

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GREGG HADDAD
PROUDLY SERVING MANSFIELD

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address these new challenges and injustices.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education.

I have fought to ensure Mansfield will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that our community and state will recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Best,


Gregg Haddad

TOWN BUDGET AID SUMMARY

	FY 21	FY 22
Education Cost Sharing	\$9,459,722	\$9,459,722
PILOT	\$5,566,517	\$10,369,767
Other	\$3,478,464	\$3,470,881
Total State Funds To Town	\$18,504,703	\$23,300,370

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2021



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PUBLIC SAFETY

- Prohibited insurance companies from discriminating against victims of domestic violence (HB 6590)
- Blocked individuals who a court determines as high-risk from getting their hands on a gun (PA 21-67)
- Strengthened laws on sex trafficking, making it easier for victims to restart their lives with a clean record (HB 6657)
- Banned no-knock warrants (SB 1093)
- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding – to serve more victims of gun violence (PA 21-36)

HEALTHCARE

- Ensured dental coverage for kids through their parents' plans, up to the age of 26 (SB 1004)
- Set minimum standards for long-term care insurance
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 low-income residents and families (SB 1202) regardless of immigration status (HB 6687)
- Improved mental health first aid training for paramedics (SB 102)
- Continued coverage and access to telehealth (PA 21-133)
- Increased funding to local health departments (PA 21-2)

A GREENER CONNECTICUT

- Created higher renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities (6527)
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill (PA 21-58)
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS" (SB 837)



A DEMOCRACY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US

- Allowed voters to decide in the 2022 state election if Connecticut should have early in-person voting (PA 21-1)
- Took the first step towards allowing no-excuse absentee ballot voting (PA 21-2)
- Ended prison gerrymandering (PA 21-13)
- Paved the way for permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots (SB 1202)
- Protected voters' personal information (SB 1202)

AN EQUITABLE CONNECTICUT

- Diversified our juries (HB 6548)
- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Launched a new anti-bias in hiring initiative in public schools (SB 1202)
- Passed the CROWN ACT making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyles, such as braids, locs, and twists (PA 21-2)
- Cut the sales tax on breast feeding supplies (SB 1202)

FIGHTING FOR OUR CHILDREN

- Raised child sex abuse awareness (PA 21-64); required comprehensive background checks in athletic leagues and youth camps (HB 6417)
- Increased awareness of behavioral and mental health services for children when they are discharged from a hospital (HB 6510)
- Fighting online harassment with tougher penalties (PA 21-56)
- Created an audit of remote learning during COVID-19 to understand its impact on students and the school community (SB 1202)
- Ended lunch shaming when kids fall behind in paying for their school lunches (PA 21-46)

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

- Fully funded free community college for first-time full-time students - meaning students can work on their associate degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket (SB 1202)
- Improved sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and our response to sexual assaults on CT college campuses (PA 21-81)
- Fought for better mental health services on college campuses (HB 6402)
- Banned surprise graduation fees at CT colleges and universities (HB 6402)



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and replenished the unemployment fund (PA 21-5 & SB 1202)
- Ensured towns can continue to hold virtual meetings into 2022 (SB 1202)
- Cut red tape to make outdoor dining a permanent option for our local bars and restaurants (SB 1202)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring for nursing home residents (PA 21-55) and created a statewide policy on visitation (PA 21-71)
- Created an Unemployed Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work
- Created an audit of remote learning during COVID-19 to understand its impact on students and the school community (PA 21-2)
- Ensured our kids recover from this pandemic (PA 21-46)
 - » Expanded youth suicide prevention training
 - » Created more outpatient services for kids
 - » Addressed absenteeism in virtual learning

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- Championed new zoning reforms to deal with rising housing costs and address affordability, equity and opportunity in our communities (PA 21-29)
- Guaranteed legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Invested resources to clean up and make our public housing more energy efficient (PA 21-48)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)