

## **Hartford Data Collaborative & Hartford Youth Researchers**

### **FY2022 UNITY and Other DFCYR Grantees Data Findings**

#### Background/Introduction

In 2021, The City of Hartford's Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation (DFCYR) allocated \$1.5 million in grants to organizations serving Hartford children and youth, intended to promote engagement after the COVID-19 pandemic through their UNITY Youth Engagement Grant Program. The City awarded funding to over 38 youth-serving providers from June 1, 2021, to May 30, 2022 (FY2022).

For the first time, starting in FY2022, the City of Hartford required all grantees receiving over \$5,000 in City funds to join the Hartford Data Collaborative (HDC). The City also requested the Hartford Data Collaborative integrate the data from the programs and provide overall statistics about the youth who accessed and participated in these programs. HDC analyzed data from 38 grantees under the UNITY program and 8 additional youth programs that received over \$5,000, all of which were funded by federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. (Additional funds were awarded in amounts less than \$5,000 to other providers; only data from one of these grantees is included in the analysis)

The Hartford Data Collaborative, with co-researchers from the Hartford Youth Researcher (HYR) program, analyzed the data in two rounds. First, HDC and HYR reviewed the data from June 2021-April 2022 and provided a preliminary analysis of findings through [Data Walk](#) on June 8, 2022.<sup>1</sup> After the final program participant data were submitted in July 2022, HDC and HYR integrated, reviewed, and analyzed the program data that were received by August 15, 2022. This report provides an overview of the characteristics of the youth served, including the location of residence.

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<sup>1</sup>CTData's work from January 2022-August 2022 to collect, integrate, and analyze data from federal COVID-19 relief funds was funded by a grant from Data Across Sectors for Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

## FY2022 UNITY Data Research Questions

The City of Hartford requested HDC collect and integrate these datasets to answer the following research questions:

1. How many Hartford youth are served by UNITY programs (unduplicated count)?
2. What are the characteristics of Hartford youth who participated in the programs?
  - Age, gender, ethnicity & race
  - Location of residence and service access
- 3 How many participants are from the following priority populations & locations?
  - Justice-involved and/or at-risk youth up to age 24
  - Disengaged, disconnected, and/or opportunity youth up to age 24
  - Adolescents ages 11 to 13 years old or in Middle School grades (6, 7, and 8)
  - Young children under 5 years old
  - Girls under 18 years old
  - High-need neighborhoods
  - Enrichment activity deserts
4. What types of programs are accessed by the priority populations?

## Data & Data Integration Notes

Data from this project were administrative data collected from 34 UNITY and other ARPA funded grantees during the first year of data collection by the City (Fiscal Year 2022). Data were linked using participants' first and last names. Ideally, data would have been linked using first name, last name, and date of birth; however, date of birth was missing from many of the datasets.

For multiple reasons, not all grantees provided the City and HDC with a complete set of data. Datasets that did not include the full name of a participant were not able to be linked.

This report includes data from individuals who participated in non-UNITY programs but were part of additional youth engagement programs funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. It also includes data from one UNITY grantee who received less than

\$5000 in UNITY funds. A full list of organizations included in the linked data is included in the Appendix.

### Missing Data

The City of Hartford provided HDC with a list of 38 organizations that were required to provide or did provide data for youth engagement in FY2022. Of these organizations:

- 34 provided data by August 15<sup>th</sup> for analysis.
- 3 did not provide data by HDC timeline.
- 3 provided data, but it was insufficient to allow linking with other datasets due to missing personal identifiers (such as full name). One organization had data from the April data submission that we used in our analysis.

In addition, some organizations did not provide all the demographic data needed to understand the characteristics of UNITY program participants. The table below shows the percentage of missing data by variable for programs in the linked dataset.

| <b>Variable</b> | <b>Missing in April (mid-year) Data</b> | <b>Missing in August (full-year) Data</b> |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Age             | 3%                                      | 9%  |
| Gender          | 30                                      | 29  |
| Ethnicity       | 48                                      | 29  |
| Race            | 50                                      | 39  |
| Neighborhood    | 24                                      | 52  |

The table above illustrates that for all but one variable—neighborhood—the percentage of missing data decreased when HDC analyzed the full year program participant information.

### **Part I. Total Youth Served by UNITY and Other Youth programs**

Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation funded programs during FY2022, including UNITY programs, served 2,288 unduplicated youth during fiscal year 2021-2022.

- 87% of children/youth were enrolled in only 1 program
- 11% were enrolled in 2 programs
- 2% were enrolled in 3 programs
- Less than 1% were enrolled in 4 or more programs

## **Part II: UNITY & Other Grantee Participant Characteristics**

HDC and the HYR analyzed data from UNITY and other grantee programs that provided participants’ demographic information: age, gender, ethnicity, and race. We also analyzed the neighborhoods where participants lived, based on their street address.

### **Participants’ Age**

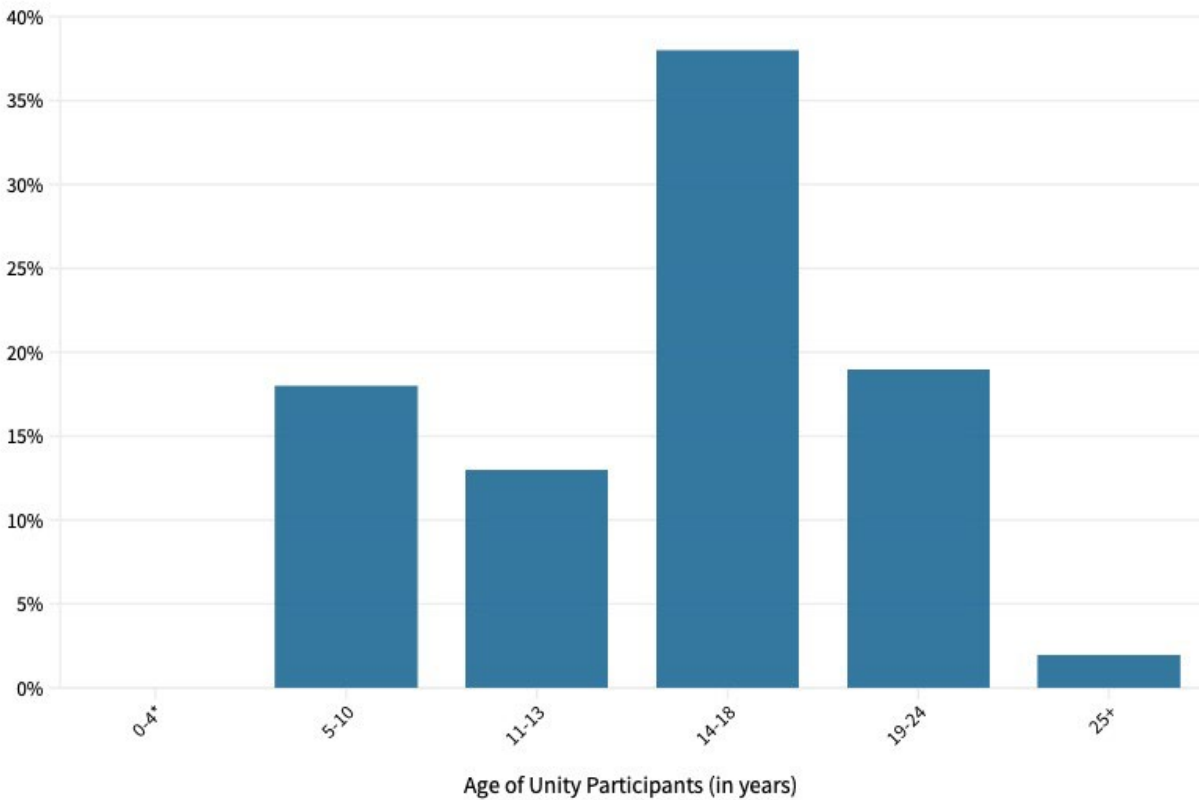
The youngest UNITY participant was 3 and the oldest was 33 years old. We grouped participants into the following age categories:

- Children ages 0-4 years old
- Children ages 5-10 years old
- Youth ages 11-13
- Youth ages 14-18
- Youth ages 19-24
- Adults ages 25 and up (from non-UNITY program grantees)

| <b>Age Of UNITY Participant (in years)</b> | <b>Number of UNITY and Other Grantee participants</b> |
|--|---|
| 0 - 4                                      | Less than 15 (less than 1%)                           |
| 5-10                                       | 417 (18%)   |
| 11-13                                      | 296 (13%)   |
| 14-18                                      | 878 (38%)   |
| 19-24                                      | 432 (19%)   |
| 25+  | 44 (2%)   |
| Total                                      | 2,288   |

*Missing data: 215 participants.*

### FY2022 UNITY and Other Programs Participants By Age Group



The age category with the highest level of representation in UNITY and other programs were youth ages 14-18, and the second highest was youth ages 19-24. The age group with the least percentage of participants was children younger than 5 years old.

### Participants' Gender

More male children and youth participated in programs than female, transgender or nonbinary participants: 52% male, 39% female, and less than one percent were transgender or non-binary.

| Gender Of UNITY Participant               | Number of UNITY Participants |
|---|------------------------------|
| Male                                      | 1180                         |
| Female                                    | 900                          |
| Transgender<br>Male/Transgender/Nonbinary | *Less than 15                |

Missing data: 205 participants.

### Participants' Ethnicity

The City requires grantees to report on participants' ethnicity separate from their race and provides three categories: Hispanic/Latino, Non-Hispanic/Latino, and unknown. A majority of the participants were not Hispanic/Latino.

| Ethnicity           | Number of UNITY Participants |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Hispanic/Latino     | 727 (45%)                    |
| NOT Hispanic/Latino | 900 (55%)                    |

Missing data: 661 participants.

### Participants' Race

The City provides grantees with the following options for capturing participants' race: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Multiracial, Other, White, and Unknown. The majority of participants reported being Black or African American; however, a large portion of the participants (39%) did not provide race data.

| Race                             | Number of UNITY Participants |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Black or African American        | 952 (68%)                    |
| White                            | 180 (13%)                    |
| Other                            | 173 (12%)                    |
| Multiracial                      | 45 (3%)                      |
| Asian                            | 33 (2%)                      |
| Native Hawaiian                  | Less than 15 (less than 1%)  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | Less than 15 (less than 1%)  |

Missing data: 890 participants.

### Participants' Neighborhoods

HDC staff used street address data provided by the participants to identify their neighborhood of residence. We geocoded addresses into Census tracts, which we

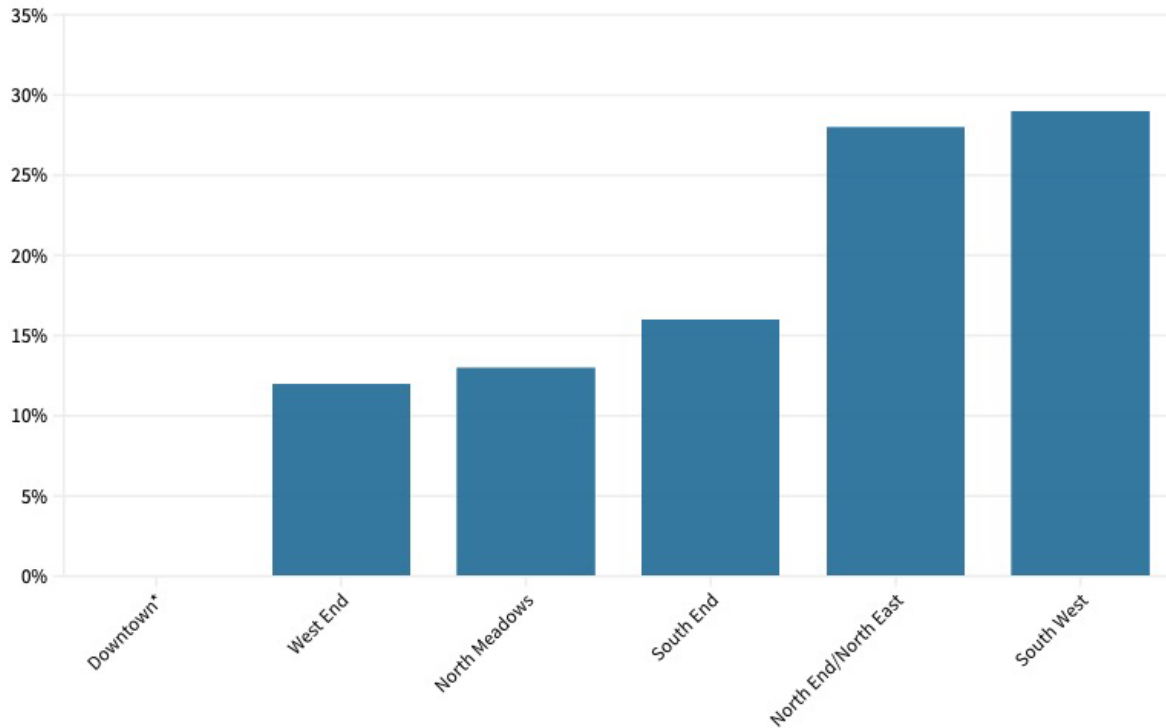
then used to determine which of the 17 Hartford neighborhoods the Census tracts belonged to. A list of all neighborhoods by Census tracts is in our Appendix.

Children and youth participants lived in six of the 17 Hartford neighborhoods. Eleven out of the 17 neighborhoods did not have any youth participants: Asylum Hill, Barry Hill, Behind the Rocks, Blue Hills, Clay-Arsenal, Frog Hollow, Parkville, Sheldon-Oak, South Green, South Meadows, and Upper Albany. However, a majority of participants (52%) did not provide address data to allow HDC to determine their neighborhood of residence.

| <b>Program Participants by Neighborhood</b> | <b>Number Of UNITY Participants</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| South West                                  | 318 (29%)                           |
| North End/Northeast                         | 307 (28%)                           |
| South End                                   | 179 (16%)                           |
| North Meadows                               | 143 (13%)                           |
| West End                                    | 140 (12%)                           |
| Downtown                                    | Less than 15 (less than 1%)         |

*Missing data: 1,193 participants.*

## FY2022 UNITY and Other Programs Participants By Hartford Neighborhoods



The neighborhood with the highest number of participants is South West and the least represented neighborhood is Downtown with 8 participants.

We did not compare the number of participants to the overall number of children/youth who live in those neighborhoods but plan to do so for next year’s data analysis if the data are more complete.

### **Part III. Program & Service Access by Priority Populations**

DCFYR identified five priority populations for accessing UNITY and other grantee programs:

- Young children under 5 years old
- Adolescents ages 11 to 13 years old or in Middle School grades (6, 7, and 8)
- Girls under 18 years old
- Justice-involved and/or at-risk youth up to age 24
- Disengaged, disconnected, and/or opportunity youth up to age 24



Grantees did not provide data about two of these populations: Justice-involved and/or at-risk youth up to age 24, and (2) Disengaged, disconnected, and/or opportunity youth up to age 24.

### Participants Ages 5 and Under

Fewer than 15 participants (less than 1%) of all UNITY and other grantees program participants were under the age of 5 years old. Participants in this age group accessed programs by three providers: YWCA, Hartford Knights, and Hartford Performs.

### Adolescent Participants Ages 11-13

Adolescents represented 296 (or 13%) of UNITY and other grantees program participants, defined as being between the ages of 11-13 years old. Participants in this age group accessed programs by seventeen providers. This table only shows programs with at least 15 adolescent participants.

| UNITY & Other Grantee Programs | Number of Adolescents in Programs |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| JRB Program                    | 56                                |
| Hartford Wildcats              | 56                                |
| YMCA                           | 37                                |
| NIRO                           | 29                                |
| Dream Big College              | 28                                |
| Hartford Knights               | 27                                |
| Big Red Bird                   | 22                                |
| PAAL                           | 19                                |
| Girl Scouts                    | 16                                |

### Girls Under 18 years Old

There were 2253 girls under 18 years old who participated in FY2022 UNITY and other grantee programs. Participants in this age group accessed programs by thirty-four providers. This table only shows programs with at least 15 adolescent participants.

| <b>UNITY &amp; Other Grantee Programs</b> | <b>Number of Girls Under 18 Participating</b> |
|---|---|
| OPP Youth Service Corps                   | 354   |
| JRB                                       | 223   |
| Compass PeaceBuilders                     | 175   |
| JDPP                                      | 147   |
| Hartford Hurricanes                       | 125   |
| Hartford Knights                          | 121   |
| Consortium For Higher Ed                  | 119   |
| Hartford Wildcats                         | 104   |
| GHPA                                      | 86  |
| Harford Performs                          | 84  |
| PAAL                                      | 77  |
| Center For Latino Progress                | 77  |
| Girl Scouts                               | 76  |
| OPP Behind the Walls                      | 76  |
| YVPI                                      | 68  |
| CURET                                     | 59  |
| BHCA                                      | 54  |
| Charter Oak                               | 52  |
| NIRO                                      | 50  |
| YWCA                                      | 50  |
| ROCA                                      | 45  |
| Proud DD & CC                             | 30  |
| Big Red Bird                              | 30  |
| YMCA                                      | 28  |
| Dream Big College                         | 28  |
| URISE                                     | 23  |
| CT Scholars                               | 21  |
| Eli Patrick & Co                          | 20  |

The City of Hartford provided program types for each of the UNITY providers and Hartford Youth Researchers coded the program types for non-UNITY grantees. Programs could have multiple program types. This table shows the types of programs accessed by adolescents and by girls under 18.

| <b>UNITY Program Type</b>                                       | <b>Total Participants Enrolled</b> | <b>Number of Participants Ages 11-13</b> | <b>Number of Participants Females Under 18</b> |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Community based program   | 2003                               | 346                                      | 502  |
| School based program  | 620                                | 119                                      | 263  |
| Employment/Work based learning program                          | 612                                | 21                                       | 163  |
| After School  | 134                                | 35                                       | 63   |
| Mentorship  | 122                                | 20                                       | 51   |
| Athletics   | 77                                 | 19                                       | 36   |
| Activities  | 77                                 | 19                                       | 36   |
| Work with HPD Officers  | 77                                 | 19                                       | 36   |
| After School Learning Pod                                       | 57                                 | 16                                       | 27   |
| Child Care/Summer Camp & Leadership Development and Empowerment | 50                                 | Less than 15                             | 37   |
| Special Needs Youth   | 34                                 | Less than 15                             | Less than 15                                   |
| Cultural  | 19                                 | Less than 15                             | Less than 15                                   |
| Art and Craft and Dance   | 19                                 | Less than 15                             | Less than 15                                   |
| Educational   | Less than 15                       | Less than 15                             | Less than 15                                   |

### Data Recommendations

In order to increase the amount of data collected, particularly meaningful data that can help the City of Hartford and service organizations better serve and engage youth, HDC and HYR recommend that DFCYR:

1. Indicate which variables (data fields) correspond to each type of priority population to help grantees better track data about these participants
2. Define high needs neighborhoods based on needs of children and youth

3. Refine the UNITY program types and develop definitions for each type to aid in understanding service utilization by all participants and priority populations. Create subgroups or codes for specific topics (like working with HPD officer).
  - a. Consult with youth researchers on program code types.
4. Diagnose data collection challenges by UNITY grantees and address capacity challenges with HDC or other data support.
5. Develop goals for UNITY program that are shared with UNITY Grantees to underscore the purpose of data collection
6. Share impact of data findings on City policies and practices with grantees and community.

### Next Steps

HDC has been meeting with DFCYR staff on a regular basis to discuss the findings from FY2022 grantees' programs and discuss how to improve data collection for FY2023 grantees and future programs to better understand the impact of DFCYR programs and youth engagement in Hartford. HDC will be sharing findings as it consults with FY2023 grantees on their data collection and data submission processes.

**Appendix: List of Hartford Programs & Organizations Represented in the Findings  
(non UNITY grantees noted with an asterik at the end of the table)**

| Grantee Name   | Description of Program  |
|--|---|
| Big Red Bird   | An enrichment program that supports the hearts of youth through a series of books, blogs and tools.   |
| Blue Hills Civic Association in partnership with Creativista Charm LLC | Providing youth with learning pods and yoga classes.  |
| Center for Latino Progress   | Fostering a strong sense of connection/belonging of the youth to their family, peers, school, and community.  |
| Center for Urban Research (CURET)                                      | Providing Hartford students with summer academic enhancements/reinforcement, enrichment, and recreational programs for children, adolescents, and youth.  |
| CT Scholars  | Offering weekly tutoring, community service opportunities, seasonal basketball team league, and sports training.  |
| DreamBig College   | The I Am Girls Project, a year-long program is based on The Social Change Model, promoting the values of social justice, equality, self-knowledge, empowerment, collaboration, citizenship, and service to the community.                                 |
| GHPA Youth Basketball Program Inc.                                     | Providing youth ages 14 through 18, the opportunity to be engaged in a outdoor/indoor basketball league.  |
| Girl Scouts of CT  | Girl Scout Strong encourages every girl to explore the four pillars of Girl Scouting and try new things through sampling STEM, outdoor activities, and entrepreneurship in group activities.  |
| Hartford Consortium for Higher Education                               | Career beginnings program works to boost post-secondary college matriculation by pairing students with an advisor who assists with a variety of tasks important to the college application process.   |
| Hartford Hurricanes  | Keeping youth off the streets 5 times a week during the highest crime time frame through engaging youth in teamwork, dedication, discipline, determination, and life skills.  |
| Hartford Knights Corp.   | "PLAAY" uses sports to observe youth in a competitive and non-competitive sports/activities arena. The focus of "PLAAY" is to provide tools to strengthen youth social & behavioral skills while guiding them to make positive life and academic choices. |
| Hartford Performs  | Providing young members of Hartford with an enriching arts program led by teaching arts in the community.   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Hartford Police Athletic League (PAAL)  | Providing athletics, arts, educational, and recreational activities to create the bond between police officers and youth of the City of Hartford.   |
| Hartford Wildcats, Inc.   | The Parents, Admin, Coaches and Kids program (PACK) is an evidence-based program that provides social emotional learning enrichment activities.   |
| Hartford's Proud Drill Drum and Dance Corp.,  | Providing drum, drill, and dance recreation, civic education, behavior modification techniques, community awareness, and leadership skills.   |
| Justice Dance Performance Project, Inc., (previously Judy Dworin Performance Project) | Providing youth with collaborative movement-based residencies to help children develop self-knowledge and awareness, expand cognitive skills, and develop tools for resilient living.                                 |
| Keney Park Sustainability Project   | KPSP aims to support the development and sustainability of community-based food systems, including farmers markets, community gardens, and school-based gardening.  |
| Miracle League of CT, Urban League of Greater Hartford                                | Providing opportunities for children with physical and cognitive challenges to participate in recreational, educational and cultural activities in an accessible, nurturing and noncompetitive environment.           |
| NIRO Design Center LLC  | Creative talents will be explored and ignited through hands on practices of making connections across academic, professional, and social platforms for all participating students.                                    |
| North Family Life Center Inc.   | Providing youth with etiquette, life skills, and career development workshops.  |
| Sheldon Oak Central in partnership with Summer Solutions                              | The summer 2021 internship program engages at-risk youth in Hartford by getting them involved in our community gardens, as well as providing them with learning opportunities through community engagement workshops. |
| Sportsmen's Athletic Club and Cricket Hall of Fame                                    | Providing students ages 12 to 18 activities and arts focused on the history and actual design of African Caribbean art and craft, physical exercise, drumming and dancing.  |
| URISE Ventures, Inc.  | URISE offers youth an award-winning earning and learning experience that is hands-on, project-based, and ideal for creative, motivated and tech-savvy youth and young adults.   |
| YMCA of Greater Hartford  | The Shoot Hoops, Not Guns basketball program is designed to keep youth safe and engaged in structured recreational programming at the Wilson-Gray YMCA.   |
| YWCA Hartford Region, Inc.  | Children will experience hands on activities that focus on fun and building relationships with their peers.   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Charter Oak                              | Provide multi-cultural arts programming to underserved Hartford young people, work extensively with the homeless community and present performances and exhibits that bring to light the burning issues of our day   |
| COMPASS Peacebuilders*                   | Help youth, who are in poverty and experience trauma or violence in their life, by offering Cognitive Behavior Therapy and other sources to reshape their life   |
| JRB-The Village for Children & Families* | The Juvenile Review Board is a community-based program that provides youth who have committed a juvenile offense the opportunity to make things right with an alternative to Juvenile Court. Through a mediated process, youth understand how their behavior harmed the victim and community, acknowledge that their behavior harmed others, and take responsibility to repair the harm through direct or indirect action.   |
| OPP Behind The Walls*                    | Behind the Walls is an initiative funded by the City of Hartford in partnership with the Department of Corrections. Behind the Walls operates in York, Manson, Osborn, and HCC respectfully. The Behind the Walls Navigator will work with the counselors at each of the aforementioned facilities to identify returning citizens within 30-120 of release to ensure a seamless transition back to Hartford. Individuals must be between the ages of 18-25 and Hartford residents to receive pre-release services. |
| OPP YSC*                                 | Youth Service Corps participate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid Service Learning Projects</li> <li>• Educational Supports</li> <li>• Job Readiness Training</li> <li>• Goal Setting</li> <li>• Personal Development Workshops</li> </ul>   |
| ROCA*                                    | Teach life-saving emotional skills to young men, young mothers and Central American young men, so they can overcome their hurt and anger and begin to see a different kind of future.  |
| Youth Violence Prevention Initiative*    | Internal City of Hartford Initiative   |
| Eli Patrick & Company*                   | Workforce training Program   |

\* DFCYR grantee that provided youth engagement programming through American Rescue Plan funds, but not part of the UNITY program.

### Hartford Neighborhoods by U.S. Census Bureau Tracts

| Neighborhood        | Census Tracts          | Represented in FY22 UNITY Programs |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Asylum Hill         | 5031, 5033, 5246       | No                                 |
| Barry Square        | 5001, 5002, 5026, 5027 | No                                 |
| Behind the Rocks    | 5045, 5049             | No                                 |
| Blue Hills          | 5038, 5039, 5040       | No                                 |
| Clay-Arsenal        | 5009, 5017, 5018       | No                                 |
| Downtown            | 5021                   | Yes                                |
| Frog Hollow         | 5028, 5029, 5030       | No                                 |
| North Meadows       | 5007                   | Yes                                |
| Northeast/North End | 5012, 5013, 5015, 5244 | Yes                                |
| Parkville           | 5041, 5043             | No                                 |
| Sheldon-Charter Oak | 5004, 5005             | No                                 |
| South End           | 5023, 5024             | Yes                                |
| South Green         | 5003                   | No                                 |
| South Meadows       | 5025                   | No                                 |
| Southwest           | 5048, 5247             | Yes                                |
| Upper Albany        | 5014, 5035, 5037       | No                                 |
| West End            | 5042, 5245.01, 5245.02 | Yes                                |