THE REAL COSTS OF LIVING IN BRIDGEPORT, CT

WHAT “COUNTS” AS POVERTY?

According to the federal government, poverty is a single person earning $12,060 or less per year. This equals $1,005 per month. In Connecticut,

- 323,700 people in Connecticut live at or below the Federal Poverty Level
- 503,200 people in Connecticut live between 100-199% of the Federal Poverty Level

WHO QUALIFIES FOR MEDICAID?

- In Connecticut, individuals with incomes above $16,642 cannot qualify for Medicaid.
- Medicaid is the primary source of health care for people living with mental illness and a growing resource for people living with addiction.

REAL NUMBERS, HARD MATH

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL INCOME $12,060

NO FRILLS COST OF LIVING ($29,040)

- $16,980

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A no-frills budget, excluding health care costs, for an individual in Bridgeport is $29,040.

The cost of living in rural Connecticut is about the same per month.
More than 1 in 5 uninsured adults with an opioid addiction have a serious mental illness.

Nationally, uninsured adults are less likely to have received treatment for addiction than those covered by Medicaid, and drug addiction is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S.

In Connecticut, over 116,000 people have a serious mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or depression. These conditions often impact a person's ability to communicate with others, take care of themselves, and understand the world around them.

By 2015, over 2 million people were addicted to prescription opioids and 591,000 people were addicted to heroin. In Connecticut, 800 people lost their lives to drug overdoses, a 25 percent increase over 2014.

People diagnosed with a serious mental illness often qualify for Medicaid through their eligibility for Social Security disability benefits. Individuals who qualify for SSDI receive on average $13,578 per year, and those who qualify for SSI receive up to $8,820 per year. SSDI and SSI are provided to individuals who cannot work due to a serious medical or mental illness, condition, or injury. In most states, eligibility for SSI confers eligibility for Medicaid. Generally, SSDI recipients are eligible for Medicare after two years, but may also qualify for Medicaid.