

# newfutures<sup>→</sup>



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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# Welcome

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Now, more than ever, health and wellness are at the forefront of our minds. There is not an individual in New Hampshire who has not felt the impact of COVID-19; whether you have experienced the virus itself, have lost a loved one, are supporting a child through virtual learning or navigating an unexpected job loss; these times are as hard as they are unprecedented. Despite it all, we have watched in awe at the perseverance and adaptability of New Futures' staff, partners and advocates, who have taken this moment to sharpen their advocacy skills and ensure our most vulnerable populations are protected.

With your support, New Futures successfully pivoted to remote advocacy and advanced all four of our 2020 campaign priorities: Prescription Drug Price Relief, Tobacco 21, Telehealth Expansion, and Behavioral Health Support in Schools. Countless hours of work went into these victories, and thanks to your Letters to the Editor, phone calls, emails, and other advocacy efforts, this hard work paid off. Our collective voices helped create meaningful and lasting policy change in support of New Hampshire's children and families.

Beyond our shared campaign wins in 2020, New Futures continued to build a strong and reliable network of health advocates across the state. We made enhancements to our advocacy training programs, including a new Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) with Kearsarge High School students. We created virtual listening sessions and we launched two new advocacy field grant and stipend programs, just to name a few. It is our deepest hope that these opportunities have assisted in reducing barriers to civic engagement and have enhanced your ability to meaningfully engage in policy and advocacy work.

New Futures, like so many other organizations, also took a deep look at our own organization's role in advancing health equity in 2020. While there is a lot of work for us all to do, personally and professionally, to help break down barriers and actively promote equity, New Futures is taking several steps to begin to move the needle in our work. This includes providing robust training for our staff and board on implicit bias, intentionally creating space for diverse perspectives around our policy tables, taking a look at how we convene events and select vendors, and leveraging our position and relationships with state and national funders to support our partners leading equity policy work. These are just a few of the steps we have begun to implement as we work alongside each of you to dismantle systemic racism in New Hampshire.

Looking forward to 2021, New Futures remains committed to growing and recruiting new advocates, partners, supporters, and legislative champions who share our mission to advance the health and wellness of the Granite State. If you haven't already, please join us by taking part in one of our advocacy trainings, attending a community meeting, engaging in one of our issue-based campaign tables, or making a charitable donation in support of our policy and advocacy work.

Our work would not be possible without your support, your voice or your advocacy efforts. We look forward to our continued work together to create a healthier and happier New Hampshire.

Michele D. Merritt, Esq.  
President and CEO

Kelsea Hale  
Outgoing Board Chair

Gary Lavoie  
Incoming Board Chair

# About New Futures

## Our Mission

*We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates, and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents.*

## Our Vision

*We envision a State and local communities whose public policies support the health and wellness of all Granite Staters.*

## Our Focus Areas



### **ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS**

We support evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery programs in the Granite State.



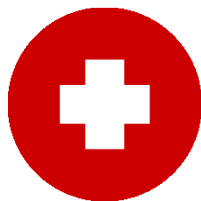
### **GENERAL HEALTH**

We envision a state with adequate and affordable health services provided to all NH residents.



### **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

We support policies which give NH's children what they need to thrive now & in the future.



### **ACCESS TO TREATMENT**

We aim to ensure access to substance use and mental health treatment programs in NH.



### **CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

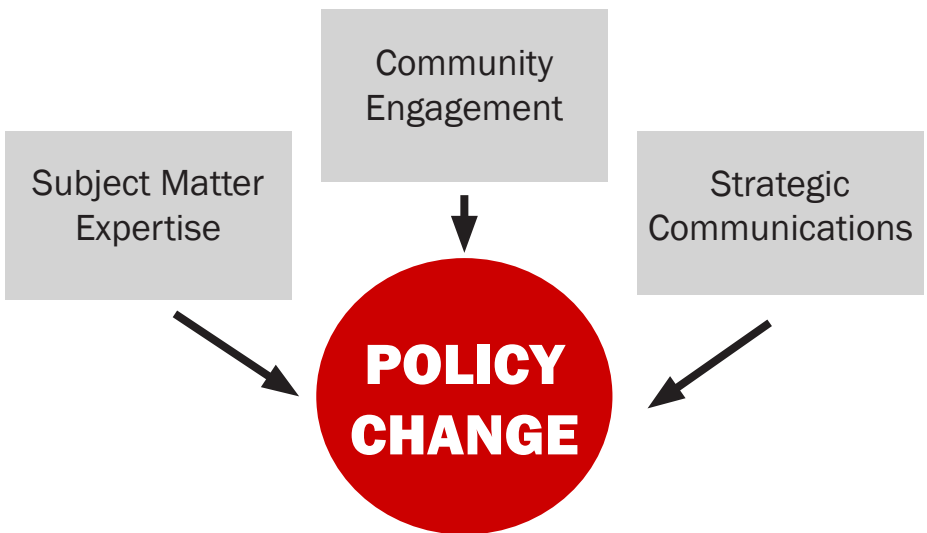
We support and strengthen a comprehensive and integrated System of Care for children and youth in NH.



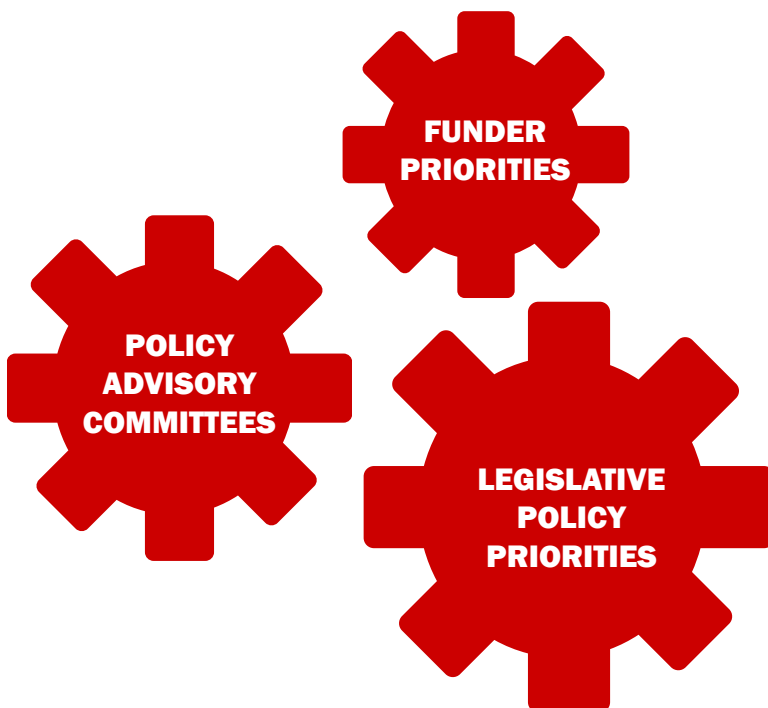
# How We Work

At New Futures, we take a comprehensive three-pronged approach to creating policy change, combining the subject matter expertise of our policy staff, the deep connections of our community engagement team and the messaging prowess of our strategic communications department. Together, these three critical pieces ensure that advocate voices are empowered throughout the legislative process.

Whether our aim is to pass or prevent legislation on a particular health issue or educate the public about the impact of policy, our model ensures the advancement of health and wellness throughout the Granite State.



# How We Select Policy Priorities



Consistent with our core focus areas, New Futures works to advance several mission-aligned policies with high level priorities developed in collaboration with our funders. New Futures' ranking of bills in funder-prioritized policy areas is guided by advisory committees comprised of experts and leaders in each field. Our campaign priorities are then determined based on the estimated resources required to advance a specific policy objective, and the political will to move the policy forward.

# Strategic Plan

at a glance



## Remain a trusted leader and expert

- Provide strategic, non-partisan guidance and expertise
- Build relationships based on mutual respect and integrity
- Share our model, our successes and our organizational values



## Amplify NH Voices

- Educate and mobilize communities to engage in NH's legislative process
- Assist and support partners to move forward effective policy change
- Connect individuals to strategic communications opportunities



## Prioritize health and wellness

- Disseminate data-driven advocacy tools and resources
- Utilize a public health approach to inform organizational positions
- Increase public awareness of the full array of issues in which we work



## Build advocacy capacity

- Support individuals and partners in building advocacy skills
- Lead and convene grassroots coalitions
- Build public awareness and political interest in policy priorities



## Grow and diversify resources

- Responsibly steward existing funds
- Build and expand relationships with state and national funders
- Pursue short and long-term strategic development goals



## Embrace learning and innovation

- Provide ongoing opportunities to build knowledge and expertise
- Create tailored and flexible professional development plans
- Continuously evaluate and measure progress toward organizational goals



# Looking Back at 2020

## COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront many of the issues New Futures has been working for years to address and exposed significant holes in New Hampshire's public health system. At New Futures, we have kept our foot on the gas, pressing for increased support for children, youth, families, childcare and family resource centers, expanded access to substance use prevention, treatment and recovery, and access to health care while adjusting to remote work.

To accomplish our goals and push for swift policy change, we continue to virtually lead and engage in a number of stakeholder groups and coalitions, and work with individuals, partner organizations, and policymakers to respond to this crisis and ensure a stronger public health system for future generations through webinars and surveys for feedback on our priorities.

## SYSTEMIC RACISM & PUBLIC HEALTH

Racism is a driving social determinant of health and is a barrier to health equity. As a public health policy and advocacy organization, it is our responsibility to educate, raise awareness, and lead policy changes on matters of improving health equity.

This legislative session we were able to achieve steps forward to improve and expand access to health care. However, we know there is still much change needed. To that end, we have scaled up our efforts and have implemented a series of community listening sessions to bring more voices into our advocacy process. In addition, we are actively recruiting individuals with lived experiences to join our policy advisory committees; we are offering advocacy field grants to individuals and organizations; and we are providing equity and diversity training internally to all staff. Through these changes, we intend to empower the voices of all advocates and to bring individuals to the table who might not have had the chance to have their voices heard before. By empowering and elevating all Granite State voices, we believe we can increase access and quality of health services to improve the health outcomes for historically marginalized groups. Our goal is to have a public health system that works for all Granite Staters.

# FIELD GRANTS & ADVOCACY STIPENDS

Through our advocacy work, New Futures has come to understand that community-based partners working to advance health equity are often challenged by funding restrictions, which can prevent meaningful participation in policy and advocacy efforts. This past year, New Futures launched two field grant and advocacy stipend opportunities -- one for Early Childhood Advocacy, and the second for COVID-19 health equity.

New Futures invited partner organizations and individuals to submit applications for these opportunities for either task force/coalition participation or individual advocacy. The goal of these Field Grants is to provide funding to help individuals and partner organizations to directly participate in state-level advocacy and lobbying activities around identified early childhood and health equity policy priorities.

**[If interested please click here to visit our website to apply for the second round of funding by December 15th!](#)**

## CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY

This year, the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative's (CBHC) legislative policy work became an official part of the New Futures with the formal adoption and inclusion of children's behavioral health policy as one of New Futures' core policy issues. In the past, New Futures has provided backbone operational support to the CBHC, but in light of their successes yielding system-wide improvements, the operating structure was redesigned by the steering committee. We are thrilled to expand our work on children's behavioral health and believe this new operating structure will be more effective, efficient, and in line with the System of Care values.

Looking forward, with our new Children's Behavioral Health Policy Advisory Committee, we hope to continue the success of the CBHC, which laid a solid foundation of awareness, political will, and state leadership to generate the resources and infrastructure needed to support a comprehensive and integrated System of Care that is youth- and family-driven, community-based, culturally and linguistically competent, and trauma-informed.

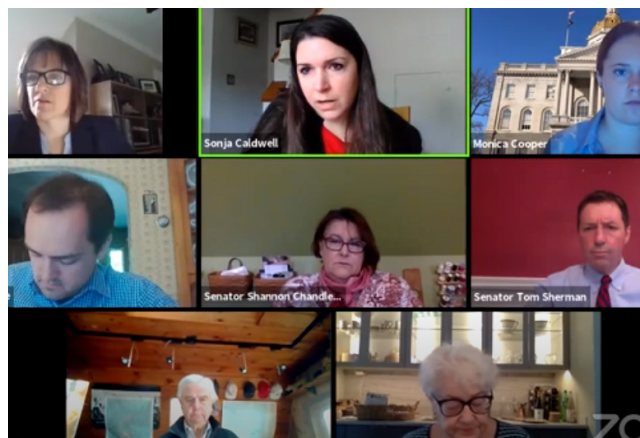
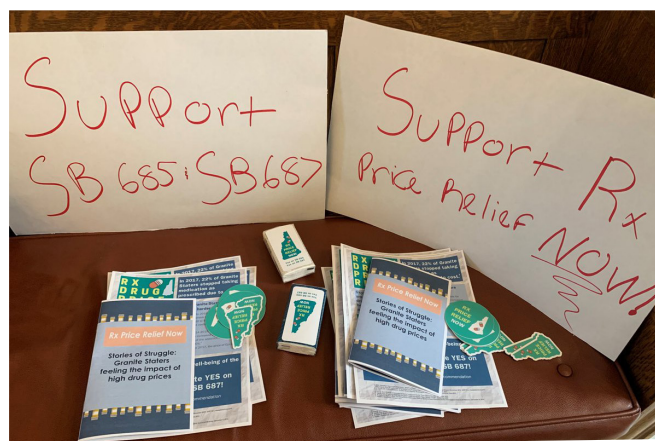




# SHARED CAMPAIGN WINS

In June, after months of delays and uncertainties, the 2020 legislative session came to an end. While it was unlike any we have ever experienced before, we have much to celebrate. Many of the bills that passed into law contain provisions that will have immediate impacts, helping New Hampshire to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, while others will help support public health into the future.

All four of New Futures' campaigns – prescription drug price relief, telehealth expansion, Tobacco 21, and support for behavioral health services in schools – passed the legislature and were signed into law by Governor Sununu. We want to thank all the advocates, partners, and lawmakers who worked so hard to pass these bills and support the well-being of the Granite State. Despite the challenges and uncertainty of the past few months, this legislative session was a victory for the health and wellness of New Hampshire thanks to all your hard work!



# 2020 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP



*Thanks to the help and support of lawmakers, advocates and other partners, the 2020 session was overwhelmingly successful in advancing the health and wellness of the Granite State. Our collective efforts led to the passage of critical bills that will help NH to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and support public health in the years to come.*

## ACCESS TO TREATMENT

### **SB 600: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in County Jails**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1639

Included in HB 1639, this legislation requires that county jails provide Medication-Assisted Treatment for qualifying inmates with Substance Use Disorder. This will help to increase access to treatment and reduce risk of fatal overdoses for individuals in the criminal justice system.

### **SB 633: Recovery Housing**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1245

SB 633, signed into law as part of HB 1245, strengthens the State's registry of recovery housing facilities. This will help to increase oversight and ensure the safety of recovery houses and the individuals they serve.

### **SB 744: Fatal Overdose Review Commission**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1639

This bill, included as part of HB 1639, establishes in statute the Fatal Overdose Review Commission, which will analyze overdose deaths in order to better identify trends and conditions related to the ongoing addiction epidemic.

## HEALTH POLICY

### **SB 690: Prescription Drug Formulary**

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

SB 690, which stalled in the Senate, would have prevented commercial health insurance carriers from changing the list of medications they cover during the plan year. It would have protected NH residents who pick their insurance plan based on what medications the plan covers.

### **HB 1140: Hospital Mergers Commission**

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

This legislation, which did not advance, would have created a commission to monitor non-profit hospital merger proposals and ensure they consider the physical and mental health services available to consumers.

### **HB 1280: Insulin Price Cap**

New Futures Supported | Passed

Signed into law over the summer, HB 1280 reduces the out-of-pocket co-pay for insulin to \$30 per prescription per month for individuals with commercial insurance. This will make insulin much more affordable and accessible for those who depend on it to remain healthy.

## ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

### **HB 1351: Alcohol Good Samaritan**

New Futures Supported | Passed as a part of HB 1645

This legislation, which became law as part of HB 1645, provides immunity from prosecution for individuals under 21 who report an incident related to alcohol overdose



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### **HB 1663: Marijuana Commercialization**

New Futures Opposed | Interim Study

HB 1663, which was held in the House, would have legalized commercial sales of marijuana.

### **SB 621: Specialty Beverages**

New Futures Opposed | Passed as part of HB 1245

Included in HB 1245, this bill allows the sale high alcohol, ready to serve cocktails “to go” from grocery and convenience stores, among other locations. The bill was amended to lower the alcohol percentage and cap the size of products, leaving it in a more acceptable form than the original bill.

## **CHILDREN’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

### **SB 677: Student Discipline**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1558

SB 677, which was signed into law in July as part of HB 1558, makes changes to the state’s suspension and expulsion policies to keep students in school, where they can access behavioral health services and other supports.

### **HB 1249: Legal Representation for Minors**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1162

This legislation, which became law as part of HB 1162, ensures access to quality legal representation for all children in New Hampshire’s juvenile court system. This will help to keep children in their homes, when appropriate, and will help expand access to community-based behavioral health services for children and families in need.

### **SB 684: Medicaid to Schools**

New Futures Supported | Passed

This bill, signed into law last spring, further establishes and supports the state’s Medicaid to Schools program, which uses federal funds to reimburse schools for healthcare, including behavioral health services provided to students.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

### **HB 1233: Early Supports and Services**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1162

Signed into law as part of HB 1162, this legislation requires insurance carriers to cover Early Supports and Services, family-based supports such as special education, evaluation services, and speech, physical and occupational therapies, among others. These services are critical to healthy childhood development and the mitigation of toxic stress.

### **HB 1707: Family-Centered Early Supports and Services**

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1172

This bill, signed into law as part of HB 1172, requires referral to Early Supports and Services for all babies who are born substance-exposed and all children who experience trauma at a young age. This will increase access to critical services, including speech, physical and occupational therapies, among others, for some of our most vulnerable children.

### **SB 716: Medicaid to Support Child Health and Development**

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

This legislation, which stalled in the Senate, would have made changes to the state’s Medicaid program to better support child development and family strengthening.

# ADVOCACY TRAINING PROGRAM

Over the past few years, we have significantly expanded New Futures' training program. Our team provides trainings at no cost to advocates and organizations who share our interest in advocating for policies that improve the health and wellness of NH residents.

Since COVID-19 reached New Hampshire, we have successfully pivoted to virtual trainings and have been able to continue to offer our full menu of programs with ways for advocates to stay engaged remotely. So far in 2020, we have provided 14 webinars, 9 documentary screenings, and 21 trainings. Altogether, we have engaged more than 2,750 advocates, partners and legislators, among others. The training menu includes a wide range of sessions designed to meet the policy interests and advocacy needs of individuals and partners. New Futures also gladly invites customized training requests. Sessions range from full-day traditional advocacy trainings to one-hour, in-depth presentations on specific issue areas. For a tailored training, you can **request a training on our website** and we'll work with you to meet your needs as best we can.

New Futures' training space at our Concord office can accommodate up to 50 people, but we also travel statewide to bring any training to you. This past year our team trained hundreds of advocates across the state, and we look forward to serving more in the year to come.





# Get Involved!

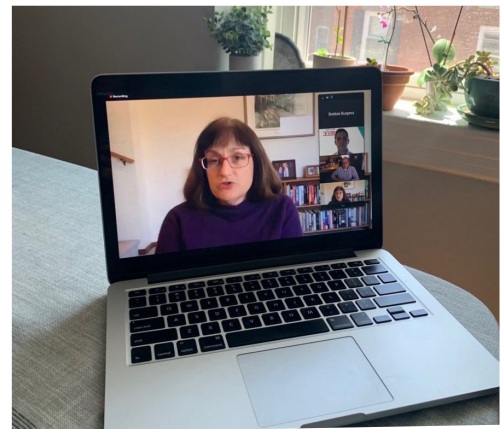
## **Become a Trained Advocate**

In recent years, New Futures has trained over 1,000 advocates across New Hampshire. We provide trainings at no cost to individuals and organizations who share one or more of our health policy priorities. Our expectation is that trained advocates will use their voices to speak up for issues important to them and for the health and wellness of all Granite State residents.

Advocacy trainings, for both individuals and organizations, focus on specific advocate skill-building, like crafting your message, testifying in Concord, calling your lawmakers, and using social media to better help you or your organization raise your voice for New Hampshire's health and wellness.

## **Upcoming Advocacy Trainings**

*Full-day advocacy trainings take place at New Futures' offices in Concord. We also have multiple trainings scheduled across the state. Contact us for a full list of trainings or if you are interested in bringing a training to your organization or community.*



To view our upcoming training schedule, full training menu, or to request a training visit:

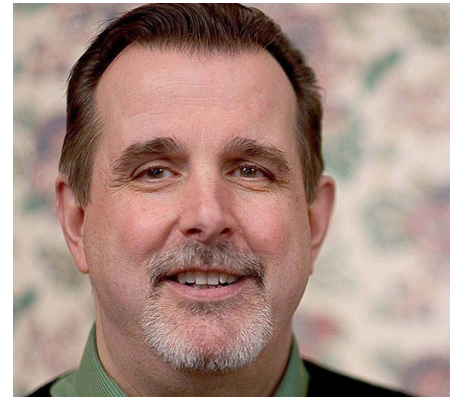
**[new-futures.org/trainings](https://new-futures.org/trainings)**

# Award Recipients



## **LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR:**

*Representative Edward Butler*



Over his five terms in the NH Legislature, Representative Edward Butler has focused much of his work addressing rising health insurance costs and increasing access to quality, affordable health insurance for all, which align with New Futures' core mission and touch on each of our policy areas. Rep. Butler has worked closely with New Futures, sponsoring, leading and supporting many of our priority bills. And this past year, when the session was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, he was a constant source of information, helping New Futures to update our strategy regarding policy priorities and campaigns. Over this year and throughout his tenure in the House, Rep. Butler has been a good friend to New Futures and our advocates, working tirelessly to assure that many health care and equality related bills made it to the Governor's desk.



## **JENNIFER WIERWILLE NORTON ADVOCACY IN ACTION AWARD:**

*Brian Harlow*



Brian Harlow, a Concord, NH resident, is the embodiment of advocacy in action. He relocated from Cambridge, MA a few years ago to help family members who have struggled with the disease of addiction and has thrown himself into advocacy ever since. Brian has seen the devastation of substance misuse firsthand and he knows what it can do to individuals and their families. Brian is often the first to respond to New Futures' Action Alerts, and he is always willing to testify, write a letter, and make phone calls to legislators. Brian shares his tremendous advocacy skills with other NH organizations and causes. He serves on the board of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and was active in challenging the Concord NH School Board regarding the recent sexual misconduct allegations. Brian sees the intersection between sexual assault/domestic violence and substance misuse and advocates for trauma-informed services for all.

# Scholarships

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

### *Jennifer Selfridge*

Jennifer Selfridge served as Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator in Carroll County for six years before retiring this past July. She's done extraordinary work, and every session, we have been able to count on her to advocate on prevention issues. She's written Letters to the Editor, testified at the State House, and hosted legislative breakfasts. She had a great relationship with many legislators in her region and would always call to educate them and advocate.



## MADELINE DEMUELE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP:

### *NFI North*

NFI North, is a force in NH and continues to expand their role in helping all persons who are afflicted with behavioral health challenges. Karen Cusano, the Assistant Director of NFI North, thinks outside the box and is passionate about delivering quality care. NFI North is one of a few organizations in the field that has been accredited by the Joint Commission. They have a seat at every table and are informed decision-makers



## KIDS COUNT:

### *Elizabeth Fitzgerald*

Liz Fitzgerald is the Director of Community Impact for United Way of Nashua. Liz does not let tough circumstances stand in her way of providing a helping hand, organizing a variety of family-strengthening events and programs to provide assistance and resources directly to her constituencies. The City of Nashua is culturally diverse, stricken by poverty, and owns some of the highest rates of "Free-and-Reduced Lunch" in the state, so it can be difficult to navigate to a diverse set of community needs, but she has shown persistence and patience to involve everyone in her community.



# By the Numbers

## 2019 Revenue

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NH Charitable Foundation - <i>Designated Fund</i>	\$451,715
NH Charitable Foundation - <i>Field of Interest</i>	\$360,000
Endowment for Health - <i>CBHC</i>	\$235,000
Endowment for Health - <i>Expanded Capacity</i>	\$260,000
NH Charitable Foundation - <i>Expanded Capacity</i>	\$125,500
The Annie E. Casey Foundation	\$100,000
Other Grants	\$150,656
Donations	\$17,151
Special Events	\$17,500
Investment and Interest Income	\$29,339
Shared Services	\$45,702

**Total Revenue**  
**\$1,792,063**

## 2019 Expenses

<b>Program</b>	<b>Expense</b>
CORE	\$690,367
Expanded Capacity	\$871,584
Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative	\$265,691
Alliance for Healthy Aging	\$28,325
Alliance for Early Success	\$9,351
General and Administrative	\$135,583

**Total Expenses**  
**\$2,000,901**

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**TO GIVE!**

Donor Privacy Statement: New Futures does not and will not sell, rent, or exchange its donor lists or any donor's personal information to any other entity.

Financial Statement Notice: These condensed financial summaries were prepared by the Vice President of Finance and Operations at New Futures from its audited financial statements for the year ending 12/31/18. These financial statements, including related notes and the independent auditor's report of Vachon Clukay & Company PC., Manchester, NH are available for review upon request.



# Leadership



**Michele Merritt**  
*President and CEO*



**April Arel**  
*Vice President of Finance and Operations*



**Jake Berry**  
*Vice President of Policy*



**Kate Frey**  
*Vice President of Advocacy*



**Meghan Farrell**  
*Vice President of Community Engagement*

## Staff

Pedro Altagracia, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Cheryl Avery, *Children's Behavioral Health Policy Coordinator*

Jill Billow, *Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant*

Bobbie Burgess, *Communications Director*

Dellie Champagne, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Katie Foster, *Community Engagement Coordinator & Data Manager*

Kaytlynn Jacobs-Brett, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Martha McLeod, *NH AHA Community Engagement Coordinator*

Alisha Proctor, *Communications Coordinator*

Holly Stevens, *Health Policy Coordinator*

Rebecca Woitkowski, *Kids Count Policy Coordinator*

Jess Wojenski, *Community Engagement Coordinator & Training Manager*

## Board of Directors

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Gary Lavoie  
*Vice Chair*

Mark McCue  
*Secretary*

Elin Treanor  
*Treasurer*

David Morgan

Jay Gupta

Johane Telgener

The Honorable Tina Nadeau

Eric Adams

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Borja Alvarez de Toledo

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# Thank you to **AmeriHealth Caritas**, New Futures' 2020 Annual Report Sponsor!



**AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire is proud to support**

## New Futures

and its advocacy, education, and collaboration to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents through policy change.

AmeriHealth Caritas New Hampshire and New Futures are committed to improving public health outcomes throughout New Hampshire.

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