EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE until 12:01 a.m. EDT June 24, 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Jillian Gilchrest, Policy Director
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Phone: 860-933-2596
Email: jgilchrest@cahs.org

Child Poverty Still on the Rise, but Outlook for Children Better in Education and Health, KIDS COUNT report finds
Gradual economic recovery presents national opportunity
to refocus on investments in early childhood development

HARTFORD — As the nation’s economy recovers, America’s children are showing some signs of improvement despite an ever-growing poverty rate, according to new data in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2013 KIDS COUNT® Data Book.

Nationally, children continue to progress in education and health but have gained only incremental steps in their economic well-being since 2010, falling short of where they stood before the recession. From roughly 2005 to 2011, the teen birth rate dropped by 15 percent to a historic low; the rate of high school students not graduating in four years saw an almost 20 percent decline, as did the child and teen death rate; and the percentage of children without health insurance decreased by 30 percent.

Although the economic well-being of the nation’s children improved slightly from 2010 to 2011, the negative impact of the recession remains evident. In 2011, the child poverty rate stood at 23 percent, or 16.4 million children — an increase of 3 million since 2005. The number of children living in households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing — more than 29 million in 2011 — saw minor improvement from the previous year, but was still about 2 million more than in 2005. Similarly, the number of children whose parents lacked full-time, year-round employment was nearly 20 percent higher than in 2008.
The 2013 *Data Book* also examines how America’s youngest children are faring, adding to the ongoing national conversation on early childhood education. In particular, younger children are disproportionately affected by the lingering effects of the recession: The poverty rate among children younger than 3 is 26 percent; among 3- to 5-year-olds, it is 25 percent — higher than the national average for all kids.

“The early years of their lives are critical to our children’s development. As our economic recovery continues, we cannot lose sight of doing whatever it takes to help kids, particularly kids in low-income families, reach their full potential,” said Jim Horan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services, the Connecticut KIDS COUNT grantee.

Also new to this year’s *Data Book* are statistics on multiracial children, a rapidly growing population. These data indicate that while deep disparities persist for African-American, Latino and American Indian children relative to their white and Asian and Pacific Islander counterparts, multiracial kids are generally faring better than, or as well as, the overall population — with a few exceptions: More multiracial children (42 percent) find themselves in single-parent families compared to kids overall (35 percent), and 37 percent have parents without full-time, year-round employment, compared to 32 percent in the general population.

“Although Connecticut as a whole ranks high amongst the States, we have some of the highest racial and economic inequities within our state in the nation,” said Jim Horan. “We need to do better and be smarter about investing in effective programs and services to help ensure all kids get the best possible start in life.”

The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* features the latest data on child well-being for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information is available in the newly redesigned *KIDS COUNT Data Center*, which also contains the most recent national, state and local data on hundreds of measures of child well-being. Data Center users can create rankings, maps and graphs for use in publications and on websites, and view real-time information on mobile devices.

###

The *Connecticut Association for Human Services* (CAHS) uniquely combines outreach into working communities at the neighborhood level with broad-based policy work at the state and federal level. As the Kids Count partner for the state of Connecticut and a long-time advocate for family economic success, CAHS uses research to drive advocacy for positive systems change. Founded in 1910, CAHS combines research and advocacy to empower and equip families to build a secure economic future. For more information visit [www.cahs.org](http://www.cahs.org). *KIDS COUNT®* is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.