



2019 Retrospective

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Greetings from Frances Padilla, President

2019 was a year of preparation, possibility, and innovation --

The foundation adopted a bold new strategic plan for the next five years.

We fought shoulder-to-shoulder with small businesswomen and men, elected leaders, and advocates to win affordable insurance options for more than half a million Connecticut residents.

We created an innovative approach to making grants. We funded new advocacy partners to help design fresh strategies and increase the advocacy role of everyday people for the health care they need and deserve.

I hope you'll read on and stay with us – or join – in the fight for health care justice. It's needed now more than ever!



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The 2019 Legislative Fight for More Affordable Coverage and Access to Care was Intense

Lots of bad news but a few pieces of great news so let's start the legislative summary there. Medicaid eligibility was restored for 4,000 parents or caregivers who had lost coverage two years before. This makes a big difference for those who need to stay healthy for their children and other family members.

In more good news, a mental health parity bill passed as did language codifying certification requirements for community health workers. These two wins mean a lot for people who seek behavioral health services and help strengthen connections between residents and care providers.

The session started with four bills for a "public option," aka affordable insurance for people who own or work for small businesses --that's about half a million people in Connecticut. It ended with one bill and, despite strong collaboration among small businesses, elected champions, the Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care and Protect Our Care CT, the oppositional forces of the insurance industry killed it. Down but not dead. A fight for another day.

Prescription drug costs were hotly contested in 2019, but not a single bill passed. Swarms of pharma lobbyists prevailed. Do you sense a theme here?

To end on a positive note, we worked in solidarity with our allies for paid family medical leave and to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Both bills passed, making life a little better for working people in our state.

“We worked in solidarity with our allies.”

“There is a power disconnect in many civic engagement efforts.”

Grants to Engage New Voices in Health Advocacy

In 2019, the foundation awarded and paid out \$60,000 in grants.

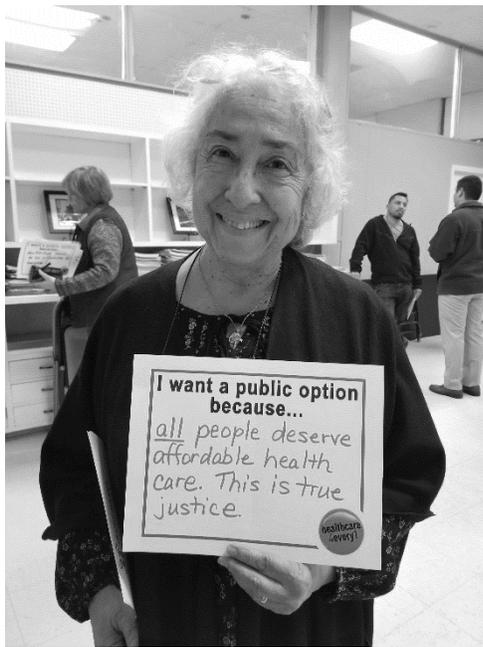
One of the goals of our strategic plan is to support organizations and strategic alliances that amplify the voices of everyday people and engage marginalized communities in advocacy on the health care issues that impact them most. We use grants to build a diverse, vibrant and strong field of advocates for meaningful change. In 2019, we funded a group of organizations to help design a funding strategy in 2020. It will strengthen grassroots advocacy and activism on health care over the next several years.

We're excited to work with:

- Bridgeport Generation Now
- Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
- Connecticut Students for a Dream
- Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice
- Minority Inclusion Project
- Naugatuck Valley Project
- Full Citizen's Coalition to Unlock the Vote

Each of these organizations received a \$5,000 grant. They will work with us in a process facilitated by Everyday Democracy, a national nonprofit based in Connecticut that supports organizing by helping people create the spaces and build skills to air difficult topics and address them effectively over the long term. With a \$25,000 grant from the foundation, Everyday Democracy will also develop a health care "Dialogue for Change" toolkit for use in communities.

Stay tuned to learn more about this innovative approach to strategic grantmaking!



Partner Spotlight: Connecticut Office of Health Strategy (OHS)

For years, Universal Health Care has been advocating for state government to take measures that make health care prices more affordable to average Connecticut consumers. In 2019, we joined forces with the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) and the Connecticut Health Foundation to develop the first “Health Care Affordability Modeling Tool” in the nation. A \$30,000 grant Universal Health Care awarded in late 2018 supports the stakeholder input process.

The tool will help decisionmakers and advocates assess how different health care policies impact residents’ ability to manage their health care premiums, deductibles and co-pays without sacrificing other basic needs or falling into debilitating debt. A calculator considers factors including health risk status, family composition, income and geography.

OHS and OSC are working on this innovative policy tool with the University of Washington and the Analytics Information Management System (AIMS) group at the University of Connecticut. The tool is expected to be ready for use in 2020.

Partnerships Come in Many Forms

Our success is built on partnership with like-minded organizations and individuals. We convene old and new partners to identify action priorities and winning strategies.

Our work was bolstered by a crucial partnership with United States of Care, a broad-based progressive national coalition. US of Care provided technical support and strategic guidance to the Foundation, legislative leaders and the State Comptroller’s office during the effort to pass the public option. Their team coordinated focus groups in Connecticut where small business owners shared their frustration with the high cost and poor coverage options available in our small group health insurance market. Evenly representative of democrats, republicans and independents, across affiliations, participants expressed strong support for a public option. We look forward to continued work with US of Care in 2020 and beyond.

Universal Health Care means EVERYBODY. Connecticut is home to 102,000 undocumented immigrants, 52,000 of whom have no health coverage despite working hard and paying taxes. They cannot sign up to buy insurance on the exchange, Access Health CT. They do not have access to Medicaid/HUSKY. Most are not offered coverage by employers. Even those who try to buy coverage in the private market face unnecessary barriers. Last year, we joined forces with CT Immigrant Rights Alliance and CT Students for a Dream to fight against this unfairness, help improve lives and provide peace of mind to immigrant families.

We partner with others in numerous ways, including as donors. Last year, many of you generously contributed of your time *and* treasure to achieving

**Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is the action arm and supporting organization of Connecticut Health Advancement and Research Trust.*

Financial Performance: 2019 Was a Very Good Year

Stock market performance was strong and the foundation's management controls were tight. Our assets continue to be managed by another valued partner in our work, the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven. Investments earned 16.7 percent return, or \$3,490,566 net of fees. The fair market value increased \$1,829,489 over 2018.

	As of December 31, 2019	As of December 31, 2018
Audited Statement of Financial Position		
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	135,217	155,056
Investments	23,793,725	21,697,556
Property & equipment, net	21,335	34,054
Other receivables	227,756	-
Prepaid expenses & other assets	23,023	36,305
Total Assets	24,201,056	21,922,971
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	152,382	52,177
Grants payable	-	30,500
Accrued payroll liabilities	48,070	46,127
Total Liabilities	200,452	128,804
Unrestricted Net Assets	24,000,604	21,794,167
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	-	-
Total Net Assets	24,000,604	21,794,167
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	24,201,056	21,922,971
Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets		
Investment Return Designated for Operations	1,310,680	1,385,200
Grants and Contributions Received	57,506	175,579
Interest, dividends & miscellaneous	18,321	20,157
	1,386,507	1,580,936
Operating Expenses	1,341,540	1,505,265
Results of Operations	44,967	75,671
Change in Net Assets	2,206,437	(2,519,613)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	21,794,167	24,313,780
Net Assets, End of Year	24,000,604	21,794,167

Thanks to all of you who support the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut and Connecticut Health Advancement and Research Trust!

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“My humanity is
bound up in
yours, for we can
only be **human**
together.”
—Desmond Tutu

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