CT DEPT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD)
BROWNFIELD AREA-WIDE REVITALIZATION (BAR) PLANNING GRANT
ROUND 24BAR
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

July 15, 2026

Please make note to check the FAQ Addendum that will be posted on Friday, August 14, 2026

The following summarizes the frequently asked questions on the BAR Planning Grant:

1. **Has the process to submit an application under the BAR Planning Grant Program changed?**
   - Applicants must fill out and submit the Grant Round 24BAR Application using DECD's new Euna electronic application portal: https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/5152ed45-444d-47c8-85a5-3c49b9d4094b. Please note that DECD is unable to accept applications outside of the Euna system (for example via email or hard copy submissions will not be accepted).
   - Please review the Euna Application Portal Guide and view the recording for guidance on the new electronic submission process.

2. **Where do I access the application and how can I submit my application?**
   - Application links and resources are available on the Grant Program Webpage.
   - Applicants must fill out and submit the Grant Round 24BAR Application using DECD's new Euna electronic application portal: https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/5152ed45-444d-47c8-85a5-3c49b9d4094b. Please note that DECD is unable to accept applications outside of the Euna system (for example via email or hard copy submissions will not be accepted).
   - Please review the Euna Application Portal Guide and view the recording for guidance on the new electronic submission process.
   - The Application has two separate sections – Part A: Threshold Eligibility Section and Part B: Project Details. Applications may be denied funding after review of Part A of the Application.

3. **Are municipalities the only eligible entities to apply for the BAR Planning Grant?**
   - No, apart from municipalities, brownfield land banks, regional councils of governments and economic development agencies are eligible to apply for the grant.

4. **Can the BAR Planning Grant Program be applied to a region/corridor?**
   - Yes, the BAR Planning Grant Program can be applied to a region/corridor. DECD will consider a submission where the BAR Project Area spans multiple municipalities as long as the application is:
     a. well thought out;
     b. reflective of a clear governance model; and
     c. the BAR Project Area is contiguous (while spanning multiple jurisdictions) and manageable.

   It is possible that a COG, brownfield land bank or an eligible regional agency would be the lead entity on such an application, but two or more municipalities can jointly submit such an application. The application should include a partnership agreement that clearly defines how the administration and governance will be handled among the multiple entities.

5. **Can a COG, brownfield land bank, or an eligible regional agency apply on behalf of a single municipality?**

- Yes, a COG, brownfield land bank, or an eligible regional agency can apply for the BAR Planning Grant program on behalf of a single municipality as long as the application reflects strong partnership and commitment from both entities to implement the BAR Plan.

6. **Can a municipality submit the application on behalf of a state entity that owns land in the Municipality?**
   - Yes, a municipality can submit the application on behalf of a state entity that owns land within the municipality as long as the application reflects strong partnership and commitment from both entities to implement the BAR Plan.

7. **Can a municipality submit the application on behalf of a private entity that owns land in the Municipality?**
   - Yes, a municipality can submit the application on behalf of a private entity that owns land within the municipality as long as the application reflects strong partnership and commitment from both entities to implement the BAR Plan. Access agreements will also need to be in place as required and as appropriate.

8. **Can an economic development agency apply for the BAR Planning Grant?**
   - Yes, economic development agencies are one of the eligible entities who can apply for the BAR Planning Grant.

9. **For joint applications (applications from multiple entities), does one entity need to be designated as the lead?**
   - Yes, in the case where multiple entities are applying for the BAR Planning Grant, the entity that formally submits the application will be considered as the lead entity for administrative purposes. The lead entity must submit the authorizing resolution on behalf of the other entity(ies). In addition, the submitted application must include resolutions from each participating entity, authorizing the lead entity to act on its behalf for the purposes of applying for and administering the grant.

10. **Is it okay to include funds used to prepare the BAR Planning Grant Application either as a grant expense or a match?**
    - DECD will not consider any funds used to prepare the BAR Planning Grant application as a grant expense or a local match.

11. **Can local grants be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match?**
    - Yes, local grants will be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match. However, these funds should specifically enable the scope of work defined in the BAR Planning Grant application or be connected to the project activities and tasks listed in the Work Plan. For example, if a municipality is planning to use a local grant to conduct limited Phase I & II ESA that will help with developing a better BAR Plan, then the funds can be considered as a match. However, if the municipality is using a local grant to conduct a Phase I & II ESA that is in no way related to BAR Plan or the BAR Project Area, then it cannot be considered as a match.

12. **Can federal or other state grants/funds be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match?**
    - Federal grants will be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match. However, these federal funds should specifically enable the scope of work defined in the BAR Planning Grant application or be connected to the project activities and tasks listed in the Work Plan. State grants will not be considered as a match.

13. **Can non-public funds be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match?**

- Yes, all fund contributions from any private for-profit or non-profit partner in the BAR Planning Grant Program will be considered to satisfy the mandatory 10% match. However, these funds should specifically enable the scope of work defined in the BAR Planning Grant application or be connected to the project activities and tasks listed in the Work Plan.

14. Can federal funding already awarded to a site in the BAR area satisfy the match requirements?

- Yes, as long as the funding: 1) is related to the scope of work defined in the BAR Planning Grant application and is connected to the project activities and tasks listed in the Work Plan; and 2) is a fairly recent award, the project is ongoing, and the match funds have not been expended prior to the DECD award date.

15. Can in-kind contributions such as staff time be acceptable for the 10% match?

- No, in-kind contributions will not count towards the 10% match requirement.

16. Can construction-related work performed at one of the properties in the BAR area (e.g., window replacement and associated hazardous building material work) completed before the DECD project award be considered to satisfy the 10% match?

- No, the construction-related work is not in line with the goals of the BAR Planning Program and therefore, will not satisfy the 10% match requirement. As a general rule, all match-related expenditures have to be after the project award date.

17. Do all the studies conducted for the BAR Plan have to be restricted to the BAR Project Area?

- Most of the studies will automatically be restricted to the boundaries of the BAR Project Area. However, there may be some studies, for example a Market Analysis, which may make more sense if conducted for the entire municipality or region.

18. Can the BAR Grant be used to conduct Environmental Site Assessments?

- The BAR Planning Grant is specifically for preparing a BAR Plan and not for environmental site assessments. There are other Brownfields assessment grants that can be used for assessment activities. However, a portion of the BAR grant (not more than 25%) may be used for limited Phase I and II if it will help achieve the goals of the Plan and help develop practical implementation strategies.

19. Can any of the grant funds be used for project management?

- Yes, up to 5% of the grant funds may be used for project management. Additional funds from applicant may be used for project management but it will have to come from other non-grant sources.

20. Can grant funds be used for preparation of EPA/DEEP's PREPARED Workbook?

- Yes, the grant funds may be used for preparation of EPA/DEEP's PREPARED Workbook as long as it is used as a tool to help prepare the BAR Plan.

21. Is it mandatory to submit the project budget on a DECD Budget Form?

- All applications should include the DECD Budget Form which basically summarizes sources and uses of all funds by major line items (e.g.: design, planning. remediation, project management etc.). However, applicants are encouraged to include a separate budget that details the projected costs for specific project tasks or activities.

22. **It may so happen that the applicant may not know the exact grant amount that it intends to apply for when the Board/Council Resolution is sent for approvals. Is it okay to state that the funds that we are seeking are up to $200,000?**
    - DECD understands that the timing of obtaining the resolution from the Board/Council may not coincide with finalization of the budget of the BAR Grant Application. Therefore, it is acceptable if the actual amount that the applicant is applying for is not stated in the Board/Council Resolution. Also, the amount that the applicant applies for may not be the same that is finally approved by DECD.

23. **Are we restricted to the "Eligible Activities" listed in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)?**
    - In a small number of cases, activities related to those listed in the NOFA, but not explicitly mentioned may be eligible. Please contact DECD to confirm eligibility of a particular activity or task not listed in the NOFA.

24. **Can we create the advisory/steering committee after being awarded the BAR Planning Grant?**
    - DECD expects all applicants to have formed the advisory/steering committee prior to submitting the application. Five (5) points will be automatically awarded to all applicants that can demonstrate the presence of an advisory/steering committee.

25. **Can the applicant's Board/Council or an existing Committee be considered to be the Advisory/Steering Committee for the BAR Planning Program?**
    - No, the applicant's Board/Council or an existing Committee cannot be considered to be the Advisory/Steering Committee for the BAR Planning Program.

26. **Can the BAR Planning Grant be used to further similar planning activities already in place in the BAR Project Area?**
    - We understand that some applicants may have some sort of Plan (for example, MDP Plan, TOD Plan, Downtown Plan etc.) already in place in the Project Area. We understand that it will not make sense to create another Plan for the same Project Area unless a. the current plan does not focus on the brownfields in the Project Area; b. the goals and outcomes of the BAR Planning Grant Program are very different from those of the existing Plan; c. there are additional planning activities that can improve the plan's recommendations and implementation strategies or d. the plan is outdated. Applicants may use the BAR Planning Grant to address the above planning gaps. Applicants will have to demonstrate that the new planning activities will complement and be consistent with the current plans in place. One requirement at the end of the exercise is to have a report with specific implementation strategies to remediate and redevelop the BAR Project Area.

27. **Do you have expectations regarding the community visioning/public participation component - How much of the grant can we allocate towards that? Have you awarded projects where that's the main focus?**

    - There is no restriction, as of now, on what percentage of the funds can be allocated to the community visioning/public participation component. But we are also typically not expecting that the entire BAR project scope is a community visioning exercise. We will assess these proposals and make decisions on a case-by-case basis. We understand that there could be a situation where the project is large enough to justify the cost.

- DECD will accept proposals, where the larger planning exercise is already funded from other sources and the request is for funding for a community visioning exercise that cannot be covered from those planning funds.

28. If awarded the grant, when can the project begin?

- If awarded the BAR Planning Grant, the applicant can begin the project on the date of the award. All eligible expenses from that day are reimbursable. Contracts for the reimbursable work will need to be put in place after obtaining DECD approval and contractors/consultants will need to be selected as per DECD guidelines. No funds can be reimbursed until a DECD Assistance Agreement (Contract) is put in place.

29. I have a question that is not covered above. How can I get a response?

- Please feel free to send any questions you may have to brownfields@ct.gov (preferred) or contact the dedicated Brownfields hotline number at 860.500.2395 by **noon** on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. All responses to questions not included in this document will also be posted on the Brownfields website and Euna Opportunity Page (as an addendum) by Friday, August 14, 2026.
- OCD will be conducting an online webinar and individualized office hours over Microsoft Teams. See schedule below:

Webinar/Question-Answer Session	
Tue, July 28 (10AM – 11AM)	Webinar: An Overview of Round 24 Click **HERE** to join Teams on your computer or mobile app. Or call in (audio only) **1.860.840.2075**; Phone Conference ID: **821 739 505#**
Scheduled Office Hours on Teams[1] *(see below for scheduling info)*	
Thur, July 23rd (10AM – 12PM)	Please email brownfields@ct.gov to request a time for a one-on-one meeting. Upon request, a meeting confirmation and Microsoft Teams link will be provided. Please make all requests by **August 7, 2026**.
Tue, July 28th (10AM – 12PM)	
Thur, July 30th (1PM – 3PM)	
Tue, August 11th (1PM – 3PM)	

30. What is the due date of the full application and when can I hear back about award decisions?

- Please see the NOFA for the detailed schedule. All applications should be submitted by **noon** on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Please note that DECD **will** accept submissions prior to this deadline.
- DECD hopes to make the grant award announcements in November/December 2026.