



CONNECTICUT  
NETWORK  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CONNECTICUT  
AFTER  
SCHOOL  
NETWORK



Connecticut  
Children's  
Collective

# 2024

# Annual REPORT

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# WELCOME

*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 growth, movement, celebration, and deepened commitment to our mission.*

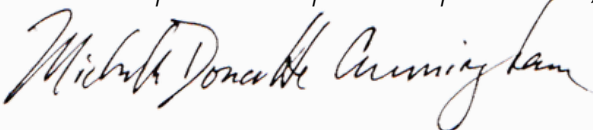
**Growth** in that we added our eleventh staff member, Parent Outreach Coordinator Janette Hernandez.

**Movement** in our office transition to a new space in Wethersfield.

**Celebration** of our 35th Anniversary with a Gala event where we honored two of our founders, Susan Krampitz and Tracey Lay; and

**Deepened Commitment** as we became the fiscal sponsor of three initiatives related to our mission and expanded our role re-granting funds to local children's collaboratives.

*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  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Network for Children and Youth

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



Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

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



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



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



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



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 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 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.



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.



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.

# OVERVIEW



The Connecticut Network for Children and Youth (CTNCY) is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on improving the lives of children, youth, and families across Connecticut. By bringing people together through strong local and statewide partnerships, CTNCY works to ensure that the wholistic needs of every child, youth, and family are met. Our mission is simple but powerful: "We bring people together through strong local and statewide partnerships to help children, youth, and families thrive."

At CTNCY, we envision a Connecticut where all children and youth are safe, healthy, happy, and well-educated. Our efforts are driven by the belief that we can create positive, lasting change by working collaboratively and embracing the unique needs of every individual. This vision serves as the foundation of everything we do, from community initiatives to statewide advocacy.

For 35 years, CTNCY has been honored to serve the children and families of Connecticut. Founded in 1989 as the Connecticut School Age Child Care Alliance (CSACCA) at the first statewide After School Conference, the organization evolved over time, changing its name in 2002 to the Connecticut After School Network. Since then, CTNCY has expanded its reach and influence, growing from a staff of two to a dedicated team of 11. Our work has expanded to include a wide range of impactful activities, such as advocating for key legislation, advising and improving program quality, expanding program capacity to support the social and emotional development of children, and supporting the growth of local early childhood collaboratives in communities across the state.

Our five core organizational values are at the center of our approach. We believe in **Leadership**, knowing that we accomplish great things when we come together to support children and youth. **Excellence** drives us to bring out the best in ourselves and those around us, striving for continuous improvement. **Engagement** fuels our efforts by fostering meaningful, joyful connections among partners and communities. **Inclusivity** is vital to our work, as we actively seek out and value diverse voices and perspectives. Finally, **Equity** is a guiding principle, as we aim to meet the unique needs of every child, ensuring fair opportunities for all.

Through these values, CTNCY remains committed to creating a brighter future for all of Connecticut's children and youth. Together, we can build a more inclusive, supportive, and prosperous state for the next generation.

# 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**



**Janette  
Hernandez**

LEARN MORE  
ABOUT OUR  
TEAM HERE



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FY 2023-2024

**SARAH MORAN**  
EdAdvance  
*Chair*

**DEB BATTIT**  
Community Foundation of  
Eastern CT  
*Vice Chair*

**KIM HEIN**  
Tauck Family Foundation  
*Secretary*

**WENDY GERBIER**  
Norwalk Housing Authority  
*Treasurer*

**ELWYN BREWSTER QUIRK  
ESQ.**  
Law Office of EB Quirk, LLC

**JULIE GOLDSTEIN**  
241 Sports

**DON MALETO**  
CT Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

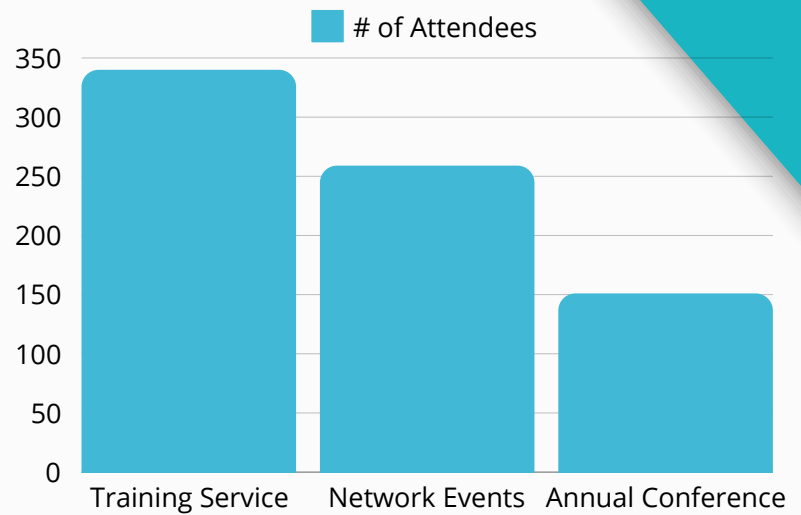
**ANNETTE SANTANA**  
OPMAD

**MAGGIE WINIARSKI**  
New Britain Parks & Recreation

The **Connecticut After School Network** is the organization's original initiative and served as the foundational structure for the creation of **Connecticut School Age Child Care Alliance (CSACCA)** 35 years ago. Today the work and reach of the initiative has grown far beyond its humble beginnings.

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

This year the Connecticut After School Network hosted the Fun for the Field Resource Fair in May, Lights On Afterschool Celebration in October and the Annual After School Conference in November. These events allow professionals to attend workshops by leaders in the field and related to their after school needs.



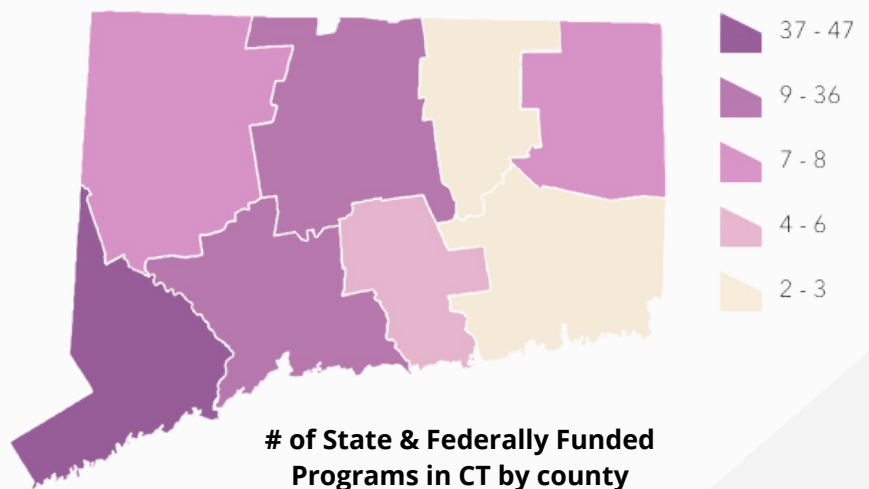
Our on-site training service stands out, reaching more individuals than any other part of our work. By sending experienced trainers to program sites, where are able to provide customized content that is specifically targeted to meet program's most pressing staff training needs.

<p><b>14,509</b></p> <p>Students in Federally &amp; State Funded After School</p>	<p><b>3046</b></p> <p>Average Daily After School Attendance</p>	<p><b>3119</b></p> <p>Students Attended 30 Days or More</p>
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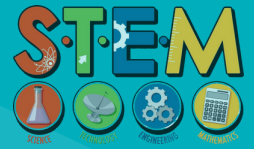
## Public Investment in Afterschool

**\$5.8 million in 2024**  
*CT State Department of Education*

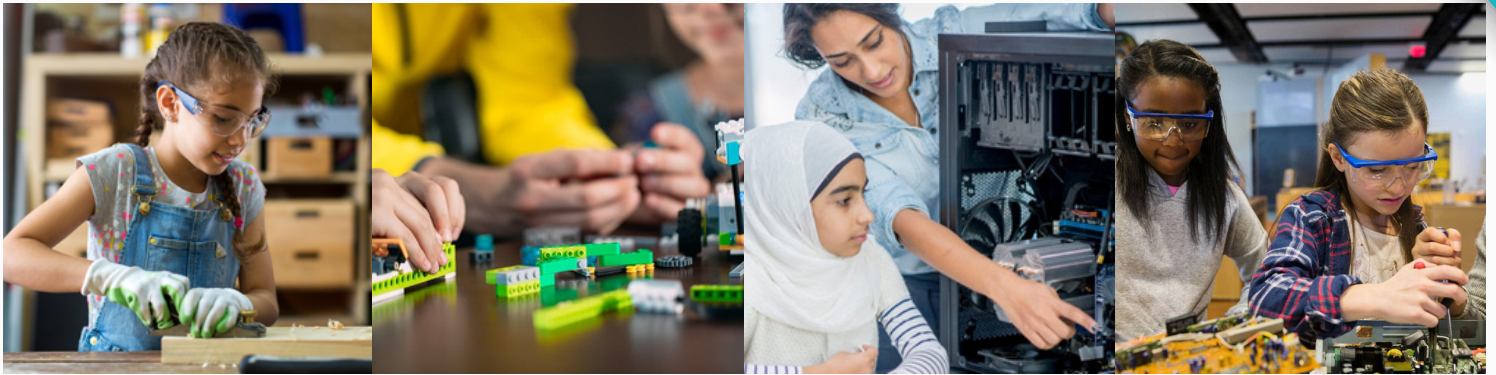
**\$10.9 million in 2024**  
*Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC)*



## A focus on **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)** after school helped us build students' essential skills



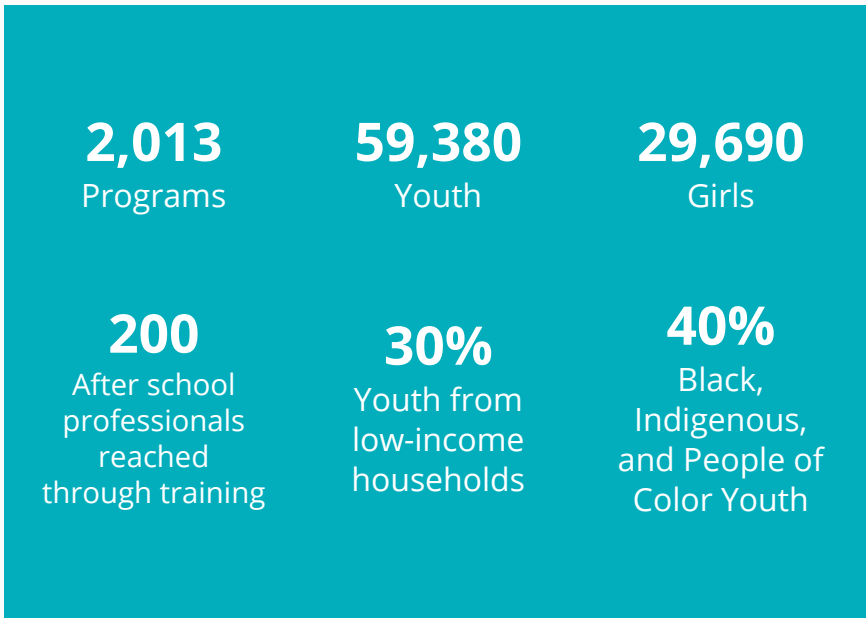
This year, CTNCY and CASN increased afterschool staff skills and knowledge to support more STEM learning throughout the state by providing new STEM resources and training opportunities our Coaching and Learning of Afterschool Professionals (CLASP) STEM Program. This cohort-based program, funded in part by the Connecticut NASA Space Grants Consortium, allowed afterschool professionals to join in hands-on learning as they visited informal science spaces statewide. Trips included The Eli Whitney Museum & Workshop, The Sacred Heart Discovery Center, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, Meig's Point Nature Center and The New England Air Museum.



We are transforming the pathways into engineering, the sciences, and advanced manufacturing together with our partners. Through a variety of training, resources, and networking we are actively building connections to create equal opportunities to keep children engaged and learning STEM in out-of-school time hours across the state.

**Together women and people of color make up over 50% of Connecticut's population, however, they are much less likely to earn STEM degrees or become STEM professionals, especially in computing and engineering. CTNCY is working to close these gaps. As part of STEM Next's national initiative, the Million Girls Moonshot, the Connecticut Afterschool Network is building the capacity of afterschool and summer programs to engage kids in STEM, especially girls and under-served youth.**

## STEM Reach in CT After School & Summer Programs



## The **Connecticut Children's Collaborative** connects and supports local children's collaboratives in towns and cities across the state.



The Collective, in collaboration with state agencies and local collaboratives, is co-creating an effective early childhood system that involves parents, provides, schools, government, health and social/human services. Together we are building a more efficient and effective system to address the needs of the whole child.

### In 2024, we...

**provided 15 professional development opportunities and community collaboratives.**

**supported 65 parent ambassadors in 24 local collaboratives with guidance, training and coaching.**

**advocated for systemic change by bringing awareness of the transformational work of the local collaboratives.**

**increased parental involvement in local collaboratives' work by 33%.**

The Collective has been instrumental this year in helping the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood begin implementation of the recommendations of its Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Care, providing essential feedback to those setting policy priorities and supporting quality improvement efforts.



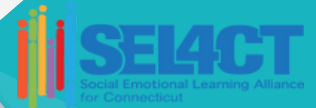
### **Parents Connecting Parents**

This year, we worked closely with the OEC on Parents Connecting Parents, a pilot project in six cities: Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Britain, New London, New Haven, and Hartford. These six communities were chosen because they include neighborhoods with high rates of concentrated poverty.

The project employs parents from the local community to reach out to other families in their neighborhoods to help them access services they need for their young children. The Collective provides training, coaching and support to these six local collaboratives undertaking this work, as well as thought leadership in the project's design, implementation and evaluation.



**SEL4CT – the Social and Emotional Learning Alliance is the Network’s latest initiative. Social and emotional learning (SEL) has made significant strides nationwide in recent years, gaining recognition for its emphasis on emotional awareness, self-regulation, and relationship-building, all of which are essential for thriving children and youth.**



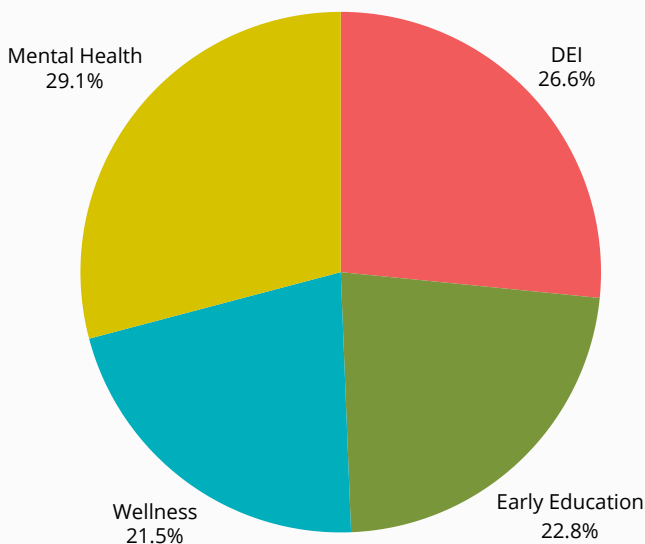
SEL skills are shaped not only through formal instruction but also by children's families and caregivers, which is why the Connecticut Network for Children and Youth (CTNCY) launched its newest initiative, SEL4CT.

SEL training is being adopted in schools for students, educators, administrators, out-of-school programs for staff, and even in business settings to improve communication and team dynamics.



**These metrics underscore our efforts to broaden access to our programs, services, and resources.**

**After a statewide survey of our members, these were the top key areas where professional development is needed.**



In 2024, SEL4CT led workshops at local conferences, reaching over 200 Connecticut residents impacting 3000 CT youth.

Additionally, we organized and facilitated free CLASP SEL Professional Development sessions for nine out-of-school program leaders nationwide. This growth and engagement demonstrate the value of our work and should inspire continued support from stakeholders.

We envision SEL becoming a standard part of community initiatives. For example, our partners at Wethersfield Public Schools coordinated a comprehensive communication campaign about SEL, reaching over 4,400 parents and caregivers, with materials translated into over 30 languages.

In March 2024, SEL4CT presented at the National SEL4US SEL Week Summit, which attracted over 2,000 attendees nationwide and a social media campaign.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2024 (with comparative amounts at June 30, 2023)

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$474,362	\$1,226,431
Grants Receivable	575,247	17,074
Prepaid expenses	12,722	9,739
Security deposit	4,019	1,463
Intangible asset, net	--	4,583
Operating lease right of use asset, net	293,689	--
Furniture and equipment, net	2,268	--
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,362,307</b>	<b>\$ 1,259,290</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Accounts payable	\$150,806	\$4,440
Deferred revenue	38,740	22,646
Operating lease liability	201,223	365,902
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>685,963</b>	<b>392,988</b>
<b>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</b>		
Designated for Operations	676,344	866,302
	<b>\$1,362,307</b>	<b>\$1,259,290</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Statement of Activities

June 30, 2024

(with comparative amounts at June 30, 2023)

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>		
Grants and support fees	\$ 2,372,808	\$ 1,075,048
Conference and workshop fees	52,425	22,825
Other income	7,024	456
Consulting	4,200	14,575
Contributions	76,150	82,330
<b>TOTAL REVENUE SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$2,512,607</b>	<b>\$1,195,234</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	\$2,568,680	\$1,144,159
Management and general	115,544	104,577
Fundraising	18,341	12,072
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,702,565</b>	<b>\$1,260,808</b>
Change in Net Assets	(189,958)	(65,574)
<b>NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>		
Beginning of Year	866,302	931,876
End of Year	\$676,344	\$866,302

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