

Table of Contents

Guidance for Newcomers:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Education.....	3
<i>Background Information</i>	3
<i>Relevant Organizations</i>	6
Immigrants, Refugees, and Internationals	11
<i>Background Statistics</i>	11
<i>Relevant Organizations</i>	13
Food Access.....	17
<i>Background Statistics</i>	17
<i>Relevant Organizations</i>	19
Housing	23
<i>Background Statistics:</i>	23
<i>Relevant Organizations:</i>	25
Healthcare.....	28
<i>Background Statistics</i>	28
<i>Relevant Organizations:</i>	29
Wealth, Income, Employment	34
<i>Background Statistics</i>	34
<i>Relevant Organizations</i>	36
Other Organizations, Studies, and Community Resources.....	38

Introduction:

- ❖ Ideas for those seeking a low-commitment volunteer opportunity:
 - If looking for one-time volunteer opportunities with no long-term commitment, you should sign up for United Way of Greater New Haven's newsletter or follow them on social media. Oftentimes, this organization will seek out volunteers for specific, short-term projects, events, or initiatives. See the last section of this document for more details.
 - The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry allows for week-by-week sign up for specific shifts. You can volunteer as desired—packaging, sorting, and distributing food!
- ❖ For those seeking structure and some commitment:
 - If desiring to work in education, New Haven Reads or the New Haven Public Library offer simple, structured environments to tutor children. If you do not desire to work one on one with a child, New Haven Reads is always looking for volunteers for its book bank!
- ❖ For those seeking a long-term volunteering opportunity:
 - Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven requires a one-year commitment of two, 1.5-2 hour sessions each week, tutoring one to two individuals.
 - IRIS CT offers a variety of volunteering opportunities, working within the organization and with immigrants. You can learn more about potential volunteering opportunities here: <https://irisct.org/volunteer/>

Education

Background Information

- ❖ New Haven Public School System: <https://www.nhps.net/schools>
 - Total Number of Students in the New Haven County Public School System (2019-2020): **20,468**
 - Classroom Teachers (FTE)¹: **1,558.40**
 - Student/Teacher Ratio: **13.13**
 - Student/Teacher Ratio for the State of Connecticut: **12.3**²
 - Average Student/Teacher Ratio for the US: **16.0**³
 - Students with IEPs⁴: **3,415**
- ❖ **86%** of people in New Haven aged 25 years of older have either graduated from high school, have completed the GED, or have some other equivalent credential
 - **Meaning: 14%** of people in New Haven aged 25 years or older **do not** have a high school or high school equivalent education
 - *Smallest percentage of population in comparison to all the other places in the metro area (for example, Woodmont's average is 98% and North Haven's is 96%)
 - *Lower than the US average which is: 88%
 - *Lower than the Connecticut average which is: 91%
- ❖ **~46%** of adults aged 25 years or older in New Haven, CT do not have more than a high school level education.
- ❖ School Dropout Rate: **14%**
 - *Connecticut Rate: **9%**
 - *National Rate: **12%**
 - Chronic absenteeism is the main cause of dropping out. In general, some key causes of chronic absenteeism: bad grades, bullying, illness, caring for another family member, mental or emotional health issues, difficulties with housing or food.⁵
 - <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/As-some-students-don-t-care-to-log-on-15828601.php>
 - <https://www.courant.com/coronavirus/hc-news-coronavirus-remote-learning-missing-students-20201019-hyn6jcepibdivkvpbr427ha7yq-story.html>
 - <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Officials-More-than-30-percent-of-New-Haven-16044114.php>

¹ FTE = "Full Time Equivalent"

² https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_208.40.asp

³ https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_208.40.asp

⁴ Individualized Education Program for students with disabilities

⁵ <https://www.naesp.org/resource/six-causes-and-solutions-for-chronic-absenteeism/>

- <https://www.ctpost.com/news/coronavirus/article/Thousands-haven-t-shown-up-for-school-this-year-16026252.php>
- ❖ Funding is a major problem in the Connecticut Public School System.
 - High-enrollment, high-poverty districts, on average, have the highest costs and lowest cost-adjusted spending. A large portion of students in the state's public-school system are enrolled in under-funded districts resulting in student underperformance.⁶
 - For Further Reading:
 - <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2021/02/26/lamont-budget-devastating-may-cost-nhps-9-million-over-two-years/>
 - https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/schools_cfo_gov_budget_devastating/
 - <https://ctmirror.org/2020/09/17/school-funding-falls-far-short-of-leveling-the-playing-field-for-ct-students/>
- ❖ The number of children from low-income families in CT public schools has increased by 28,200 in the past decade.
 - These low-income students overwhelmingly showed up in schools that already had high concentrations of poverty.⁷
- ❖ There are statewide shortages of staff members in the following areas:
 - bilingual education, mathematics, special education, school psychologist, science, speech and language pathologist, TESOL, World Languages.⁸
- ❖ New Haven has a low ratio of academic counselors to students.
 - There are 39 total academic counselors in the NHPS and nearly 20,000 students.⁹ That's one academic counselor for every 512 students compared to the recommended ratio of at least 1 counselor for every 250 students.¹⁰
- ❖ Public Schools in New Haven School District have an average math proficiency score of 22% (versus the Connecticut public school average of 47%) and reading proficiency score of 35% (versus the 58% statewide average).¹¹
 - Proficiency scores have increased between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, though scores have not yet been released or updated to reflect 2019-2020 school year.

⁶ <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/227941/1/1733298142.pdf> ("Estimating the cost function of Connecticut public K-12 education: Implications for inequity and inadequacy in school spending")

⁷ <https://ctmirror.org/2017/09/28/the-state-of-cts-public-schools-in-charts/>

⁸ <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/connecticut/new-haven-school-district/902790-school-district/high>

⁹ https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/districtsearch/district_detail.asp?ID2=0902790

¹⁰ <https://edtrustmain.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/10141154/School-Counselors-Matter-in-Massachusetts-February-2019.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/connecticut/new-haven-school-district/902790-school-district/high>

- For further reading on differences in academic performance, disciplinary measures, and absenteeism between different demographics:
http://edsight.ct.gov/Output/District/HighSchool/0930011_201819.pdf
- ❖ Sources for Further Reading:
 - Article on Teacher Diversity in NHPS:
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/school_partnerships_teacher_diversity/
 - General Data on Educational Scoring in New Haven:
<https://www.towncharts.com/Connecticut/Education/New-Haven-city-CT-Education-data.html>
 - Research on segregation in NHPS and its connection to residential segregation:
<https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/conntemp53&div=4&id=&page=>
 - More information on education funding in CT:
<https://ctschoolfinance.org/issues/how-ct-funds-education>
 - Article on Four-Year Graduation Rates in CT High Schools:
<https://ctmirror.org/2020/05/27/one-in-nine-ct-high-school-students-dont-graduate-in-four-years/>

Relevant Organizations: Education

❖ Bridges of Hope

- About: This organization is a collaboration between different New Haven area churches who work to transform the city through a few different avenues. Namely, Bridges of Hope runs a mentoring program which focuses on personal and educational development.
- Website: <https://www.bridgesnewhaven.org/about.html>
- Volunteer Opportunities:
<https://www.bridgesnewhaven.org/mentoring.html>
 - Youth Mentoring Program (grades K-8) offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening from 5-7pm
 - Teen Mentoring Program for grades 9-12 that runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-7pm at a school in New Haven

❖ New Haven Public School System

- About: The New Haven Public School system refers to the schools that fall within the New Haven County district. Volunteers can serve in a variety of capacities.
- Website: <https://www.nhps.net/Page/346>
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Tutor
 - Mentor
 - Classroom/Librarian Assistant
 - Other opportunities available at specification

❖ Experience Corps Tutoring through AARP

- About: The experience corps is a tutoring program set up by AARP to match older adults with younger students for the purposes of mentorship and education. AARP works directly with school systems in order to facilitate the program.
 - Learn More: <https://www.cfgnh.org/articles/experience-corps-creates-opportunities-for-young-students-and-older-volunteers>
- Website: <https://www.aarp.org/experience-corps/experience-corps-volunteer/experience-corps-cities-new-haven.html>
- Volunteer Opportunity: tutoring students in the New Haven public school system

❖ Music Haven: <https://www.musichavenct.org/volunteer-form>

- About: Music Haven empowers and connects young people through exceptional tuition-free music education, mentoring, and performance by

our resident musicians in the heart of New Haven, giving all kids a chance to play.

- Volunteers would primarily help with:
 - Tutoring
 - Events
 - Office Work

- ❖ New Haven Free Public Library: <https://nhfpl.org/adults/volunteer-at-nhfpl/>
 - About: Provides access to literature, technology, and education in order to increase literacy, further education, and empower members of the New haven community.
 - Requires a volunteer application: <https://nhfpl.org/adults/volunteer-at-nhfpl/>
 - Positions open in September 2021
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Volunteer Generalist: assist the library staff in basic duties
 - Reading Buddies Program: a position for teens who are paired with young children
 - Tutoring: can specify which subjects you would like to tutor in
 - Library Programs
 - Teaching Technology: can specify which technology you would like to teach
 - Other that is up to your specification

- ❖ New Haven Reads
 - About: Provides books and tutoring services to school-age children in the New haven area. Requires a volunteer application.
 - Website: https://newhavenreads.org/get_involved/volunteer
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Weekly Tutor for one hour per week
 - *additional training required
 - Book Bank worker for 2-3 hours per week
 - *training provided during first shift
 - Worker for Field Trips

- ❖ Concepts for Adaptive Learning
 - Note: all volunteering is ***VIRTUAL***
 - About: The goal of the organization is to provide basic technological assistance and education to adults and teens. In the words of the organization, "To become a CfAL volunteer, you don't have to be a tech expert...you just have to be "tech savy"!"
 - Website for Volunteering: : <https://www.cfalct.org/volunteer>

- ❖ ConnCAT Youth Programs
 - About: After-school arts and technology programs for school-aged children.
 - Website: <https://conncat.org/youth-programs>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: volunteers would assist in after-school education of students, with a focus on the arts and digital arts.
 - If interested in volunteering, contact Stephen Driffin at (203) 823-9823 or email sdriffin@conncat.org

- ❖ Literacy Volunteers:
 - About: “We ask Tutors to commit to 1 year, one or two sessions per week, each session lasting 1.5 - 2.0 hours each. If you become a tutor, we will provide you with training and match you with one or more students. You may teach adult students English conversation skills, reading or math. You might help them prepare for the citizenship exam, apply for jobs and meet other specific goals. What you teach depends on your areas of interest and the needs or goals of the individual student.”
 - Website:
 - Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford: <https://lvgh.org/volunteers/>
 - Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven: <https://lvagnh.org/volunteers/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages: “Our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program helps adults improve their comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of English. Your tutoring helps them communicate better with their children’s teachers, order a pizza on the phone, or read the directions on a prescription bottle. Some students go on to take college courses.”
 - Basic Literacy: “Our Basic Literacy program helps adult students improve their understanding of the written word. They may want to learn to read to grandchildren, get a driver’s license, earn a GED, or even become a minister. Your program manager will assign the textbook that is best suited to your student’s reading level.”

- ❖ LEAP (Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership) Inc
 - About: “College and high school student counselors provide LEAP’s direct services to younger children. They help with homework, provide emotional support, lead classroom literacy instruction, and teach swim

lessons, cooking classes and computer science. Their work is not easy as the systemic challenges faced by LEAP families are significant: The neighborhoods served by LEAP have child poverty rates ranging from 35% to 58%, more than three times the Connecticut average of 15%.”

- Website: <https://www.leapforkids.org/volunteer-intern>
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Specifically, for college and high school students.
 - Provide tutoring and mentorship to school-age children.
- ❖ New HYTEs
- About: Provides mentorship, instruction, and tennis coaching to economically disadvantaged youth in the New Haven area.
 - Website: https://newhytes.org/?page_id=1107
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Offers volunteering opportunities for tennis instructors, academic tutors, and special projects volunteers who assist in areas such as research and marketing.
- ❖ Squash Haven
- About: An organization which provides academic support, encourages community engagement, and squash coaching to support New Haven youth development.
 - Website: <https://www.squashhaven.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Tutoring: help with homework one-on-one, lead enrichment classes, and facilitate study hall.
 - Squash Volunteers: coach in both individual and group settings.
 - If interested in either form of volunteering, contact Squash Haven at mike@squashhaven.org
- ❖ Solar Youth
- About: Solar Youth is a nonprofit organization that focuses on connecting urban youth with support systems and educational opportunities within the New Haven community.
 - Website: <https://solaryouth.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: <https://solaryouth.org/get-involved/opportunities/>
 - Mainly, volunteers work alongside students on various service projects during specific days.
 - To stay up to date on opportunities, call the Solar Youth office at 203-387-4189.

❖ Marrakech

- About: Marrakech offers programs for “individuals who face barriers to securing employment, connecting to necessary supportive services, accessing housing, and participating fully as contributing members of the community.”
- Website: <https://www.marrakechinc.org/>
- Volunteer Opportunities: <https://www.marrakechinc.org/volunteer/>
 - Accepts both short and long-term projects.
 - Community service projects which vary based on the program and corporation.
 - Taking Initiative Center: individuals, groups, etc. can prepare and serve a hot meal.
 - East Street Arts: volunteers assist artisans with making and creating their art
 - Quality of Life Activities: help run group events or become a buddy with someone within the program

❖ FaithActs

- Does not currently have any open volunteering positions but is an organization created by individuals with a faith background and is dedicated to education reform at the level of policy and politics. If you want to get involved, emailing them may be ideal.
- Website: <https://faithacts.org/>

Immigrants, Refugees, and Internationals

Background Statistics

- ❖ **16.7%** of New Haven residents are foreign-born.¹² The most common birthplaces are India, Jamaica, and Ecuador.
- ❖ **~36%** of people over the age of five years old in the city of New Haven speak a language other than English at home.¹³
- ❖ East Haven and Hartford are sanctuary cities—meaning, they will not enforce or allow for the enforcement of ICE warrants for deportation.¹⁴ New Haven is not a sanctuary city, though it has taken steps for immigrant protection through an executive order which:¹⁵
 - prohibits the NHPD from asking about immigration status unless required by state federal law
 - prohibits city employees from engaging in activities designed to determine one's immigration status
 - prohibits city employees from disclosing confidential information such as immigration status
 - prohibits city institutions from using resources to inquire about immigration status
 - prohibits the detainment or arrest of a person on the belief that she or he is not present legally in the US unless required by law
- ❖ There are several organizations which the state of Connecticut contracts out for refugee resettlement:
 - Catholic Charities Migration, Refugee and Immigration Services
 - Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
 - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services
 - Jewish Federation of CT
 - Connecticut Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations
- ❖ ELs (or English Learners) are defined as students who lack sufficient mastery of English to assure equal educational opportunity in the regular school program. New Haven as one of the highest EL percentage of district students at 17%. Around 15% of ELs were immigrants in the 2019-2020 school year.¹⁶
- ❖ Further Reading:
 - <https://ctmirror.org/2021/08/20/afghan-refugees-arrive-in-connecticut-as-resettlement-agency-calls-for-assistance/>
 - https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/category/immigrant_tales/

¹² <https://www.biggestuscities.com/demographics/ct/new-haven-city>

¹³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/newhavencityconnecticut>

¹⁴ <https://cis.org/Map-Sanctuary-Cities-Counties-and-States>

¹⁵ <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/New-Haven-to-strengthen-sanctuary-city-15428372.php>

¹⁶ <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Performance/Research-Library/EL-DEMOGRAPHICS-10012020.pdf>

- <https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/ccif/>
- <https://www.ctpost.com/news/article/CT-refugee-agencies-look-to-help-ease-border-16045175.php>

Relevant Organizations: Immigrants

- Sanctuary Kitchen
 - About: “We host cooking classes, a supper club meals, and other culinary events, all led by immigrants and refugees from around the world. Experience the cuisines of Mexico, The Dominican Republic, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and more! We also run a catering social enterprise that provides authentic, multicultural catering and food products that support employment, professional training and integration of refugees and immigrants in Greater New Haven.”
 - Website: <https://www.sanctuarykitchen.org/get-involved>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeySDKqfeGUrVTzDqYOGtjqrZzx5NGuWXo_o1KySDLbr_sihg/viewform
 - Volunteer as an interpreter (Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Dari, French, Spanish, or Swahili).
 - Volunteer in the kitchen, assist with event set-up and clean up, help with food preparation, sell products at farmers markets, provide transportation, etc.

- Apostle Immigrant Services
 - About: this organization helps with applications for permanent residence, petitions for family members, citizenship, U visas and VAWA cases for victims of domestic violence, green card renewals, employment authorization, DACA, and TPS
 - Website: <https://www.apostleimmigrantservices.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: this organization is seeking...
 - Translators (primarily in the Spanish and French languages)
 - Legal Researchers
 - Office Support
 - To volunteer, [contact Sr. Mary Ellen at 203-752-9068 ext. 10](#)

- IRIS CT
 - About: “Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut’s communities. Welcoming persecuted people from other countries is America’s most noble tradition. IRIS helps newcomers on the road to self-sufficiency by providing lifesaving support during their transition to life in the United States.”
 - Website: <https://irisct.org/volunteer/>

- ***application required***: <https://irisct.org/volunteer-application/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: https://irisct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Summer-Volunteer-Positions-6_10_21-2.docx.pdf
- Elena's Light¹⁷
 - About: founded by a refugee from Afghanistan. Provides accessible ESL education to immigrants and refugees in New Haven and North Haven CT. (****allows for virtual volunteering****)
 - Website: <https://www.elenaslight.org/become-a-volunteer>
 - If seeking more information, email development@elenaslight.org
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Primarily looking for ESL tutors but open to other volunteer services
- Bridges ESL (for Yale students)
 - About: "Bridges ESL meets every Saturday to provide free ESL lessons for immigrants and visiting internationals in New Haven who want to improve their written and spoken English. Through our one-on-one tutoring sessions, these individuals will acquire the English proficiency, communication skills, and confidence needed to pursue employment, obtain education/ citizenship, and to convey their ideas effectively on a day-to-day basis.
 - Website: <https://campuspress.yale.edu/bridges/for-tutors/>
 - Email bridgesesl@gmail.com with any questions about the application and tutoring process.
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Provide English-language tutoring.
- Springs Learning Center
 - About: "The Springs Learning Center is an educational project established and supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. We provide a holistic literacy program for underserved adult learners, with a special emphasis on English as a Second Language (ESL)."
 - Website: <https://springslearning.org/volunteer/>
 - If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, please call or email the Center – (203) 787-1025 or

¹⁷ This organization may be an ideal place for a group of volunteers from St. John's.

- Website:
 - <https://www.juntainc.org/copy-of-diaper-delivery>
 - <https://www.juntainc.org/copy-of-social-services>
 - <https://www.juntainc.org/copy-of-advancement>
- While this organization does not offer any explicit volunteering opportunities, it may be worth your while to email Victor Torres, the after-school program coordinator to see if any help is needed or appreciated: victor.torres@juntainc.org

Food Access

Background Statistics

- ❖ Food insecurity “refers to a household’s limited or access to adequate nutrition.”
- ❖ More than **400,000** Connecticut residents struggle with hunger¹⁸
- ❖ More than **117,000** children are food insecure in the state¹⁹
- ❖ Non-white households and households with children have a higher rate of food insecurity than the national average.²⁰
 - National Average: **10.5%**
 - Households with Children: **13.6%**
 - Black, non-Hispanic Households: **19.1%**
 - Hispanic Households: **15.6%**
- ❖ 2018: number of food insecure people in New Haven County was projected to be **~104,000 people** or **12%** of the population. 2020: the number of food insecure people in New Haven County was projected to be **~139,000 or 16%** of the population. That’s an increase of nearly **35,000 people**.²¹
 - New Haven city had a slightly higher percentage of food insecure residents in 2018: **22% of the population**. In comparison, the Connecticut rate was **12% in 2018**.²²
- ❖ Food insecurity during COVID-19 has had a greater negative effect on children. In 2018, the number of food insecure children in New Haven County was projected to be **~28,000 children or 16%** of the total child population. In 2020, the number of food insecure children in New Haven County was projected to be **~40,000 children or 23%** of the total child population. That’s an increase of nearly 12,000 children.²³
- ❖ The experience of food insecurity is a major predictor of physical and mental health outcomes. Hunger can predict chronic illness in children, impact physical growth, limit brain development, and cause particular forms of anxiety and depression. Food insecurity is also a major factor in educational achievement and expected income.²⁴
- ❖ The long-term psychological effects of food insecurity operate according to a dose-response relationship. Meaning, that any decrease in the degree of food insecurity results in a decrease in the physical effects of that insecurity on a given individual.²⁵ In other words, every little bit actually does help!

¹⁸ <https://www.ctfoodbank.org/about-us/hunger-in-connecticut/>

¹⁹ <https://www.ctfoodbank.org/about-us/hunger-in-connecticut/>

²⁰ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/rpt/pdf/2020-R-0329.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/rpt/pdf/2020-R-0329.pdf>

²² https://www.ctdatahaven.org/sites/ctdatahaven/files/Hunger_10272017_319495_284_11205_v3.pdf

²³ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/rpt/pdf/2020-R-0329.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.apa.org/advocacy/socioeconomic-status/hunger.pdf>

²⁵ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1189045.pdf>

❖ For Further Reading:

- “The State of Hunger in New Haven”:
https://www.ctdatahaven.org/sites/ctdatahaven/files/Hunger_10272017_319495_284_11205_v3.pdf
- “Hunger in Connecticut”: <https://www.ctfoodbank.org/about-us/hunger-in-connecticut/>
 - Helpful Resource: Map of Food Insecurity
 - <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2018/child/connecticut/county/new-haven>
- “Food Insecurity in Connecticut”: <https://cga.ct.gov/2020/rpt/pdf/2020-R-0329.pdf>
- An older article, but one which highlights some of the disparities in food insecurity—“Hunger on Rise in New Haven”:
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/hungry_in_new_haven/
- “Nonprofit Organizations Address Food Insecurity with New Haven Community”: <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2020/09/30/nonprofit-organizations-address-food-insecurity-with-new-haven-community/>
- “Mini-Documentary Shows the Face of Hunger in New Haven”:
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/mini-documentary_shows_the_face_of_hunger_in_new_haven/

Relevant Organizations: Food Access

❖ Connecticut Food Bank

- About: “Last year, CT Food Bank distributed enough food to prepare nearly 22.5 million meals to people in need in six Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham counties, which is home to 71% of the state’s population and where 65% of the state’s food insecure—nearly 270,000 people—struggle with hunger.”
- Website: <https://www.ctfoodbank.org/>
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - https://foodshare.volunteerhub.com/#=_
 - Can volunteer to sort, pack, and deliver food in any of the six counties listed above
 - Accepts volunteer groups

❖ CitySeed

- About:
- Website: <https://cityseed.org/who-we-are-2/volunteering/>
- Volunteer Opportunities: ****predominately seasonal****
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflwrkYGB2fmfX-_JvUEMXSdBWbzXh03ZuXuwQcp-YG4mws8Q/viewform
 - Farmers' Market operations
 - Cooking events/demonstrations at Farmers' Markets
 - Children's activities at Farmers' Markets
 - Cooking events/classes for Kitchen at CitySeed
 - Community outreach
 - Grant-writing/administration
 - Graphic design

❖ FOOD4KIDS

- About: a subset of the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven. Each week, volunteers pack bags of food for children – most of whom are from low-income households and are chronically hungry due to a variety of circumstances that prevent them from having regular access to food. The bags, designed to discreetly tuck in backpacks, contain kid-friendly foods that can be easily opened and are ready to eat, such as shelf stable milk, cereal, pasta or soup, dried fruit, nut-free granola bars, soy nut butter, crackers, fruit cups or applesauce. Currently Food4Kids serves East Rock Community Magnet School, Dr. Reginald Mayo Early Childhood School and Clinton Avenue School in New Haven. The program runs throughout the academic school year.
- Website: <https://jfsnh.org/programs-services/food-4-kids-program/>

- Volunteer Opportunities: to inquire about in-person volunteering, please contact Mara Ginsberg, at 203-389-5599, ext. 119 or email at mginsberg@jfsnh.org.

- ❖ FISH of Greater New Haven
 - About: Food in Service to the Homebound delivers groceries to residents of Greater New Haven who are homebound and experiencing food insecurity.
 - Website: <https://www.fishofgreaternewhaven.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Delivery Volunteer: drive groceries to the homes of individuals in need.
 - Pantry Volunteer: pack grocery bags, stock shelves, unload delivery truck.
 - Fill out the application to volunteer here: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/FISHOfGreaterNewHaven1/fishofgreaternewhavenvolunteers>

- ❖ Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen
 - About: DESK serves dinners each evening at 5pm Sunday through Thursday to residents in the New Haven area. In addition, DESK operates a Food Pantry that is open every Wednesday from 2:00-3:00pm and maintains a resource center for individuals who need internet access, a computer, or other help accessing resources to move beyond homelessness.
 - Website: <https://www.deskct.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: <https://www.deskct.org/volunteer-info/>
 - Delivery Receiving
 - Pantry Prep
 - Food Pantry Distribution
 - Dinner Service
 - Drop-In Center: distribute basic need items, engage with clients in small activities and conversations

- ❖ Community Soup Kitchen
 - About: CSK is a soup kitchen located in New Haven that was founded by Yale students and activists and now serves over 75,000 meals annually throughout the downtown area.
 - Website: <https://www.csknewhaven.org/volunteer>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:

- Can make pre-packaged care packages for clients which include feminine hygiene products, socks, masks, snacks, and sun gear
- Drivers for Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30
- Looking for individuals who are willing to work in the kitchen twice a week and every other Monday for testing.

❖ **Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry**

- About: a community organization that advocates for food justice in New Haven while also providing food, clothing, and other basic resources for community members
- Website: <https://loavesandfishesnh.com/>
- Volunteer Opportunities: <https://loavesandfishesnh.com/volunteer-information/>
 - Shifts are Friday and Saturday mornings.
 - Friday: delivery and packing
 - Saturday: bagging and distributing
 - If interested in volunteering, email volunteer@loavesandfishesnh.com or fill out the volunteer sign up google form.

❖ **Beth-El Center**

- About: The Beth-El center is a nonprofit organization that supports and advocates for those experiencing homelessness and hunger near Milford.
- Website: <http://www.bethelmilford.org/website/publish/help/index.php?Volunteers-8>
- Volunteering:
 - Meals to Go Volunteers:
 - make sandwiches for bagged to-go meals on Mondays from 10:00am to 1:00pm
 - distribute bagged meals to Soup Kitchen on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30am to 1:00pm
 - Contact Camille at 203-876-0747 if interested in volunteering
 - Group Volunteering
 - Soup kitchen looks for groups to prepare and serve dinners on Mondays and Fridays during the later afternoon/evening hours of 4-7pm
 - Volunteers interested in preparing the meal and setting up the dining room arrive at 4:00pm

- Volunteers interested in serving the meal to the clients arrive at 4:30 pm

❖ Churches with Food Pantries (not a complete list)

- Varick AME Zion Church
 - Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen
 - Contact the church at 203-624-6245 to ask about helping
 - Website: <https://www.varickmemorial.org/>
- Bethel AME Church
 - Food Pantry
 - Distributes on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 9am
 - Contact the church at 203-865-051

❖ For a List of Food Pantries in New Haven, Connecticut:

- https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/ct-new_haven
- <https://elmcitycommunities.org/community-resources/food-banks-pantries/>

Housing

Background Statistics:

- ❖ **816 youth** (ages 18-24) in the Greater New Haven area are estimated to be experiencing housing instability (different from homelessness; includes high rent-burden, domestic violence situations, and homelessness), according to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Yet only 12 emergency beds exist in New Haven that are dedicated to youth.²⁶
- ❖ **2,905:** number of individuals in CT experience homelessness as estimated in January 2020. Of that number...
 - 306: family households
 - 199: Veterans
 - 148: Unaccompanied young adults
 - 177: individuals experiencing chronic homelessness
 - Source: <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/co1/>
- ❖ From 2019 to the point-in-time count on January 22 by the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, Connecticut saw a four percent decrease in homelessness. The numbers have declined 35 percent since 2007.²⁷
- ❖ During COVID-19, the housing crisis for teens and youth increased. In a small, statewide survey conducted by the Youth and Young Adult Taskforce of the Reaching Home Campaign, 100 percent of respondents experiencing homelessness or housing instability reported a worsening of their situation after COVID.
 - “Those surveyed, all under the age of 25, consisted of 72 percent Black youths, 20 percent youths of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, and 28 percent white individuals.”
 - “Slightly more than 50 percent experienced eviction or are at risk for eviction and 40 percent experienced alleged family violence or physical abuse.”
 - Source: <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Pandemic-worsens-fragile-situation-for-CT-15496440.php>
- ❖ There is “a strong link between incarceration and homelessness...formerly incarcerated people are almost ten times more likely to be homeless than the general public...and homelessness is a major predictor of involvement with the juvenile justice system, which means that for many youth, the cycle of incarceration and homelessness starts early.”²⁸

²⁶ <https://yhhap.org/y2y-new-haven>

²⁷ <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Pandemic-worsens-fragile-situation-for-CT-15496440.php>

²⁸ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/02/10/homelessness/>

- ❖ A Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness study found that “half of the people (8,187) who used homeless shelters were formerly incarcerated...1 in 5 people who used homeless shelters had been released from prison in the past three years.”²⁹
 - ^This same study “found stark racial disparities among the population of formerly incarcerated people using homeless shelters. Of the 8,187 formerly incarcerated people experiencing homelessness, 35% were Black, compared to just 10% of the general population in Connecticut. This reflects the fact that Black Americans are disproportionately impacted by both incarceration and homelessness.”³⁰
- ❖ Sources for Further Reading:
 - <https://cceh.org/3d-flip-book/2020-pit-count-final-draft/>
 - <https://www.pschousing.org/>
 - https://www.pschousing.org/sites/default/files/Homelessness_in_CT_2021.pdf
 - https://www.pschousing.org/sites/default/files/ReachingHome_FactSheet_CANInfrastructure_2021.pdf
 - <https://ctmirror.org/2021/03/19/homelessness-was-down-in-ct-before-the-pandemic-here-are-5-things-to-know/>
 - <https://ctmirror.org/category/ct-viewpoints/hotel-housing-for-adults-experiencing-homelessness-in-new-haven-ct-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-leah-robinson/>
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOH/CT-Housing-Assessment-Report-12312020.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/02/10/homelessness/>

³⁰ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2021/02/10/homelessness/>

Relevant Organizations: Housing

- ❖ **New Reach**
 - About: “New Reach inspires independence for all people affected by homelessness and poverty through a continuum of housing and support using the most innovative, progressive, equitable and inclusive methods.”
 - Website: <https://www.newreach.org/get-involved/volunteer>
 - **Currently closed to volunteers due to COVID 19**

- ❖ **Columbus House CT**
 - About: Columbus House is a nonprofit emergency shelter with housing services that help people move from homelessness towards long-term, sustainable independence.
 - Website: <https://www.columbushouse.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
 - **Currently closed to volunteers due to COVID 19**

- ❖ **Youth Continuum or Y2Y New Haven:**
 - About: “Y2Y New Haven started because young adults in New Haven saw a critical need for safe, affirming, and youth-specific services, launching what has become a city-wide movement. For the past several years, we have worked in partnership with students, youth experiencing homelessness, our partner organization Youth Continuum, other dedicated service providers, and community members to create an overnight program that will serve 20 young adults per night with seven single-stall showers and bathrooms, laundry facilities, computer access, meals, medical services, social enterprise opportunities, and an array of support and pathway services. We have made exciting progress and expect to launch toward the end of 2021 after an ambitious renovation.”
 - Website:
 - <https://www.y2ynetwork.org/get-involved/>
 - <https://yhhap.org/y2y-new-haven>
 - Email y2ynewhaven@gmail.com to be added to the monthly newsletter
 - **Currently closed to on-site volunteers due to COVID 19.**

- ❖ **Neighborhood Housing Services**
 - About: “NHS New Haven is revitalizing the area via social, economic, and environmental health. Our holistic approach to development merges community building with direct service. Join us to empower families and strengthen neighborhoods!”
 - Website: <https://nhsofnewhaven.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:

- Signup Forms:
 - Individual: <https://airtable.com/shraeeehaJ6ie85N8>
 - Group Form: <https://airtable.com/shrgQMAvpilnDyGT1>

- ❖ Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
 - About: The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness is a nonprofit which combats homelessness largely through leadership, advocacy, research, and emergency assistance.
 - Website: <https://cceh.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: Seasonal**
 - Each year, the coalition organizes volunteers to conduct a point-in-time count, canvassing the streets and identifying how many people are living in emergency shelters or in places not meant for habitation. These counts normally happen around January.
 - Point-in-Time Count
 - Youth Count and Outreach project
 - <https://cceh.org/volunteer/>

- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven
 - About: Habitat for Humanity builds “simple, decent homes and sell(s) them to qualified low income working families via a 25-year, zero percent interest mortgage” in order to help families become stable homeowners.
 - Website: <https://habitatgnh.org/volunteer/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Allows for both group and individual volunteering
 - Can volunteer on construction sites, in the office, on a committee, or working on a special event
 - Individual Volunteering:
 - <https://habitatgnh.org/volunteer/volunteering-as-an-individual/>
 - Group Volunteering:
 - <https://habitatgnh.org/volunteer/volunteering-as-a-group-activity/>

- ❖ Emergency Shelter Grand Avenue
 - About: Emergency Shelter provides “New Haven’s men who are experience homelessness with dinner and a place to sleep. For those who want it...also provide resource guidance, case management, and training from community volunteers.”
 - Website: <https://www.esmsshelter.org/volunteer>
 - Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help coordinate an event for those at the shelter
 - Help serve evening dinner
 - Work as a case manager, residential aid, or communications staff person
 - Volunteer opportunities are various and change throughout the year
 - Contact ahaley@asmsshelter.org to inquire about volunteering
- ❖ ****Christian Community Action is an organization which runs the Hillside Family Shelter—an emergency shelter for families who are homeless or poor. Please see the final page of this document for volunteering information**

Healthcare

Background Statistics

- ❖ Percentage of persons without health insurance in New Haven County, under the age of 65: **7.0%**³¹
 - Lower than the national average: **12.1%**³²
 - Higher than the state average: **5.9%**³³
 - “Hispanics in Connecticut are almost 4 times more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites; Blacks are three times more likely than Whites.”³⁴
- ❖ Key Source for Reading on Health Disparities in the State of Connecticut: https://agency.accesshealthct.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/10811_01_AHCT_Disparities_Report_V4.pdf
- ❖ A couple of excerpts from ^this study:
 - “African Americans and Hispanics are the only groups whose shares of COVID-19 incidence and mortality exceed their population shares.”³⁵
 - “Black Americans represent **13.4% of the U.S. population** but had suffered **14.7% of known cases** and have suffered **20.3% of known COVID-19 deaths**—i.e. they are dying at about 1.5 times their population share.”
 - “...the proportion of deaths among Hispanics is **12% higher** than their share of the population...”
 - “White Americans represent **60.4% of the population** in the U.S., but they have experienced **54.3% of deaths**. Based on these estimates, if these minority groups had the same death rate as White Americans, about 21,200 Blacks and 10,000 Hispanic Americans would not have died from the disease.”
 - Food Access as a Social Detriment of Health:
 - “Obesity and diabetes are often linked to food insecurity. Various reports have shown alarming rates of food insecurity among lower income minority groups. For example, in 2018, 17.3% of Hispanics and 10.0% of Blacks in Connecticut reported being food insecure compared to 5.3% of Whites.”
 - Note that New Haven is defined as a food desert and consequently a place where food access is a major social detriment of health.

³¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/newhavencountyconnecticut/IPE120219>

³² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/health-insurance.htm>

³³ [10811_01_AHCT_Disparities_Report_V4.pdf \(accesshealthct.com\)](#)

³⁴ [10811_01_AHCT_Disparities_Report_V4.pdf \(accesshealthct.com\)](#)

³⁵ Source for these bullet points: https://agency.accesshealthct.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/10811_01_AHCT_Disparities_Report_V4.pdf (page 26)

Relevant Organizations: Healthcare

❖ Rape Crisis Center of Milford

- About: The Rape Crisis Center of Milford is a not-for-profit social service agency working to end sexual violence through victim assistance, prevention, education, and public policy advocacy.
- Website: <https://www.rapecrisiscenterofmilford.org/get-involved>
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - ****requires application and training****
 - Cover 24-7, free and confidential hotline during non-office hours (remote)
 - Volunteer 2 shifts per month unless otherwise discussed with the Volunteer Coordinator. Shift times are as follows:
 - Monday-Thursday 5:00pm-7:30am
 - Friday 5:00pm – 8:00am
 - Weekends and Holidays: 8:00am-8:00pm or 8:00pm-8:00am
 - Respond in a timely manner to any police stations or hospitals in our catchment area to provide advocacy
 - Maintain confidentiality and abide by all other Rape Crisis Center of Milford policies
 - Attend monthly volunteer meetings for case discussion, training, and other important information
 - Maintain proper documentation for clients and discuss with staff appropriately

❖ Ronald McDonald House

- About: The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts is to create, identify and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and families in our area, including operating our cornerstone programs: the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut and the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield. Together, our vision is to provide all children with access to medical care and for families to be supported and actively involved in their children's treatment.
- Website: <https://www.rmhc-ctma.org/get-involved>
 - To volunteer, call (203) 777-5683 or email info@rmhc-ctma.org
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - House & Office Support: Regular shifts spent at our Houses performing administrative and guest services roles.
 - Fundraising Support: Support an event's Committee Chairperson through marketing and preparation.

- Cooking for Families: Prepare a meal for our families with your family, club, company, or faith-based group.
 - Community Services: From gardening to painting and handyman work, you or your business can provide specialized services to our Houses.
 - Teen Board: The Teen Board's mission is to raise awareness for our Houses in communities to encourage high school students to become active in community service.

- ❖ New Haven Medical Reserve Corps: COVID 19 Response
 - About: "The New Haven MRC is open to medical and non-medical volunteers 18 years of age and older. Whether you are retired, active in your profession, a community member, or a student, we need your assistance in the New Haven MRC. There is a growing need for volunteers with medical experience and a role each of you can serve. Volunteers receive free training and then are asked to be available on an as-needed basis. You could be asked to volunteer on weekends, late at night, or first thing in the morning. New Haven volunteers may be deployed to a shelter or a public health site."
 - Website: <https://covid-19-1-newhavenct.hub.arcgis.com/apps/medical-reserve-corps-sign-ups/explore>
 - Also: https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/health/emergency_response.htm
 - Volunteer Opportunities: ***application required***
 - Assisting in Vaccination Clinics
 - Contact Tracers (****at-home volunteer opportunity****)

- ❖ Yale New Haven Hospital
 - About: Volunteering at YNHH varies according to desired level of interaction with patients and staff. Click on the application link on their website to view the different kinds of volunteer opportunities.
 - Website: <https://www.ynhh.org/about/community/volunteers>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: ***application required***

- ❖ HAVEN Free Clinic
 - About: "We are a sustainable free clinic that provides uninsured adults in New Haven with primary care, wellness education, and assistance in securing health care while simultaneously educating health professional students at Yale about patient care and community health."
 - Website: <https://www.havenfreeclinic.com/mission>

- Volunteer Opportunities: ****seasonal application periods****
 - https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vRqUm7tSHm9nU1pXDYgBQVGAY7tDrbo68WR-p3f9EFBaWcHyFJtKIPBXVZnp_JfHUMc0dnu3ifz4Gas/pub

❖ Circle of Care

- About: Circle of Care provides practical, emotional and financial assistance to Connecticut families, through programs and services that meet the unique and challenging needs of pediatric cancer treatment
- Art from the Heart: <https://thecircleofcare.org/services-programs-for-you/afth/>
 - About: Individuals form a “team” to makeover the room of a child with cancer. “Makeovers are completed by a volunteer team with a passion for interior design, that works in conjunction with the child to determine and execute their ‘dream’ vision. The team fundraises and starts planning out the room design, and typically works for 4-8 weeks before putting it into place. The room is put together over the course of two days and is unveiled during a reveal where the child and their family see it for the first time!”
- Hospital Volunteer: <https://thecircleofcare.org/how-to-help/volunteer/at-the-hospital/>
 - About: “Our volunteers help families of children with cancer at The Smilow Cancer Center at Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital. Volunteers receive training through the hospital, as well as Circle of Care training, designed to respond to the special needs of our pediatric oncology patients and families.”
 - To volunteer, send an email to missydorsey@aol.com with the subject line “Hospital Volunteer.” Let them know you are interested in working as a hospital volunteer and any relevant experience!
- Join a Committee: <https://thecircleofcare.org/how-to-help/volunteer/join-a-committee/>
 - Volunteer opportunities that require specialized skills: marketing, program development, research and analysis, etc.

❖ Hope After Loss

- About: “Hope After Loss, Inc. helps those who experience pregnancy and or infant loss to find the inspiration of hope by providing connections, comfort and care.”
- Website: <https://www.hopeafterloss.org/volunteers>
- Volunteer Opportunities: ***application required***
 - Run a support group

- Event Coordinator
- Administrative Support
- Fundraising
- Miscellaneous

❖ Griffin Hospital

- About: “Griffin Hospital is a 160-bed acute care community hospital serving more than 130,000 residents of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Region...A not-for-profit, tax-exempt subsidiary of the Griffin Health Services Corporation, Griffin Hospital is affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, The Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University, and accredited by The Joint Commission.”
- Website: <https://www.griffinhealth.org/about/volunteer-opportunities>
- Volunteer Opportunities: ***application required***
 - Ambassador Plus: volunteers positioned in lobbies and waiting areas to interact with patients
 - Bakers: make and deliver baked goods to patients, visitors, staff
 - Candy Strippers
 - Courtesy Shuttle: provide transportation to hospital guests
 - Hospital Elder Life Program: personalized care to senior patients
 - PAWS Therapy Dog Program
 - Soft Touch: hands-on patient care
 - Vital Patient Stories: interview patients and compose accounts of life stories

❖ AIDS Project New Haven

- About: “Our vision is a community where everyone has access to high quality, relationship based, holistic care to inspire health and well-being and to empower people at risk of, or impacted by, HIV, substance use, mental illness and related conditions.”
- Website: <https://apnh.org/volunteer-application/>
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Client Services: reception/front office, outreach and testing
 - Fundraising: event planning, dining out for life
 - General: building maintenance

❖ Leeway

- About: “Welcome to Leeway, founded in 1995 by the late great Catherine Kennedy. Catherine, a graduate from the School of Management at Yale University had a vision and dream to care for the individuals and families suffering with the HIV/AIDS virus in the New Haven Community. Leeway

is a licensed (30) bed chronic nursing facility with (30) Residential Care Beds and (41) Units of Housing. We are the sole facility in Connecticut that serves only individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Today, Leeway Inc serves, cares for, and gives a second chance at life to all of our residents.”

- Website: <http://www.leeway.net/help-volunteer/>
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - “Having fun and finding enjoyment in life is as critical as the quality of care at Leeway. Volunteers help in many essential ways. In order to reach our goals and achieve our mission, we need you! Opportunities include working with our residents (reading, teaching a skill, going on an outing), volunteering with mailings and office work, working on a fundraising committee, and much more! We need volunteers throughout the year to help with our programs.”
 - Volunteer Application: <http://198.46.84.189/~leeway/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Volunteer-App.pdf>
 - Email completed application to: info@leeway.net

❖ Women and Families Center

- About: “WFC provides a variety of enrichment and support programs for both youths and adults, as well as some confidential services for victims of abuse and sexual assault.”
- Website: <https://womenfamilies.org/volunteering-to-wfc/>
 - Must directly reach out to whichever office is nearest to your location: <https://womenfamilies.org/contact-us/>
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Working with Youth in Unstable Housing: <https://womenfamilies.org/transitional-living-program/>
 - Working to provide employment skills to young adults: <https://womenfamilies.org/employment-training-program/>
 - Working with students from kindergarten to 5th grade to further education: <https://womenfamilies.org/educational-enrichment-program/>
 - Working with those who have experienced sexual assault: <https://womenfamilies.org/sexual-assault-center/>

Wealth, Income, Employment

Background Statistics

- ❖ Connecticut has the third-highest level of pre-tax income inequality in the nation.³⁶
 - For pre-tax income, the median Black household earns fifty-eight percent of what the median white household earns.
 - The median Hispanic household earns 55 percent of what the median white household earns.
 - Main cause of income inequality is low wages.
 - For more information on Income Inequality:
 - Income inequality is disproportionately higher in areas with majority-white population: <https://ctmirror.org/category/ct-viewpoints/income-inequality-in-connecticut-towns-has-a-racial-component-dan-smolnik/>
- ❖ The racial unemployment gap increased by **2.9 percentage points** over the last year (2019-2020). Though both white and Black Americans experienced increased unemployment rates, Black Americans had a higher rate even as the economy began recovering.³⁷
- ❖ Median Household Income in the City of New Haven: **\$42,222**³⁸
 - Median Household Income in the State of Connecticut: **\$78,444**³⁹
 - Median Household Income in the United States: **\$62,843**⁴⁰
 - ^averages gained from 2015-2019 figures and calculated in 2019 dollars. Note that this is the median household income in New Haven ****before**** the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ❖ The unemployment rate in New Haven is around **7%**.⁴¹
- ❖ Poverty rate in the City of New Haven: **~26.5%**⁴²
 - Main factors: a mix of a large student population, low wages, and a lack of job training and higher education for New Haven residents which would provide access to higher-wage jobs.

³⁶ https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/income_inequality_spikes_in_ct/

³⁷ https://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/income_inequality_spikes_in_ct/

³⁸ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/newhavencityconnecticut,US/INC110219>

³⁹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CT,US/PST045219>

⁴⁰ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CT,US/PST045219>

⁴¹ https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ct_newhaven_mn.htm#eag_ct_newhaven_mn.f.p

⁴² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/newhavencityconnecticut/IPE120219#IPE120219>

❖ For Further Reading:

- A presentation by the mayor which provides a brief overview of the state of unemployment and other labor indicators for the city of New Haven: <https://www.newhavenct.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=38278>
- This article sheds some light on how COVID-19 is still disproportionately affecting already-poor communities throughout Connecticut: <https://ctmirror.org/2021/03/29/poor-people-are-still-suffering-from-economic-downturn-brought-by-covid/>
- <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/09009> : this tool helps calculate the cost of living in a given area. This is a helpful website for conceptualizing the relationship between income and actual ability to survive in the city of New Haven. It is also helpful for understanding the need for higher wages in this city.

Relevant Organizations: Wealth, Income, Employment

❖ New Haven Counts

- About: This organization provides mentorship and tutoring to help students with both math proficiency and financial literacy for the purposes of breaking the cycle of poverty.
- Website: <https://www.newhavencounts.org/home>
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Math and financial literacy tutoring: <https://www.newhavencounts.org/tutor>

❖ CT Association for Human Services

- About: A nonprofit which focuses on economic education in order to assist low-income working families to maintain financial security.
- Website: <https://www.cahs.org/volunteer.html>
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Financial Coaching: matches coaches up with individuals to help them manage their finances. This is a virtual opportunity that lasts three-months and may continue past that if participants desire.
 - Website: <https://www.cahs.org/financial-coaching.html>
 - Application required
 - CT Money School: CMS connects financial literacy instructors with different communities to provide financial workshops for folks throughout Connecticut.
 - Website: <https://www.cahs.org/cms.html>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: Churches can offer to host workshops for the general public. Individuals can volunteer to become instructors that facilitate free workshops.
 - To volunteer, contact Nick Brundage—the CMS/YMS Volunteer Coordinator—at nbrundage@cahs.org.

❖ EMERGE CT

- About: “EMERGE Connecticut, Inc. is a self-sufficient social enterprise committed to assisting formerly incarcerated people successfully integrate back into their families and communities.”
- Website: <https://www.emergect.net/about>
- Volunteer Opportunities: <https://www.emergect.net/volunteer>
 - Financial Specialist: help EMERGE members handle their personal finances
 - Fund Development: research and assist in writing efforts to secure new funding for EMERGE

- Financial Assistance: help the EMERGE organization with accounting and other financial tasks
- Education Specialist: tutor EMERGE members
- Education Liaison: help EMERGE members navigate the higher education enrollment process
- Mentoring

❖ Career Resources

- About: Career Resources is a nonprofit that attempts to provide occupational skills and guidance to individuals from a variety of backgrounds in Connecticut. This organization focuses on preparing people to enter the workforce.
- Website: <https://careerresources.org/>
- Volunteer Opportunities: <https://careerresources.org/get-involved/#gi-volunteer>
 - Career Coach: meet with CRI participants/students and mentor them through the career planning and job application process.
 - Email Dr. William Clark at clark@careerresources.org
 - Guest Speaker: present and discuss a topic that would help members prepare for jobs (i.e. discuss interview skills, how to prepare a resume, etc.)
 - Email Dr. William Clark at clark@careerresources.org
 - Service Opportunities for Groups: groups can complete service projects such as painting, landscaping, garden installation, etc.
 - Email: Kim Harris at harris@careerresources.org to express interest in volunteering
 - Advocacy: to get involved in advocacy around workers with criminal backgrounds, in particular, you can visit partners of this organization at: <http://www.hireone.org> and <http://maltajusticeinitiative.org>

Other Organizations, Studies, and Community Resources

- ❖ Volunteer Organization at Yale for Students: <https://yhhap.org/get-involved>

- ❖ United Way of Greater New Haven
 - This organization focuses on a wide range of community needs in order to address problems of education, health, and financial stability. Oftentimes, this organization will have open volunteer opportunities for things such as neighborhood cleanups, drives that require packing and sorting, etc. that are one-time events. If looking to volunteer, but not to have any kind of volunteering commitment, it might be a good idea to sign up for this organization's newsletter, follow them on social media, etc.
 - Website: https://www.uwgnh.org/volunteer?_ga=2.45944557.854352598.1630086778-670443728.1628265124

- ❖ Christian Community Action
 - About: A faith-based, ecumenical nonprofit that focuses on help the poor in New Haven. The organization runs the following programs:
 - Advocacy and Education Project
 - Mothers (and Others) for Justice: advocacy group that focuses on public policy
 - Arise Center: provides a variety of support to at-risk families
 - FAITH Partners: congregations in the New Haven area join and support CCA's mission through the following specific ways
 - F: Faithful Funders; dedicated monetary contributions
 - A: Apartment Angels; providing household items for the CCA emergency housing unit
 - I: Indispensable Intercessors; prayer groups
 - T: Teammates in Transformation; advocacy work
 - H: Hunger Heroes; providing nonperishable items
 - Hillside Family Shelter: emergency housing for families
 - Neighborhood Assistance: food pantry, energy assistance, diversion services, etc.
 - Website: <https://ccahelping.org/>
 - Volunteer Opportunities: <https://ccahelping.org/volunteer-opportunities>
 - Mentoring or tutoring children
 - Providing childcare for parents
 - Offering repair services to facilities
 - Computer training and support

- Cooking for special events
- Assistance with fundraising and other office tasks
- Participate in food drives
- To volunteer, contact CCA at the following phone number:
 - 203-777-7848

❖ Gather New Haven

- About: “Gather New Haven promotes health, equity, and justice for people and the environment by cultivating connections with each other and our local lands and waters, and by inspiring us to care for ourselves, our community, and the natural world.”
- Website: <https://gathernewhaven.org/volunteers>
- Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Organization welcomes any volunteers who can help with farms, community gardens and preserves, as well as with other organizational needs such as communications, events, etc.
 - You can volunteer by emailing volunteer@gathernewhaven.org
 - Sign up for newsletter to receive information about events, etc.

❖ A study on how digital exclusion affects specific groups in CT:

https://www.dalioeducation.org/Customer-Content/www/CMS/files/DigitalDivide_Report_2020_Final.pdf

❖ Resources in Connecticut:

- A list of non-911 emergency, homelessness, and hunger resources: <https://yhhap.org/non911>
- Other resources: <https://www.211ct.org/>