



Connecticut Communities Challenge

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DISCLAIMER: The information provided herein is a summary of publicly available documents regarding the CT Communities Challenge Program (CCC) and should not be relied upon in lieu of the formal Notice of Funding Availability and Application Form, which can be found on the CCC website.



A photograph of a row of three-story houses, likely in a historic neighborhood, with a curved white picket fence in front. The image is partially obscured by a white curved graphic element on the right side of the slide.

AGENDA

- Overview of Program
- Timeline and Process to Apply
- Q&A

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PURPOSE

To improve livability, vibrancy, convenience, and equity of communities throughout the state.

The program is intended to potentially create 3,000 new jobs.



FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

- DECD will award competitive grants of \$1M - \$10M each (up to \$20M available)
- 50% of funds will be targeted to distressed municipalities

What are distressed municipalities?

- The 25 municipalities in the state most in need of state assistance, based on statistical indicators measuring the fiscal capacity of each municipality including tax base, personal income of residents, and residents' need for public services.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

DECD, as administrator, will identify applications which:

- Align with the state's [Economic Action Plan](#)
- Follow DECD best practices and represent an efficient use of taxpayer funds.



ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Three categories:
 1. Municipalities
 2. Economic Development Agencies
 3. Regional Councils of Government
- Private and not-for-profit partnerships are encouraged
- Eligible applicants may submit more than one application for various projects



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

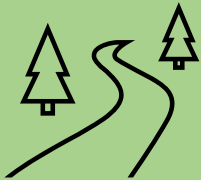
Eligible projects will:

- Improve the vibrancy, livability, convenience, and equity of communities and main streets across CT.
- Help further the goal of creating 3,000 new jobs.



PROJECT CATEGORIES

- **Transit-oriented development** that densifies commercial and/or residential land uses near transit hubs.
- **Downtown / major hub development** that improves or reuses existing property (Brownfield remediation may be a component).
- **Essential infrastructure** that facilitates future development.
- **New housing** to support affordability and local workforce.
- **Mobility improvements** that increase connectivity to transit, including pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
- **Public space improvements** that provide amenities to the community, including open spaces and public art projects.



ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

How can the funds be used?

- Nearly all of grant funds should be used for construction- and renovation-related hard costs.
- A limited portion of funds (no more than 5%) may be used for soft costs: design and engineering-related costs, land acquisition, project management, administrative and DECD's legal expenses to prepare the Contract.
- Programming is NOT an eligible use of funds .



MATCH REQUIREMENT

- The minimum match requirement for distressed municipalities is 25%, and for other municipalities is 50%.
- In-kind contributions do NOT count toward the match requirement (except land).
- In general, contributed soft costs will be accepted for the match requirement, but not in-kind staff time.
- Debt cannot count toward the match requirement.
- Local, federal (ARPA) or private dollars can count toward the match.

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REVIEW PROCESS

Eligible applicants submit applications via unique SharePoint link



DECD Team reviews & scores applications



DECD Commissioner chooses awardees



TIMELINE

NOFA & Application Period Opens	March 1, 2023
DEADLINE to request SharePoint Link	April 28, 2023
DEADLINE to submit applications	May 3, 2023
Announcement of Awards	July 2023



HOW TO APPLY

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Business-Development/05_Funding_Opportunities/CT-Communities-Challenge-Grant

Application Process:

1. Review Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).
2. Download Application, Budget Sheet and other documents on the webpage. Prepare your responses.
3. Email CTCommunitiesChallenge@ct.gov to request a unique SharePoint Link *(by 4/28/23 at 3:00 pm)*.
4. Submit application materials via your unique SharePoint link *(by 5/3/23 at 3:00 pm)*.

If you have questions about the application:

- Review FAQ page of website
- Email CTCommunitiesChallenge@ct.gov





REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- Application Form
- CCC Budget Template (Sources & Uses)
- Municipal Certification of Eligibility for Discretionary State Funding (or Waiver Request)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Project Notification
- Detailed Project Budget (Your Own Format)

HELPFUL HINTS

- Download application & budget sheet early, prepare responses well in advance.
- Align your proposal with the purpose & project categories of CCC.
- Make sure your responses are succinct (there are character limits).
- Pay close attention to:
 - ✓ DECD affordable housing requirement
 - ✓ Prevailing Wage requirement
 - ✓ Capital Stack



QUESTIONS?

Type your questions in the chat or Q&A module.

Email questions to
CTCommunitiesChallenge@ct.gov

