

# CWCT



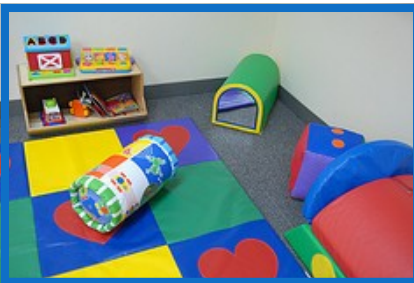
## Addressing the Effects of Employment Barriers on Connecticut's Workforce

Despite efforts to rebuild America's workforce as the nation emerges from the Great Recession, low income individuals, particularly the 12.3% of Connecticut parents with children living below the federal poverty line, continue to encounter many barriers which prevent them from securing employment.<sup>i</sup>

Securing efficient transportation is a prerequisite for most employment in Connecticut; however, it also persists as a significant obstacle for a number of Connecticut workers. The average cost for gasoline, motor oil and other vehicle expenses for Connecticut drivers is \$405 per month, which represents 12 percent of what United Way has labeled the Household Survival Budget for a family of four.<sup>ii</sup> Because most households must own a car to get to work, transportation is a significant additional cost for families already struggling financially.



By comparison, the average cost for public transportation in Connecticut is \$73 per month; however, Connecticut public transportation is an insufficient mode of transport particularly for workers who are in pursuit of opportunities outside of their local community and is not widely accessible outside of the state's urban areas.<sup>iii</sup> Though significant strides are being made to eliminate the transportation barrier, it is critical to expand Connecticut's existing transportation services in order to continue to develop the workforce statewide.



For many families, childcare also presents a significant barrier to employment. According to United Way's ALICE Report, the average cost of attending a full-time, accredited childcare center in Connecticut is \$1,893 per month (\$1,038 per month for an infant and \$855 per month for a four year old). Childcare for two children is by far the greatest expense and accounts for 28 percent of United Way's Household Survival Budget.<sup>iv</sup>



While alternative programs such as family daycare centers and state subsidized pre-school programs offer less expensive and more accessible childcare, they also hold the highest occupancy rates within the state.<sup>v</sup> Expanding government funded programs, as well as educating the community about alternative childcare options would therefore help working parents overcome the persisting barrier of childcare affordability.



The Campaign for a Working Connecticut is calling on the Connecticut legislature to address issues of adequate transportation, and affordable childcare that inhibit job seekers from obtaining secure employment. Investments in education and training will be compromised if these important wrap around services are not included as essential program components.

The CWCT shares an aligned vision: to promote the state's economic competitiveness through the development of sustainable, effective workforce solutions to increase worker's skills and advance families to self-sufficiency. The CWCT works to accomplish this goal through a unique and diverse state-wide coalition, which includes education and training providers, workforce investment boards, advocates and chambers of commerce.

For more information about the Campaign for a Working CT,  
contact Alice Pritchard at 860.247.6090 ext. 107 or [apritchard@cwealf.org](mailto:apritchard@cwealf.org).

Visit the website at <http://www.cwealf.org/cwct/>

Follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/workingCT>

---

Funding for the Campaign is made possible in part through a grant from the  
Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford.

---

Photo by wwattam, "EMU 310102 calls at Hartford." Retrieved on December 8, 2014. Creative Commons Attribution-2.0Generic.

Photo by USAG-Humphreys, "Kids on Site, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony." Retrieved on December 8, 2014. Creative Commons Attribution-2.0Generic.

Photo by Rene Schwietzke, "Chicago 'L'." Retrieved on December 8, 2014. Creative Commons Attribution-2.0Generic.

Photo by joferr526, "daycare 001." Retrieved on December 8, 2014. Creative Commons Attribution-2.0Generic.

---

<sup>i</sup> U.S. Census tables, 2012. ACS 3-year estimates.

<sup>ii-iv</sup> United Way ALICE Report—Connecticut, 2014.

<sup>v</sup> 211 Childcare. (2013). Connecticut child care affordability and availability report. Retrieved from: [www.211childcare.org](http://www.211childcare.org).