

Testimony
Submitted to the Appropriations Committee
Sub Committee on Human Services
Hearing Friday, 2/27/2015
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March 4, 2015 - Community Action Day

The statistics below tell the story of child poverty in Connecticut. From wealthy suburbs like Burlington to New Britain – one of the poorest cities in the state, more and more families are qualifying for free and reduced lunches. The achievement gap is still the highest in the nation: it has been for over 15 years.

Community action agencies are the only place for low income families to get the supports they need to get a job, find assistance with their heating and health care needs and get quality child care so that they can go to work knowing that their children are in a safe and healthy environment.

Ten years ago, the State allocation for the Human Services Infrastructure was over \$7,000,000. Over the years, as poverty rates increased, HSI was cut. Last year, it was around \$3,500,000.

I ask the committee to remember social responsibility, to remember that children are the future, and to restore the cuts to the Human Services Infrastructure.

Town	Bristol	Burlington	Farmington	Plainville	New Britain	West Hartford
2003 Students eligible for free and reduced lunch	27%	N/A	5%	16%	64%	13%
2013 Students eligible for free and reduced lunch	42.2%	5%	11.1%	30.2%	81%	20%

