



CONNECTICUT
NETWORK
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2025

Annual REPORT

PREPARED BY
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OVERVIEW



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on another year of meaningful work at the Connecticut Network for Children and Youth, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the progress we've made together. It has been a year of reflection and deepened commitment to our mission.

Strategic planning is essential to any nonprofit as way to map our way towards our goals. This year staff and board spent the year honestly reviewing our strengths and challenges, trying new ideas, and agreeing on practical next steps for the years ahead.

As we look to the future, we are excited to continue building on the strong foundation we have laid, knowing that we can accomplish even more with your continued partnership. Thank you for being an essential part of our work bringing people together through strong local and statewide partnerships to help children, youth and families thrive.

Michelle Doucette Cunningham

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Doucette Cunningham".

Executive Director

MISSION

CTNCY engages in training, research, coalition-building, and advocacy to drive systems-level change to improve the lives of children and youth in Connecticut.

We bring people together through strong local and statewide partnerships to help children, youth, and families thrive.

VISION

All Connecticut children and youth are safe, healthy, happy and well-educated.

MEET THE TEAM



Michelle Doucette
Cunningham



Dr. Kenneth
Anthony



Barbara
Vita



Marla
Berrios



Khadija
Bshara



Monica Boeckmann
Whalen



Shawna Viola
Washington



Aridyan
Perez



Ashton
Gauthier



Daniel
Holland

LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR
TEAM BY
SCANNING THE
QR CODE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FY 2024-25

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Community Foundation of
Eastern CT
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Tauck Family Foundation
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WENDY GERBIER
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JULIE GOLDSTEIN
241 Sports

DON MALETO
CT Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

ANNETTE SANTANA
OPMAD

MAGGIE WINIARSKI
New Britain Parks & Recreation

AFTERSCHOOL

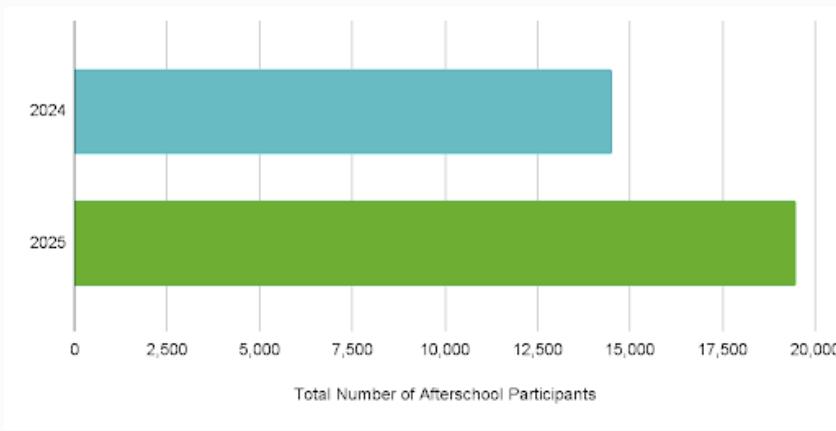
The Network continues to provide policy, advocacy, quality assurance, professional development, celebratory events for professionals in the field, roundtable discussions, conferences, STEM programming and more.

This year CTNCY hosted the Fun for the Field Resource Fair in May, the 4th Annual Lights On Afterschool Celebration in October and the Annual Afterschool Conference in November. These events allow professionals to attend workshops by leaders in the field and related to their afterschool needs.

Each year the field is recognized at our Lights On Afterschool Celebration. Award categories included Site Coordinator of the Year, Program Director of the Year, Direct Service Staff of the Year and Most "Lit" Program.

We also launched our Drive to Quality pledge, a commitment to delivering quality out-of-school time programming for Connecticut kids using the Connecticut Quality Standards for Out-of-School Time. We awarded 1 lucky program with \$1000 for their entry.

Participation in Connecticut State/Federally funded Afterschool Programs



Total of State Investment in Afterschool

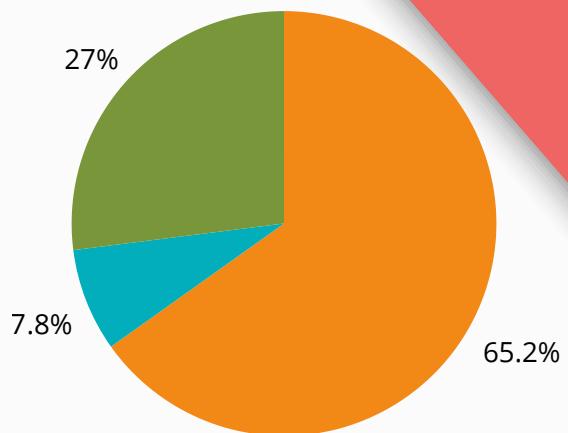
\$5.8 million in 2025

CT State Department of Education

Total Federal Investment in Afterschool:

\$10.9 million in 2025

Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC)



Our on-site training service stands out, reaching more individuals than any other part of our work. By sending experienced trainers to program sites, where they are able to provide customized content that is specifically targeted to meet program's most pressing staff training needs.

New in 2025

- Out-of-School Time Workforce Pathways Project
 - Researching the feasibility of a registered apprenticeship program for emerging program leaders in OST and related fields.
 - Paths for learning with paths for advancement and skill building
 - More information to come in 2026
- Launch of eLearning Academy (online Learning Management System)
 - Courses in leadership, program development, supervision, afterschool 101, and more.
 - Future plans include expanding the Connecticut After School Quality Improvement System (CT-ASQIS) to accompany CT-QSAT/CT-QSAG.
- Afterschool Leaders Roundtables
 - Back to our roots, we brought together more than 25 leaders from across Connecticut to discuss topics and issues that impact their program, staff, and students.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

STEM at CTNCY continued to grow in its work throughout 2025. CLASP STEM expanded to include the Core and Code Breakers Cohorts to build on the idea of educators in out-of-school time building communities and connection with those working professionally in the STEM fields.

Through these programs we were able to connect directly with STEM education resources like Lectec, the Mystic Seaport Museum, Technovation, Girls Who Code and Dinosaur State Park.

Additionally, through our ongoing funding support from the Connecticut NASA Space Grants Consortium and STEM Next we were able to continue making deeper connections within the community by supporting members of these cohort communities through evaluation tools like the PEAR Dimensions of Success (DOS) and soon, the Common Instrument Suite to support quality feedback while creating experiences and opportunities that capture a more detailed understanding of how STEM learning is working in programs across the state in OST.

The Network launched its first ever STEM Week, from November 3 through November 8th, celebrating National STEM Day.

STEM Week featured 8 virtual workshops from seven partners including the Connecticut Science Center, the Afterschool Alliance and featuring members of the 2025 CLASP STEM Core Cohort. This STEM Week event, culminated on National STEM Day (November 8th) at the the Annual Afterschool Conference featured a STEM workshop track plus a new STEM Hall showcasing STEM focused vendors, activities and opportunities including the mini-grant work of the members of CLASP STEM.

CLASP STEM Core Cohort members presented at the conference by sharing their work and the resources they gathered over the past year to 40 registrants from over 18 different programs across the state.



The ongoing efforts of the professional community in support and peer leadership have successfully sustained the heightened engagement of participants, providing more confident, enthusiastic, and high-quality STEM learning opportunities for youth throughout the state. We aspire for this momentum to continue, fostering greater connections and expanding into workforce learning opportunities for older youth in the years to come.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

This year the Connecticut Children's Collective initiative continued supporting and collaborating with early childhood agencies, childcare professionals, social service agencies, parent leadership organizations, and local communities.

- We provided 24 Support Grants to local early childhood collaboratives (LECCs) totaling nearly \$350,000 so LECCs could continue their work for their local communities.
- We offered extensive one-on-on coaching and support to nearly 40 communities as they transitioned their LECCs, as part of the newly legislated Early Start CT Program.
- We collaborated with the Office of Early Childhood's Parent Cabinet by supporting and coaching nearly 60 local parent ambassadors across the state.
- We managed over \$2 million of stabilization and transition grant funding to local communities pivoting their services and programs to the newly legislated local governance partners structure.
- We are very grateful and excited to be providing supports and services to parents, caregivers, providers, EC professionals, public schools, teachers, and local, grass-roots agencies all working toward ensuring that "Every Connecticut child grows up safe, healthy, happy, educated, connected, and employable."

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SEL4CT continued to expand professional learning opportunities that strengthen educators', youth workers', and community partners' social and emotional competencies.

- Integrated SEL into the "Make It Meaningful" Workshops for afterschool providers, deepening connections between academic enrichment and social emotional growth.
- Developed a new online SEL module - Enhancing SEL through Self-Awareness and the 3 Signature Practices - now featured in the Network's NEW e-Learning Academy.
- Delivered on-site trainings for afterschool program staff, including sessions for the YMCA Conference and for school districts.
- Created a Backpack Digital Series promoting SEL in early education.

These efforts collectively enhanced the quality of SEL practices in out-of-school time programs statewide.

In the first 6 months of 2025, SEL4CT communications grew substantially across platforms, increasing engagement and resource accessibility.

Members 2025	increase in membership	Instagram followers	Facebook followers
600	11%	342	188

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2025

(with comparative amounts at June 30, 2024)

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash	\$1,473,082	\$474,362
Grants Receivable	240,733	575,247
Prepaid expenses	7,653	12,722
Security deposit	4,019	4,019
Intangible asset, net	--	--
Operating lease right of use asset, net	255,625	293,689
Furniture and equipment, net	1,330	2,268
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,982,442	\$1,362,307
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$32,950	\$150,806
Accrued expenses	45,422	38,740
Refundable advances	324,797	201,233
Operating lease liability	261,167	295,194
TOTAL LIABILITIES	664,336	685,963
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		
Designated for Operations	1,318,106	676,344
	\$1,982,442	\$1,362,307

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2025

(with comparative amounts at June 30, 2024)

	2025	2024
REVENUE & SUPPORT		
Grants and support fees	\$5,571,367	\$ 2,372,808
Conference and workshop fees	143,472	52,425
Other income	41	7,024
Consulting	3,800	4,200
Contributions	105,308	76,150
TOTAL REVENUE SUPPORT	5,823,988	2,512,607
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$4,979,290	\$2,568,680
Management and general	189,665	115,544
Fundraising	13,271	18,341
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,182,226	2,702,565
Change in Net Assets	641,762	(189,958)
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Beginning of Year	676,344	866,302
End of Year	\$1,318,106	\$676,344

OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful to work alongside such incredible partners. These organizations help unite a network of people who are working together to help enable Connecticut children, families, and communities to thrive.



The Mott Foundation supports a national infrastructure of organizations dedicated to improving access and quality of afterschool programs for children, youth and families.



The National Afterschool Association is the professional membership association for people who work with and for youth during out-of-school time.



The Early Childhood Funders Collaborative brings the collective voice and resources of philanthropy to build and sustain a comprehensive early childhood system.



The Connecticut Council for Philanthropy is a community of funders working to create more just and thriving communities in Connecticut and beyond by helping its members connect and collaborate.



Funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the 50 State Network focuses on building quality, sustainability, policies that improve access and expand afterschool and summer opportunities for children and youth.



The Connecticut State Department of Education works to support and improve education in Connecticut, including support for afterschool and summer learning opportunities.



STEM Next Opportunity Fund strives to make out-of-school STEM opportunities a reality for millions of young people to help them thrive in STEM and beyond.



The Connecticut Science Center is dedicated to inspiring lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences at their 9-story museum on the Connecticut River.



The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood oversees a network of early childhood care, education, and development programs including afterschool programs and summer camps.



The Fund for Greater Hartford works to improve the lives of children and families by investing in their academic and social success.



The NASA Connecticut Space Grant Consortium is a federally mandated grant, internship, and scholarship program that encourages broader participation in NASA research programs and inspires the pursuit of STEM careers.



The Connecticut Project is a social change organization that brings together communities, ideas, and resources to improve systems and generate real-world outcomes for people who are lower-income or asset-limited.



The Ritter Family Foundation partners with organizations that are working to achieve equitable outcomes for children and families through community-based systems solutions.

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