Ideas on How to Make Connecticut's State Government More Effective, Efficient, & Affordable

Based on research conducted by the Connecticut Institute for the 21st Century.

1. **Lean:** As Connecticut's job creators know and have encouraged the state to adopt, Lean efficiency techniques can make the everyday processes of state government work much better. Some agencies—such as DEEP, DOT, and DAS—are in fact making great strides with Lean; now it's time to adopt it throughout state government.

2. **Long-term healthcare:** Transitioning more people out of long-term institutional care and into home-based care will save on state spending and give people the care they prefer. Transitioning 5,200 people could save the state an estimated $218 million per year.

3. **Corrections:** Moving nonviolent offenders out of prison, better prepare them for productive lives, and reduce their chances of going back is more effective and less costly than putting people behind bars. The state should set a target of reducing the incarcerated population by 50% by 2020, which would save an annual $240 million.

4. **Social services:** Using more of Connecticut's outstanding nonprofit providers—who exist to address numerous specific needs--to deliver social services can improve service quality and save tax dollars.

5. **Local governments**: Working together on a regional basis to share more programs can save taxpayer local and state tax dollars and provide better services. Creating regional centers of excellence to leverage currently available resources and better serve cities and towns could yield state savings of $200 million per year.

6. **State pensions:** Many changes could and should be made to eliminate fraud and abuse in the system; including by doing a better job of managing the overtime in state agencies.

7. **Technology:** Better and more coordinated information technology systems can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of state government. Among other things, we need to put state government in the cloud and use excellent third-party technology services for IT. This would allow the state to eliminate the State Data Center by 2020, and help government not have to be in the IT business.

8. **Measure results**: As well intentioned as all programs and services are, we have to know if they're accomplishing their goals and doing so in an affordable way. The state should start by creating ways to measure all programs of $1 million and more annually, beginning with the biggest. Then change or eliminate those that don't work; and eliminate the use overtime wherever possible.