Date: March 4, 2019

To: Members of the Human Services Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee

From: Cindy Guerrieri, Dir. of Program & Business Development, CT Council of Family Service Agencies (CCFSA)

RE: Please Maintain Safety Net Services in the DSS Budget

PLEASE PROTECT SAFETY NET SERVICES

CCFSA is an innovative statewide network of family service agencies who work collaboratively to provide multiple programs, including the Safety Net/TANF Case Management Program to help families facing poverty to address their barriers to employment and self-sufficiency. We are, quite literally, the safety net for families who have exhausted their state benefits and are at risk of losing what little they have. I urge you fully fund the Safety Net Services program, funded through the Safety Net and Community Services lines in the DSS budget.

In partnership with DSS and DOL, the CCFSA network helps families struggling with poverty through intensive, solution-focused, home and community-based case management services, basic needs support, and care coordination that identify and reduce barriers, and promotes self-sufficiency and child well-being. On average 3,000 families/year are served collectively across every CT community.

Case managers work with families to identify goals and develop individualized plans, utilizing a culturally sensitive approach and evidence-based practices. They work with clients to break down barriers to assure that families are safe, physically and mentally healthy, free from obstacles to self-sufficiency, and are able to achieve stability.

In the 25 years CCFSA has been administering TANF CM it has been proven to be highly effective. Analysis by the Harvard Business School Community Partners (HBSCP) found that as program participants became more self-reliant and obtained jobs their dependency on state aid was reduced.

We employ a 2-Generational approach – effective in ensuring a return on investment for generations to come. Providing family-centered coaching allows families to identify what stands in their way to economic success. The Safety Net funds serve not only as critical investment in the families - it’s an investment for the communities in which they live, and for the state of CT as a whole.

Thanks You,
Cindy Guerrieri