive Level)
Kevin Krusz, Department of Public Health
Lesley Mara, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities
Lynn Reeves, DSS Office of Child Support Services
Sarju Shah, Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ariana Trotman, GBAPP (Provider Representative, Program Manager Level)
Jennifer Wilder (for Commissioner Beth Bye), Office of Early Childhood
Deputy Commissioner Michael Williams, Dept. of Children and Families (Domain 3 Committee Chair)
Former Representative Patricia Wilson-Pheanious

Member Regrets:

Dr. Kari Adamsons, University of Connecticut, Human Development & Family Sciences
Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood
Deputy Commissioner Sharonda Carlos, Department of Correction
John Frassinelli, State Department of Education
Deidre Gifford, Chair, Department of Social Services (DSS)
Steven Hernández, CWCSEO (Domain 5 Committee Co-Chair)
Lucy Potter, Esq., Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Commissioner Thomas Saadi, Department of Veteran Affairs

Guests in Attendance:

Olivia Czachor, D5 Committee student intern	Alana Kroeber, United Way of CT
Kelley Edwards, DMHAS	Maria Lopez, DSS OCSS
Astread Ferron-Poole, DSS	Deputy Commissioner William Mulligan, DOC
Eulalia Garcia, DOC	Laura Robidoux, United Way of CT

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Welcome/Introductions

Tony shared that Commissioner Gifford sends her regrets for today's meeting as she had a conflicting obligation. He shared his excitement about being back in person and seeing so many members able to attend in person today. He thanked those who couldn't physically be in the room with them for participating virtually. Senator Moore joined virtually, welcomed members and asked Tony to lead the meeting as planned. Members attending in person introduced themselves, then those attending via Teams were asked to introduce themselves.

Review/Acceptance of September Meeting Minutes

Tony asked members to review minutes from the September 26 meeting for approval. Members reviewed, a motion to accept the minutes was made by the Hon. Michael Ferguson and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Michael Williams. Minutes accepted by the full Council as written.

United Way of CT 2-1-1 Presentation

Tanya Barrett, Senior Vice President, 2-1-1 Health and Human Services
Alana Kroeber, Senior Director, 2-1-1 Specialized Services
Laura Robidoux, Director, 2-1-1 Information Services

Tanya, Alana and Laura presented on CT United Way 211 services, including call center efforts and data collected from callers since call center staff script changed the question "how many adults and how many children is your household?" to "are you a parent?", and provided a brief demo of the 211CT website. The presentation can be found on the following pages.

Diana stated as 2-1-1 CT promotes the CFI and local providers, the CFI is also promoting 2-1-1 as the best resource for fathers and the providers who serve them. She thanked Tanya, Alana and Laura for their partnership and their flexibility with implementing the recommendation of changing the call center staff script to ask "are you a parent" to provide for the collection of data on callers who are fathers. Diana asked if there is a way to capture data on callers who are fathers themselves, but are providers, family members, etc. contacting 2-1-1 on behalf of fathers. Alana stated there are some data that might help paint a picture of these types of contact calls and thought this might be something the CFI 211 Workgroup could examine further at when they reconvene.

During the website demo, Laura and Alana shared 2-1-1 is piloting an electronic referral function, where those searching for resources can link directly to a particular agency/program/resource from the page via email from the person to the agency.

Senator Moore thanked the presenters and stated the data demonstrates what the Human Services Committee has been discussing – housing continues to be a glaring issue. She asked if 2-1-1 has more detailed data that they could share regarding whether the need for housing was resolved. Tanya explained 2-1-1 serves as a gateway for the Coordinated Access Networks (CANs), which is a group of local housing professionals that assists people with locating housing/shelter.

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

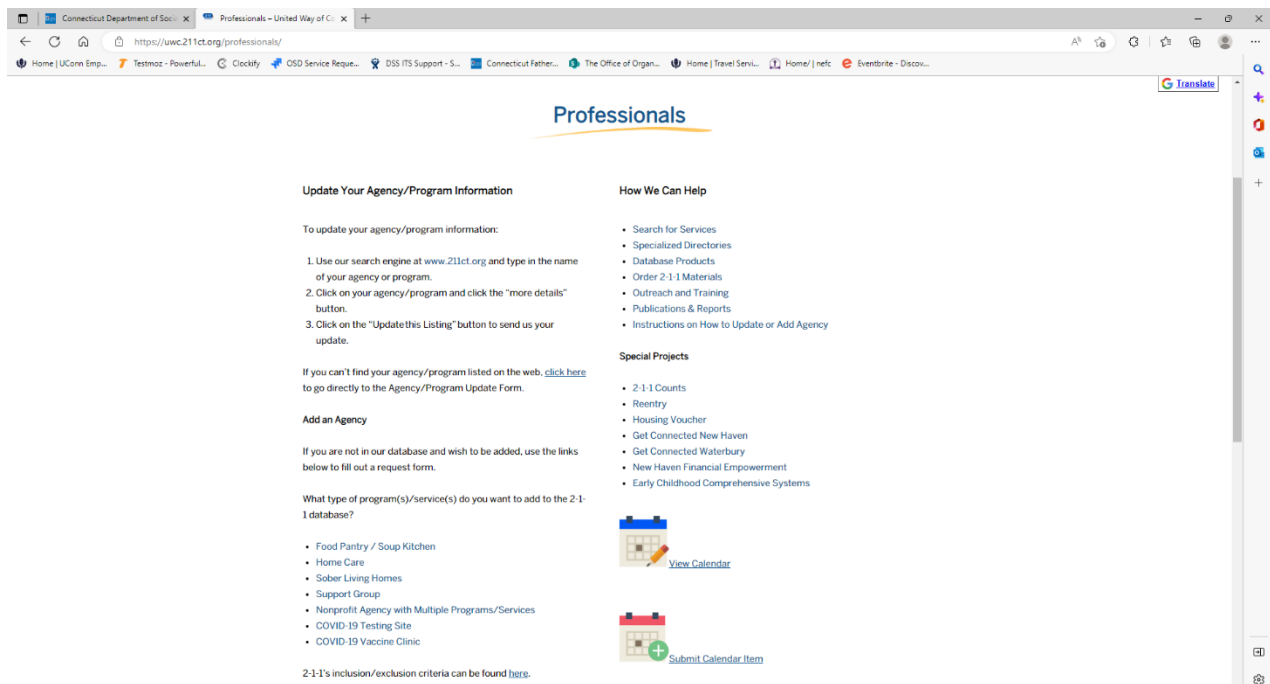
United Way of CT 2-1-1 Presentation, continued

If callers meet the requirements, there is a warm hand-off to CANs for assistance. Callers may be calling because they are homeless or because they are at risk of becoming homeless. There is a subset of referrals to other agencies with whom 2-1-1 follows up. However, the CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and the database they manage (Homeless Management Information System - HMIS) captures whether the need was met all with other data, and there are online real-time data dashboards and other information available at [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness \(cceb.org\)](https://cceb.org)

Tanya also mentioned 2-1-1 Counts CT website, which tracks data related to service requests by location in our state. She explained 2-1-1 Counts CT provides real-time, searchable and visual presentations of data allowing you to find a snapshot of community-specific needs displayed by ZIP code, region or call center and enabling you to easily check trends, make comparisons and share information. Members can access the website via <https://ct/211counts.org>

Chief Ferguson asked if 2-1-1 CT has informational flyers that he and the other Family Support Magistrates (FSMs) could disseminate to those parents appearing before them for child support matters. Tanya replied, yes, they have materials and are happy to send a supply out – Diana stated she would connect with Tanya and her staff after the meeting to organize a shipment to chief Ferguson, who stated he would then distribute to the FSMs.

Lynn Reeves asked how an agency adds their information to the database. Laura explained an agency can get added to the 211 database and/or update agency/program information by clicking the “professionals” tab which navigates to the following page:



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Professionals' page. The page has a white background with a blue header. The main content is organized into several sections:

- Update Your Agency/Program Information:** This section provides instructions on how to update agency information, including using a search engine and clicking the 'Update this Listing' button. It also includes a link to the Agency/Program Update Form.
- Add an Agency:** This section provides instructions on how to add a new agency to the database, including a link to the request form.
- How We Can Help:** This section lists various services and resources available, such as Search for Services, Specialized Directories, Database Products, Order 2-1-1 Materials, Outreach and Training, Publications & Reports, and Instructions on How to Update or Add Agency.
- Special Projects:** This section lists various projects and programs, such as 2-1-1 Counts, Reentry, Housing Voucher, Get Connected New Haven, Get Connected Waterbury, New Haven Financial Empowerment, and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems.

At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: 'View Calendar' and 'Submit Calendar Item'.

United Way of Connecticut

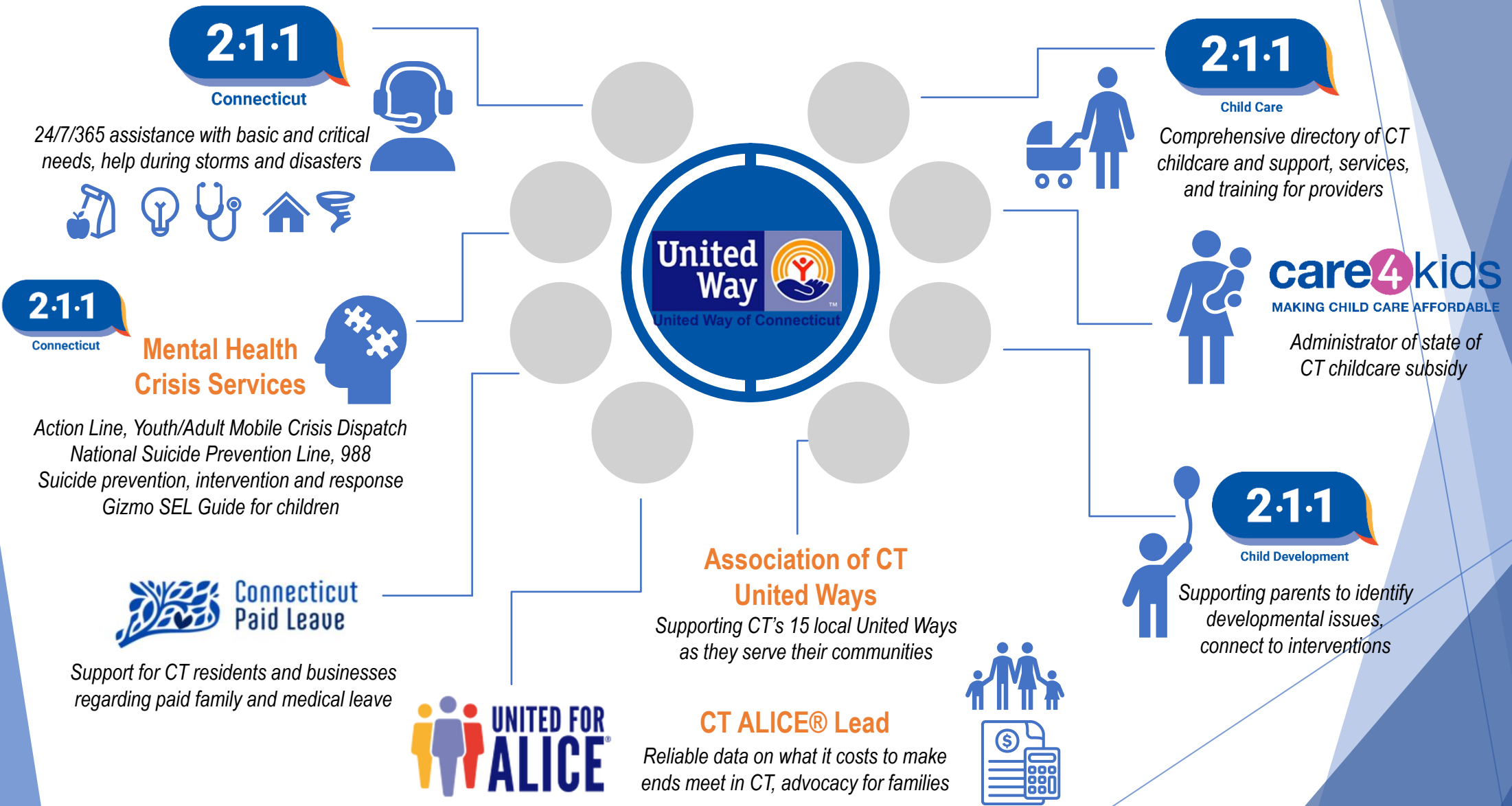


Every hour of every day, people turn to United Way of CT for help.

Alana Kroeber, Senior Director, 2-1-1 Specialized Services

Laura Robidoux, Director, 2-1-1 Information Services

Who we are, what we do to support CT residents



2.1.1
Connecticut



24/7/365 assistance with basic and critical needs, help during storms and disasters



2.1.1
Connecticut

Mental Health Crisis Services



Action Line, Youth/Adult Mobile Crisis Dispatch
National Suicide Prevention Line, 988
Suicide prevention, intervention and response
Gizmo SEL Guide for children



Support for CT residents and businesses regarding paid family and medical leave



Association of CT United Ways

Supporting CT's 15 local United Ways as they serve their communities

CT ALICE® Lead

Reliable data on what it costs to make ends meet in CT, advocacy for families



2.1.1
Child Care



Comprehensive directory of CT childcare and support, services, and training for providers



care4kids
MAKING CHILD CARE AFFORDABLE

Administrator of state of CT childcare subsidy

2.1.1
Child Development



Supporting parents to identify developmental issues, connect to interventions

What is 211?



211 is a **free, confidential information + referral service** that connects people to essential health and human services **24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year** – **online and over the phone.**

Information & Referral - connection to more than 40,000 programs and services

Crisis Intervention - dispatch for youth + adult mobile mental health crisis teams

Emergency/Disaster Response - as part of CT's Emergency response framework

Additional Specialized Services (211 Child Development, 211 Child Care, 211 Housing...)

2·1·1

Connecticut



United Way of Connecticut

Helping CT Residents, Every Day

In CY2021, 211 responded to 6 million+ inquiries* from people seeking help















Connecticut



2-1-1 counts

82% increase in top 10 non-COVID phone inquiries 2019-2021, and an increase of 175% since 2015

*by phone and through website

	Healthcare & COVID-19	5,104,250
	Housing & Shelter	302,990
	Food	145,357
	Mental Health & Addiction	113,638
	Utilities	101,353
	Employment & Income	86,662
	Transportation Assistance	39,654
	Government & Legal	29,037
	Clothing & Household	11,932
	Disaster	8,541
	Child Care & Parenting	8,063
	Education	4,833

United Way



United Way of Connecticut

211 CFI Activity

- **Training**

- DSS training on CFI for 2-1-1 contact center staff and community providers
- 211 training for several domain committees, DOC

- **Process Improvements**

- Fatherhood eLibrary category
- Folksonomy terms
- Contact center scripting change

- **Promotion & Partnership**

**Reconvening the CFI 211 Workgroup*



2.1.1

Connecticut

Calls from fathers



Connecticut

Calendar Year	Call from Parents	% from Fathers
2020	45,600	20%
2021	45,385	17%
2022 <i>*through 10/31/22</i>	45,720	15%

- Top Towns of Fathers*
- 1. Hartford*
 - 2. New Haven*
 - 3. Bridgeport*
 - 4. Waterbury*
 - 5. New Britain*

**60% of all 211 calls, on average, are from individuals who identify as female*

Top needs of fathers

CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022 <i>*through 10/31/22</i>
Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams	Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams	Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams	At Risk/Homeless Housing Related Assistance Programs
Electric Service Payment Assistance	Communicable Disease Control	Rent Payment Assistance	Electric Service Payment Assistance
At Risk/Homeless Housing Related Assistance Programs	Electric Service Payment Assistance	At Risk/Homeless Housing Related Assistance Programs	Rent Payment Assistance
Temporary Financial Assistance	Rent Payment Assistance	Electric Service Payment Assistance	Housing Search and Information
Gas Service Payment Assistance	At Risk/Homeless Housing Related Assistance Programs	Housing Search and Information	Food Stamps/SNAP
Housing Search and Information	COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests	Food Stamps/SNAP	Landlord/Tenant Assistance
Medicaid	Food Stamps/SNAP	Temporary Financial Assistance	Gas Service Payment Assistance
Community Action Agencies	Temporary Financial Assistance	Medicaid	Housing Related Coordinated Entry
Heating Fuel Payment Assistance	Housing Search and Information	Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing	Low Income/Subsidized Private Rental Housing
Rent Payment Assistance	Gas Service Payment Assistance	Gas Service Payment Assistance	Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams


2.1.1

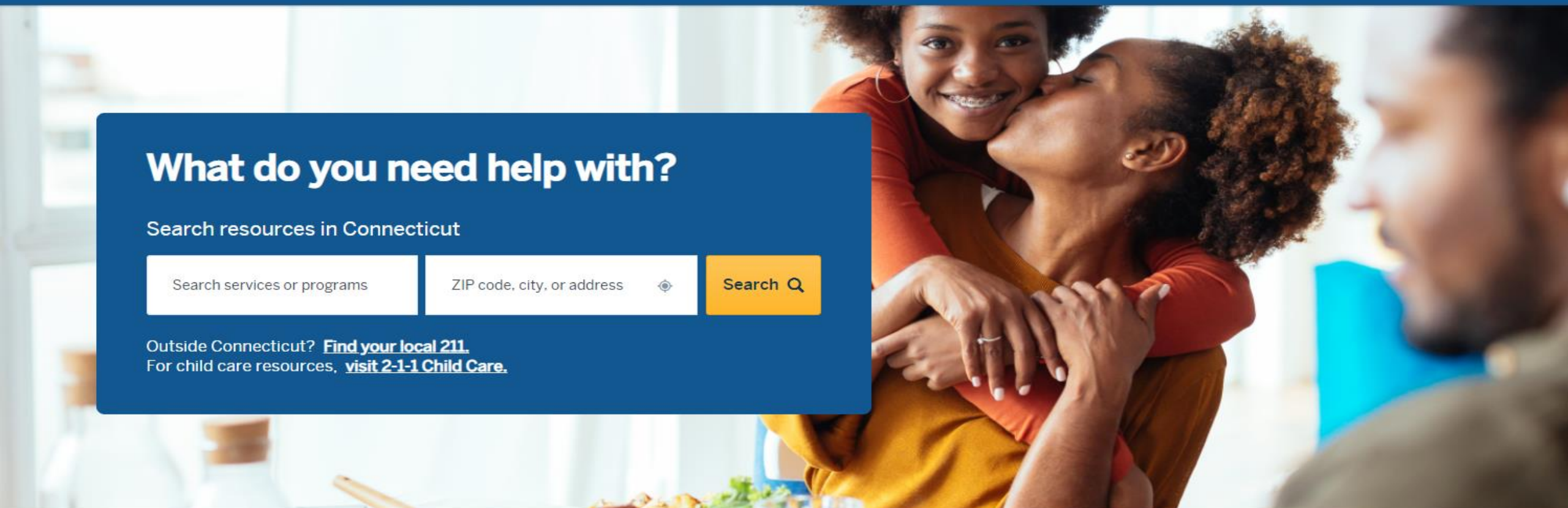
Connecticut

Web searches related to fatherhood/parenting

2.1.1

Connecticut

Search Term	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022 <i>*through 11/28/22</i>
Fathers (fatherhood, fatherhood initiative, fatherhood programs)	109	217	396	969
				
Parent Support Groups	436	582	915	1,576
Parenting Education & Home Based Parenting Education	531	798	1,015	1,566
Co-Parenting Workshops	666	725	1,152	1,062
Parent to Parent Networking	116	238	314	466
Teenage Parents	28	20	149	337



What do you need help with?

Search resources in Connecticut

Outside Connecticut? [Find your local 211.](#)
For child care resources, [visit 2-1-1 Child Care.](#)

SEARCH BY CATEGORY

Find resources near you along with helpful links and articles

Food

Emergency food, meals

Mental Health

Counseling, treatment, support groups

Health Care

Payment, insurance, prevention, treatment

Housing

Emergency housing, rent/mortgage assistance

Substance Use

Treatment, prevention, screening

Youth

Education/employment, basic needs, parenting

Transportation

Ride/transit options

Utility Assistance

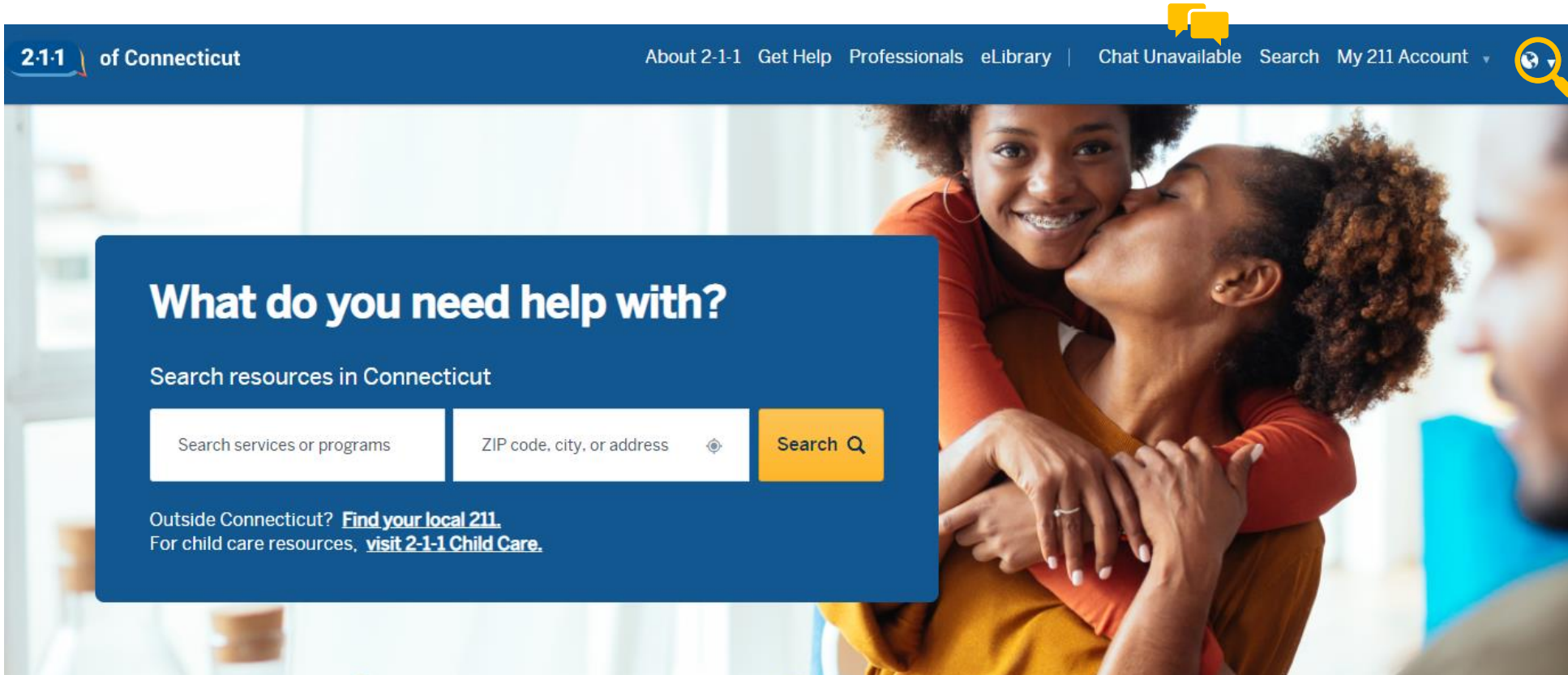
Energy assistance, helping paying for utilities/heat

2·1·1

Connecticut

Common language ways to find info

Fill in the blank search



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the 2-1-1 Connecticut website. It includes the 2-1-1 logo, the text "of Connecticut", and several menu items: "About 2-1-1", "Get Help", "Professionals", "eLibrary", "Chat Unavailable", "Search", and "My 211 Account". A search icon is visible on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a woman kissing a child on the cheek. Overlaid on this image is a dark blue search box with the heading "What do you need help with?". Inside the box, it says "Search resources in Connecticut" and features two input fields: "Search services or programs" and "ZIP code, city, or address", followed by a yellow "Search Q" button. Below the input fields, there is text: "Outside Connecticut? [Find your local 211.](#) For child care resources, [visit 2-1-1 Child Care.](#)"

2.1.1

Connecticut

Common language ways to find info

Fill-in-the-blank search

SEARCH TERMS
Search Food Pantries, Housing, and more

LOCATION
Connecticut

Fathers x

Clear all search items

Show Advanced Filters

1-25 of 26 results for 1 category

Save all results on this page

Fatherhood Initiative

AGENCY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Print & Share
Add to a List

232 North Elm Street, Waterbury, CT 4.08 miles

The Fatherhood Initiative is designed to engage 110 fathers ages 17+ in services designed to increase the father's involvement with his children...

Eligibility: Resident of Greater Waterbury area; Fathers ages 17+

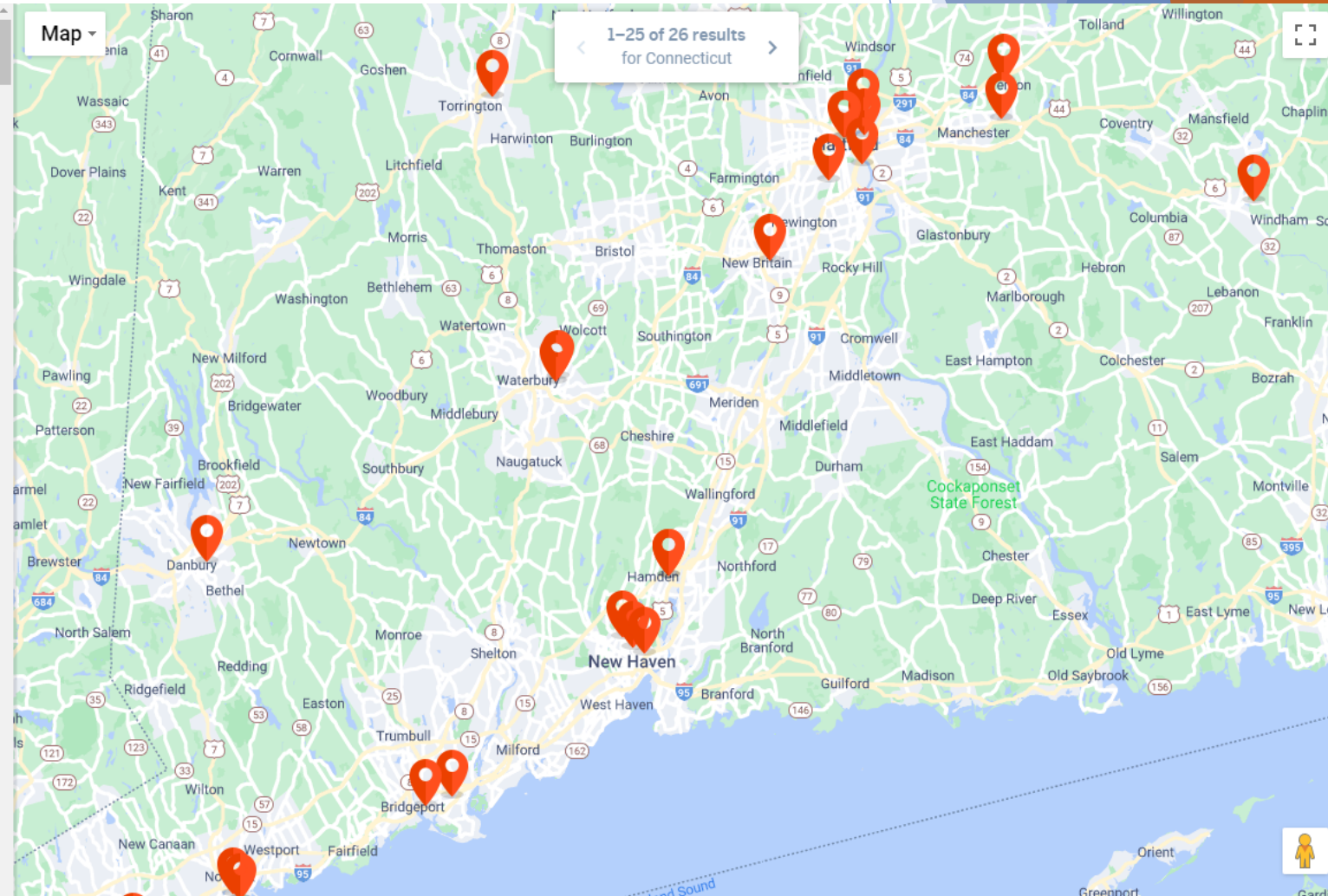
Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm

See something incorrect? Update this Listing

203-575-4210

View Website

More Details



2·1·1

Connecticut

Common language ways to find info

Fill-in-the-blank search

- Searches can be conducted for any **location**, which is auto-detected or entered by the end user.
- Each search result includes the **basic details**, along with action buttons to call, view website, get directions, or get more details.
- Result pages add **links to related services** with the subject of the search.
- Advanced **filters** allow you to quickly find what you need by:
 - Target population
 - Radius
 - Gender
 - Age group
 - Day of the week - plus an option to see what's open now
- Create and add community resources to **My 211 Account** that can be sorted, emailed or printed
- Built-in **translation** functionality with support for more than 30 languages (powered by Google Translate)
- View **locations** on integrated map, click to call, visit website, or get directions (including using public transportation)

2·1·1

Connecticut

Common language ways to find info

Search by Category

SEARCH BY CATEGORY

Find resources near you along with helpful links and articles

Food

Emergency food, meals

Mental Health

Counseling, treatment, support groups

Health Care

Payment, insurance, prevention, treatment

Housing

Emergency housing, rent/mortgage assistance

Substance Use

Treatment, prevention, screening

Youth

Education/employment, basic needs, parenting

Transportation

Ride/transit options

Utility Assistance

Energy assistance, helping paying for utilities/heat

Income

Employment, financial literacy

Children & Families

Early care, education, home visiting

Crisis

Intervention, mental health support, shelter, food

Basic Needs

Clothing, household items, diapers

Legal Assistance

Family law, discrimination, immigration services

Re-Entry

Resources for people recently released from incarceration

Older Adults

Benefits Assistance, residential options, in home assistance

2·1·1

Connecticut

How to find what you don't yet know about

Confidential, question-based assessments

Find government programs that you may qualify for

The 2-1-1 Eligibility Navigator is an interactive tool that allows 2-1-1 CT to generate a list of state and federal programs that you may qualify for.

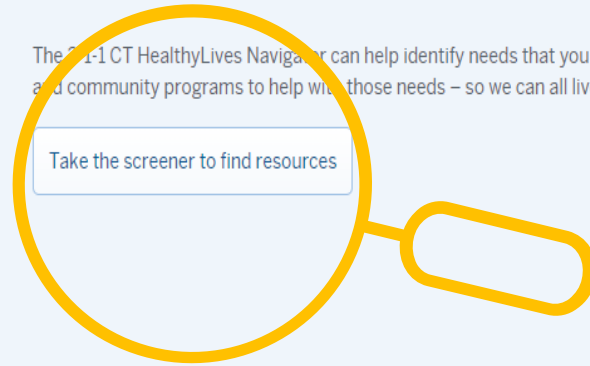
Take the eligibility screener

Or view all screeners →

Find programs for improving your health

The 2-1-1 CT HealthyLives Navigator can help identify needs that you or those you care for may have – and community programs to help with those needs – so we can all live our healthiest lives.

Take the screener to find resources



2.1.1

eLibrary

Topic-specific white papers

Connecticut

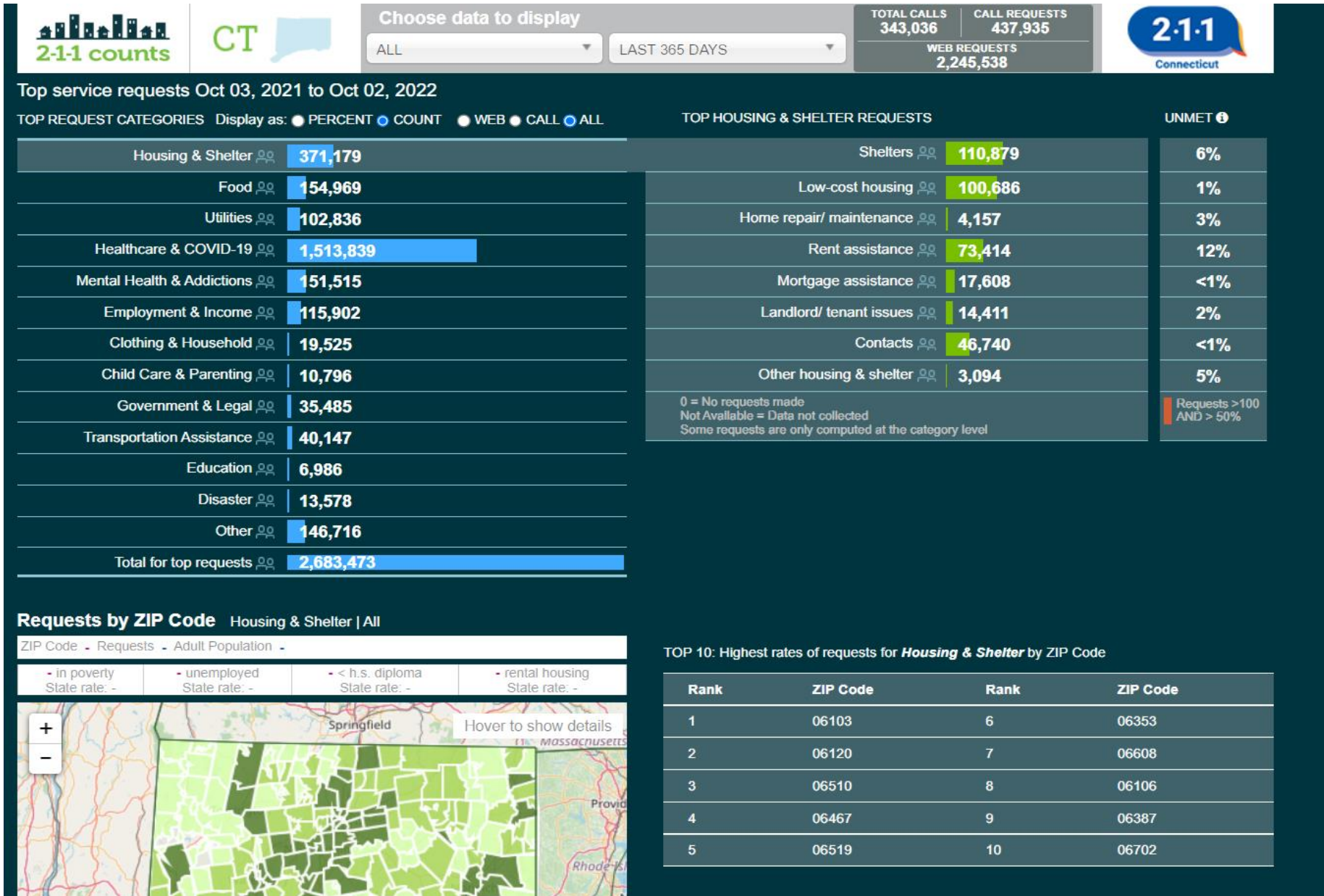
Fatherhood

- Becoming a Parent
- Care 4 Kids Child Care Subsidy Program
- Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- Child Custody
- Child Support in Connecticut
- Child Tax Credit / Advance Child Tax Credit Payments 2021-22
- Divorcing Parents Parenting Education Programs (PEP)
- DNA Testing
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC/EITC) / Federal Earned Income Tax Credit / Connecticut Earned Income Tax Credit
- Family/Juvenile Court – Connecticut
- Help for Children With Learning Disabilities
- Paternity Establishment
- Support Groups
- Truancy Laws – Connecticut

Other Website Features

- **My 211 Account** - feature for users to sign up for free accounts to create, save, and share customized resource lists
- **Multi-term Search** - allows users to search for locations that offer multiple different services in one click
- **Community Comment**- allows users to report updates to agency information or service offerings to be displayed in real time
- **HealthyLives Navigator** - brief, anonymous questionnaire that can be completed by clients, healthcare providers, case managers, or social workers and assesses for the eleven social needs that are most closely linked with poor health outcomes.
- **Electronic Referral** - For agencies that are interested in receiving referrals directly from 211 website users, they can elect to enable to 'Send Referral' option on their resource card on 211ct.org
- **API** - Application Programming Interface (API) for the 211ct.org search engine so that the search can be integrated into other applications and sites.

211 Counts Data Dashboard



Questions?

The mission of United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 is to help meet the needs of Connecticut and its residents by providing information, education and connection to services.

This mission has been furthered through recent, exciting and innovative partnerships with community providers, state departments and local government and we look forward to future collaborations.

Contact:

Alana Kroeber

Senior Director, 2-1-1 Specialized Services
860-571-7209

Alana.Kroeber@ctunitedway.org

Laura Robidoux

Director, Information Services
860-856-7234

Laura.Robidoux@ctunitedway.org

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Strategic Plan: Implementation Update

Domain Committee Chair Reports

DOMAIN 1 (D1): Fathers economically stable

Eddies Cajigas shared the highlights of the results, findings and recommendations from the D1 Committee's survey for fatherhood program providers. Eddie noted the survey was separated into areas under economic stability domain, with 2-3 questions under each of the following areas: Economic Stability Service Provision, Employment, Adult Education, Higher Education, Housing, Childcare, Mental Health/Addiction Services, Services for Fathers with Disabilities, Services for Formerly Incarcerated Fathers and Transportation. Thirteen (13) responses were received representing 12 fatherhood program providers and the average time to complete was less than 10 minutes. The Committee noted the need for caution about drawing conclusions from such a limited sample and must be mindful that the response was very limited. However, the group respects the information provided and the experience of those who did respond to inform next steps. Overall, many programs are working with program participants on areas of economic stability either through direct service delivery or referrals. Areas for improvement include, developing more formal connections to Adult Education and Higher Education, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) and local behavioral health providers/DMHAS partners; opportunities for training also exist (e.g., disability services). Some recommendations shared include having fatherhood program providers join various email distribution lists to receive information about services/training opportunities/workshops etc., and D1 Committee could create a checklist for providers of networking/training they should take advantage of or resources they should be aware of at state agencies, etc. D1 Committee members could also deliver informational session for providers on various resources under the economic stability domain; this can be helpful in increasing their knowledge of and understanding about available services/programs to support their program participants' needs in these areas. Another recommendation was that the CFI should connect with DOT leadership to discuss potential ways program participants might receive transportation discounts/vouchers through DOT, as nonprofit providers do not have ability to support transportation needs (and perhaps also reviewing routes and times). The full report was sent to Council members prior to the meeting and emailed again along with these minutes.

DOMAIN 2 (D2): Fathers in healthy relationships with their children, co-parents, significant others

Anthony Gay provided the following report:

Most recently, Lisa Driscoll, from the DCF Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Unit, provided a presentation on the work of that unit, as the D2 Committee had noted there is a lack of male role models in the human services field and posed the question: are there opportunities within DCF PSE to support youth, particularly males and males of color, in exploring human services as a career? There are 3 Pupil Services Specialists (PSSs) covering the State, who assist with planning for youth in the care of DCF, with post-secondary education (PSE) or vocational planning. They begin accepting PSE plans for review for youth entering their senior year. This process includes review, advisement and ultimately, approval of plan.

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI)

Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Strategic Plan: Implementation Update, continued

Domain Committee Chair Reports, continued

DOMAIN 2 (D2):

Fathers in healthy relationships with their children, co-parents, significant others, continued

The PSE reports most males are seeking vocational programs; ideas were offered to encourage young males, especially males of color, to explore human services, including: PSSs can note interest or potential when reviewing PSE plans and communicate back to youth and Social Worker for follow up; CSCU campuses could provide dedicated, private space to DCF to meet with youth interested in entering the child welfare field; DCF social workers could be surveyed to capture their experience with youth entering PSE and interest in human services, and the DCF Training Academy can include information on their findings about youth entering human services in the training series they are developing entitled “Working with Transition Age Youth (TAY)”. Anthony shared the group also discussed *Sun Scholars*, a contracted college support program, provides support to both former foster youth who are remaining with DCF to pursue college as well as youth who previously experienced foster care or adoption but are no longer DCF-involved. The Director and staff members have lived foster care experience and could speak with youth about potential interest in the human services field.

DOMAIN 3 (D3): Young people prepared to be responsible parents

Deputy Commissioner Michael Williams shared the D3 Committee has begun initial analysis of the Asset Map and is organizing its review by D3 Committee Focus Areas. He reminded the Council that his Committee is seeking to address three results statements:

- *For fathers and fathers-to-be ages 14-21, Connecticut will ensure access to developmentally and culturally appropriate services to promote healthy masculinity, healthy relationships and intimate partner violence prevention.*
- *For fathers and fathers-to-be ages 14-21, Connecticut will identify gaps in identification of, and services for, male youth who may be fathers or expectant fathers.*
- *Connecticut will ensure access to developmentally and culturally appropriate quality parenting education and parenting support for teen males. This encompasses the examination of young parents’ program models to ensure the inclusivity of young fathers.*

He discussed the draft document shared with Council members prior to this meeting (and again with these minutes), which outlines resources identified under Focus Area 1: healthy masculinity, healthy relationships and violence prevention. DC Williams explained the Committee believes this focus area to be a critical area for supports for young males who are fathers/father-to-be because of

- the rise in intimate partner violence and teen dating violence,
- the increased challenges young fathers and fathers-to-be may face with co-parenting since most do not reside in the same household with the child and
- the identified cultural concept of toxic masculinity creating a need for young males to understand what it means to be a healthy male partner/co-parent and father figure for their family, to positively impact generations to come.

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Strategic Plan: Implementation Update, continued Domain Committee Chair Reports, continued

DOMAIN 3 (D3): Young people prepared to be responsible parents, continued

While analysis will continue, the group already believes there is an absence of services for young male parents, and for young males in general under Focus Area 1. Further, those few programs/services that are being offered are only available in certain geographic areas and not currently accessible to male youth statewide (for example, GBAPP Teen fathers Program, CCADV's TeamUp and the Men's Project offered at some higher educational institutions). Therefore, the Committee believes these programs/services addressing healthy masculinity, healthy relationships and violence prevention should be brought to scale in order to address this gap in service and support young males/fathers/fathers-to-be no matter where they live in Connecticut.

DOMAIN 4 (D4):

Men involved in the criminal justice system supported in being responsible fathers

Co-Chair Joseph DiTunno reported the group is continuing planning for a "fatherhood within the criminal justice system (CJS)" training event. The CJS has so many different areas, having an event that would be inclusive of the hundreds "boots on the ground" professionals isn't feasible. Further, the D4 Committee isn't meant to serve as a group that plans ongoing events and serves more as a consultative role for father-inclusivity and systems change. Therefore the group decided to develop an event for CJS leadership and training academy staff from Police/POST, DOC, the Judicial Branch (Court Operations/CSSD), State's Attorney, Public Defender, etc. and then follow up to support how each of the arms of the CJS might incorporate fatherhood principles into their respective staff training, policy and practice. The group is examining potential locations and beginning to identify program content.

DOMAIN 5 (D5): Policy/Public Awareness

Tony Judkins reported the following:

- Alana Kroeber and Laura Robidoux are joining D5 and the Data Development Subcommittee; having the participation of 211 CT on this Committee is truly an asset
- The Data Development Subcommittee is working to identify the data officers at each agency – in Executive Branch and Judicial Branch; once they have these staff identified, the group will reach out to meet with them to discuss their agency databases/systems; specifically, does the system ask if someone is a parent/a father when they apply for services/enter their system - if no, is there a subset of options to note this information? Also, is there a field that is similar that can be edited to be what the CFI wants? If no, is there a way a field can be added? If no, how can we make that happen? The basic tenet for this approach is that even if CFI agency partners agree to share data, the data won't be of use to CFI if agencies aren't asking the question of whether men in their systems are fathers.
- Data collection will allow the CFI to make a more in-depth argument for the need for consistent funding at appropriate levels to support and sustain comprehensive fatherhood programming.

Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Council Meeting

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Strategic Plan: Implementation Update, continued

Domain Committee Chair Reports, *continued*

DOMAIN 5 (D5): Policy/Public Awareness, continued

- There has been great feedback thus far on Summer and Fall CFI newsletter issues
- The Winter 2022 issue, focused on child welfare, was electronically disseminated to the CFI network this morning, all Council members should have received

Tony stated Olivia Czachor is the new UConn MSW intern who has joined D5 Communications work. She received orientation on September 19 and brings both “hard” and “soft” skills to the team; Olivia is sure to be a true asset to our efforts! He asked Olivia, who had joined the meeting via Teams, to introduce herself to the Council. She expressed excitement about working with the CFI and Domain 5 Committee.

Fatherhood Program Provider Report: Coalition Updates

Nicole Kilduff provided the report for the provider coalition. She stated the group discussed recent on-site visits conducted by DSS, and all noted they appreciated the strengths-based, pro-active approach as it truly assists them with ensuring quality service provision, whether from the Executive level, program management level or as a direct service staff. The group is looking forward to an upcoming meeting to discuss the Fatherhood Initiative Program forms as DSS works on the development of a web-based data collection system. There is a recognized need for more funding across fatherhood programming to support appropriate level of staffing which also may help to decrease staff turnover.

Other Business

Diana shared the meeting schedule for 2023 is currently confirmed as:

- March 27, 2023
- June 26, 2023
- September 25, 2023
- December 18, 2023

Meetings will be scheduled as in-person format (noted in the subject line of the email) with a virtual option to join if available in the meeting room location. Commissioner Gifford’s Executive Assistant will be sending an email invitation, please rsvp when received..

Diana also reported the 211 Workgroup is ready to reconvene, with Tanya Barrett serving as Chair. The first meeting will be in January at the United Way office in Rocky Hill. Those who had previously served on the Workgroup and current Committee Chairs have been contacted to determine availability for membership. Any additional Council members interested in joining this group should email Diana.

***Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI)
Council Meeting***

Meeting Summary * December 5, 2022

Other Business, continued

Tony stated registration for the 2023 New England Fathering Conference (NEFC) will be open within the next week or two. The announcement will be shared with the CFI network. He mentioned members can get all information by visiting the NEFC website www.nefatheringconference.org as well. He encouraged members to attend and allow their staff to attend. Chief Ferguson stated he has attended in the past; it is a wonderful conference and he is looking forward to participating again in March.

Kelley Edwards reported that DMHAS received funding to address the opioid crisis, which allows DMHAS to continue to provide funding to 3-4 of the fatherhood programs who have been implementing the current DMHAS grant for the Strategic Prevention Framework.

Senator Moore thanked everyone for a great meeting and wished everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season with family and friends.

Meeting Adjourned.