



Public Higher Education Involvement in State Urban Issues

Background

On June 29, 2012, the program review committee authorized a study to identify and examine the ways in which the state's public higher education institutions actively engage in the challenges facing Connecticut's poorest cities.

University-community engagement dates back to 1862 with the creation of land-grant colleges under the Morrill Act. However, following World War II, universities predominately receded from their communities. The last two decades have seen a growing recognition of the critical role colleges and universities have as "anchor institutions" in urban and community development.

Connecticut has 17 public higher education institutions: the University of Connecticut, which, as the state's land-grant university is of particular interest; four Connecticut state universities; and 12 community colleges (*see attached map*).

The study will identify all state public higher education activities, programs, and grants with a focus on addressing the state's urban challenges, and to the extent possible, assess their impact.

Relevant activities and experiences in other states will be analyzed. As needed, recommendations will be proposed on how the state's public higher education sector may better address the challenges of the state's poorest cities.

Main Points

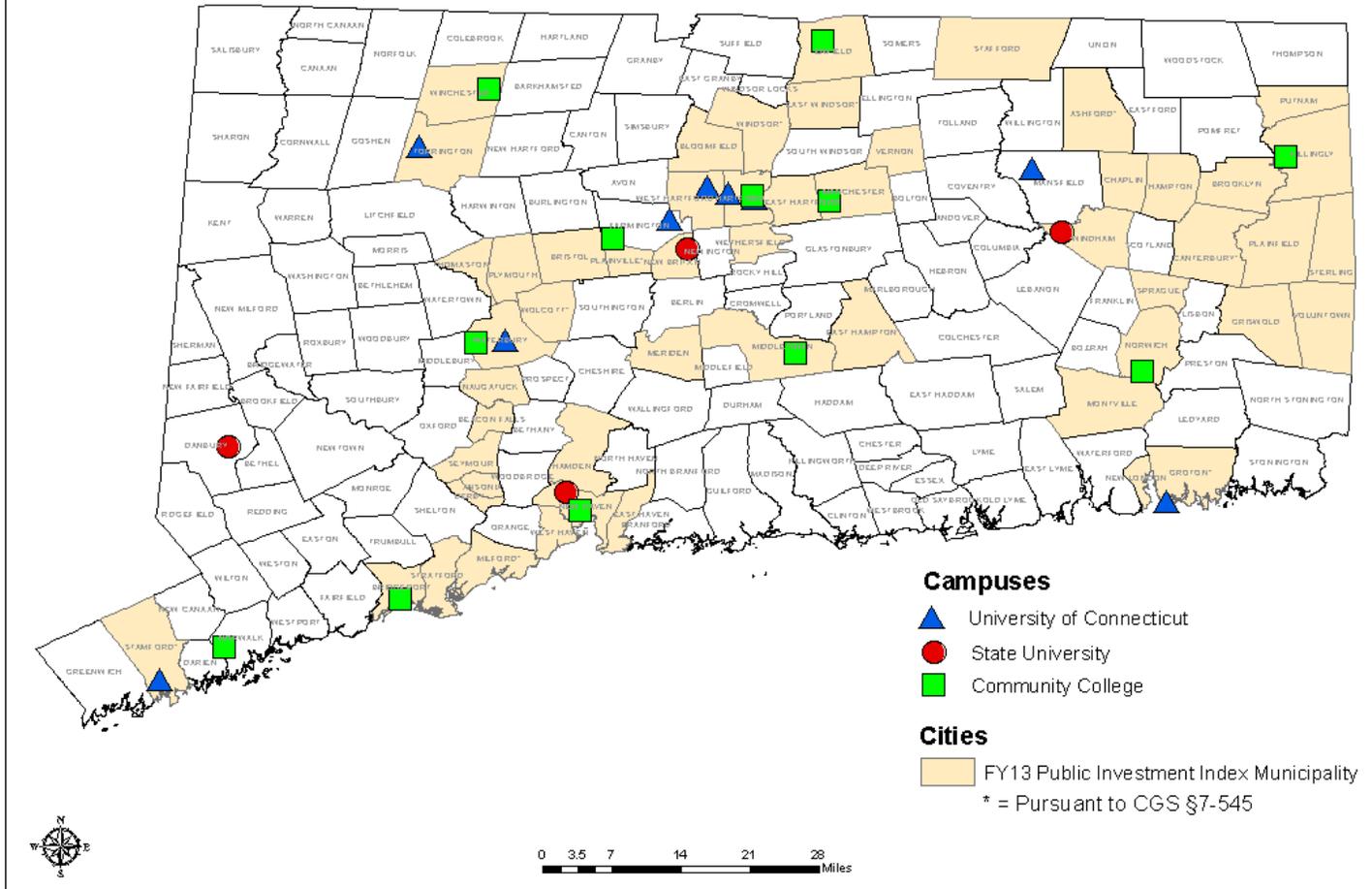
- Connecticut's largest cities (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury) are among the poorest in the nation and bear a significant burden of the provision of social services, education and public safety to the state's neediest residents.
- In 2011, UConn, CCSU and NCC were three of 115 institutions to earn the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's voluntary "Community Engagement" classification. Since the system was created in 2006, less than 10 percent of colleges and universities in the U.S. have received this designation.
- The Carnegie Foundation describes "community engagement" as "the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity." The mission of an anchor institution is related to, yet distinct from, this broader concept, as an anchor institution engages solely with the surrounding community in which it resides.
- Anchor strategies for community development include comprehensive neighborhood revitalization; community economic development through corporate investment; local capacity building; education and health partnerships; scholarly engagement; and multi-anchor, city and regional partnerships.

Next Steps

- Continue to identify and catalogue state college and university public engagement activities with a direct focus on urban problems, and determine if impact measures are in place
- Interview leaders/knowledgeable persons from state public colleges and universities on perspectives and continue to gather information about their public engagement activities
- Interview leaders/knowledgeable persons from Connecticut's four major cities (at least) on perspectives and gather information about state college and university partnerships
- Compare the activities of selected CT private colleges and universities to the state's public institutions

Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Staff Office
State Capitol * 210 Capitol Avenue * Room 506 * Hartford, CT 06106-1591
P: (860) 240-0300 * F: (860) 240-0327 * E-mail: PRI@cga.ct.gov

Public Higher Education Campuses



CT Public Universities & Colleges

Urban Institutions

- Capital Community College – *Hartford*
- Central Connecticut State University – *New Britain*
- Gateway Community College – *New Haven*
- Housatonic Community College – *Bridgeport*
- Manchester Community College – *Manchester*
- Naugatuck Valley Community College – *Waterbury*
- Norwalk Community College – *Norwalk*
- Southern Connecticut State University – *New Haven*
- UConn - Graduate Business Learning Center – *Hartford*
- UConn School of Law – *Hartford*
- UConn – *Stamford*
- UConn – *Torrington*
- UConn – *Waterbury*
- Western Connecticut State University – *Danbury*

Suburban Institutions

- Eastern Connecticut State University – *Willimantic (Windham)*
- Middlesex Community College – *Middletown*
- Three Rivers Community College – *Norwich*
- Tunxis Community College - *Farmington*
- UConn - Avery Point – *Groton*
- UConn - Greater Hartford – *West Hartford*
- UConn Health Center – *Farmington*

Rural Institutions

- Asnuntuck Community College – *Enfield*
- Northwestern Connecticut Community College – *Winsted*
- Quinebaug Valley Community College – *Danielson*
- UConn – *Storrs*

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) prepares the Public Investment Community (PIC) Index not later than July 15, annually, pursuant to §7-545 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS).

The PIC Index measures the relative wealth and need of Connecticut's municipalities by ranking them in descending order by their cumulative point allocations for: (1) per capita income; (2) adjusted equalized net grand list per capita; (3) equalized mill rate; (4) per capita aid to children receiving Temporary Family Assistance Program benefits; and (5) unemployment rate.

Pursuant to CGS §7-545 the FY 13 PIC List includes each municipality that has a cumulative point ranking of between 1 and 42 (i.e., the top quartile of the current fiscal year's PIC Index). When a municipality's ranking falls below the top quartile in a given fiscal year, the city or town's designation as a Public Investment Community continues for that year and the following four fiscal years. As a result, the FY 13 PIC List includes certain previously designated municipalities.

The FY 13 PIC List determines eligibility for several financial assistance programs that various agencies administer.