



CT Poll: \$461 million plan for community nonprofits broadly popular

On behalf of the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Change Research surveyed 798 registered voters in Connecticut from March 25-28, 2021 about community nonprofits.¹ Below are the key findings.

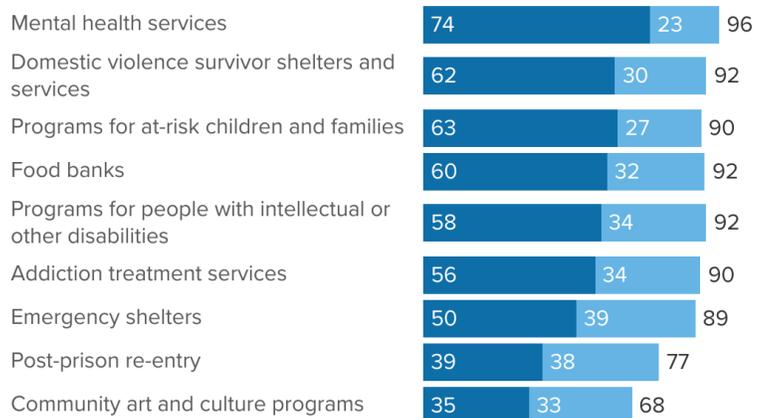
Voters believe community nonprofits provide vital services

Large majorities of voters across the demographic, geographic, and ideological divide consider the services provided by community nonprofits important to communities like theirs.

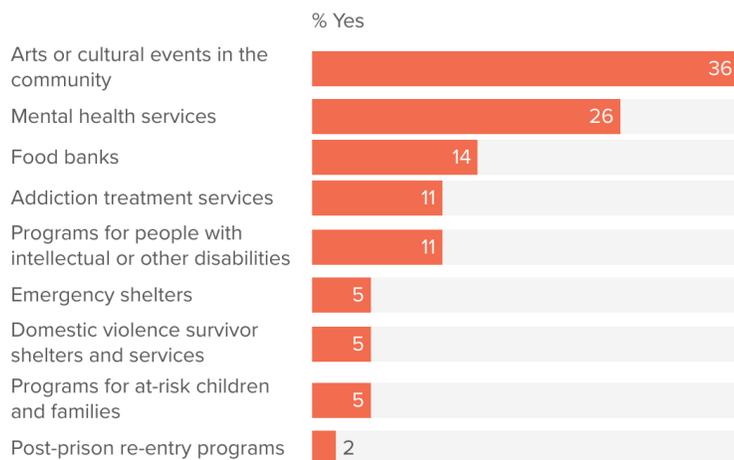
The importance of community nonprofits has never been as apparent as during the pandemic, and will continue to be important to the recovery: **A 72% majority believe that “community nonprofits are uniquely well suited to help recover from crisis because they know what communities need and how to deliver it.”**

How important are each of the following services to communities like yours in Connecticut?

● Very important ● Somewhat important



Have you or your family ever used, visited, or been enrolled in any of the following services or programs?



According to this survey, **a 56% majority of Connecticut voters report that they or their family have used services or been enrolled in programs provided by community nonprofits, with many families using multiple services or programs.** Voters were the most likely to report participating in arts and culture programs and using mental health services, but a significant proportion of families use food banks, addiction treatment services, and programs for people with disabilities. Reported enrollment in programs was also spread across the state, just as community nonprofits are.

¹ Change Research surveyed 798 registered voters in Connecticut from March 25-28, 2021. Respondents were recruited into an online survey instrument via Dynamic Online Sampling. Post-stratification was done on gender, age, education, region, ethnicity, and past vote choice.

There is bipartisan support for a *long-term* funding plan for these vital community nonprofits

Large majorities of voters support increased state funding for the important services provided by community nonprofits. For instance, at least nine-in-ten Connecticut voters support increased funding for mental health services for children and adults, support for children and adults with developmental disabilities, shelters and services for women and children experiencing domestic violence, services to treat and support at-risk children, and homeless shelters and food banks.

Voters are particularly likely to believe this support is necessary as the state recovers from COVID-19. The following arguments are the most convincing reasons for supporting this plan:

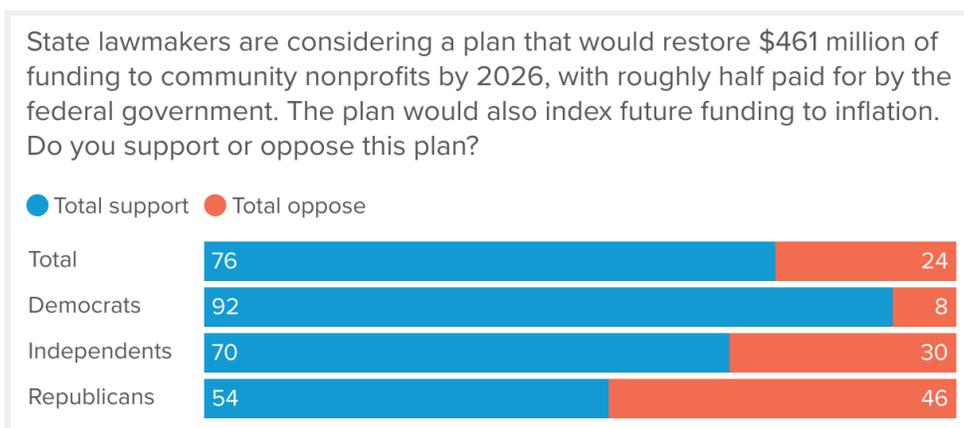
76%
convincing

Because of the pandemic, too many families are struggling with housing and food insecurity, experts are warning about a mental health crisis, and substance abuse and domestic violence are up. The state needs to ensure that the community nonprofits have the full funding they need to address these long term effects of COVID-19.

Community nonprofits are on the frontlines of the pandemic, providing food, emergency housing, and other essential services. This required them to spend money creating telehealth services, procuring PPE, and covering hazard pay despite taking in fewer donations. Now we must give these frontline heroes the funds they deserve so they survive the pandemic too.

That said, voters do not want a short-term budget increase, they want a long-term funding plan. **A large 88% majority of voters believes that “too often the Connecticut state government is making short-term fixes instead of investing in long-term plans.”**

The specific funding plan proposed by the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance -- restoring \$461 million in funding by 2026, with roughly half paid for by the federal government, and indexing future funding to inflation -- is supported by 76% of voters (43% strongly support), including majorities of Democrats, independent and Republican voters.



Leaders in the state legislature begin this poll with only 50% approval (versus 57% approval for Governor Lamont). This long-term funding plan for community non-profits is a sure political winner for these leaders: **69% of voters are more likely to support a candidate in Connecticut who votes for this plan to increase funding for community nonprofits programs** (versus just 20% less likely to support). This includes 88% of base Democrats, 60% of independents, and a 45% plurality of Republicans.