



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
Foundation of Connecticut

A diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities are cheering with their arms raised in front of a brick wall. The group includes a young woman, a man with glasses, a young man, a man in a cap, a woman with blonde hair, a woman with long dark hair, a woman with a large afro, an older woman with white hair, and an older man with a white beard sitting in a wheelchair. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

# STEPPING BACK TO LEAP *FORWARD*



## 2021: RESET FOR POWER

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut entered its third decade ready to make change and increase impact.

With input from friends and co-conspirators, Universal's board and staff laid a new foundation for the future.

Our next decade's focus is on building power for bold change that delivers health justice to people – especially those left behind today.

HEALTH JUSTICE MEANS THAT  
**EVERYONE** HAS A FAIR AND  
EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO  
BE AS HEALTHY AS POSSIBLE.



**Health is determined by so much more than health care. Quality housing, equity in education, jobs with fair pay, good food, and safe environments are all factors in our health. Systemic racism, discrimination, and poverty obstruct health justice.**

We expanded relationship circles and focused on partnerships to build shared power. And we committed to center our work in communities led by Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other people most left behind in the unjust health system.

Partners include:

- Grassroots organizing groups working for social justice
- Women making health care decisions for their families or small employers - or working in health care
- Organizers and advocates working for immigrant access to health coverage
- Long-time advocacy allies

Our work to nurture shared, sustained power is rooted in the belief that the status quo must be disrupted and change forced to realize justice.

We determined to step fully into transforming Universal into an anti-racist organization, one that inside and outside will act with resolve against institutional and structural racism.

# VALUES

**Justice.** Health sits squarely within the larger context of social and economic justice.

**Human Right.** Quality health care is a right that belongs to everyone.

**Equity.** What works for some does not work for all, especially by race, ethnicity and status. All people benefit from equity.

**Shared Responsibility.** Government, community, health care providers, and employers all have crucial roles in shaping an equitable system and producing better health outcomes.

**Government Oversight and Accountability.** Government has a major role in financing coverage, regulating prices, enforcing quality standards, and ensuring health equity. Equity requires resources. A powerfully engaged populace is needed to hold policymakers accountable.

**Inclusion and participation.** Collective and individual action, especially by those most affected by inequities, is vital to accountability for a system that delivers health to all.

# MISSION

To accelerate the movement for health justice for everyone because health is a human right and core to social justice and equity.

# VISION

CT residents will be their healthiest and health care will nurture everyone's health.





# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Health justice is hard work and Universal has the right tools for success.

**Know the info that bolsters change:** Universal studies the landscape to learn where things fall apart, identify what solutions look like, and how to influence change.

We leveraged our resources to attract Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a funding partner and RAND Corporation as a research partner with Connecticut's HUSKY for Immigrants Coalition. Research and polling on immigrant health will be completed in 2022 and help show that coverage for the undocumented is achievable.

**Speak clearly to engage people:** Universal listens, educates, and inspires action.

We hosted online conversations on how COVID forever changed community health centers, behavioral health services, hospital care, and public health departments in ways that can become permanent improvements to health care.

To inform and draw more people into Universal's work, we built a biweekly e-newsletter that attracted more subscribers and provided ways to take action.

**Inspire allies to link arms for policy action:** Universal does not shy away from a good fight.

In 2021, we "made good trouble" with health care petitions and direct actions. We advocated with coalition partners. Together, we held down insurance premium increases and won coverage for young immigrant children and pregnant women, regardless of immigration status. We led an ongoing effort to protect labor and delivery services at Windham Hospital. And we fought for, but failed to overcome the fierce opposition to, a state public health care option.

**Build power for change:** Organizing a Path to Power to win health justice.

We put our grants to work to support community organizers and advocates with \$300,000 to work with us to define "health justice" on the ground, and map a 5-year strategy to build the sustained grassroots power needed to achieve real change.

## Partners in Organizing a Path to Power:

**Bridgeport Generation Now** uses the tools of community organizing to dismantle systemic racism and corruption, and build a just, equitable, democratic, and livable city.

**Center for Leadership and Justice** does both neighborhood- and faith-based organizing in the Hartford region.

**CT Black and Brown Student Union** is a statewide hub for youth organizing groups that provides support and resources for youth organizers.

**CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance** organizes and advocates to break barriers for CT residents living with a variety of disabilities. Its coalition is 250-plus strong.

**CT Students for a Dream (C4D)** is a youth-led organization of undocumented immigrants that fights for immigrant justice and aspires to a legacy of youth leadership for organizing.

**CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs** focuses on environmental justice and creating climate-friendly jobs.

**Keep the Promise Coalition** advocates for a comprehensive mental health system influenced by people living with mental illness, family members, providers, and other advocates.

**Make the Road Connecticut** supports immigrants in Bridgeport and Hartford to be active in their communities and to lift themselves out of poverty through legal and support services, civic engagement, transformative education, and policy innovation.

**Mothers and Others for Justice** organizes community residents to use their individual and collective voices, based on lived experience, to influence state and local decision-makers to implement solutions that promote self-sufficiency.

**The Full Citizens Coalition** coordinates the Unlock the Vote campaign, educates formerly incarcerated people about their voting rights, and restores and pushes to expand voting rights.

**A Better Way Foundation** serves as a fiscal sponsor for a range of organizing groups to support their community organizing and public policy advocacy.

**Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice** organizes for prison system changes in Connecticut and New York, and runs capacity building initiatives for community organizing, including a 7-week Building Leadership and Organizing Capacity training program.

**CT Citizen Research Group** advocates on issues, including health care, democracy, and environmental justice (affiliated with CT Citizen Action Group).

**Health Equity Solutions** advocates for community-driven health equity policy.

**New Haven Pride Center** provides educational, cultural, and social enrichment for the LGBTQ+ community, its allies, and members to make a positive contribution to the Greater New Haven community.

**Ministerial Health Fellowship** addresses systemic barriers to Black communities' access to care with an integrated, faith-based health care advocacy network based in Connecticut Black churches.

**T1 International – CT Chapter** advocates for action in Connecticut to raise awareness about the insulin price crisis and push for transparency and lower costs.

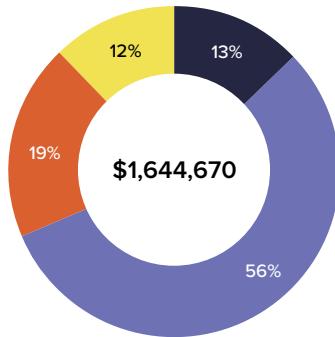
**Open Communities Alliance** promotes access to opportunity for all people in Connecticut through education, organizing, advocacy, research, and partnerships, including an urban-suburban interracial coalition to support policies that lead to affordable housing options.

**Success Measures at NeighborWorks America** facilitates community organizations and their partners to re-imagine how change and impact can be created together.

To learn more about how you can engage in our work, contact Rabera Sharon, Program Lead for Health Justice Organizing and Advocacy at [srabera@universalhealthct.org](mailto:srabera@universalhealthct.org) or Rosana Ferraro, Program Lead for Health Justice Policy Advocacy at [rferraro@universalhealthct.org](mailto:rferraro@universalhealthct.org).

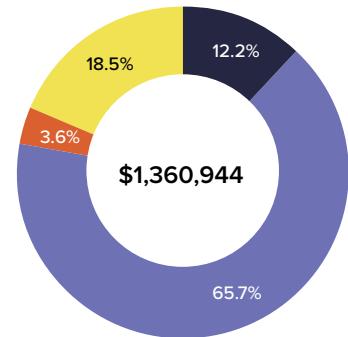
# FINANCIALS

## 2021 Expenses

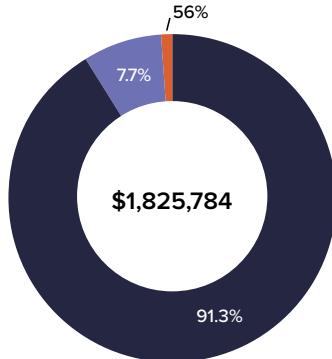


- Management & General
- Power Building, Influence & Advocating for Change
- Grantmaking
- Donor Communications & Advising

## 2020 Expenses

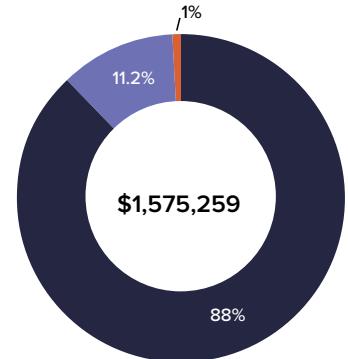


## 2021 Income



- Investment Return Designated for operations
- Grants and Contributions Received
- Interest, Dividends & Miscellaneous

## 2020 Income



Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2000 by the settlement of a lawsuit when Anthem Insurance Company acquired Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut, a not-for-profit insurance business. Endowment earnings coupled with individual donations and grants sustain the fight for health justice for everybody.

For more detailed reports on 2021 revenues and expenditures, and to learn how you can make a difference, please contact Heidi Green, Director of Donor Communications and Advising at [hgreen@universalhealthct.org](mailto:hgreen@universalhealthct.org).