



CT leaders emphasize importance of mental health services, call for more federal funding



by: [Suzie Hunter](#)

Posted: Oct 29, 2020 / 06:41 AM EDT / **Updated:** Oct 29, 2020 / 12:39 PM EDT

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (WTNH)— Local leaders in the Elm City are emphasizing the importance of mental health services and nonprofits like Continuum Care, which just received \$671,000 in coronavirus relief funding.

That funding comes from the state, which received \$125 million in federal CARES Act funding.

Senator Richard Blumenthal, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro visited the nonprofit's Edgewood Avenue

facility Thursday morning, which provides 24 hour care, and often keeps those suffering from addiction of mental health episodes out of the emergency room.

“Continuum of Care provides that support to thousands of people across our state and they do it in a way that is cost effective, and it is so helpful as we are dealing with this global health pandemic,” said Bysiewicz.

“The complexity of both the mental health issues, the physical difficulties that folks who come through here have, that it needs to be sustained. We cannot leave people on their own at such a critical time,” said DeLauro.

Patti Walker, the president of Continuum, says the pandemic has made their nonprofit’s waitlist much longer. She says this funding will help pay employees for overtime so they can continue offering those critical mental health services.