

POWERING A HEALTHY FUTURE FUND

Imagine every single person in Connecticut has a fair and equitable opportunity to be as healthy as possible. I believe health justice is possible. **But we all have to work together to get there.**

Frances G. Padilla, President

Please consider a generous multi-year gift to fuel Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's Powering a Healthy Future Fund.

Your contribution will:



grow grassroots leadership skills



increase the number of organizers and support their sustained work, and



help develop deep and durable relationships with Connecticut residents most affected by persistent, historical racism, poverty, and health disparities.

In these unprecedentedly polarized times, your gift will fuel the trust and connection essential to lead residents to surface needs, develop solutions, and activate change makers for social justice and justice in health.

**BECAUSE HEALTH IS A
HUMAN RIGHT!**



THE CASE FOR POWERING A HEALTHY FUTURE FUND

Here's why you should stand up with Universal and support the Powering a Healthy Future Fund:

Universal is the only health care organization in Connecticut that is both a grantmaking foundation supporting community organizing and a health policy advocacy organization.

We alone in the state commit to a mission that is both to achieve transformational change in health care, and to center health and health care within social justice.

We consistently stand up and speak out against the injustices of a health system built on three industries: hospitals, insurers, and drugmakers.

In our 22 years, we've learned a thing or two. One thing we know is that how we've approached the work all these years won't get us to the mission. Though we've scored wins, our opponents win bigger.

For example, a 2021 poll, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Family Foundation that we and our partners in the HUSKY for Immigrants Coalition commissioned found that 83% of CT residents sampled said they support health care for all. And,

A study conducted by Rand, a nonpartisan research institute focused on facts and evidence, through a partnership with a billionaire health care funder in collaboration with Universal found that opening the state health plan to small businesses and nonprofits would give more people better insurance and save employers and families dollars. Still,

When a handful of insurance executives put the squeeze on the Governor to protect their profits, that cost-effective, commonsense idea died.

Through trial, error, and careful listening --even when people don't always tell us what we may hope to hear, we've developed the humility to know when and how to pivot for a healthy future.



“

*Power concedes
nothing without
a demand.”*

Frederick Douglass

It is clear that transforming health care requires a persistent powerful demand. Episodic advocacy campaigns are great, but they do not build power.

The opposition resists with media, money, and political influence. Yet the people most severely affected by a broken system suffer quietly.

In our system, Black, Brown, and people of color broadly suffer. Low- and moderate-income people statewide suffer. LGBTQIA people suffer. People with chronic illnesses suffer. Many, many people in our state share more than one of these identities. Poverty and racism exacerbates all the existing suffering.

Their voices, their needs, the solutions they want to see go unheard and unheeded. It is not enough for advocates such as Universal to offer testimony and lobby for state legislation. We must also organize and stand up together in coalition and community for one another and against injustice. Together we will win justice for health and justice in health care.



Shawn, a queer, transgender youth organizer, in a cohort of emerging leaders of color, spoke about how invisible they feel. Their health, they said, is of little concern to policymakers and the health system. They've had to look high and low to find a health care provider trained to properly support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Organizers throughout the state have weighed in too. In emotional conversations one-on-one and in groups, they said, yes, they believe in the vision of everyone having a fair and equitable opportunity to be as healthy as possible. At the same time, they fight for environmental justice, housing, food security, livable wages, immigrant rights, prison reform, disability rights, the right to vote, and more.

Since they see health at the center of all their fights, they want to fight with us but they need resources – funding, training and skill-building, trusting relationships with each other, and with funders in Connecticut, fair compensation, and health benefits too.

Market forces drive hospitals to consolidate into mega-systems and spawn medical apartheid in Connecticut.

Just ask the people of Windham and Willimantic who now must drive long distances on treacherous roads to access labor and delivery care. Most of these folks are poor Black, Brown, and white.



THEY ARE OUR RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND
ESSENTIAL WORKERS. THEIR EXPERIENCES AREN'T UNIQUE.
ENOUGH!

A Note from Frances:

Friends –

Twenty-two years' experience has taught us so much about what we need to do differently. We value and believe in the potential of community organizing to build durable power.

At Universal Health Care, we commit to building durable power for health justice over the next 5-10 years and invite you to invest with us.

To achieve change in the external world, we're doing the hard internal work to intentionally and effectively identify, interrupt, and work to dismantle racism in Connecticut.

We look to the next generation of board and staff leaders to take this small and feisty organization to the next level.

In December I will retire from my role as President of Universal. The Powering a Healthy Future Fund – in honor of my retirement – is your opportunity *to join us on this journey to smooth the road for the next leader, please consider a multi-year commitment.*



\$10,000

funds a group organizing
for health justice for
LGBTQIA or other impacted
residents



\$5,000

pays for outreach,
education, and engagement
on a campaign like the one
to save labor and delivery
at Windham Hospital



\$1,000

provides childcare, t-shirts,
flyers, or intern stipends

Thank you for your generous multi-year support!

Frances G. Padilla

