

# CONNECTICUT



## A snapshot of charitable support from donors in Connecticut

Giving Account® holders in the Constitution State are adopting nontraditional methods to invest in their communities, while the state's largest city, Bridgeport, tops multiple charitable-sector lists for giving.

With 3.6 million total residents, Connecticut is one of the smallest states in the country. It's also home to some of the most generous Fidelity Charitable® donors, whose average recommended grant is \$8,069—more than 3.5 times that of the median gift among all those who give here.<sup>1</sup> The area's donors sent \$162 million in charitable support in 2016, a 35 percent increase over 2015, reflecting philanthropy's vital role in Connecticut's social fabric. Connecticut donors in particular have placed an emphasis on public-private partnerships, and the growth of new medical facilities, expanded museums and a focus on social-impact bonds all evidence this trend.



Number of Giving Accounts

1,714



Average grant amount

\$8,069



Number of grants

20,134



Average number of grants  
per Giving Account®

11.7



Total grant dollars from the region

\$162.5M

## Spotlight on Bridgeport metro area

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk is the largest metropolitan area in Connecticut with 900,000 residents—and it's also one of the most giving cities among Fidelity Charitable® donors nationwide. Home to many finance, management and legal professionals, Bridgeport's affluent demographics are reflected in its generosity: the average gift size (more than \$12,387) is three times the average Fidelity Charitable grant. The city ranks at the top of the list for seven out of eight charitable sectors, and lands in the top 3 for six of those—including education and human services (ranked first), health (second), and environment and animals, arts and culture, and society benefit (third).

# Where does Bridgeport rank for giving to various causes compared to other U.S. cities?

1<sup>st</sup>

## Education

Most popular education charities supported by Bridgeport area donors

- 1 **Harvard University**
- 2 **Columbia University**
- 3 **Darien Library**



Bridgeport is not only one of the wealthiest metropolitan areas in the country; it also ranks in the top 3 for number of residents who hold at least a 4-year degree.<sup>2</sup> Those factors are top predictors of charitable support to education, so it's no surprise that Bridgeport repeated as the number one city for giving to the sector in 2016. Seventy-one percent of Giving Accounts here supported education, compared with 54 percent of all Fidelity Charitable® donors and 15 percent of households that give to charity nationwide. The Boston area, home to 80 colleges and universities, was second. Bridgeport residents support globally known universities like Harvard, Columbia and Yale, but also local institutions such as the Darien Library and public schools—the latter as they face significant state funding challenges.

1<sup>st</sup>

## Human Services

Most popular human services charities supported by Bridgeport area donors

- 1 **Connecticut Food Bank**
- 2 **American Red Cross**
- 3 **Bridgeport Rescue Mission**



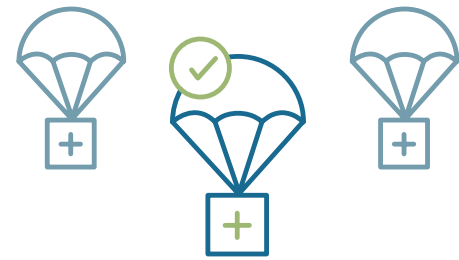
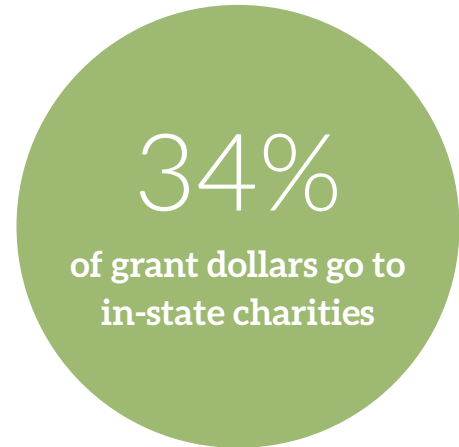
Bridgeport donors are mindful of income disparities and the attending human services needs in their communities—services made even more critical by cuts to these lifelines due to the state budget crisis. Donors in Bridgeport have made human services a priority, with 58 percent sending support to the sector—more than any other metropolitan area nationwide. That number slightly edged New England neighbor Boston, which was third, and pushed last year's top city, Naples, to second. Connecticut is making a greater push for public-private partnerships and social impact bonds that put human services front and center.

To learn more about how Bridgeport stacks up against other cities, visit [FidelityCharitable.org/geography-of-giving](https://www.fidelitycharitable.org/geography-of-giving).

# Connecticut giving influenced by area needs

## Most popular local nonprofits supported by Fidelity Charitable® donors in Connecticut

- 1 Connecticut Food Bank
- 2 Connecticut Public Broadcasting
- 3 Yale University
- 4 Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
- 5 Americares Foundation
- 6 Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport
- 7 Save the Children
- 8 Person-to-Person
- 9 Foodshare
- 10 Darien Library



Local nonprofits that receive support from Fidelity Charitable donors see only minor changes from year-to-year in Connecticut, where the most popular sectors for giving are education, human services and health. Ongoing support to some of these organizations and sectors may be influenced by a desire to fill the gaps created by Connecticut's recent budget impasse; considerable state debt has threatened or eliminated funding to many public programs, including school systems. The proportion of total grant dollars residents send to local nonprofits—34 percent—is less than many areas, but it tells an incomplete story: Connecticut's small size—both in area and population—and the fluidity of New England's borders mean many charities outside of Connecticut serve the entire multi-state region.

<sup>1</sup> Chronicle of Philanthropy, "How America Gives," 2014.

<sup>2</sup> New York Times, "Cities with the Most College Educated Residents," May 30, 2012.

The data for this report was obtained from Fidelity Charitable's internal reporting database and looks at Fidelity Charitable activity in calendar year 2016. For additional detail on reporting methodology, visit [FidelityCharitable.org/geography-of-giving](http://FidelityCharitable.org/geography-of-giving).

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