

Why The Inner-City Foundation?

Experience We recently celebrated our 25th year of helping our neighbors in need. In the past 25+ years we have awarded more than \$30 million in grants to almost 200 Fairfield County organizations, affecting nearly every town and community in our county. We are experienced, and proven.

Knowledge We have a passionate, dedicated volunteer board committed to researching and vetting every grant request that comes through our door. Our unpaid team does the legwork to ensure that the organizations we support are providing an essential, critical service to the neediest residents of Fairfield County. We do the due diligence so you don't have to.

Credibility We are honored to have solid support from community leaders: Jack Welch, former Chairman & CEO of General Electric and a longtime friend and major supporter over the years, has once again stepped up with a leadership gift to kick off our 25th Year Appeal.

Efficiency Because of our 25+ years of experience, minimal staff, and dedicated, passionate volunteer board members, we are highly efficient.

Results The organizations we support are making a difference. Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport is sending 100% of this year's graduating class on to college. And since 2009, The New Covenant Center in Stamford has doubled the total meals served in their soup kitchen and food pantry, providing approximately 700,000 meals annually. We support organizations that fill a need today, and provide tools for tomorrow.

Geography We are local — we support organizations that provide assistance to our Fairfield County, Connecticut neighbors most in need — and we've been working with local education and social service organizations for a quarter century. We're right here, and we know the neighborhood.

Humanity The organizations we support provide the most basic human needs for our neighbors most in need: Food. Shelter. Clothing. Critical adult education, like learning the English language, or obtaining a GED. Life-altering childhood education in private schools, a path that can change the trajectory of a child's life.

A Simple Equation: Help + Hope = Possibility We support local organizations that strive to provide those struggling not only with the support and safety they need right now, but also with the tools they need tomorrow, for a healthy, productive life.

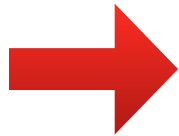
Why Here? Why Now?

Need is up Poverty is on the rise, with **35% of Connecticut households struggling to make ends meet**. About 150,000 households have income below the Federal Poverty Level and an additional 350,000 households are identified as ALICE* households, unable to meet the basic cost of living for the state.



28% of Fairfield County households are unable to meet the basic cost of living for the county, with 9% of households living below the Federal Poverty Level, and another 19% below the ALICE threshold. In Bridgeport, it's 55%. But it's everywhere. In Darien, it's 13%, New Canaan, 12%, Westport, 12%.

Funding is down Recent sweeping state budget cuts hit our most vulnerable neighbors the hardest, with more than **\$70 million cut** from Connecticut's departments of education and social services.



\$31 million cut from education funding for local municipalities
\$18 million cut from social services like food and shelter
\$22 million cut from mental health and addiction recovery services

It's Not All Gold Coast Connecticut poses some unique financial challenges, making it one of the most difficult places in the country to be if you're struggling.

- **High Cost of Survival.** In Connecticut, 20% of residents face an extreme housing burden, defined as housing costs that exceed 35% of income. Almost 30% of Fairfield County faces this burden, where the household survival rate for a family of four is almost three times the U.S. poverty rate.
- **Double Jeopardy.** Connecticut has among the nation's highest levels of income inequality, and residential segregation of families by income is rising more rapidly than elsewhere. **This means that being poor in Connecticut means you are at a more serious disadvantage than almost anywhere else in the nation.** Strong, mounting evidence suggests that this "double jeopardy" — exposure to multiple layers of disadvantage and being segregated from more economically stable neighborhoods nearby — is worse for health, child achievement and well-being than *any single indicator of poverty itself*.
- **The Rise of the Invisible Poor.** Over the past decade poverty in the suburbs has grown twice as fast as poverty in urban areas. The trend is driven by both poor people moving to the suburbs, and people in the suburbs getting poorer. With all the suburbs in Connecticut, we are now home to a great number of the new, "invisible" poor.

* (ALICE = Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed households earning more than the US poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county)