State of Connecticut
# Performance Report

## Capital Projects Fund

2025 Report

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## Executive Summary

*Provide a high-level overview of the Recipient's actual uses of funding and progress made during the reporting period towards objectives stated in the approved Program Plan(s). The Executive Summary should also include an overview of key outcomes and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.*

**New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center**

The City of New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center is designing and developing a multi-purpose community facility project, the New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center, that will invest capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.

The New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center provides adult learners with high quality programs to earn high school credentials and to become productive citizens in school, in the workforce, and in their communities. Each adult learner will be provided with individualized, targeted academic, social, emotional, educational and health support they need as they proceed through New Haven's programs. The City's model offers high school credit, General Educational Diploma (G.E.D.), citizenship, National External Diploma, English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), as well as Dual Credit programs with area institutes of higher education. Adult learners will have access to a wide range of courses, degrees, certifications, and credentials.

Design was completed by GWWO Architects and the design team at the end of 2024, and construction started with abatement and demolition activities on January 16, 2025. The prime contractor (competitively procured through a public sealed low bid process) for abatement and demolition activities is Accurate Insulation, and they completed their activities in June 2025. The City competitively procured, through a public sealed low bid process, A Secondino and Son to serve as the general contractor for the construction work on the project. A Secondino and Son mobilized to the site in June 2025 and completion is expected in Summer/Fall 2026.

**Manchester Town Library**

The Town of Manchester has formally commenced the construction of a 21st Century, state of the art new library in its Downtown Main Street area.

This follows decades of grassroot efforts in Manchester to replace the existing Main Branch public library, which at only 26,000 square feet and under 25 public parking spots, has long been unable to meet the needs of Manchester's diverse population of 60,000 residents. In addition, the existing library is not handicapped accessible or compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Designed to be a beacon of knowledge, sustainability, and innovation, the new library promises to redefine how residents interact with learning resources and community spaces.

Manchester's current plan for a modern library reflects this vision of building a multi-use public space that can serve as a catalyst in the areas of education, health, and job skill training for some of the State's most vulnerable populations.

Priorities for a new library include the following:

- Dedicated spaces for a variety of developmental ages
- More technology, including an automated materials handling system
- Universal design / ADA-accessibility
- Dedicated quiet spaces and private study rooms
- Instruction and program spaces
- A makerspace, including a 3-D printer and a multimedia studio

During this current reporting period, the Town formally took ownership of the project site, demolished the building that had been on the site, and construction commenced on the new 70,000 square foot building. Thus far, the concrete foundation has been poured, and the geothermal wells have been drilled.

The key outcomes have been:

- Site acquisition
- Demolition of old bank building
- Drilling of geothermal wells
- Concrete foundation poured

Construction will continue over the next 12 months, with an anticipated opening of Summer 2026.

The key challenges have been:

- Bidding out the project during a period of economic uncertainty, notably tariffs
- A general environment of high construction costs

Fortunately, bids have come in within the project total budget.

## Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program

The Connecticut Education Network (CEN) (Project 264) launched the CEN Connect program following federal approval in September 2023 to accelerate broadband infrastructure development across the state. With a full fiscal year of progress to date, this initiative delivers direct investment in middle-mile infrastructure to strengthen connectivity for Connecticut's municipalities, schools, colleges, universities, libraries, healthcare providers, cultural arts organizations, and open-access organizations.

CEN Connect is composed of three integrated projects and includes the following key outcomes in each:

- Next Generation Infrastructure (NGI): Modernizes the network platform for over 670 member organizations, enhancing capacity, reliability, and scalability for existing and new organizations.

    o Deployment of 22 optical nodes, doubling the capacity while consolidating systems.

    o Implementation of network management, automation, and orchestration tools.

    o Installation of high-speed 400Gbps backbone links across 4 core and 19 hub sites.

    o Packet network upgrades: extranets and 20% of customer site installations completed.

    o Deployment of new firewalls to secure backend systems.

- Connecting Connecticut's Communities Initiative (3CI): Extends direct backbone access to more than 175+ eligible Community Anchor Institution (CAI) organizations, enabling broader participation in the high-performance platform and the state's digital ecosystem.

  - 101 of the 175+ committed sites are under agreement and moving forward.

  - Some entities declined participation due to existing provider agreements.

  - Other entities were removed from the program based on non-response.

  - Strategic reuse of dark fiber to enhance resilience at municipal middle-mile sites.

  - Additional locations identified under programmatic review by CEN & U.S. Treasury

- Community Wi-Fi Grant Program: Provides funding for CAIs to connect to the CEN backbone and deploy Wi-Fi in underserved and economically disadvantaged communities.

  - Onboarded additional contract staffing to augment the program.

  - Built out a grant application intake and scoring infrastructure.

  - Closed 2 rounds of grant applications on 3/13/25 and 6/30/25, respectively.

  - Round 1 applications are in process, with 15 applications and $2,949,000 requested.

  - Round 2 applications are in review for compliance, curing, and scoring.

- Noteworthy Challenges and Opportunities across the projects

  - The communication of the CEN Connect Program is distinct from that of other federal or state-based initiatives involving broadband infrastructure.

  - Coordinating access to member-customer-controlled sites.

  - Managing dependencies with internal legacy system transitions.

  - Addressing hardware and software limitations requires network design adjustments.

  - Balancing operational demands with project resource allocations.

Together, these efforts expand high-performance network and internet access to over 700 member organizations, expanding the infrastructure, closing connectivity gaps, leveling up connectivity disparities, improving security and access to modern network services, and supporting statewide digital advancement.

## Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program

During the reporting period, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) advanced key objectives outlined in the approved Program Plan, demonstrating effective stewardship of public resources. DEEP strategically deployed funds to initiate the Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program, (marketed as the ConneCTed Communities Grant Program, or CCGP, within the state) awarding subgrants through a competitive process to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. These investments directly support the state's commitment to universal access to affordable, resilient, and reliable broadband service.

The following overview highlights DEEP's funding allocations, progress toward priority outcomes, and notable implementation challenges that may inform future policy and programmatic decisions.

**Highlighted Program Progress Towards Key Outcomes**

**Subgrantee Selection**

DEEP reviewed grant applications in partnership with industry experts to select subgrantees that met the financial, managerial, and technical expertise required to fulfill projects that met program and state goals within the period of performance. During this reporting period, selected subgrantees completed the state contracting process to obligate grant funding.

**Second Phase of Deployment**

With the first round subgrantees selected and additional grant funds remaining, Connecticut (CT) DEEP began a concerted marketing and communications campaign for additional infrastructure projects and inside wiring retrofit projects in multi-dwelling units. This included a multi-dwelling unit intake form for property managers, residents, community organizations, and municipal staff to share details on potentially eligible properties with DEEP. During the reporting period, DEEP received and followed up with 38 intake form submissions, 31 of which were unique and valid. DEEP's campaign also included a dedicated staff member conducting outreach to identify underserved properties so eligible entities can propose projects for consideration. As a result of this outreach, DEEP has identified 18 potentially eligible properties and is working with property managers to gather evidence for evaluating whether the multi-dwelling units qualify as underserved. Once DEEP has identified eligible properties, they will be posted to bid.

**Development and Implementation of Monitoring and Compliance Activities**

With projects selected and commencing, the development and implementation of monitoring and compliance activities began. These activities live within a framework that demonstrate Connecticut's commitment to preventing waste, fraud, and abuse of grant funds and were embedded from project selection and extend to program closeout.

**Implementation of Grant Management System**

To further support program implementation including monitoring and compliance activities, the grant management system initiated in the last reporting period has been further developed. The system contains mechanisms to support the full cycle of the grant comprehensively and efficiently including but not limited to reporting to the U.S. Department of Treasury.

**Noteworthy Challenges and Opportunities**

In addition to making significant programmatic progress, DEEP encountered and addressed two noteworthy challenges:

- In order to effect successful outcomes and protect parties, DEEP created a broadband-specific grant agreement. DEEP took time to carefully consider contract language, worked within existing state contracting processes to ensure compliance with state law, and worked with subgrantee, many of whom were new to the State's terms and conditions, to come to agreed upon terms.

- Since 2023, Connecticut has eliminated 95 % of the locations on the FCC map considered unserved or underserved. This has left fewer locations, as identified on the FCC map, to include in proposed projects, and has resulted in fewer proposed projects than anticipated. To address this challenge, DEEP embarked on the proactive MDU outreach and eligibility search articulated above. In addition, DEEP plans data-driven FCC location serviceability checks and collaborative work with service providers to capture any BEAD-excluded locations in the CCGP program. In this sense, this challenge becomes a significant opportunity to ensure all locations receive fast, reliable broadband.

In conclusion, DEEP has diligently and effectively utilized the funding to accomplish critical program implementation milestones, create forward-looking efficiencies in grant management, and address challenges that emerged during the process.

## Uses of Funds

*Provide a short narrative describing the intended and actual use of funds and the performance of each Program Plan. Recipients should reference the objectives and activities outlined in the approved Program Plan(s). The narrative should also explain the data, including performance indicators, submitted via the Project and Expenditure Reports during the reporting period and must address the following topics:*

- *Activities implemented over the reporting period, including summaries of key milestones achieved, outputs produced, and outcomes achieved;*
- *Activities planned for the next reporting period;*
- *Narratives about individuals/households benefiting from CPF funds, including information about methods used for collecting and measuring success;*
- *Notable challenges and the status of each challenge;*
- *Overview and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support bringing the capital asset(s) into full use (e.g., focused advertising to increase broadband subscriptions in high-need communities, digital literacy training to support device loan programs, community engagement to support successful operations, etc.)*

*If appropriate, include information on your jurisdiction's use (or planned use) of other federal funds including other programs under the American Rescue Plan, such as the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and those under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program.*

*Note: Recipients are encouraged to include in their Performance Report links to public documents, including, but not limited to, legislation, dashboards, and survey results, to support the Performance Report narrative. Treasury recommends that Recipients make use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements in describing their programs.*

**New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center**

The funds are intended for the design and construction of the New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center.  All expenditures to date have been for this purpose and all expenditures going forward are slated for this purpose as well.

The City expended $500,616 during the period on architectural and engineering design services and $910,194.45 for construction.  Note that invoices for the June 2025 period may still be pending.

Design was completed by GWWO Architects and the design team at the end of 2024, and construction started with abatement and demolition activities on January 16, 2025.  The prime contractor for abatement and demolition activities completed their scope in June 2025.  The City competitively procured through a public sealed low bid process A Secondino and Son to serve as the general contractor for the construction work on the project.  A Secondino and Son mobilized to the site in June 2025.

During the next reporting period, the City of New Haven anticipates continued construction of the New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center.

## Manchester Town Library

The Town of Manchester will be utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Project Funds (CPF) towards construction of the new library. The Town has not utilized these funds as construction has not started yet.

As previously stated, the new construction enabled by the use of the CPF funds will enable Manchester to meet the following objectives of the approved Program Plan:

- Universal Design / ADA compliance – allowing every resident and visitor to Manchester's library, regardless of ability, the opportunity to utilize this public asset;
- Enhanced space for community programming, allowing the town to partner with Manchester Public Schools Office of Continuing Education to provide training opportunities for residents in both work training and education;
- Modern technology and digital services including expanded computer lab to help close digital divide;
- The multi-use community facility will also allow the Town to partner with local academic institutions such as Manchester Community College and Cheney Technical High School to provide educational and work training offerings;
- Part of the new construction will enable the Town's health equity staff to provide a dedicated location to provide health equity services in the new library.

Activities implemented over the reporting period include:

- The Town took ownership of the building site and assisted in relocation of Webster Bank.
- Demolition of the old bank building.
- Drilled geothermal wells for net-zero emissions capability.
- Broke ground on construction.
- Poured foundation of building.

- Purchased vacant property adjacent to the project site, which will allow the Town to provide even more public parking, a key goal of the project plan.

Activities planned for the new reporting period:

- Near total completion of the project by June 30, 2026.
- The Town does anticipate certain outstanding items including:
    - Cosmetic and Finishing Issues:
    - Painting: Touch-ups, correcting paint color or finish, and addressing scuffs or marks.
    - Flooring: Fixing scratches, ensuring proper tile alignment, or addressing gaps in flooring materials.
    - Fixtures: Installing or adjusting light fixtures, faucets, cabinet hardware, and other fixtures.
    - Doors and Windows: Ensuring proper alignment, smooth operation, and a tight seal.
    - Trim and Molding: Ensuring proper installation, alignment, and finish.
    - Wall and Ceiling Finish: Addressing cracks, dents, or imperfections in drywall or plaster.
    - Final Cleaning: Removing construction debris, dust, and ensuring a clean site.


## Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program

The first full fiscal year of CEN Connect marked a transformative chapter in Connecticut's CAI centric broadband evolution, delivering measurable progress and establishing a strong foundation for future growth. Central to this success was the advancement of the Next Generation Infrastructure (NGI) platform, which served as the strategic and technical cornerstone for all three project areas outlined in the approved Capital Projects Fund (CPF) plan. This foundational investment enabled scalable expansion through the Connecting Connecticut's Communities Initiative (3CI), bringing high-performance broadband to critical anchor institutions across the state. Equally important was the program's deepened engagement with CEN members, whose input through collaborative planning and outreach helped shape implementation priorities and ensure CPF investments aligned with real-world needs. Together, these efforts reflect a model of strategic execution, inclusive collaboration, and community-centered innovation—positioning CEN Connect for continued impact in advancing digital equity and infrastructure excellence across Connecticut.  Each of the projects demonstrated sound fiscal oversight and controls. More specific updates include:

**Next Generation Infrastructure (NGI) Direct Implementation Project**

The Next Generation Infrastructure (NGI) Direct Implementation Project made steady progress in fiscal year 2025, building on the first full year's successful ramp up and launch. The project completed many major milestones and is tracking well to completion within the required timeframes.  Project objectives and key outcomes under each include:

- Increase Capacity & Improve Reliability

    - Optical Network Upgrades – 22 optical nodes supporting up to 96 channels of directionless colorless spectrum, consolidating two (2) line systems into one.

- o Core and Hub (aggregation) site equipment installation and 400Gbps backbone interconnections between the 4 core and 19 hub locations.

- o Extranet site equipment installations serving as major egress connection points to Internet2, commercial internet, and peering exchanges.

- o Packet Network Upgrades – 20% complete as of this report. Scheduling and installation of new devices at member locations, targeting 11-20 installs per week through 2026.

- Streamline Support & Management

  - o Network Management, Automation, Orchestration backend tooling services build-out for monitoring, management, visibility, and automation of the network systems.

  - o New firewalls for segmentation and protection of the backend tooling systems and compute clusters.

- Support Cloud Migration for CAIs

  - o The increased capacity and manageability will help support cloud migration for connected entities and help keep costs low. This deliverable is ongoing and realized on project completion and future operations.

- Increase Economies of Scale and Enable Reinvestment

  - o Development continues for a fiber improvement program that may take place after the ARPA projects are complete. Details have been inserted into a larger fiber provider RFP that is now public and advertised - 25PSX002 as a multi-category, multi-award solicitation.

  - o Where possible, we are repurposing a limited amount of dark fiber in our possession today to densify connectivity between hubs and leverage NextGen equipment to improve resilience and scale.

  - o ARPA Connecting CT Communities Initiative (C3I) for municipalities, COGs, charter schools, and libraries leverages the base platform for expansion and has 94 locations with signed commitments and POs in various process stages. The network being upgraded now serves as the base platform for attachment points to the expanded 94 locations. 5 sites are in the process of signing agreements. Additional sites volunteered by towns in need have been submitted to the U.S. Treasury for review.

  - o CEN applied for and was prequalified as one of ten providers for the BEAD program administered by CT DEEP.  CEN submitted for eligible CAIs through the program in January 2024. Proposals passed through curing and then came to a halt due to changes in the BEAD program issued on June 6, 2025.  CT DEEP is expected to release alternate plans later this month.

At present, cutovers for core services for DNS, internal and member-customer-facing firewall services, backend servers, etc., are underway. Packet network installations and migrations will continue through mid-2026.  Logical configuration updates will follow to update the routing protocols network-wide wide further improving performance and manageability.

The project faces some challenges with

- Coordinating access to member-customer-controlled local sites. We are persisting and accommodating schedules as needed and have additional resources assisting.

- Interdependent internal projects are critical to migrating services from legacy equipment towards the overall transition to the new infrastructure. The CEN team continues to be flexible and make incremental progress.

- Some network equipment product feature support may require rearchitecting the routing/security design, and we are working with the product business units to determine scope and workaround; challenges include multiple tickets opened on software issues observed in production. Structural changes required to accommodate design goals that elevate the architecture and capabilities meant for additional planning cycles and prework maintenance to effect. Testing was also required before migrating services in corner case applications not encapsulated in previous proof of concept testing. We are in early discussions about a potential hardware swap of certain devices to ensure compliance with design specs for security and route scale.

- Ad-hoc operational issues that occasionally arise while supporting the production network that compete with CEN Staff time and level of effort (LOE) that would otherwise be dedicated to NextGen project work.

Planned Activities for next reporting period:

- Migration of network core services such as DNS, Firewall Services, Etc.

- Completion of equipment installations and migration at customer edge locations.

- Continued removal and disposal of legacy equipment.

- Cross-training and knowledge transfer to staff on new network management tooling.

- Migration and update of routing protocols, network-wide.

- Communication of improvements and progress of the network to all members.

- Inventory audit review.

- Commissioning and closing out of the program.

One of the overall key challenges is maintaining regular and clear communication with member-customer constituents. It is essential to keep them well-informed about the project's progress, the direction we are heading, and how they can best leverage the new capabilities. Additionally, it is important to prepare them for planned changes and potential minor disruptions along the way. By addressing these communication challenges proactively, we aim to ensure a smooth transition and maximize the benefits of the new platform.

**Community Wireless Grant Program (WiFi Grant Program)**

The Community WiFi Grant Program (https://ctedunet.net/cwifi/) officially launched in December of 2024 after completing a full grants management system build-out in the prior months. With previous

guidance and a tentative rollout schedule approved by the U.S. Department of The Treasury, CEN published all information and engaged applicants about the program, benefits, how to apply, and potential use cases. In addition, the team supplemented the program management team with consultants to assist with Community WiFi administration and outreach. CEN has held two rounds of grant applications due on 3/13/25 and 6/30/2025, respectively. Round 1 applications are in the process of award, and more detailed quarterly reporting will commence in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 as a result. Round 2 applications are beginning intake review, curing, and scoring.

Key Milestone Summary, Outputs

- Onboarded additional contract staffing to augment program administration.  Additional staff helped ensure program guidance was drafted and outreach efforts were successful.

- Built out a grant application intake, review, and scoring portal in Salesforce, enabling applicants, administration staff, and reviewers a modern grant management space.

- Held 4 online presentations promoting the program (187 attendees).

- Held 6 virtual office hours to answer drop-in questions and assist applicants in need.

- Held a grant workshop at the CEN Annual Conference in May 2025 (12 attended).

- Enlisted 8 community reviewers to evaluate and score round 1 applications, 10 community reviewers for round 2, ensuring alignment with program criteria and peer community.

- Closed 2 rounds of grant applications on 3/13/25 and 6/30/25, respectively.

- Round 1 applications are in the process of award with 15 applications, 34 organizations represented, and $2,949,000 requested.

- Round 2 applications are in curing and compliance review. Initial review results include 33 applications submitted, 37 organizations represented, and $15,776,000 in total funds requested.

Planned Activities

- Manage round 1 applicant awards, reporting, and any questions to help ensure success.

- Score round 2 applications and move to award as soon as practicable.

- Hold virtual office hours for any questions or concerns of awardees.

- Engage in regular status updates with awardees to ensure projects are managed successfully.

Challenges and their status

- Award agreements between the state and certain awardees took a little longer than expected, though all issues were resolved and awards moving forward.

- PO status to issue monies to awardees was new for DAS Business Office staff and required additional time on setup.  The process is now understood and smoother.

Overview and outcomes of ancillary costs

- None.

**Connecting Connecticut's Communities Initiative (C3I)**

The Connecting Connecticut's Communities Initiative (C3I), designed for municipalities, councils of government, libraries, and charter schools, initially identified 184 eligible organizations / locations. Of these, 139 were successfully engaged through multiple promotion and engagement campaigns including: email, websites, webinars, direct mail, conference and affiliate groups workshops, site visits, and individual phone calls. Once engaged, most of these organizations participated in small group meetings and presentations considering the program requirements, features, benefits, demarcation locations, potential alternate sites, and legal agreements. Of the 139 engaged organizations, 101 committed to the program with signed agreements. Organizations that chose to not participate in the program cited existing service provider agreements and budget constraints as the primary reasons. 49 entities were removed from the program based on their no response to the engagement campaigns or to follow-up emails, certified mail letters, and phone calls.

As far as the implementation segment of the program is concerned, 91 fiber construction purchase orders have been placed. Of those 91 entities, 35 have completed fiber builds and service provisioning.

Funds previously budgeted for entities that have declined to participate or were eliminated based on no response have been reallocated to other municipal sites. Those sites are currently being vetted for eligibility according to grant funding criteria.


## Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program

During the period covered, DEEP made significant strides towards achieving the objectives outlined in the approved Program Plan. The following is a comprehensive narrative addressing the intended and actual use of CPF funds, performance of the Program Plan, planned activities for the next period, narratives about beneficiaries, challenges faced, and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support program implementation.

**Intended Use of CPF Funds and Program Plan Objectives:**

The primary aim of the CPF funds received was to establish and implement a comprehensive broadband infrastructure program that facilitates low-income and multi-family curb-to-home and business broadband infrastructure buildout in underserved areas. The Program Plan was designed with the following objectives in mind:

1. Develop a well-structured broadband infrastructure program that aligns with State and federal goals and community needs, focusing on expanding access and improving internet connectivity.
2. Establish a strong communication strategy to engage potential applicants, local communities, and stakeholders effectively, fostering collaboration and support for the program.
3. Identify and address potential challenges and barriers that may arise during and before program launch and infrastructure deployment, ensuring a smooth and successful implementation.
4. Successfully launch the broadband infrastructure program for the benefit of underserved homes and businesses, bridging the digital divide and enhancing economic opportunities.

**Activities Implemented, Key Milestones, and Outputs:**

The activities and subsequent milestones and outputs achieved this reporting period were supported by grant funds. As introduced above, DEEP has achieved the following milestones through the activities implemented in an effort to fulfill the Program Plan:

1. Subgrantee Selection

DEEP's subcontractor supported planning and program implementation by, inter alia, providing technical review of grant applications.

2. Second Phase of Deployment

This phase was supported by the implementation of a marketing and communications plan that was developed and implemented alongside our marketing subcontractor with grant funds. In addition, dedicated staff outreach was applied to support the development of this phase.

3. Implementation of Grant Management System

The implementation and further development of the grant management system was supported by costs expended to utilize a third-party grant management system as well as costs utilized by our implementation subcontractor that assisted with the planning and building of system workflows and modules.

4. Development and Implementation of Monitoring and Compliance Activities

A program monitoring plan was developed with monitoring activities implemented this reporting period to ensure program compliance.

5. Progress in the Pole Attachment Process

While DEEP sought to mitigate potential delays in the pole attachment process through a regulatory solution, efforts have not been fruitful. DEEP remains committed to reducing barriers to infrastructure deployment and continues to seek non-regulatory avenues for increasing efficiency in the pole attachment application process.

**Activities Planned:**

As we progress further into project implementation, the next reporting period will focus on the following activities on an estimated timeline:

**Subgrantee Monitoring:**

Starting in July 2025, subgrantee monitoring activities will be initiated (i.e., regular check in meetings). In the next reporting period, additional monitoring activities will be enacted to ensure program compliance and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of grant funds.

**Second Phase of Subgrantee Selection:**

In the second phase, DEEP plans to implement multiple activities. The first action DEEP will take is awarding inside wiring retrofit projects located within underserved multi-dwelling unit buildings to further promote broadband access across the state of Connecticut. These awards are estimated to be announced in the first quarter of 2026. Additionally, DEEP plans to promote underserved locations in the state that were not included in BEAD Program project areas.  Approximately 200 locations were deemed ineligible for the BEAD Program due to high cost and may be considered eligible for the ConneCTed Communities Grant Program. Furthermore, with the help of state partners and consultants,

DEEP aims to analyze locations across the state, comparing service status against available speed test data to locate locations that may be incorrectly reflected as served. Any locations deemed eligible will be promoted to applicants through various channels.
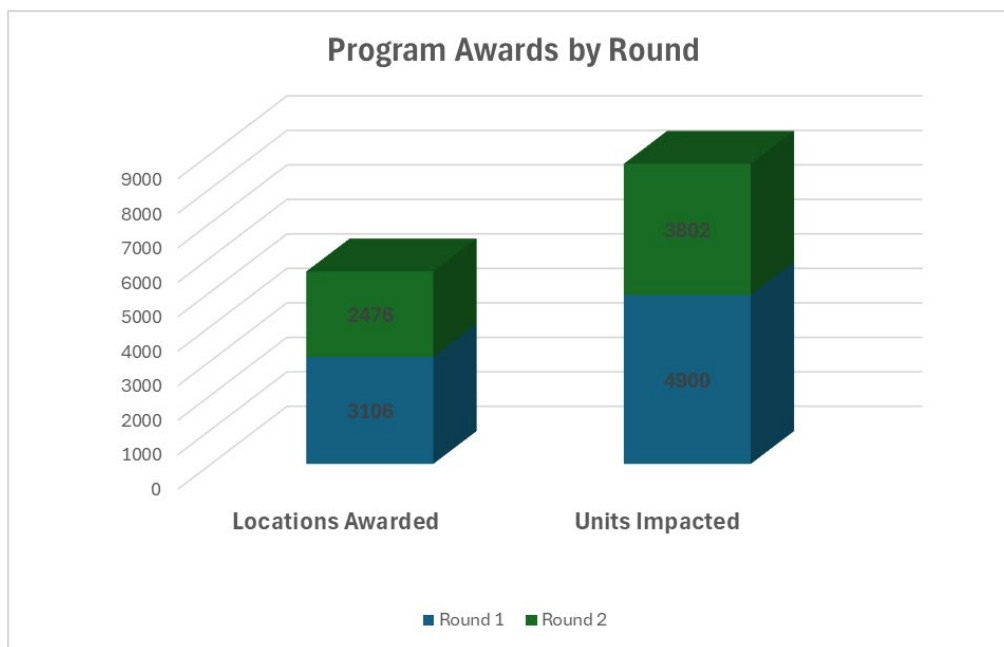
**Continued Efforts to Develop Efficiencies in the Pole Attachment Process:**

DEEP will work with <mark>attachers</mark> and pole administrators as best as possible to foster timely completion of program-related make-ready requests.

**Individuals/Households Benefiting from CPF Funds:**

CPF funds will be instrumental in expanding broadband access and connectivity to underserved areas. Based on FCC National Broadband Map data (Fabric Version 3.2), a total of 8,703 units are projected to benefit from the awards—3,106 locations in Round 1 and 2,476 in Round 2. These awarded locations include a mix of residential, business, and mixed-use properties, among others. In total for both rounds awarded, 116 cities and towns in Connecticut will benefit from these awards, including 30 Distressed Municipalities.

Throughout the program's implementation, DEEP will collect data and narratives about the individuals and households benefiting from improved internet access. Surveys, interviews, and case studies may be used to measure the program's success in meeting its objectives, offering valuable insights into the positive impact on beneficiaries and their experiences.

**Program Awards by Round**

| | Locations Awarded | Units Impacted |
|---|---|---|
| Round 2 | 2476 | 3802 |
| Round 1 | 3106 | 4900 |

**Notable Challenges and Status of Each Challenge**: As discussed above, challenges to execute contracts expeditiously have been resolved and will inform second phase subgrantee contracting.

## Addressing Critical Needs

*Treasury encourages uses of funds that promote growth in communities with a critical need, such as high-poverty and rural areas.*

*Each Performance Report must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on progress towards key outcomes and how the Recipient has addressed or faced challenges to addressing critical needs during the reporting period.*

*Please describe how the Recipient addressed critical needs at various stages of the Program during the reporting period, including:*

   a) **Objectives:** *Based on your definition of communities with critical need, are there particular communities, including those living in rural areas and/or high-poverty areas, that the capital assets being funded by CPF are designed to serve? Include the definition of critical need used for each Program Plan.*
   b) **Awareness:** *Was it convenient for members of these communities, including households, businesses, and other organizations, to become aware of the services funded by CPF? Please explain.*
   c) **Outcomes:** *What progress has the Program made toward addressing critical needs in these communities, such as closing gaps in broadband access, reaching universal levels of service, increasing access to digital connectivity devices or community facilities that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring? Please include other outcomes (e.g. affordable service) as relevant to policy objectives. What methods (e.g., surveys, interviews) are being used (if applicable) to quantify and qualify Project and Program outcomes?*

**New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center**

a)  *Objectives:*

New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center is designed to address a critical need for education, work and health monitoring for the City of New Haven residents.   The City of New Haven is a historically disadvantaged community which experienced disproportionately poor work, education, and health outcomes during the COVID-10 pandemic.  Lack of access to equitable resources and opportunities further separated City residents from their suburban counterparts. The New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center program will remain publicly accessible to our students and community.  We will target the unemployed, underemployed, and undereducated individuals from the City of New Haven and surrounding communities. This is inclusive of eligible individuals with disabilities, including learning disabilities.

Per the 2020 Connecticut State Department of Education local profile report, 17.6% of New Haven residents ages 18 or older do not hold a high school diploma. As of January 2021, the unemployment rate in the city of New Haven was 8.6 %, which is a 4% increase from the previous year.  New Haven Adult and Continuing Education will target individuals with limited English proficiency that are 17+ years of age who live in the City of New Haven, CT.  In 2020, 7.8% of the City of New Haven resident's ages, 18+ were identified as not speaking English well. In 2021, the unemployment rate in the City of New Haven was 8.6 %, which is a 4% increase from the previous year. By providing new educational opportunities in high demand sectors, the chance for

employment increases dramatically.   The program will assist individuals who must be able to read and communicate in English in order to understand and navigate governmental, educational, workplace systems and key American institutions.

The City of New Haven's population is increasing at the fastest rate since the 1920's.  The Mayor of New Haven vision includes employment opportunities for city residents that extend beyond just "jobs" but rather good paying careers. New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center will continually solicit input from partners, community members and other relevant stakeholders through a quarterly advisory team.   Working partnerships with Workforce Alliance/American Job Center, Gateway Community College, Yale University, Cornell Stock Hill Health Center and with co-located services will ensure seamless transitions and equitable access.

b) *Awareness:*

 As the project is under construction, the services at the site funded by CPF have not begun.

c) *Outcomes:*

As the project is under construction, the services at the site funded by CPF have not begun.


**Manchester Town Library**

a) *Objectives:*

Manchester Connecticut's Public Library is often described as having 'pretty oak woodwork but it's far too small.'  Built in 1937, with an addition constructed in 1962, nearly the entire adult book collection is shelved in narrow, crowded metal bookstacks based on a 19th-Century model of construction.  The steep staircases mean that parents with strollers and residents who use canes or walkers cannot access most of the books.  Constructed adjacent to a Main Street downtown park, there is no ability to expand the building or to increase the amount of public parking available at the current location.  Sized at 26,135 square feet, it is only about 1/3 the recommended size if following Connecticut State Library standards.  Plus, there are only 25 public parking spaces nearby.

Manchester is an increasingly diverse community and its population as of the census of 2020 was 59,713.  Nearly half of the community is non-white, and it is likely that by the end of this decade, the small city will become majority minority. From 2010 to 2020, Manchester's total population increased by 3%, and the increase can be attributed to increases in residents of color: the community's Black population increased 34%, the nonwhite Hispanic population increased 59%, Asian increased 36%, while the white population decreased by 18%. The youth population represents even more diversity than the population at large, with over 75% of public-school K-12 students identifying as non-white.

From an equity standpoint, the demographic shift in Manchester underscores the urgent need for a new library. Those who are impacted most by the aging public library, and more importantly, those who would benefit most from an updated, 21st century library, are residents from historically marginalized communities.  Moreover, the current library is located in a census tract deemed to be

at the highest level on the federal government's Socially Vulnerably Index Scale, with a score of 0.8047.

These critical issues are being addressed by the on-going construction of the 70,000 square foot, modern, fully accessible and digitally connected 21st Century library.

The Town and public library have dedicated online resources to keep residents informed of the project status.

The Town and architects of the new library have completed several stages of community engagement to inform both the interior and exterior design of the library.

These have included opinion surveys, focus groups, and online engagement polls.

b) *Awareness:*

Notices for the community engagement sessions and online surveys have been made in Spanish and Bengali, as well as English, and we have offered translation services on site.

As the Town approaches the grand opening in Summer 2026, the Town will be providing further awareness campaigns about the services being funded through CPF, specifically the public health services, educational opportunities, and programming spaces.
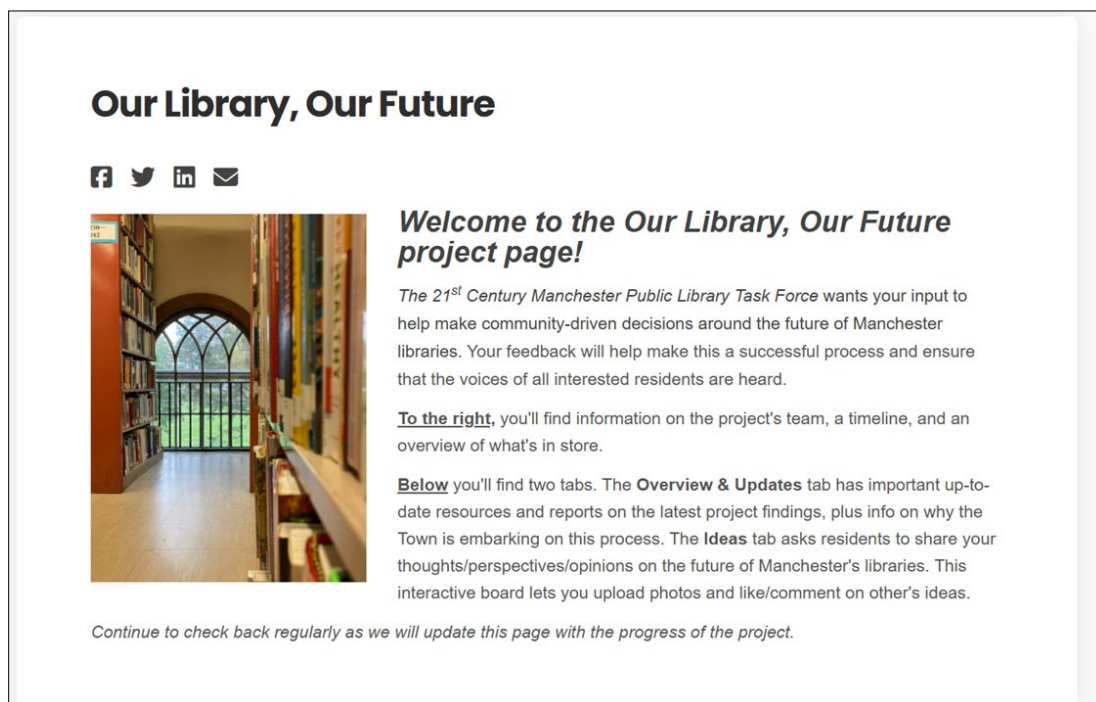


c) *Outcomes:*

As the project is not complete, Manchester has not yet been able to achieve the expected outcomes of improving educational, workforce training, and health outcomes for Manchester's residents, especially its most vulnerable residents  However, the progress made during the 2024-2025

reporting period – acquiring the site, demolition of the old building, and commencing construction – are all tangible milestones that will ensure the success of the Project and Program outcomes.

## Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program

*a) Objectives:*

The State had identified the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program 'CEN ConneCT' as a key initiative to serve Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) and communities in need of improved cyberinfrastructure across the state. The definition of critical need for this program encompassed existing members-customers of CEN, as well as communities with limited access to high-performance, high-capacity Internet services, which are essential for workforce development, digital government, learning, innovation, and health and human services. As previously noted, the program's design and objectives were vetted through the legislative process and supported by the passage of CT Public Act (PA) 22-118, as amended by PA 22-146, to ensure alignment with the state's broadband and technological goals. In the end, each of the organizations connected to the CEN backbone will have access to a high performance, high-capacity network that scales into a future ready platform.

*b) Awareness:*

The CEN ConneCT Program is designed to ensure that Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) can easily access and understand the services supported by the Capital Projects Fund (CPF). In keeping with CEN's mission to deliver high-performance, reliable, and secure internet services—and its commitment to transparency, collaboration, and member-focused service—CEN has implemented a comprehensive outreach strategy to make information about these services readily available and convenient to access.

To support this goal, CEN has employed a variety of engagement methods, including:

- **Direct outreach and personalized communication** with CAIs to provide timely and relevant information

- **Community forums and regional meetings** that offer both in-person and virtual opportunities for learning and discussion

- **Integration into the Annual CEN Conference**, where CPF-funded services are featured in sessions, workshops, and networking events

- **Partnerships with affiliate organizations**, such as councils of government, libraries, and municipal associations, to help extend the reach of program information

- **Ongoing digital and print communications**, including website updates, social media, and informational materials designed for clarity and ease of use

*c) Outcomes:*

These efforts have made it convenient for CAIs to stay informed and engaged, regardless of their location or technical background. CEN's approach ensures that awareness of CPF-funded services is not only widespread but also sustained throughout the life of the program.

**Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program**

a) *Objectives:*

Connecticut's Broadband Infrastructure Program (the CCGP) defines communities with critical need as those historically underserved, marginalized, and/or adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality, including residents living in rural areas and high-poverty regions.

Projects selected incorporated considerations that specifically address the needs of these communities (i.e., community benefit narrative) along with the below and were encouraged to seek a match waiver. DEEP also applied eligibility criteria aligned with the Program's focus on economically distressed communities and other communities with critical need in determining eligibility for funding of non-standard installations.

- Project area demographics including whether the project is located in an area of low or moderate income, high unemployment, high poverty, or economic distress such as those designated as Distressed Municipalities by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.
- Anticipated regional impact, including but not limited to whether the project is coordinated with or builds upon other nearby projects, supports network resiliency, and/or addresses a region of the State with high need but relatively few funded projects.
- The project's anticipated impact to the local economy and community that explains the specific short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of the proposed plan, including a description of efforts aimed at ensuring low to moderate income households in the project area will have sustained and affordable access to speeds at or above 100 Mbps/100 Mbps.

b) *Awareness:*

DEEP continues to remain committed to ensuring equitable and practical access for members of historically underserved communities to understand the potential benefits of the program.

Continued efforts this reporting period included digital and print media along with community outreach (i.e., virtual quarterly stakeholder roundtables) to engage and collect feedback on barriers from residents in these targeted communities. These tailored quarterly meetings included diverse audiences such as state, municipal, and Tribal leaders as well as community organizations.

Further, as part of each subgrantee agreement, any communications plan utilizing grant funds must be publicized in the communities it will serve.

c) *Outcomes:*

The resulting project area demographics are as follows:

While the infrastructure is not currently under construction, 30 unique Distressed Municipalities have projects located within their boundaries. These projects will assist in closing gaps in broadband access in areas of critical need. This investment in broadband infrastructure in Connecticut's Distressed Municipalities is noteworthy, as these areas are determined to have the highest levels of

fiscal and economic distress. Of the 86 cities and towns in which projects occur in round 1 awards, 26 are classified as Distressed Municipalities. Of the 44 cities and towns in which projects occur in round 2 awards, 10 are classified as Distressed Municipalities. The investment is significant, as these areas are determined to have the highest levels of fiscal and economic distress.

Connecticut anticipates these projects will specifically impact the affected communities with critical need.

## Labor

*Describe workforce practices on any Broadband Infrastructure and/or Multi-Purpose Community Facility projects being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects while also supporting the economic recovery through employment opportunities for workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and/or local hiring.*

### New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center

The City of New Haven has ordinance requirements for workforce participation, prevailing wage requirements, and disadvantaged business hiring that meet or exceed the requirements under ARPA. The City will implement these programs on this project as allowable by the grant agreement.

### Manchester Town Library

The Town has entered a Project Labor Agreement for this project, and all labor contracts must meet prevailing wage requirements.

### Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program

As a State of Connecticut agency, CEN upholds strong labor standards across all broadband infrastructure initiatives to ensure the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of services. Each project is tailored to meet specific labor and compliance requirements, as outlined below:

**Next Generation Infrastructure Direct Implementation**  Delivered through a series of Statements of Work (SOWs), this project draws on a diverse pool of local, regional, and national talent to secure the specialized expertise required for network modernization and upgrades.

**Community Wireless Grant Program (WiFi Grant Program)**  This initiative incorporates federal and state labor compliance requirements through pass-through provisions embedded in the program guidance. Awardees are responsible for adhering to these standards, with support from CEN's contracted project staff to ensure compliance and address any issues that may arise.

**Connecting Connecticut's Communities Initiative (C3I)**  C3I engages subcontractors who comply with Connecticut's prevailing wage laws, as documented through letters of commitment from

fiber installation partners. CEN maintains ongoing oversight to ensure proper documentation and adherence to labor standards throughout the project lifecycle.

Where applicable, awardees are required to submit monthly Certified Payrolls and Statements of Compliance in accordance with the federal Davis-Bacon Act and Connecticut Prevailing Wage statutes. For roles not covered under prevailing wage classifications, CEN collaborates with local teams and union-represented staff to support device configuration and installation at new member-customer sites.

## Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program

During this reporting period, DEEP selected subgrantees based on applicant and project eligibility standards that supported best practices in labor. A thorough review of previous labor violations along with ensuring labor law compliance and the prioritization of local hires was conducted.

In addition, DEEP has prioritized labor standards by securing State Labor requirements for prevailing wage within subgrantee agreements.

As projects have commenced and begin to enter the construction phase, subgrantees will submit Certified Payrolls with a statement of compliance monthly to DEEP. DEEP continues to follow up on this requirement of the Connecticut Department of Labor (CT DOL) during monthly check-in meetings with subgrantees and is available to facilitate any labor-specific discussions with CT DOL.

## Community Engagement

*Recipients should report on (and include quantitative information, such as counts) about the following activities related to community engagement in support of the implementation and operations of each Program and related Projects:*

- *Community engagement efforts and activities that occurred with and/or in communities served by the Program. Recipients should include information about the types of organizations (such as training providers, community colleges, libraries, churches, and community-based groups) and, where possible, names of organizations and communities the Recipient and Subrecipient(s) were engaged with to support the implementation and operations of Projects; and*
- *Outreach, advertising, and translation activities and services deployed to reach communities the Program is designed to serve; and*
- *Any plans to sustain, improve, and or grow community engagement efforts in the subsequent performance year.*

## New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center

The City of New Haven and New Haven Adult Education held two community meetings in the summer of 2022, where the concept of multi-faceting community training services was warmly received. In addition, there was significant support from the Newhallville neighborhood to host the center, including

support from all four neighborhood elected members of the Board of Alders. The New Haven Board of Education adopted 188 Bassett Street as the location of the center in August of 2022.

The schematic design report was based on internal and external stakeholder feedback. Focus groups of students, staff, teachers, and community members were held in the fall of 2023. Stakeholders were asked to provide insight into the desired program elements, layout of the proposed building, and visions of how an existing building can be transformed to meet the needs of a growing adult education program.

Feedback offered during construction will be handled by appropriate Design Team members.

Two community meetings held in July/August 2022 were arranged by the Newhallville alderpersons and were open to all Newhallville community residents, organizations, businesses, agencies, etc. Direct support was provided by Workforce Alliance, and the City engaged with CT State Gateway for collaboration efforts as well.

Alderpersons provided outreach within the Newhallville community through their typical channels. Social media platforms are used to translate into most languages, for communication received through those platforms.

New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center will directly enable education to people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, populations with limited English proficiency, and other traditionally unserved or underserved groups, by providing adult learners with high quality programs to earn high school credentials and to become productive citizens in school, in the workforce, and in their communities.  Each adult learner will be provided with individualized, targeted academic, social, emotional, educational and health support they need as they proceed through our programs. Our model offers high school credit, G.E.D., citizenship, National External Diploma, ESOL, as well as dual credit programs with area institutes of higher education. Adult learners will have access to a wide range of courses, degrees, certifications, and credentials.


**Manchester Town Library**

The Town has dedicated online resources to keep residents informed of the status of the project.  The Town and architects of the new library have completed several stages of community engagement to inform both the interior and exterior design of the library. These have included opinion surveys, focus groups, and online engagement polls. Notices for the community engagement sessions and online surveys have been made in Spanish and Bengali, as well as English, and the Town has offered translation services on site.

**New Library Update: Advanced Building Designs and Sustainability Plans**

Published on July 11, 2024

**MANCHESTER CT:** Over the last several months, the 12-member Library Building Committee has been working diligently with Town Officials, Town Staff, Friar Architects & HBM Architects, and construction contractors to design Manchester's 21st Century Public Library in the heart of Downtown Main Street.

The new library project is progressing with exciting advancements for both interior and exterior design elements. While the designs are subject to further refinement, the architectural vision showcases a spectacular structure, incorporating community feedback on the initial designs to create a welcoming space for reading, learning, connection, and conversation.

The 70,000 square foot, three-story structure includes ample space for Manchester's robust collection of books and materials, lively and engaging areas for children of all ages, dedicated interactive teen space, makerspace and audio-visual studio, private study and meeting rooms, and a large community meeting space.

During the next reporting period (2025-2026), the Town will be conducting an awareness campaign for the community to ensure Manchester's most vulnerable populations are aware of the services being offered at the new library when it opens later next year. The Town will utilize multi-lingual staff in the library, Town Manager's office, and Senior Center, in addition to providing information through a variety of mediums and in English, Spanish, and Bengali.

## Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Broadband Infrastructure Program

CEN remains deeply committed to engaging with our member communities, stakeholders, and program participants throughout the duration of the Broadband Infrastructure Program. This ongoing dialogue is rooted in our foundational values—member-centric service, transparency, integrity, efficiency, equity, and excellence—as reflected in our mission and vision. (Learn more about our guiding principles here: CEN Mission & Vision: https://ctedunet.net/mission-vision/)

**Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement**

CEN has prioritized consistent communication and collaboration through a variety of engagement channels:

**Quarterly Briefings to the CT Commission for Educational Technology** Regular updates have been shared with the Commission during scheduled meetings on September 9, 2024; December 2, 2024; March 3, 2025; and June 2, 2025. These sessions offered a platform for progress updates, feedback, and discussion. Full details are available on the Commission's website: CT Commission for Educational Technology (https://www.ct.gov/edtech)

**Community Forums and Public Updates** The team continued to promote the program at various statewide events, including Council of Government meetings, the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Meeting, and the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) Conference—

reaching municipal and library leaders across Connecticut. More information is available on the CEN Connect Events Page (https://ctedunet.net/engagement-events/).

**CEN Annual Conference** The 2025 CEN Annual Conference, rebranded as *CEN ConneCT* to align with ARPA-CPF initiatives, was held May 7–8, 2025 at the Connecticut Convention Center, drawing 850 attendees. On May 7 we featured a 1 PM workshop titled "CEN WiFi Grant Ready: A Hands-on Workshop" to help potential applicants make progress on their applications. May 8th kicked off at 9 AM with opening remarks that provided an overview of the ARPA program and its benefits to the community. Following this, a session at 10:15 AM focused on eduroam benefits that also promoted the WiFi Grant program. For more details, visit the conference website.

**Digital and Print Outreach** CEN has produced a range of outreach materials—including one-page program summaries, postcards, presentations, and regular website and social media updates—to keep stakeholders informed and engaged. Visit the CEN Connect page for the latest resources and updates. (https://ctedunet.net/cen-connect/)

**Direct Outreach & Engagement** CEN staff and project resources have regular 1:1 communication with members to schedule activities and check in on progress. This more personalized approach helps ensure clear communication to member constituents and provides the opportunity for feedback along the way.

**Additional Planned Stakeholder Outreach Initiatives**

**Regional Community Forums & Strategic Planning**

CEN plans to host Regional Community Forums & Strategy Sessions across the state to help ensure direct engagement of communities impacted by the program. Venues will be identified, and the forums are being planned for Fall-Winter 2025-6 after being purposely delayed one year to better align with the program close deliverables. These forums will provide a platform for direct engagement with community members, enabling us to discuss program objectives and gather valuable feedback, and will help with new strategy development on how to best leverage new capabilities of the network platforms and further enhance the cybersecurity.

**Transparency in Reporting**

To promote transparency and accountability, CEN will continue to update our online content to reflect project progress and make progress reports available to the public.

## Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program

DEEP has continued its commitment to actively engage and solicit feedback from communities, organizations, and constituents during the selection of projects and throughout the construction and implementation phases. DEEP's approach focuses on transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness to ensure that the needs of the communities served by the projects are effectively addressed. In the reporting period, DEEP had approximately 550 stakeholder engagements.

**Completed and Active Stakeholder Outreach Initiatives:**

Meeting with State Agencies and Community Organizations Serving Underrepresented Communities:

- Understanding the importance of inclusivity and tailored solutions, DEEP continued to conduct individual meetings with state agencies and community organizations serving communities that would benefit from the program. Through these engagements, DEEP identified and harnessed existing resources, avoiding duplication of efforts, and built relationships that will be leveraged throughout program implementation. Additionally, gaining insights into their specific plans and needs enabled DEEP to customize initiatives to better address the unique challenges faced by these communities. A sample of relevant stakeholders engaged in the reporting period include:
  - Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
  - New Horizons Village
  - City of Hartford
  - City of New Haven
  - Town of Kent
  - EdAdvance Adult Education
  - United Way of Connecticut
  - Communications Workers of America
  - International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
  - Connecticut Department of Labor

Stakeholder Roundtables

- As part of DEEP's commitment to inclusivity and collaboration, we have continued to organize quarterly stakeholder roundtables in three sessions to engage with various key stakeholders in government, industry, and community organizations. These discussions provide a platform for meaningful dialogue, allowing DEEP to identify opportunities and address obstacles to program success.

Digital and Print Media

- DEEP has developed a number of informational print materials to distribute to stakeholders in addition to providing consistent web updates and social media posts for engagement. Highlights include an updated one-page summary of state broadband programs for the general public.

Multi-Dwelling Unit Survey Intake Form

- In an effort to further identify locations across the state in need of broadband infrastructure, DEEP launched an intake form. Stakeholders had the opportunity to identify Multi-Dwelling Units in need of internet service improvements, sharing the current technology available, existing issues with the current internet services, and provide information on affordability of service. This survey was promoted in DEEP's Broadband newsletter, DEEP's Environmental Justice newsletter, webpage, and social media pages. In addition to the survey being posted on social media, DEEP launched a LinkedIn campaign where the survey was promoted to relevant stakeholders throughout Distressed Municipalities across the state. A nonprofit organization unaffiliated with DEEP also conducted outreach within their own stakeholder network to promote the survey to affordable housing property managers and organizations.

Distressed Municipality Outreach Campaign

- As part of the effort to identify eligible Multi-Dwelling Units, DEEP implemented an outreach campaign, directly calling and emailing municipal staff in Distressed and formerly Distressed Municipalities in an effort to identify potentially eligible Multi-Dwelling Units in need of broadband infrastructure upgrades. A total of 25 Distressed Municipalities and nine formerly Distressed Municipalities with eligibility remaining were contacted through this effort. Stakeholders engaged varied from town or city planners, municipal leaders, and housing authority representatives, among other groups.

In-Person Events and Fairs

- DEEP participated in a range of in-person events and fairs to advance awareness of the grant program. These events encompassed funding fairs, networking forums, and other stakeholder convenings. Examples of events include Congressman Courtney's Funding Resource Fair, 2024 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Convention, and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Innovation Fair. Participation in these settings provided DEEP with the opportunity to engage with a diverse array of stakeholders, including municipalities, Councils of Governments (COGs), community-based organizations, and additional partners, for the purpose of disseminating information and fostering awareness of the program.

**Planned Stakeholder Outreach Initiatives**

Feedback and Grievances during Implementation

- Throughout the construction and implementation phases, DEEP will maintain open channels of communication to receive feedback, grievances, and suggestions from stakeholders. Regular engagement and communication will allow provide a platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns. DEEP will ensure that all concerns are promptly acknowledged, investigated, and addressed in a timely manner.

Transparency in Reporting

- To promote transparency and accountability, DEEP will make progress reports available to the public. These reports will include updates on project milestones, construction activities, and discussion on any feedback received and addressed. This process will foster trust and allow stakeholders to track the progress and outcomes of CPF-funded projects.

In conclusion, DEEP will strive to achieve sustainable and meaningful impacts while fostering positive relationships with all stakeholders involved in the CPF-funded projects.