

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

A REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF SPECIAL ACT NO. 21-1

## *Connecticut's Plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*

A Roadmap for a Transformative,  
Equitable and Healthy Recovery  
for our State

Governor Ned Lamont  
April 26, 2021





# **Connecticut's Plan for The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: A Roadmap for a Transformative, Equitable and Healthy Recovery for our State**

## **Introduction**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) is the sixth federal COVID-19 relief bill passed in the last year<sup>1</sup>, and is by far the largest infusion of resources to the state. It is estimated that more than \$6 billion will come to the state through multiple ARPA grant programs. These substantial federal supports arrive in our state at a critical inflection point. Through various initiatives and policies, Connecticut has made tremendous financial strides and we stand to emerge from the pandemic among the best-positioned states in the nation. Connecticut has not needed to cut services or raise taxes in order to manage the state budget and the state is projected to close the two pandemic-affected fiscal years (FYs 2020 and 2021) in surplus. The state has used previously authorized federal and state resources to mount one of the most comprehensive and effective pandemic responses in the country, including rapidly standing up nationally recognized testing, contact tracing, vulnerable resident support and vaccination programs. Connecticut established the model for safely re-opening schools and closing the digital divide by providing access to devices for every student in the state. These efforts, along with others, have made parts of the state some of the hottest real estate in the country.

Notwithstanding some of these successes, it is not all good news for our state. More than 116,000 of the residents who lost their job during the pandemic have yet to find new employment opportunities. Some of those have left their job because there were not adequate or affordable childcare facilities available. Just as there are some who need a ladder to education opportunities to upskill and greatly increase their marketability for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are families struggling with putting food on the table. Individuals are struggling with the high prices of their insurance premia and co-payments, risking their coverage or delaying care to avoid costs. There are children who have fallen behind during the move to remote learning. Those small businesses that fuel the economy are barely able to keep their doors open and maintain payroll.

In addition, COVID-19 exposed long-standing health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities who suffered disproportionately with higher infection and mortality rates.

Consequently, the funds due to arrive in Connecticut via ARPA represent an incredible opportunity for this state to make transformative investments in equity and to emerge healthier and stronger from pre-natal care to end of life, for people and projects, to help everyone who needs it in this state. Investing in children and families early in life leads to better outcomes later in life, making our society even more prepared for the next pandemic or other crisis, and, even more importantly, allowing our society to access economic opportunity.

As a result, Governor Lamont developed five key areas for these investments with a focus on equity:

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<sup>1</sup> Public Law 116-123, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; P.L. 116-127, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act; P.L. 116-136, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; P.L. 116-139, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act; P.L. 116-260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021; and P.L. 117-2, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

1. The first of which is to defeat COVID-19 by maintaining strong testing and vaccination programs, supporting a continued supply of PPE, maintaining our nationally leading support programs for our most vulnerable residents living in long-term care facilities, and supporting local health departments, because defeating this virus is the only way to ensure the other investments will pay dividends.
2. The second is investing in the future with 21<sup>st</sup> century upgrades and investments in the cities/towns, expanding access to high speed internet, supporting families from the start, supporting the recovery of non-profits through the pandemic, and addressing the criminal justice impacts.
3. The third key area is creating a more affordable Connecticut through providing enhanced childcare opportunities for residents, assisting institutions of higher education, providing students in our colleges and universities with additional financial aid and scholarship, providing resources to better support those struggling with mental health issues, and targeting affordable internet and broadband access, as well as home remediation, energy efficiency and clean energy retrofits that will improve respiratory health and reduce burdensome energy costs for low-income residents.
4. The fourth area of investment is to make the state's economic growth work for everyone by restoring jobs, rebuilding our economy, returning to growth by focusing on workforce development, small business supports, investing in innovation, communities, and sustainable products.
5. The fifth key investment area is the state itself. These resources will enable Connecticut to modernize and ease the delivery of services, particularly in health and human services, while improving the speed and quality with which we can monitor and analyze public health risks. Additionally, these federal dollars will allow the state to balance our budget for the upcoming biennium without raising taxes, cutting other essential services or tapping historic reserves.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on Connecticut's most vulnerable residents. Minorities and, in particular, women of color, who are more likely to hold high-risk, essential positions, have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. It is our collective responsibility to address these challenges through an equity-focused lens.

Thus, every initiative has been designed with equity at its core, directed at and prioritizing those that have suffered most due to the pandemic. Across policy areas, access to transformative programming is focused on supporting our most vulnerable populations. Programs like Expanding Home Visits for Families will transform access to supports and services for young children beginning at birth.

With these additional resources, the state has the ability to invest in people and projects simultaneously. In the near term, continued assistance to our residents who are struggling can be offered. The state can provide support for providers who have been on the front lines of combatting this pandemic. It will allow for maintaining the programs that are helping the food insecure. There can be aid for those struggling with housing and keeping the lights on. What Governor Lamont has proposed is a comprehensive investment program aimed at equity, and lifting up the communities in our state who not only were most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, but have historically faced inequities in the areas of health, opportunity, and education.

This is a unique moment for this great state, and by maximizing the utility of these resources, Connecticut can continue its upward trajectory and be in a great position for the balance of the pandemic and for the recovery.

This vision is part of a comprehensive effort to coordinate initiatives across the various funding streams Connecticut expects to receive as a result of ARPA.

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Amount (\$M)</b>
State Fiscal Relief Funds	2,647.00
Elementary and Secondary Educ Relief 3 - Admin	110.60
Child Care Development Block Grant	106.49
Child Care Stabilization	170.32
Child Care CRRSA (Coronavirus Relief Supplemental Funds)	70.80
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants	29.11
Capital Projects Fund	141.50
<b>Subtotal Direct Allocations</b>	<b>3,275.82</b>
Note: The funding noted above will be complemented with GO bond funds to support the Economic Action Plan.	
<b>Other Funding Sources:</b>	
Local Fiscal Relief Funds	1,561.00
Elementary and Secondary Relief - Districts	995.30
Housing	344.90
CDC Epidemiology and Lab Capacity for School Testing	107.39
Other Self-Allocating Funding Sources (LIHEAP, WIC, Head Start, HEERF, FEMA food and shelter programs, etc.)	
<b>Subtotal Other</b>	<b>3,008.59</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,284.40</b>

The report that follows outlines the Governor's vision for ensuring that federal resources are directed toward transformative investments, while also fulfilling the requirements of Special Act 21-1, as the Connecticut General Assembly also recognized the opportunities presented by the anticipated level of federal assistance, passing Special Act 21-1, *An Act Concerning Legislative Oversight and Approval of COVID-19 Relief Funds*. Briefly stated, that act requires the Governor to share his recommended allocations for two specific forms of assistance – the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund – and the General Assembly is required to approve or propose modifications to the allocation plan by way of public or special act.

### Background

The Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) was created under Section 9901 of Subtitle M of P.L. 117-2, which added section 602 to Title VI of the Social Security Act. Connecticut's share of this fund is estimated at \$2.6 billion, with these funds available for use through December 31, 2024. Pending issuance of implementing guidance by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which is the federal agency charged with administering the fund, allowable uses of CSFRF are:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;

2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the pandemic by providing premium pay, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
3. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced by the state due to the public health emergency; or
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure.

CSFRF funds may not, however, be used either directly or indirectly to offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation during the covered period that reduces any tax (i.e., by providing for a reduction in a rate, a rebate, a deduction, a credit or otherwise) or delays the imposition of any tax or tax increase. CSFRF funds also may not be deposited into any pension funds.

**It is important to emphasize that implementing guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury has not yet been promulgated as of the date of this report, and that the proposed allocations that follow may need to be revised, modified, or re-oriented based on Treasury's interpretation of allowable uses.**

## Proposed Allocations from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Provided under Subtitle M of ARPA

Proposed allocations from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) provided under Subtitle M of ARPA address the following areas of need:

- Supporting Early Childhood and Family Needs Resulting from COVID-19
- Addressing K-12 Education Impacts of COVID-19
- Addressing the Higher Education Impacts of COVID-19
- Addressing the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19
- Continuing the State's Nationally Recognized Testing Program
- Addressing the Public Health Impacts of COVID-19
- Promoting Effective, Safe, and Fair Criminal Justice System Responses to COVID-19
- Supporting the Recovery of Private Providers through the Pandemic
- Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19
- Addressing Workforce Development Needs Resulting from COVID-19
- Provision of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction
- Addressing Other State Operations
- Governor's Reserves for Contingencies

### Summary of State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Plan

Major Themes	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 (6 months)	Total	% of \$2.6B	% of \$897M
Criminal Justice	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000,000	0.6%	1.7%
Early Childhood	\$10,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,800,000	0.4%	1.2%
Economic	\$112,375,000	\$38,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$160,875,000	6.1%	17.9%
Govt Services	\$775,000,000	\$975,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,750,000,000	66.1%	N/A
Higher Ed	\$50,500,000	\$30,500,000	\$14,500,000	\$0	\$95,500,000	3.6%	10.6%
K12	\$21,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,900,000	0.8%	2.4%
Mental Health	\$15,575,000	\$15,575,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$31,400,000	1.2%	3.5%
Private Providers	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000,000	1.9%	5.6%
Public Health	\$41,870,656	\$28,730,363	\$20,599,760	\$1,375,000	\$92,575,779	3.5%	10.3%
Reserves	\$25,712,873	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,712,873	1.0%	2.9%
State Operations	\$30,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$613,650	\$0	\$50,613,650	1.9%	5.6%
State Testing Program	\$200,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$240,000,000	9.1%	26.7%
Workforce Development	\$36,576,349	\$36,636,349	\$30,000,000	\$0	\$103,212,698	3.9%	11.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,352,809,878</b>	<b>\$1,217,441,712</b>	<b>\$75,838,410</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,647,590,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Discretionary Funding Excl. General Fund Support:</b>					<b>\$897,590,000</b>		

These priorities are discussed below.

### Supporting Early Childhood and Family Needs Resulting from COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has de-stabilized the child care industry, placed economic strain on families with young children, and heightened the need for high-quality child care and early education opportunities in order to support educational recovery efforts and to help parents and guardians re-enter the workforce. Through ARPA Child Care Stabilization and ARPA Child Care and Development Fund funding, as well as funds awarded under prior federal stimulus legislation, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has been awarded approximately \$346 million to respond to this need. From these allocations, OEC plans on

supporting a wide array of initiatives including expanding eligibility for Care4Kids, over \$120 million in stabilization grants to providers, technical and business supports to providers, and quality payments to providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or the National Association for Family Child Care. To complement this funding, the Governor is proposing an investment from the CSFRF for the initiatives described below.

#### Pay Care4Kids Parent Fees through 2021

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$5.3 million to the Office of Early Childhood to cover parent fees in the Care4Kids program through December of 2021. This will supplement \$8.7 million in stimulus funding awarded directly by the federal government to OEC which will support the same initiative. The initiative will provide economic relief to the families of 17,000 lower- and middle-income children, many of whom have suffered unemployment, loss of income and other trauma resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Free Summer Pre-School for 3-4 Year Olds

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$3.5 million to pay parent fees in the school readiness and child day care state-contracted programs through September of 2021. This initiative will provide economic relief to the families of approximately 10,000 lower and middle income children enrolled in these programs, many of whom come from communities and populations that have suffered disproportionately from the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also helping to retain children in these high-quality educational programs, mitigating learning loss and increasing kindergarten readiness. In addition, \$3.5 million will be provided out of federal stimulus funds awarded to OEC from prior legislation for Family Resource Center programs. They will offer free summer programs for preschool children and their families for children, not enrolled in early childhood programs, who missed out on preschool experiences due to COVID-19.

#### Supplement Home Visiting Programs

Governor Lamont recommends \$2 million be provided to support high performing home visiting programs serving at-risk families in Hartford, New Haven, Meriden and New Britain. This provides funding to regions disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, providing key services to at-risk families and building on capacity currently afforded by existing home visiting programs.

### **Addressing K-12 Education Impacts of COVID-19**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) provides approximately \$1.1 billion to Connecticut, giving the state, in partnership with valued stakeholders, the opportunity to develop bold, high-impact plans to address the substantial disruption to our children's learning, interpersonal interactions, and social-emotional well-being. It is our collective responsibility to address these challenges through an equity-focused lens. Access is focused on our most vulnerable K-12 populations, including students whose progress decreased, students with disabilities, English language learners, students experiencing homelessness, disengaged youth, or those with barriers to remote learning. The K-12 initiatives, formed through collaboration among the Office of the Governor, the State Department of Education (SDE), other state agencies, and members of the AccelerateCT Education Taskforce, will promote renewal, reduce opportunity gaps, accelerate learning, and advance equity by providing access to supports, resources, and enhanced enrichment opportunities this summer and into the 2021-22 academic year.

Out of the \$1.1 billion, 90% of will be distributed to school districts and 10% – or about \$110 million – will be reserved for state-level activities. According to federal law, 5% must be directed to activities addressing



learning loss, 1% for summer-based enrichment programs, and 1% for evidence-based afterschool programs. Municipalities and school districts (local education agencies), which have received direct ARPA funding allocations in excess of \$2.5 billion, are encouraged to match state level commitments to summer programming with funds they receive directly through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. In addition to this funding, Governor Lamont is proposing dedicating \$21.9 million from the CSFRF to provide a fun and enriching summer experience for Connecticut's K-12 children. Governor Lamont's CSFRF investments are focused on preparing students academically, socially, and emotionally to return to the classroom in the Fall of 2021.

#### Summer Experience at Connecticut's Top Venues

Governor Lamont proposes providing \$15 million during FY 2022 for free admission for Connecticut residents age 18 and younger to Connecticut museums, arts, and educational venues from July 1<sup>st</sup> through Labor Day. The goal is to provide children with access to enrichment and to address the impact of the pandemic on our youth due to the physical and social isolation experienced during the public health emergency while providing necessary support for our state's treasured attractions, which have felt the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Venues include, but are not limited to, the Connecticut Science Center, Beardsley Zoo, Mystic and Norwalk Aquariums and Mystic Seaport. Funding is also available for arts venues including community theaters that may run summer programs for kids and are centers of artistic and cultural importance for communities. Operating grants will support free admission to the state's attractions while supporting safe reopening of venues that have been hardest hit by the pandemic – with the added benefit of aiding to restart the state's tourism industry.

#### Summer College Corp

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$1.5 million to complement a \$1.5 million investment of Coronavirus Relief Funds in FY 2022 to recruit 500 students statewide to work in summer programs and provide those students with training in order to be prepared to support the well-being of children participating in various summer programs throughout the state. As thousands of students have had their school years significantly disrupted from the pandemic, it is critical that they have ample support over the summer to mitigate their learning loss or to participate in fun, engaging programs. Connecticut is looking to colleges and universities to identify students to help facilitate and run these summer learning programs across the state. This will provide summer programs with the needed operational support to get off the ground, college students with a meaningful and impactful summer working experience, and K-12 students with individuals their age who they can learn from and associate with over the summer. The Offices of Workforce Strategy, Higher Education, State Department of Education, as well as public and private higher education institutions will partner together to train college students and match them with summer programs.

#### Summer Camp Scholarships

Governor Lamont recommends allocating \$3.5 million to fund scholarships to sports and specialty camps targeted at children at or below 50% of the state median income.<sup>2</sup> This will supplement the \$11 million in SDE's ARP ESSER state set aside dedicated to increasing access and providing scholarships to camp and summer programs across the state. This will help families provide their children with fun, safe, and enriching summer activities after a year in which many children experienced greater isolation and decreased interpersonal contacts.

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<sup>2</sup> For a family of four, the annual income at 50% of the state median income is \$60,328.

### Teen Experience

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$1.9 million to targeted community programs that focus on providing a safe place for teens to be kids – helping to provide an environment that can focus on the social-emotional needs of students in this age group as these needs have increased as a result of the pandemic. Funding would support teen centers, boys' and girls' clubs, and other community initiatives through direct operational grants. This funding, coupled with \$2 million in Youth Employment Service Supports and \$1 million to support at risk youth, ensures there are opportunities to support children from birth through age 18.

Summer-focused initiatives across early childhood and K-12 reflect a collective investment of over \$43.5 million in combined federal funds to ensure that children can begin to be kids again and ensure they are provided the space and supports to enter the next school year ready to learn.

### **Addressing the Higher Education Impacts of COVID-19**

The American Rescue Plan Act provides an anticipated \$247 million to public institutions of higher education in Connecticut from the Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Fund, of which \$123 million will be available for institutional operating costs and \$124 million will be provided as emergency financial aid grants to students. Previous rounds of HEER funding for Connecticut have provided a total of \$140 million for institutional costs and \$76 million for student grants. In addition to HEER funding, the Governor is proposing an investment of \$95.5 million from CSFRF to support higher education and students enrolled at institutions of higher education, as discussed further below.

### Funding Additional Roberta Willis Need-Based Scholarships

Governor Lamont recommends a total of \$12 million (\$6 million in each of FY 2022 and FY 2023) for the Office of Higher Education for the Roberta Willis Scholarship Program (RWSP). The pandemic has taken a toll on the personal financial situations of many Connecticut residents who were pursuing higher education or will now enroll in a college or university in pursuit of stable employment. This additional funding from CSFRF will increase the available resources for need-based scholarships to Connecticut residents attending public and independent nonprofit colleges and universities, by 18% in each year. In FY 2019, approximately 11,000 students received an average award of \$2,990. This dedicated investment could support up to 2,000 students each year.

### Enhance Retention at Community Colleges

Governor Lamont proposes allocating a total of \$19.5 million (\$6.5 million per year for FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024) to establish an emergency student financial aid program targeted at providing resources to students identified by CSCU advisors as having the highest risk of dropping out due to financial distress. Funding will also support the piloting of Guided Pathways in the Connecticut Community College system, while an influx of resources is being invested in the community colleges to support broader workforce development, upskilling and expanded degrees and certification programs. The Guided Pathways advising model involves significantly lowering the student-to-advisor ratio at community colleges to ensure that college students have the necessary support to identify their academic goals and remove barriers to achieving them. This will benefit students pursuing higher education with the goal of stable employment after the pandemic, as well as community colleges whose enrollment decline during the pandemic has caused revenue volatility. This volatility can be offset by increased student retention from the improved advising offered in the Guided Pathways model. The funding allocated from CSFRF for Guided Pathways will contribute to the up-front cost of hiring additional advisors, and to evaluate the extent to which the

salary and fringe benefit costs can be supported in the long term by the additional revenue from increased student retention.

#### Providing Revenue Support to the University of Connecticut Health Center

Funding of \$10 million is allocated to the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCH), the state's only academic medical center, in FY 2022 to reimburse UCH's clinical fund for revenue losses experienced during the period of reduced capacity in 2020 in response to COVID-19 outbreaks. UCH has stated that revenue losses resulting from reduced clinical operations in FY 2020 alone were \$19 million. This direct budget impact from COVID-19 was not eligible for relief from the previous federal funding available under the Coronavirus Relief Fund but is expected to be an allowable use of the CSFRF. As UCH already faces a difficult financial outlook in the coming years, including a projected budget deficit of up to \$71 million in FY 2023, this relief for revenue losses related to the pandemic will provide flexibility to address challenges down the road.

#### Doubling Support for PACT – Last Dollar Financial Aid

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$24 million to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) (\$8 million each year for FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024) to supplement the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) – nearly doubling the level of support for the program. First administered in the Fall 2020 semester, PACT provides last-dollar scholarships of at least \$250 to cover all unmet costs of attending the Connecticut Community College system for eligible students. CSCU provided \$6 million for PACT in FY 2021 from its operating funds, and the Governor's proposed FY 2022 - FY 2023 budget included a recommended \$6 million annual appropriation for the program. The allocation from CSFRF will further enhance CSCU's ability to provide financial aid to community college students who were financially impacted by the pandemic and may be unable to afford the cost of attending community college. CSCU has also faced sharp declines in community college enrollment during the pandemic, and the additional support for PACT is expected to result in growth in enrollment and additional revenue from Pell grants and other sources of financial aid. This supplemental funding for PACT will provide last-dollar scholarships to approximately 7,800 additional students in FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024.

#### UConn/CSCU Operating Support

Governor Lamont proposes allocating a total of \$30 million for CSCU and UConn, with \$10 million for each institution in FY 2022 and \$5 million in FY 2023 to offset direct COVID-19 related costs and revenue impacts from the ongoing pandemic during the upcoming fiscal years. CSCU and UConn both faced significant costs in 2020 for student testing, remote learning technology, and campus adaptations to accommodate learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, these institutions saw steep revenue declines from reduced enrollment at community colleges and reduced on-campus housing and dining fees at universities as students chose to attend classes remotely while living off-campus. Institutions have thus far been able to ease many of these impacts through budget mitigation and federal funding allocated by the state or directly to institutions. The funding will provide budget stability and cover ongoing direct costs and revenue losses from COVID-19 as higher education institutions transition to operating in a post-pandemic environment.

### **Addressing the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19**

#### Mental Health Investments

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of Connecticut's children and adults because of isolation, disruption of lives through illness and/or financial difficulties and reduced capacity in the behavioral health system due to social distancing requirements, staff absences, delays in

admission pending test results and/or isolation/quarantine requirements and even closures of certain facilities. The Governor is recommending over \$54.5 million in additional Medicaid and stimulus funding to address the most acute needs in the children's and adult systems and as longer-term investments that will result in better outcomes for individuals accessing this care.

#### Children's Behavioral Health

Governor Lamont proposes allocating a total of \$33.5 million over two years – \$23 million through Medicaid and \$10.5 million in CSFRF – to expand access to acute care, develop health promotion and early intervention capacity and create additional mental health consultative capacity for primary care providers. Specifically, Medicaid rate increases and acuity-based rate add-ons will expand pediatric inpatient psychiatric services. Funds will support twelve care coordinators that can facilitate discharges from hospital emergency departments, inpatient settings and psychiatric residential treatment facilities; expand children's emergency mobile psychiatric services to 24-hour coverage; and support one or two new behavioral health urgent care centers that can provide alternative care opportunities. Additional funding will allow for the development of a program to address trauma experienced by youth residing in urban communities. Enhanced access to clinical behavioral health expertise will be afforded to primary care providers through consultation about patients in their practices in order to address behavioral health issues before they become acute. Finally, funds will support a continued focus by DCF, in cooperation with DMHAS and other state agencies, on examining the service system with an eye toward racial equity and social justice.

#### Supporting Adult Behavioral Health

Governor Lamont recommends allocating \$20.4 million over two years to support the phase-in of 24/7 access to mobile crisis programs statewide that will take advantage of the Medicaid enhanced match (85% beginning April 2022) available under ARPA for mobile crisis services. Funding will also support creation of one crisis stabilization center that will provide alternative care opportunities for individuals rather than hospital emergency departments and inpatient care, develop utilization management capacity to support better throughput of the entire Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) system, pilot psychiatric consultation to primary care providers, and provide flexible funds to address individualized discharge delays. Funding will also support a media campaign that will amplify mental health, wellness and addiction issues, replicate the very successful substance abuse peer support model in twelve of the highest volume hospital emergency departments and allow DMHAS, in cooperation with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and other state agencies, to examine the service system with an eye toward racial equity and social justice. An additional \$500,000 over four years will support the purchase of additional devices (especially for young adults) to enable access to telehealth and virtual recovery supports.

### **Continuing the State's Nationally Recognized COVID-19 Testing Program**

The state's robust testing efforts are one of the factors that have put Connecticut at the forefront of the national effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. While the speedy development and deployment of vaccines hints at relief from the pandemic in the near future, the state must continue to remain vigilant and responsive to many unknowns, including vaccine uptake and coverage rates, as well as spread of COVID-19 variants. Testing costs through June 30, 2021, based on early April forecasts, are estimated to total \$431 million. An additional \$107 million in CDC funding will support targeted testing for students and staff in K-12 settings. That funding will permit districts to offer activities like safe proms and graduations for the class of 2021. Overall costs will vary based on the timeframe in which the state achieves high vaccine coverage and immunity lasts through the end of 2021 and beyond. The speed by

which variants develop along with the potential for a resurgence are factors that will need to be monitored. The medium-range scenario estimates the state's potential testing needs to be up to \$250 million in FY 2022. Continued community prevalence and outbreaks would necessitate maintaining the state's currently successful mitigation strategies including testing of staff in long-term care and correction facilities, along with community testing for high-risk and vulnerable populations. As a result, the Governor recommends allocating a total of \$240 million (\$200 million in FY 2022 and \$40 million in FY 2023) for continued testing efforts.

### **Addressing the Public Health Impacts of COVID-19**

#### Supporting Local Health Departments and Districts

Funding of \$63 million has been designated for local health departments and districts (LHDs) through funding awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Department of Public Health. The Governor is recommending an additional \$10 million over the FY 2022 - FY 2023 biennium, for a total of \$73 million to enhance financial assistance to Connecticut's local health departments and districts. This new funding is intended to support the breadth of LHD operations, including, but not limited to: inspections and enforcement, contact tracing, building testing capacity, epidemiology, strategies to ensure equitable administration of COVID-19 vaccines and enhanced virus surveillance capacity at the local level, and public health emergency preparedness and planning activities.

#### Investing in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Governor is allocating \$20.6 million over three years to support continued investment and replacement of expired PPE to ensure that the state is prepared and can safeguard its direct care and frontline workers in the event of another public health emergency. The funding will also support a new emergency management warehouse to be operated by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and a small logistics staff. This will provide Connecticut an asset that most states already have and will permit safe storage of stockpiles of PPE, as well as vehicles and communications devices that are currently often stored outside, subjecting them to weather degradation and theft.

#### Universal Home Visiting

Governor Lamont proposes allocating nearly \$12.5 million over three years to allow the Office of Early Childhood to introduce universal home visiting in certain areas of the state that suffered disproportionate impact, stress and child trauma during the pandemic. Universal home visiting will be implemented through Family Connects, an evidence-based home visiting model that pairs new mothers with a registered nurse to provide up to three home visits and help families connect to local resources, or other similar models. To further support those families that need additional help, the registered nurse will make referrals to the state's newly expanded Community Health Worker (CHW) initiative, discussed below. CHWs will provide tailored care coordination services and are qualified to meet the distinct needs of vulnerable and high-risk populations.

Currently, more than one in three women have perinatal depression, compared to less than one in five (15-20%) prior to the pandemic. The pandemic's strain on families with young children has exacerbated the likelihood of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The services society pays for to address those circumstances gets compounded with every additional ACE. Simply put, addressing childhood poverty has lifelong benefits to that child's well-being, the parents' stability, and community strength. Universal home visiting services, in conjunction with wrap-around assistance from trusted CHWs, will help families gain

access to critical community programs and advice, supporting healthier families. Home visiting will address “upstream” prevention and mitigate the need for high-cost interventions in the future.

Continued sustainability and future expansion of the program will be evaluated over time and funding would be anticipated through a mix of Medicaid, private insurance, grant funds and philanthropy.

#### Community Health Workers/Navigators

Governor Lamont recommends allocating \$33 million (\$11 million each year for three years) to fund 100 Community Health Workers who will support 3,000 high-risk families and children, building ongoing resilience and preparing them for any future health emergency. The role of CHWs includes healthcare system navigation, health education, health services access, social support, patient advocacy, health screenings and capacity building. This new investment in CHWs will work in coordination with Connecticut’s enhanced Universal Home Visiting program to improve health outcomes and prevent child maltreatment.

Connecticut data shows that 55% of foster care entries during calendar year 2020 were for children ages 0-5. Integrating CHWs into a holistic care program will lead to a significant return on investment. There is a distinct correlation between investments in early care and long-term cost savings as parental capacity is increased, decreasing the likelihood of involvement with the child welfare system and associated costs. Research shows that CHWs improve patient experience, care coordination and clinical outcomes. A recently conducted study showed that the intervention of CHWs led to both fewer and lower costs of inpatient care with a 38% reduction in costs. When comparing savings to overall program expenses, CHWs provide a \$2.47 return for every \$1 invested. The universal home visiting and parent navigator concepts will pay long term-dividends for families and communities.

#### Expand the Office of Health Equity

The Governor recommends expanding the Office of Health Equity within the Department of Public Health to provide an enhanced focus on racial disparities in public health. Healthy People 2020, the federal government’s prevention agenda for building a healthier nation, defines a health disparity as a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health linked to discrimination or exclusion. Funding of \$875,000 (\$250,000 each year from FY 2022 through FY 2024, and half year funding of \$125,000 in FY 2025) will support two staff and associated operating expenses.

#### Supporting a Resident One-Stop for Health and Human Services (MyCT)

Connecticut has been undertaking an ambitious agenda to put all government services online through the MyCT initiative in a way that makes state services more accessible to those in need. Governor Lamont proposes extending this one-stop approach to enable Connecticut residents to access health and human services programs via the online portal. Through a combination of capital investment through the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) and operating support via the CSFRF, the MyCT initiative will benefit all those that receive health and human services benefits by simplifying online interactions, making it easier to locate, apply for, and maintain participation in state benefit programs.

To support this initiative, the Governor recommends a capital investment of \$7.8 million in CCPF funding to accelerate health and human services agency participation in the effort and make online services for beneficiaries available more rapidly. Operating support from CSFRF in the amount of \$8.75 million will provide the necessary resources to bring in additional project assistance for user research and design of

the health and human services function within MyCT. In addition, these funds will allow for backfill of existing state resources to allow knowledge leaders to participate in MyCT development and launch. Lastly, these funds will allow the state to bring in additional business domain expertise for the duration of the project.

#### Premium Pay for Direct Care Nursing Home Employees

In addition to the \$500 direct care payments to nursing home staff supported by the December 2020 and April 2021 financial relief packages for nursing homes, the Governor is allocating \$12.5 million from CSFRF to fund a second round of incentive payments for direct care staff in recognition of their tireless efforts to support our most vulnerable residents over the course of the pandemic. Payments are to be made in lump sum form to permit direct care staff to utilize these funds as a means of immediate on-hand cash for themselves and their families.

#### Family Caregiver Respite

The Governor's allocation plan provides \$3 million in FY 2022 for respite care that will provide short-term relief and a much-needed break to family caregivers who have been caring for elderly parents or close family members with a disability during the pandemic.

Family caregivers are an integral and indispensable part of the health, economic and social fabric of society. Across the U.S., an estimated 53 million Americans provide care for an adult or child with special needs. While family caregiving is timeless and cross-cutting, women and, in particular, women of color and immigrants, provide the majority of both paid and unpaid caregiving (National Partnership for Women and Families, *The Female Face of Family Caregiving*, 2018).

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the pressures on family caregivers have only intensified. Many families seeking to avoid unnecessary exposure to the virus and maintain social distance, sheltered in place and took on new caregiving responsibilities. This added stress has taken a toll on caregiver health and well-being. According to research from AARP, nearly half of family caregivers report that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their own mental health and on the individual for whom they cared.

Funding for caregiver respite will create a lifeline for working family caregivers, especially women—who were disproportionately left to balance work and family responsibilities—and multigenerational households of color with elder care responsibilities. Respite services will also provide opportunities for seniors and individuals with a disability to re-engage in the community. Funds can be used to support a range of respite options including day and overnight camps, in-home supports, home health aides and adult day centers funded by the Departments of Aging and Disability Services, Social Services and Developmental Services.

#### Deaf Community Supports

The deaf community was hit particularly hard during the pandemic. The Governor is recommending \$2 million over two years to address deficiencies in support services for individuals in the general community and at the American School for the Deaf. These investments will include operational supports for COVID-19 expenses like clear masks, vaccine informational videos, vaccine clinic supports, communication cards, and interpreter supports and will address more specific issues individuals had and are having navigating state systems like the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).

### Partnering with Upstream USA to Reduce Unplanned Pregnancies

The Governor proposes allocating \$10 million over two years to invest in a time-limited, transformative contraceptive access initiative by partnering with Upstream USA to provide patient-centered, evidence-based training and technical assistance to bolster the state's commitment to children and health equity. Unintended childbirths are linked to a range of negative health outcomes for both children and mothers (e.g., lower birth rates and higher levels of depression and anxiety). Low-income women experience unintended pregnancies at five times the rate of wealthy women, exacerbating existing health and economic disparities. Convenient, equitable access to contraception is a critical, missing link for many women, and one that has become even more challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every year, 41% of pregnancies in Connecticut occur to women who wanted to delay or avoid pregnancy, resulting in roughly 8,000 unintended births. The state's healthcare costs associated with these births have been estimated at \$80 million annually. This initiative will reduce costs by supporting a range of activities meant to improve provider services, including: training on patient-centered contraceptive counseling that is free from bias or coercion; technical assistance in offering best in class, same-day access to all methods of contraception; one-time grants to support costs associated with improved care; staff to support the initiative for its duration; and funding for the Department of Public Health to oversee the initiative.

Other states have pursued initiatives to reshape contraceptive access with impressive results, most notably Delaware, where births from unintended pregnancies have declined by 25% and abortion rates have dropped by 37% with no decline in abortion access.

### **Addressing the Criminal Justice Impacts from COVID-19**

#### Cut the Criminal Case Backlog

In a necessary response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judicial Department adopted a court mitigation plan to ensure judicial business is conducted safely and in compliance with guidance from the Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a result of these safety measures and other pandemic impacts on the criminal justice system, over the last year a substantial number of criminal cases have accumulated and are pending before the criminal court. Cases range from defendants who are in the community having posted their bond or having received a promise to appear to others who are held on pretrial detention within correctional centers with more serious, complex charges. Temporary resources are needed to resolve these pending cases and address new cases that will come before the court.

Governor Lamont recommends \$7 million (\$3.5 million each year for FY 2022 and FY 2023) for temporary contract prosecutors and public defenders to resolve pending cases. These resources will enable the attorneys to triage cases more efficiently and help prioritize more experienced prosecutors and public defenders for more complex cases. The temporary attorneys will be deployed over the biennium, when the surplus of cases is expected to be the largest, helping both victims and defendants awaiting justice. The added capacity will enable the criminal justice system to resolve cases more effectively, prioritizing incarceration for the higher-risk, more serious cases and using diversion and community supervision where appropriate.

#### Divert People Safely from Incarceration and Address Treatment or Service Needs

While a portion of accumulated cases will result in incarceration and other serious criminal justice system responses, cutting the criminal case backlog is likely to safely avoid incarceration altogether for many



defendants, especially those with less serious charges. For cases that can be resolved using diversion or placement on community supervision, creating pathways to specialized services and treatment in the community is necessary to reduce recidivism. The pandemic has exacerbated many of the needs that put people at greater risk of recidivism or deeper involvement in the criminal justice system, including housing insecurity, mental health disorders, substance addiction, and impulsive behaviors. At the same time, service providers have faced greater challenges during the pandemic to adapt their services while following public-health guidelines and respond to an increased need for services.

Governor Lamont recommends temporarily expanding community services and treatment by providing \$4.75 million (\$2,375,000 in both FY 2022 and FY 2023). Because resolving the backlog is expected to heighten service need temporarily, funding is provided to expand existing pretrial contracts to enable providers to deliver services helping the population avoid unnecessary incarceration and reduce recidivism. The Judicial Department's Court Support Services Division's Bail and Intake, Assessment and Referral Unit will expand upon partnerships with the departments of Correction, Housing, and Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Governor Lamont recommends allocating \$250,000 (\$125,00 in each year of the biennium) to the Court Support Services Division's Family Services Unit to assist courts and clients in resolving family and interpersonal conflict. This funding will cover contracts for services to families at the point of screenings to meet their needs and reduce court involvement. Services such as supervised visitation, adult behavioral health and alternatives to incarceration for family civil courts, supporting parenting roles and supervision, and skills for cooperative parenting online program will be expanded.

#### Reduce Community Gun Violence

In 2020, many communities in Connecticut, like others across the country, experienced increases in gun violence. Criminologists across the country are rapidly analyzing real-time data to identify drivers behind the increase in various types of violent crime. Unquestionably, the pandemic has had a significant effect on this issue by introducing myriad challenges—economic and housing insecurity, dislocation of youth, and limited mobility that aggravated interpersonal tensions—and making it more difficult for law enforcement, public and nonprofit organizations, and community groups to respond to the needs of people in neighborhoods experiencing increases in violence.

Research is clear that there is an array of data-driven strategies to reduce community gun violence. These include focused deterrence strategies (such as Group Violence Intervention models, like Project Longevity, that deter specific criminal behavior using a combination of potential sanctions if violence is engaged in and benefits for desistance from crime), community gun violence interventions (violence interrupters, who serve as street-level conflict mediators, and street outreach workers, who connect the most vulnerable to services), hospital-based violence intervention (programs that engage survivors, often in trauma centers, to reduce chances of retaliation and violent injury recurrence), and trauma-informed services that address the long-term impact of gun violence.

In a previous round of federal coronavirus funding, Governor Lamont directed \$905,000 to four cities—Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury—for police and community partnerships to reduce violent crime. While the funding provided relief to communities with immediate challenges, the need has remained acute and calls out for more durable solutions. There is a significant disproportionate impact: Black men constitute 6% of the U.S. population but account for more than 50% of all gun homicides each year. Young men are especially vulnerable to victimization, facing homicide rates at approximately 100 times the national average.

Governor Lamont recommends \$3 million over the biennium (\$1.5 million each year) to fund a package of community gun violence reduction strategies. The Office of Policy and Management will administer the funding to help braid this award with existing and future funding from the state, including Project Longevity, and federal government to maximize the impact of these safety measures on communities.

#### Prepare Justice-Involved Youth and Adults to Meet Workforce Needs in the Pandemic

In March 2021, Connecticut's unemployment rate was 8.1%, double the level one year ago, at the start of the pandemic. People with criminal records, especially those returning to the community after incarceration, face greater challenges than those without records in obtaining meaningful, long-term employment. Moreover, national studies show that formerly incarcerated Black men and women have higher unemployment rates than formerly incarcerated white men and women. Similar employment challenges confront at-risk youth, many of whom have experienced dislocation from connections to in-person education, after-school programs, and enrichment services.

As noted in the section of this document addressing workforce initiatives, Governor Lamont recommends providing \$4 million over the biennium (\$2 million each year) through the Office of Workforce Strategy within the Department of Economic and Community Development to fund services to prepare justice-involved youth and adults to contribute to employers' workforce needs amid the pandemic. Youth will receive assistance acquiring initial job training and reattachment to education to help them develop the hard and soft skills needed to establish their first connections to the workforce. For adults, funding will help bridge the period between incarceration and return to the community with the job training and retention skills needed to help the population succeed in Connecticut's high-demand industries. DECD will leverage input from employers and business leaders who have successfully added justice-impacted populations to their workforce.

#### **Supporting the Recovery of Private Providers through the Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged the state's community providers in unprecedented ways. They were forced to rapidly adapt their service models to keep staff and clients safe. They transformed their service delivery models and physical structures to comply with social distancing guidelines, received and invested in personal protective equipment, and purchased new equipment so vulnerable individuals could continue to safely access services virtually. Private providers also faced a decline in revenue and limitations on traditional fundraising activities. Targeted investment of General Fund and federal stimulus dollars of about \$300 million as well as in-kind supports, helped sustain private providers and defray COVID-related expenses while they wait for wider vaccination and lower prevalence rates that will allow services to resume fully. The Governor is recommending allocating an additional \$50 million – \$25 million in FY 2022 and \$25 million in FY 2023 – to provide a bridge until pre COVID-19 utilization levels occur. Private providers are deeply invested and connected to the communities they serve and are well-situated to help vulnerable, underserved communities recover from the crisis. Many providers will also receive funding related to new investments in behavioral health and early childhood initiatives outlined above.

#### **Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created vulnerabilities in cities and communities where the economic consequences of the pandemic have negatively impacted businesses, tourism, as well as the leisure and hospitality industries. This has caused a tremendous impact on the unemployment rate through the loss of jobs, leading to housing instability and food insecurities.

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$160.9 million from CSFRF and \$97 million (which includes \$39.5 for broadband initiatives) from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to support efforts to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 throughout the state. This investment will be coupled with funding identified in the Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) made up of \$315 million in bond funds, \$164 million in tax credits/grants, \$100 million in State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funds, and \$938 million in private funding.

This holistic funding proposal provides targeted support to small businesses and manufacturers, launching an inclusive marketing campaign, improving the livability and vibrancy of communities, innovation and business formation in our cities, investing in emerging companies that specialize in renewable energy, clean tech and sustainability, modernizing regulatory and licensing requirements, supporting business attraction and expansion, and ensuring broadband for all Connecticut residents. Not only does this funding support key industries and uplift communities, but it aims to impact approximately 80,000 jobs over time, retain residents, support underrepresented business owners (women, minorities, veterans, people living with disabilities) and uplift distressed municipalities. Complementing this targeted investment, federal funding of \$344.9 million is available to support housing initiatives, including additional rental assistance funds to build on the support provided under UniteCT, funding for vouchers, and the Homeowners Assistance Fund to stabilize housing for Connecticut's families. Lastly, the Governor proposes an investment of \$103 million of CSFRF to support various workforce initiatives discussed in more detail below.

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, the Governor recommends allocating CSFRF to support the following initiatives aimed at providing relief to businesses and supporting the unemployed, as described below.

#### Supporting the Unemployment Insurance Fund and Mitigating the Impact on Businesses

The Governor proposes utilizing \$50 million in FY 2022 to support the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund. When COVID-19 hit our state last spring, Connecticut was ill-prepared to handle the sudden influx of unemployment claims and is anticipated to end FY 2021 having borrowed approximately \$894 million in UI funds. These loans are typically repaid by an increased tax on employers. Utilizing \$50 million could prevent a \$19 million special assessment on employers that would otherwise be required to cover interest payments due to the federal government this fall, and would assist in the repayment of the federal UI loan principal, mitigating the tax impact on employers.

#### Supporting the Unemployment Insurance Contact Center

The Governor proposes dedicating \$30 million (\$10 million in each of FY 2022, FY 2023 and FY 2024) to continue to support the need for enhanced staff and operations at the Department of Labor's contact center during this period of heightened demand. In addition, dedicated federal support would preserve the state's UI administrative reserve, help to maintain consumer access to timely responses from agency personnel, and allow the Department of Labor to maintain their dual focus on the pandemic response and UI modernization.

#### CT Brand, Hospitality Business Supports and Regulatory Modernization

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$45 million from CSFRF – \$30 million in FY 2022 and \$15 million in FY 2023 – to support reopening Connecticut's economy and restarting tourism. Specifically, the hospitality industry has been hit very hard by the pandemic and these funds will help support the reopening of this critical sector of the economy. This funding will also be used to support a marketing campaign to promote

Connecticut tourism. Lastly, funds will be used to support modernizing regulatory and licensing requirements, making it easier to start and run a business in Connecticut.

#### CRDA Economic Support for Venues

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$7 million (\$5 million in FY 2022 and \$2.5 million in FY 2023) to provide economic support for venues under the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), including the Connecticut Convention Center, Rentschler Stadium and the XL Center, stabilizing these entities until they can safely resume operations. CRDA currently has an operating deficit of \$10.5 million in FY 2021, due mainly to the impact event cancellations have had on venue revenue. Support for these venues in the short term will provide a financial bridge until events begin to pick up and crowds safely return to the stands. Supporting these venues will ensure they are able to continue operating in the future and continue to be part of the economic fabric of the state – bringing residents and visitors into cities who will patronize restaurants, hotels and other local businesses, supporting jobs and bolstering state and local tax revenues.

#### Support to Arts and Cultural Organizations

The Governor recommends allocating \$6.375 million in FY 2022 to help arts and other entertainment organizations that have experienced economic dislocation during the pandemic. Connecticut values its cultural and arts institutions and this funding will act as a support for those institutions which represent their communities.

#### Leveling the Playing Field in Housing Court

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$20 million from CSFRF (\$10 million each year in FY 2022 and FY 2023) to support legal representation costs as well as administrative termination hearings, assistance to tenants at notice-to-quit stage, increases in tenants appearing in cases, and education/outreach to tenants. In a good year, nearly 20,000 Connecticut households face the threat of eviction. Most of those households have no one to represent them in court, even though representation significantly increases tenants' chances of staying in their homes. Other jurisdictions have saved between \$2.40 and \$12.74 on other services for every dollar spent providing counsel. In addition, funding of \$1.6 million will be provided out of federal rental assistance and Homeowner Assistance Fund administrative set asides to support the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

This commitment of CSFRF resources augments significant other ARP funds dedicated to supporting tenants, landlords, and homeowners. Those funds will provide the state \$186 million to support the continued success of UniteCT, the program created with \$236 million of funding from the December Consolidated Appropriations Act to provide landlords with payments of behalf of low-income tenants struggling to pay past-due or prospective rent. They also include \$123 million for a Homeowners Assistance Fund to help homeowners struggling with mortgage payments and other costs, \$36 million plus additional resources provided directly to our center cities to provide housing opportunity for very low-income households through the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing units and the provision of housing support services, and Connecticut's anticipated share of \$5 billion in nationwide funding for new tenant-based vouchers.

#### Food Insecurity Grants to Food Pantries and Food Banks

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$2 million (\$1 million each in FY 2022 and FY 2023) to combat food insecurity and provide additional resources in communities with high health disparities that have also been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Funding will provide direct grants to food pantries and food banks, which will support mobile distribution efforts during the summer months when need is typically high, as well as facilitating bulk purchasing that helps pantries to drive economies of scale.

## **Addressing Workforce Development Needs Resulting from COVID-19**

As thousands of students and workers across Connecticut have had their education and careers adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers must prioritize high-quality, innovative, and equitable educational and training opportunities for all individuals across the state. Students' education is being delayed and displaced workers do not have the skills they need to enter an ever-changing workforce.

Governor Lamont proposes an initiative leveraging \$103.2 million of CSFRF funding to support efforts that will require intense coordination and partnership across state government, educational institutions, businesses, and community partners to drive success and progress. These initiatives focus on three key areas: job training and support, career pathways, and system redesign. The initiatives are anticipated to support 9,000 displaced workers trained, 1,000 at-risk youth supported, 2,000 high school students with a postsecondary plan or an internship, 12,000 high school students dual enrolled, 30 school districts implementing advanced manufacturing industry 4.0 curriculum, hours of 10 Connecticut Technical Education and Career System programs extended, 130 additional teachers trained, 30,000 high school students receiving support in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The following is a summary of CSFRF proposed initiatives:

- \$93.5 million for sector based training for in-demand industries;
- \$2 million for youth employment and wrap-around services;
- \$4 million to support at-risk youth and justice involved adults; and
- \$3.7 million to extend the operating hours and opportunities of ten Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Schools (CTECs).

Below is a description of each initiative.

### Sector Based Training

The Governor recommends allocating \$93.5 million for Job training programs in high-demand and high-growth sectors including healthcare, manufacturing, information technology, truck driving, clean energy, and business and financial services. With over 140,000 residents still unemployed, it is critical that Connecticut continues to prioritize training and upskilling workers to precipitate a broader economic recovery. Robust training infrastructure already exists within the state, which will allow workers to return to work, but develop a stronger, more agile, resilient, workforce for years to come.

Sample career paths include:

- CTECS → Apprenticeship → Journeyman, Craftsman, Crew Leader, Foreman → Project Manager, Senior Management, Safety, VP, Owner
- High school diploma → home health aide → certificate → medical assistant, nursing assistant → LPN → RN

### Youth Employment

Governor Lamont proposes that \$2 million be allocated to support youth employment. Beyond increased work experiences, the pandemic has highlighted the need for targeted wrap-around support services for youth employment participants in addition to increased opportunities to ensure participant success (e.g., mental health supports, food insecurity, employer engagement, and technology). Funding will support

enhanced opportunities and wrap-around services for up to 2,500 youth through 75-100 community providers.

Targeted funding will also help at-risk and justice-involved youth with initial job training and reattach to education. The program will assist with hard and soft skills needed to establish their first connections to the workforce and build a resume. The program will help them learn the vocational skills necessary to track toward the credentials and degrees needed to succeed in the workforce.

#### Employment Support for Justice-Involved Adults

People with criminal records, especially those returning to the community after incarceration, face greater challenges in obtaining meaningful, long-term employment. Especially now, amid a pandemic with a higher unemployment rate, people with criminal records confront even greater challenges finding employment and climbing the career ladder. The Governor proposes allocating \$4 million to support employment for justice-involved adults. Dedicated CFSRF funds will provide workforce development training to people during incarceration to help them reenter the community and obtain employment in high-demand industries. With input from the Department of Correction's Industry and Business Advisory Board, the program will provide job training and retention skills that bridge the period from incarceration to reentry. The program will achieve the related goals of lowering recidivism and meeting employers' workforce needs.

#### Extended Operating Hours at CTECs

Governor Lamont recommends \$3.7 million to extend the operating hours at the state's technical high schools. Funding will support increased opportunities for students to participate in after-school, career training programs by building on the Career Academy program, which assists students with obtaining industry-recognized credentials in one of four in-demand trade areas: manufacturing, facilities carpentry, culinary, and automotive collision and repair. In addition, funding will support expanding apprenticeship training programs across the state that provide related instruction for all license categories in the following areas: electrical, heating/cooling, plumbing, sheet metal, and barbering. Lastly, extended hours will allow adult learners to utilize these facilities to further their education, providing much needed flexibility to participate in educational programs.

In addition to direct job training and placement initiatives, \$50 million has been set aside from federal funding provided to the Office of Early Childhood to temporarily open Care4Kids to 6,500 families enrolled in higher education or workforce training programs.

Supports will be provided to all job seekers and students, but especially those from underserved communities who have been most impacted by the pandemic. Of programs that were launched in the fall, 63% of all participants were either African American or Latinx, 82% were low-income (defined as annual income less than 150% of the federal poverty level), and 53% were women.

### **Provision of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction**

The COVID-19 public health emergency has created a significant economic shock, impacting revenues for state and local governments. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 acknowledges that state and local governments have suffered deep revenue losses and enables use of funds to ensure that important government services can be maintained. The Governor's proposed budget for the FY 2022 - FY 2023 biennium included an expectation that \$1.75 billion in federal pandemic aid would be used to support budget balance: \$775 million in FY 2022 and \$975 million in FY 2023. Implementing guidance from the

U.S. Department of the Treasury will be necessary to fully understand under what conditions and the extent to which the CSFRF can be used to address revenue loss, but the Governor's proposed allocation plan includes use of \$1.75 billion to ensure the budget for the upcoming biennium is balanced.

### **Addressing Other State Operations**

#### State Operations

State government will also need operational support in the face of the uncertain long-term economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor recommends allocating \$20 million for various state costs related to the continued pandemic response. This would address measures to offset COVID related expenditures and investment in eligible capital projects to create long-term operational efficiencies. Communications efforts related to vaccination, testing, and other responses to the pandemic would also be covered.

#### Premium Pay for Front Line State Employees

The Governor recommends \$10 million for premium pay for front line state employees. This funding will provide financial recognition for the essential workers who gave us security during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Governor's Reserves for Contingencies**

One of the lessons learned over the last year is that the state's response to the public health emergency needs to be flexible and able to adapt to conditions "on the ground" as they evolve. Indeed, the internal process for allocating the most flexible form of funding received by the state under the CARES Act – the Coronavirus Relief Fund – has been dynamic and ever-changing as new needs and revisions to needed funding changed over time. The need to be able to adapt to the evolution of the state's pandemic response is crucial, and as a result, the Governor recommends allocating approximately \$25.7 million as a flexible funding source to respond to contingencies.

### Detailed Recap of State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Plan

Agency and Initiative	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 (6 months)	Total
<b>▣ Criminal Justice</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>
Support for Criminal Justice Programs Necessary Due to the Pandemic	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
Judicial	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
<b>▣ Economic</b>	<b>\$112,375,000</b>	<b>\$38,500,000</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$160,875,000</b>
Unemployment Support	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$30,000,000
Tenant Eviction Legal Representation	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
Support to Unemployment Insurance Fund and Business	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000,000
Support to Arts and Cultural Organizations	\$6,375,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,375,000
CRDA Economic Support for Venues	\$5,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,500,000
Food Insecurity Grants to Food Pantries and Food Banks	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
CT Brand, Hospitality Business Supports, and Regulatory Modernization	\$30,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000,000
<b>▣ Govt Services</b>	<b>\$775,000,000</b>	<b>\$975,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,750,000,000</b>
State Budget Revenue Replacement/Eligible Expenditures	\$775,000,000	\$975,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,750,000,000
<b>▣ Higher Ed</b>	<b>\$50,500,000</b>	<b>\$30,500,000</b>	<b>\$14,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$95,500,000</b>
Enhance Student Retention at Community Colleges	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$0	\$19,500,000
Higher Education - CSCU	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000,000
Higher Education - PACT - Last Dollar Financial Aid	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$24,000,000
Higher Education - UConn	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$15,000,000
Roberta Willis Need-Based Scholarships	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$12,000,000
UHC - Revenue Impact	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
<b>▣ K12</b>	<b>\$21,900,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,900,000</b>
Summer Camp Scholarships for Families	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500,000
Summer College Corp	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000
Teen Experience	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,900,000
Summer Experience at Connecticut's Top Venues	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000,000
<b>▣ Mental Health</b>	<b>\$15,575,000</b>	<b>\$15,575,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$31,400,000</b>
Adult Mental Health Services	\$10,200,000	\$10,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,400,000
Devices for DMHAS clients, private provider telehealth and wi-fi expansion	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$500,000
Children's Mental Health	\$5,250,000	\$5,250,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,500,000
<b>▣ Public Health</b>	<b>\$41,870,656</b>	<b>\$28,730,363</b>	<b>\$20,599,760</b>	<b>\$1,375,000</b>	<b>\$92,575,779</b>
Respite Care for Family Caregivers	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Community Health Workers	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0	\$33,000,000
Universal Home Visiting	\$1,620,656	\$3,980,363	\$6,849,760	\$0	\$12,450,779
Deaf Community Public Health Supports	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Local Health Departments and Districts	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
Premium Pay for Direct Care Nursing Home Employees	\$12,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,500,000
MyCT / Resident Digital One-Stop for Health and Human Services Programs - Support Costs	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$8,750,000
Expand the Office of Health Equity under the Department of Public Health	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$875,000
Upstream USA	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
<b>▣ Reserves</b>	<b>\$25,712,873</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,712,873</b>
Governor's Reserves	\$25,712,873	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,712,873
<b>▣ Workforce Development</b>	<b>\$36,576,349</b>	<b>\$36,636,349</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,212,698</b>
Workforce Development & Employment Initiatives	\$36,576,349	\$36,636,349	\$30,000,000	\$0	\$103,212,698
<b>▣ State Testing Program</b>	<b>\$200,000,000</b>	<b>\$40,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$240,000,000</b>
Testing	\$200,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$240,000,000
<b>▣ State Operations</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>	<b>\$613,650</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,613,650</b>
PPE & Supplies	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$613,650	\$0	\$20,613,650
Premium Pay for Front Line State Employees	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
State Operations	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
<b>▣ Early Childhood</b>	<b>\$10,800,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,800,000</b>
Care 4 Kids Parent Fees through December	\$5,300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,300,000
Parents Fees for 3-4 Year Old's at State Funded Childcare Centers	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500,000
Provide Funding to Support Home Visiting RFP for Families Impacted by COVID	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
<b>▣ Private Providers</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>	<b>\$25,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000,000</b>
Private Providers	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,352,809,878</b>	<b>\$1,217,441,712</b>	<b>\$75,838,410</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,647,590,000</b>



## Proposed Allocations from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Provided under Subtitle M of ARPA

### Background

The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) was created under Section 9901 of Subtitle M of P.L. 117-2, which added section 604 to Title VI of the Social Security Act. Connecticut's share of this fund is estimated at \$141.5 million, with these funds available until expended. Pending issuance of implementing guidance by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which is the federal agency charged with administering the fund, allowable uses of CCPF are "to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options" in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

**It is important to emphasize that implementing guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury has not yet been promulgated as of the date of this report, and that the proposed allocations that follow may need to be revised, modified, or re-oriented based on Treasury's interpretation of allowable uses.**

Proposed allocations from the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund provided under Subtitle M of ARPA address the following areas of need:

- Supporting the Economic Action Plan
- Provision of Broadband and Internet Infrastructure
- Supporting the MyCT Resident One-Stop for Health and Human Services
- Developing and Supporting the Food Chain
- Addressing Health and Environmental Barriers in Low-Income Housing
- Retooling Nursing Homes

### Summary of Capital Projects Fund Allocation Plan

Category	Amount	% of Total
Economic Action Plan	\$57,468,000	41%
Broadband	\$39,532,000	28%
Nursing Homes	\$20,000,000	14%
Housing	\$14,000,000	10%
MyCT / Resident One-Stop	\$7,531,000	5%
Food Chain Support	\$3,000,000	2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$141,531,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

These initiatives are discussed below.

### Addressing Health and Environmental Barriers in Low-Income Housing

#### Health and Safety Barriers to Housing Remediation

Over 30% of the homes of residents with limited income contain health and safety barriers that prevent the completion of weatherization measures to make those homes more efficient. This poses an equity concern for income-eligible participants who are unable to access the considerable energy savings and health benefits of participating in Connecticut's Conservation and Load Management (C&LM) fund's income-eligible residential program, Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible (HES-IE). HES-IE helps Connecticut residents with limited income to weatherize their homes with insulation, air sealing, and improved air ventilation. However, if customers have health and safety barriers in their homes such as

asbestos and vermiculite, mold, gas leaks, and knob-and-tube wiring, weatherization measures cannot be completed. A program is needed to remediate these barriers so that we can increase energy efficiency, reduce future energy bills, and improve indoor and outdoor air quality for residents with limited income, who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Access to affordable energy is a fundamental necessity for living in the modern world, including access to the internet that enables remote work, education and healthcare. Reducing energy costs will help the state's most vulnerable residents avoid utility service disconnections, which are a primary cause of homelessness. Improving the health, safety and comfort of a home's inhabitants is also of particular importance given that many people are spending more time than ever in their homes, working and attending school remotely. This proposal will also support energy efficiency jobs, which were substantially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as jobs related to barrier remediation. Moreover, "improving the ability of efficiency programs to overcome health, safety, and legal issues that are barriers to efficiency upgrades" is a core priority of the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change's (GC3) Buildings Mitigation Strategy.<sup>3</sup> More efficient home energy use improves air quality, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves home resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will have oversight over the program, as it does over the coordinated HES-IE program. Program administrators will be chosen through an RFP process conducted by, or in coordination with, Eversource and Avangrid, who administer the HES-IE program.

With funding of \$7 million over three years, the Health and Safety Barrier Remediation program will serve approximately 875 homes.<sup>4</sup> With a maximum expenditure of \$15,000 and an average of \$8,000 per home, the program will unlock \$1.131 million in HES-IE utility co-investment for weatherization services and \$1.680 million in lifetime customer energy savings for income-eligible households.

Customers will be automatically eligible for barrier remediation funds if they are eligible for HES-IE and utility hardship programs. DEEP has existing prioritization criteria in place that is also used in the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program. The barrier remediation program could also include utility customers who qualify for "medical hardship." Eversource and Avangrid, who administer the HES-IE program, have a database of thousands of homes that have been deferred from HES-IE services due to the presence of a barrier. These homes represent a viable program pipeline since they have already expressed interest in HES-IE and thus require little to no lead acquisition or administrative work to receive weatherization services once health and safety barriers are cleared.

This program will also be coordinated with the Efficient Energy Retrofit for Affordable Housing program described below.

#### Efficient Energy Retrofit for Affordable Housing

The Governor proposes to complement the Health and Safety Barriers to Housing Remediation program by funding energy efficiency upgrades through the Efficient Energy Retrofit for Affordable Housing program. This will ensure that the inhabitants of affordable housing have healthy homes, can afford their energy bills, and are able to participate in clean energy programs. Connecticut households spend the

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<sup>3</sup> Governor's Council on Climate Change, [Phase 1 Report: Near-Term Actions](#). January 2021.

<sup>4</sup> The Low Income Energy Advisory Board recently voted in favor of a DEEP proposal to secure \$2 million in LIHEAP funding for the next LIHEAP program year to fund this program. If that funding is approved, an additional 250 homes could be served.

second highest amount on annual energy bills in the nation at an average of \$3,600. One of the leading causes of homelessness is an inability to pay utility bills, even if the person can afford to pay rent.

Legislative leaders have identified energy affordability as a problem and have introduced bills to address it through targeted energy efficiency investment, as well as remediation of health and safety hazards.<sup>5</sup> This program will create opportunities for participation in energy efficiency and clean energy programs for people living in affordable housing, improving the energy efficiency of the home and leveraging incentives for rooftop solar and/or storage, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and electric heat pumps, to further reduce energy bills and provide resilience. The program can also provide electricity infrastructure improvements if needed to support the clean economy of the future.

DEEP will administer the program, in coordination with other state agencies as well as the Connecticut Green Bank and the Connecticut Housing and Finance Authority. Incentives from existing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs will be leveraged. DEEP targets an average per unit spend of \$5,000, which will allow DEEP to reach roughly 1,000 homes and pay for the administrative costs to run the program.

### **Developing and Supporting the Food Chain**

#### Food Infrastructure Funds

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and highlighted the fragility of many of the systems that had previously been taken for granted. The disruption to the food system was especially apparent as outbreaks closed food processing facilities nationally; state restaurants and institutional food operations closed; and school meals had to shift from ready-to-eat to grab and go options. Connecticut's limited processing infrastructure restricted the ability for the state's farmers to shift from wholesale to retail or to a processed product that could be stored – like frozen or canned – until a new market opportunity was found. To address these gaps, the Governor is providing \$3 million to create a Food Infrastructure Grant Program that will incentivize the creation and expansion of commercial kitchens and processing capacity at three or four operations across the state. These investments will increase the capacity to extend the shelf life of raw produce through light processing procedures like chopping, cutting, blanching, freezing and canning. Awards will support both urban and rural economies through jobs at the facilities and the expansion of economic opportunities for farm products.

Recognizing that some of the jobs lost during the pandemic will not be coming back, Connecticut needs to support the creation of small businesses by reducing the risk of start-ups. These new commercial kitchens could be available for individuals to rent out for their own processing needs or foster the opportunity for food product entrepreneurs to start a new venture like Dragon's Blood Elixir hot sauce, which was able produce their product by having access to commercial kitchen space at CLiCK in Windham.

These smart investments in the food system infrastructure will yield many benefits and provide a stronger, more resilient food system that will provide access to local food for more residents, economic opportunities for farms and food service entities and ensure that our recovery benefits all sectors of the economy.

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<sup>5</sup> Senate Bill 356 targets affordable housing for energy efficiency and renewable energy and House Bill 6653 creates a pilot program to improve energy efficiency.

## **Supporting the MyCT Resident One-Stop for Health and Human Services**

Connecticut has been undertaking an ambitious agenda to put all government services online through the MyCT initiative to meet the expectations of our residents to be able to interact with state government online, not in line. Governor Lamont proposes extending this one-stop approach to enable Connecticut residents to access health and human services programs via an online portal in a way that makes state services more accessible to those in need. Through a combination of capital investment through the CCPF and operating support via the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the MyCT initiative will help those that receive health and human services benefits by simplifying online interactions, making it easier to locate, apply for, and maintain participation in state benefit programs without having to take days off of work to wait in lines to research, apply or renew benefits.

To support this initiative, a capital investment of \$7.8 million from CCPF for the proposed MyCT initiative will accelerate health and human services agency participation in the effort and make online services for residents available more rapidly. Operating support from CSFRF in the amount of \$8.75 million, described earlier in this document, will provide the necessary resources to bring in additional project assistance for user research and design of the health and human services function within MyCT and support ongoing staffing and software costs to maintain and support these capabilities.

## **Provision of Broadband and Internet Infrastructure**

The COVID-19 global health crisis has brought broadband access to the fore. As many people telework and students learned from home, it was readily apparent that many did not have access to quality high-speed internet – an essential component of commerce, education, and healthcare access in 2021.

As a recent report on Connecticut’s digital divide reported, “‘disconnected’ individuals concentrate among the poor, minority, and elderly populations.” Recognizing that high-quality internet access is an essential service needed to succeed in today’s society, Governor Lamont proposes a total of \$40 million of CCPF funding to help close the digital divide and ensure equitable access to broadband and internet access.

### **Strategy 1: \$9.5 Million to Build Quality Statewide GIS Capacity for Broadband Mapping and Economic Development to Support Remote Work, Health, and Education**

Planning any investment in infrastructure, such as broadband, requires high-quality geospatial data, within a geographic information system (GIS). Connecticut does not have a program in place for maintaining the most fundamental geospatial datasets which hinders the ability to efficiently target public resources and private sector investment.

The Governor proposes allocating \$9.5 million of the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to support the development of critical GIS data and capacity to support investment. The primary deliverables will be aerial imagery maps of Connecticut, with elevation data; one statewide parcel data layer, with corrected municipal boundaries; and one building footprints data layer, each of which will be incorporated into a statewide broadband map. A core design team will support the efforts, at a cost of \$5.2 million, with an additional \$4.1 million in data acquisition costs and \$200,000 in licensing, hosting and web portal costs. The Office of Policy and Management will lead this planning initiative with support from key agencies that rely on geospatial data, including the departments of Economic and Community Development, Emergency Services and Public Protection, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Transportation.

High quality geospatial data will enable the state to address disparities and inequities, and barriers to access work, healthcare or other services. Broadband expansion can use up-to-date and accurate information to ensure investments reach underserved areas and individuals. Aerial imagery and building footprints will support progress on environmental justice and addressing the impacts of climate change. Property data will support equity in housing, economic development, and municipal finance.

#### Statewide Aerial Imagery and Elevation Data: \$2.5 million

Aerial imagery provides the basis by which physical features are mapped. Telecommunications companies rely heavily upon aerial imagery to design, build out, and maintain their infrastructure. The Governor proposes two combined aerial imagery and elevation data acquisitions, three years apart, based on historical costs.

#### Statewide Parcel Mapping and Municipal Boundary Rectification: \$1.1 million

Connecticut currently does not have a statewide dataset of all properties, which inhibits planning, economic development, and efforts like broadband buildout. Property or parcel data can inform broadband investments by mapping commercial, residential and mixed-use properties and identifying gaps in connectivity at the property level. As a precursor, accurate municipal boundary lines are necessary to create a statewide parcel layer that shares a common geometry across towns.

#### Statewide Building Footprints (Planimetrics): \$500,000

Maps of building footprints enable planners and officials to understand where a building is located within a land parcel. Such data, typically called planimetric data, are an important tool for understanding broadband accessibility, particularly in rural areas, and for efforts like ‘curb-to-home’ buildouts.

#### Strategy 2: \$15 Million for Curb-to-Home Buildout of Broadband Cable in Low-Income Communities

Buildout of broadband infrastructure from street-curb to residences (fiber to the home) for low-income residents, particularly those in multi-family dwellings, is a critical component to digital equity. Curb-to-home buildout in low-income communities will make it easier for residents to get connected to wired broadband networks.

Governor Lamont is proposing a \$15 million grant program administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy to enable low-income residents to connect to broadband infrastructure, or to replace outdated wiring to allow for quality service. The GIS mapping initiative will help accurately identify broadband availability, including areas unserved by broadband, and identify where adoption barriers exist, such as inability to pay for fiber connection. Enabling more community-members to connect to a new fiber network may incentivize an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to invest in installing a new fiber network in unserved low-income areas. This investment of capital funds will promote digital equity by enabling approximately 10-15,000 low-income residences in under-resourced communities to connect to a fiber network, providing access to remote education, work and healthcare opportunities. Ensuring equitable access to broadband at home will improve access to essential government services for workforce development (ability to access online programs to upgrade skills and apply for jobs), healthcare (telehealth), and education (digital learning).

#### Strategy 3: \$15 Million to Expand and Improve Connectivity in Public Spaces

In order to significantly expand access to free internet in communities across the state, the Governor proposes to allocate \$15 million of CCPF to expand and improve connectivity in public places. This solution

leverages and enhances existing state assets to support connectivity and provide support to local communities to develop cost-effective and sustainable public wireless programs.

Program design will maximize the existing public network (Connecticut Education Network, or CEN) by cost-effectively expanding the current Community Wireless project that came out of Governor Lamont's Everybody Learns Initiative. This work would result in the installation of new wireless access points at community anchor locations such as libraries, universities, schools, town greens, community centers, parks, and public housing authorities. The program would include the buildout of high-speed fiber and back-end network capacity to connect those locations when necessary.

The Commission for Educational Technology will oversee program design and implementation, which will include not only expansion of wireless access via CEN, but also a grant program through which communities may apply for funding to install locally managed wireless access points through a list of pre-approved technology providers with competitively bid service rates.

The community wireless buildout will provide connectivity options to all Connecticut residents, both urban and rural, and target underserved, typically economically disadvantaged groups and communities of color in each municipality. The solution will enable more than 500,000 public school students, 50,000 public school teachers, 200,000 college students, and tens of thousands of faculty and staff to log in through the secure Eduroam system, which uses higher education, K-12, library, and museum user credentials to provide secure and trusted access to wireless networks worldwide.

### **Supporting the Economic Action Plan**

Governor Lamont proposes allocating \$57.5 million in Coronavirus Capital Projects Funds to support elements of the Governor's broader Economic Development Action Plan, which is supported by a combination of state bonding, tax credits, private or municipal matching, and other funding streams. These CCPF-supported programs are described below.

#### Innovation Corridor

Perhaps the most significant of these investments, \$30 million, will support the Innovation Corridor program, which will result in three transformational, placemaking economic development projects to drive job opportunity, innovation, and business formation in Connecticut's cities. The program will leverage private sector matching to fund more than \$500 million, creating approximately 15,000 jobs across three projects. These projects include the 101 College Street life science incubator in New Haven and two additional projects. Scoring of competitive proposals through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process will include an equity component to ensure that the resultant projects provide broad-based economic growth and support these cities' underserved populations.

#### CT Communities Challenge

Funding of \$27 million will support the CT Communities Challenge, a competitive grant program to spur investment across the state through high-quality, transit-connected development projects. Grant awards will range from \$1 million to \$10 million per project, resulting in up to 3,000 new jobs. Funded projects must demonstrate, among other things, that they will: improve livability and appeal of their communities; provide greater employment opportunities; attract private sector redevelopment of adjacent areas; and densify development near transit hubs. At least 50% of funding will benefit distressed municipalities, and RFP scoring will include commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion elements. Total public and private funding of \$150 million will support the initiative.

## **Retooling Nursing Homes**

The COVID-19 public health emergency has had a disproportionate impact on nursing home residents. Nursing homes emerged as some of the first COVID-19 “hotspots” and deaths in nursing homes far outpace COVID deaths in the general public. While only a small fraction (less than 1%) of Americans live in long-term care facilities, as of March 2021, these individuals accounted for one-third of all U.S. COVID-19 deaths (The COVID Tracking Project 2021). That rate is even higher in Connecticut, where a majority of COVID-19 deaths are linked to long-term care facilities.<sup>6</sup> Throughout the pandemic, nursing homes also struggled to keep residents connected with family and friends, exacerbating the challenges of social isolation.

This plan allocates \$20 million for capital investments for nursing home upgrades that will improve safety and quality outcomes in long-term care facilities. Funding could be used for: room conversion, implementation of “Green House” features that create a more home-like community for the residents, assistive technology to augment staff capacity and improve quality standards, and HVAC system upgrades.

With nursing homes at historically low occupancy and families seeking new alternatives to traditional nursing homes, Green Houses and other small house designs can offer a promising model for a post-COVID environment. These models offer smaller, residential-style living for individuals in need of full-time care. The physical design and care delivery model distinguish these nursing homes, which place an emphasis on resident privacy with private rooms and baths. Common areas are intentionally designed to promote community engagement and social interaction while the workforce model more closely resembles the universal role of family caregivers. Certified nursing assistants are trained in a diverse range of supports and are empowered to achieve quality of care and quality of life for the residents. These models have also been relatively resilient during the pandemic with COVID-19 case and resident deaths appearing to be much lower than other nursing homes nationwide. They also tend to have higher occupancy rates than traditional nursing homes.

Capital funding can attract and incentivize nursing homes to retool for the next pandemic and adopt innovative models. Grants will be awarded through an RFP process managed by the Department of Social Services, in coordination with the Department of Public Health, with priority given to nursing homes that demonstrate high occupancy and quality standards.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html>

# Governor Lamont's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Plan

Connecticut Allocation (est.): \$ 2,647,590,000  
Funds Available Through: Dec. 31, 2024

Total Allocated: \$ 2,647,590,000  
Amount Remaining: \$ -

Themes	
Criminal Justice	Addressing the Criminal Justice Impacts from COVID-19
Early Childhood	Supporting Early Childhood Needs Resulting from the Pandemic
Economic	Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19
Govt Services	Provision of Government Services Impacted by Revenue Reduction
Higher Ed	Addressing the Higher Education Impacts of COVID-19
K12	Addressing K-12 Education Impacts of COVID-19
Mental Health	Addressing the Mental Health Impacts of COVID-19
Public Health	Addressing the Public Health Impacts of COVID-19
Private Providers	Supporting the Recovery of Private Providers through the Pandemic
Reserves	Governor's Reserves for Contingencies
State Operations	Addressing Other State Operations
State Testing	Continuing the Nationally Recognized Testing Program
Program	
Workforce	Addressing Workforce Development Needs Resulting from COVID-19
Development	

#	Theme Desc	Description	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	(6 months)	Total	Narrative
1.	Govt Services	State Budget Revenue Replacement/Eligible Expenditures	\$ 775,000,000	\$ 975,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 1,750,000,000	The \$2.6 billion we are to receive will allow our state to preserve its historic savings and meet the needs of our residents, providing sufficient resources to bring us to balance across the biennium.
2.	Criminal Justice	Support for Criminal Justice Programs Necessary Due to the Pandemic	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 10,000,000	This funding will support criminal justice responses to the pandemic, including support for the Judicial Department for relevant activities.
3.	Criminal Justice	Judicial	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 5,000,000	To cover a portion of the pre-trial release programming, including expanding bail services as well as partnerships with other state agencies to provide housing and residential treatment. It will also help cover the contracted programming providing services to families at the point of screening to meet their needs and reduce their court involvement.
4.	Early Childhood	Care 4 Kids Parent Fees through December	\$ 5,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 5,300,000	This funding supplements \$8.7 million in stimulus funding awarded directly to OEC which will be directed to the same initiative. This initiative will provide economic relief to the families of 17,000 lower to middle income children, many of which have suffered unemployment, loss of income and other trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5.	Early Childhood	Parents Fees for 3-4 Year Old's at State Funded Childcare Centers	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 3,500,000	This initiative will provide economic relief to the families of approximately 10,000 lower and middle income children enrolled in these programs, many of whom come from communities and populations who have suffered disproportionately from the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also helping to retain children in these high-quality educational programs, mitigating learning loss and increasing kindergarten readiness. In addition, \$3.5 million will be provided out of OEC's ARPA funds to support Family Resources Centers' kindergarten readiness programs for families and children.
6.	Early Childhood	Provide Funding to Support Home Visiting RFP for Families Impacted by COVID	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 2,000,000	Provide additional funding to support qualified providers to provide home visiting services to families disproportionately impacted by COVID.
7.	Economic	Support to Unemployment Insurance Fund and Business	\$ 50,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 50,000,000	Connecticut's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund was slow to recover following the high demand of the Great Recession and was ill-prepared to handle the sudden influx of unemployment claims when COVID-19 hit our state last spring. As a result, we have had to borrow billions of dollars from the federal government. These loans are typically repaid by an increased tax on employers. With the new American Rescue Plan dollars, we could fully or partially repay the federal UI loans in order to prevent increased taxes on employers. At least 24 states have used Coronavirus Relief Funds to meet unemployment benefit obligations or pay down principal on federal UI loans. This is contingent on the passage of HB-6633
8.	Economic	CT Brand, Hospitality Business Supports, and Regulatory Modernization	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 45,000,000	The funds will be used to support reopening Connecticut's economy and restarting tourism. Namely, the hospitality industry has been hit very hard by the pandemic. These funds will help support reopening of this critical sector of the economy. In addition, funding to support a marketing campaign to promote Connecticut tourism. Finally, funds to support modernize regulatory and licensing requirements, making it easier to start and run a business in Connecticut.



# Governor Lamont's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Plan

Total Allocated: \$ 2,647,590,000  
Amount Remaining: \$ -

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#	Theme Desc	Description	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 (6 months)	Total	Narrative
9.	Economic	Unemployment Support	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000,000	The state has dedicated CRF funds to support continued enhanced operations of the DOL UI contact center through Dec. 2021. Dedicated ARPA funds could continue support for increased staff support and vendor solutions at the contact center during this period of heightened demand. In addition, dedicated federal support would preserve the state's UI administrative reserve, help to maintain consumer access to timely responses from agency personnel, and allow the agency to maintain their dual focus on the pandemic response and UI modernization.
10.	Economic	Tenant Eviction Legal Representation	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000,000	Funding will support legal representation costs as well as administrative termination hearings, assistance to tenants at notice to quit stage, increase in tenants appearing in cases, and education/outreach to tenants. Lower-income and minority workers have suffered disproportionately from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will support residents hit hardest with legal assistance to help them better navigate the legal process and help individuals and families stay in their homes.
11.	Economic	CRDA Economic Support for Venues	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500,000	Provide economic support for venues under CRDA to stabilize the entities until they can safely resume operations. CRDA currently has an operating deficit of \$10.5 million due to the impact event cancellations has had on venue revenue. Support for the CT Convention Center, Rentschler Stadium and XL in the short term will ensure a financial bridge until events begin to pick up and bring crowds safely back to the venues. Additionally, venues such as the XL center have larger economic impacts as it brings people to the city - restaurants, hotels and other local businesses and residents benefit from the patrons that are drawn in, providing jobs and state and local tax revenues
12.	Economic	Support to Arts and Cultural Organizations	\$ 6,375,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,375,000	This funding will help arts and other entertainment organizations that have experienced economic dislocation during the pandemic. Connecticut values its cultural and arts institutions and this funding will act as a support for those institutions which represent their communities.
13.	Economic	Food Insecurity Grants to Food Pantries and Food Banks	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	Over the last year, the pandemic has shined a bright light on poverty and food insecurity. We were made acutely aware of the needs of our residents and how so many are just one paycheck away from being in danger. These investments will provide additional resources for human services clients and other state citizens experiencing food insecurity.
14.	Higher Ed	Higher Education - PACT - Last Dollar Financial Aid	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ 24,000,000	These funds will allow us to double the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) program to provide last-dollar scholarships to qualifying Connecticut community college students with an emphasis on supporting enrollment in short term certificate programs enabling students to be better-prepared for in-demand jobs.
15.	Higher Ed	Enhance Student Retention at Community Colleges	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 6,500,000	\$ -	\$ 19,500,000	Establish a grant program within the Board of Regents to provide need-based emergency assistance scholarships to students with the highest risk of dropping out due to financial circumstances/pandemic impact. In addition, funding will support advisors for Guided Pathways who would nominate recipients; grants would then be awarded to students with BOR approval.

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Amount Remaining: \$ -

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Themes	
Criminal Justice	Addressing the Criminal Justice Impacts from COVID-19
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#	Theme Desc	Description	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	(6 months)	Total	Narrative
16.	Higher Ed	Higher Education - UConn	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000	Our higher education institutions have lost key revenue streams as their campuses have been closed or limited in capacity. We can help offset some of those losses and hopefully ensure the continuation of important programs.
17.	Higher Ed	Higher Education - CSU	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000	Our higher education institutions have lost key revenue streams as their campuses have been closed or limited in capacity. We can help offset some of those losses and hopefully ensure the continuation of important programs.
18.	Higher Ed	Roberta Willis Need-Based Scholarships	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 6,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,000,000	Provide additional funding to support scholarships through the need based Roberta Willis Scholarship program, which could boost enrollment at institutions for higher education by removing financial barriers to higher education for CT students.
19.	Higher Ed	UChC - Revenue Impact	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	Provide funding to UChC to reimburse them for revenue losses incurred in FY 2020 and FY 2021 from reduced clinical operations during the pandemic.
20.	K12	Summer Experience at Connecticut's Top Venues	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000	To support free access for children throughout the summer at various Connecticut attractions, including the CT Science Center, Mystic Aquarium, Beardsley Zoo, Mystic Seaport, Norwalk Aquarium and other popular venues.
21.	K12	Summer Camp Scholarships for Families	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	Funding scholarships to sports and specialty camps targeted for children at or below 50% of SMI. This will help families provide their children with fun, safe summer activities after a year in which many children experienced enhanced isolation and decreased interpersonal contacts.
22.	K12	Teen Experience	\$ 1,900,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,900,000	Provide grants to programs that are focused on creating safe, fun and healing spaces for Connecticut's Youth (ages 13-17) as well as investing in services to support youth employment services.
23.	K12	Summer College Corp	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	Recruit 500 students statewide to work in summer programs and provide those students with training in order to address the enhanced needs of the children these students will be working with. Matched by Coronavirus Relief Fund for \$3M investment.
24.	Mental Health	Adult Mental Health Services	\$ 10,200,000	\$ 10,200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,400,000	\$10.2 million is being recommended to support the phase-in of 24/7 access to mobile crisis programs statewide that will take advantage of the Medicaid enhanced match (85% beginning April 2022) available under the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARPA) for mobile crisis services. Funding will also support creation of one crisis stabilization center that will divert individuals from ED and inpatient care, develop UM capacity to support better throughput of the entire DMHAS system, pilot psychiatric consultation to primary care providers, provide flexible funds to address individualized discharge delays, support a media campaign that will amplify mental health, wellness and addiction issues, replicate the very successful substance abuse peer support model in 12 of the highest volume EDs, and allow DMHAS in cooperation with DCF to examine the service system with an eye toward racial equity and social justice.

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25.	Mental Health	Children's Mental Health	\$ 5,250,000	\$ 5,250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,500,000	\$16.75 million each year-- \$11.5 million in Medicaid and \$5.25 million in ARPA funding - will expand access to acute care, develop health promotion and early intervention capacity and create additional mental health consultative capacity for primary care providers. Specifically, Medicaid rate increases and acuity-based rate add-ons will expand pediatric inpatient psychiatric services. Funds will support 12 care coordinators that can facilitate discharges from EDs, inpatient settings and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs), expand DCFs emergency mobile psychiatric services to 24 hour coverage and support one or two new behavioral health urgent care centers that can provide diversion opportunities from EDs. Additional funding will develop a program to address trauma experienced by youth residing in urban communities and address the impacts on their bodies and minds. Funding will enable primary care providers to access clinical behavioral health expertise allowing them to consult about patients in their practices and address issues before they become acute and funds will allow DCF, in cooperation with DMHAS and other state agencies, to examine their service system with an eye toward racial equity and social justice.
26.	Mental Health	Devices for DMHAS clients, private provider telehealth and wi-fi expansion	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 500,000	The funding will augment telehealth services implemented under CRF by expanding support beyond devices intended for staff. Equipment and internet access would allow additional clients to connect with clinical providers, utilize online virtual recovery supports and facilitate job search and application processes and would purchase smart phones and data plans for young adults in the Young Adult Services (YAS) and YAS Access Centers to enhance their participation in telehealth and other virtual recovery-oriented activities and supports.
27.	Public Health	Community Health Workers	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 11,000,000	\$ -	\$ 33,000,000	\$11 million per year is recommended to fund 100 community health workers (CHW) to support 3,000 high risk families and children and build resilience for the ongoing and future health emergencies. Research shows that CHWs improve patient experience, care coordination and clinical outcomes. A recently conducted study showed that the intervention of CHWs led to both fewer and lower costs of admissions, with a 38% reduction in costs. When comparing savings to overall program expenses, CHWs provide a \$2.47 return for every \$1 invested in the program.
28.	Public Health	Premium Pay for Direct Care Nursing Home Employees	\$ 12,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500,000	This funding will support a second round of \$500 incentive payments for direct care staff in nursing homes.
29.	Public Health	Universal Home Visiting	\$ 1,620,656	\$ 3,980,363	\$ 6,849,760	\$ -	\$ 12,450,779	Universal home visiting promotes health and connections to resources that combat disparities highlighted throughout COVID-19. Newborns and their families in CT would receive home visits, regardless of parents' income or socioeconomic status.
30.	Public Health	Local Health Departments and Districts	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	This funding will support local and district departments of health, with a local match for state support.
31.	Public Health	Upstream USA	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	Intensive education program for primary care providers and providers of contraceptive services to encourage screening for unintended pregnancies and have ready access to providing highly effective contraception to women. Colorado Model

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32.	Public Health	MYCT / Resident Digital One-Stop for Health and Human Services Programs - Support Costs	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 8,750,000	We can continue and expand the digitization of existing public processes (MyCT) to ensure continuity of operations and provision of vital services if the pandemic is extended or in preparation for future pandemics.
33.	Public Health	Respite Care for Family Caregivers	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	This funding will provide respite to family caregivers who have cared for elderly or disabled family members during the pandemic (ID, Autism, Elderly).
34.	Public Health	Deaf Community Public Health Supports	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	Operational Supports for COVID Expenses, Clear Masks, Vaccine Informational Video, Vaccine Clinic Supports, Communication Cards, Interpreter Supports (incl but not limited to Amer School for the Deaf)
35.	Public Health	Expand the Office of Health Equity under the Department of Public Health	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 875,000	The Office of Health Equity within DPH is expanded to focus on racial disparities in public health. Funding will support two additional staff and associated operating expenses.
36.	Private Providers	Private Providers	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000,000	Our private providers have faced significant financial challenges for years, and those struggles have worsened during the pandemic as they have experienced declining revenues and increased costs. With this funding, we can help mitigate the losses they have experienced and provide a bridge until COVID-19 vaccines are widespread.
37.	State Operations	PPE & Supplies	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 613,650	\$ -	\$ 20,613,650	The pandemic has also highlighted the need for a DESPP/DEMHS emergency management warehouse, with a small logistics staff to run it. Most, if not all, states have some sort of a warehouse for emergency management to store assets. These assets include not only stockpiles of PPE, but also, for example, mobile support and communications vehicles that are currently often stored outside, subject to weather and theft. Currently, the state is paying thousands of dollars on a monthly basis to rent space at a warehouse, and the PPE inventory is being overseen and secured on a temporary basis by DEMHS staff, who have foregone their usual duties for a year, and by volunteer CT National Guard members. We can be more ready as a state for any disaster if we invest in a warehouse including a small logistics staff to oversee, maintain, and distribute as necessary the commodities and equipment needed in any emergency.
38.	State Operations	State Operations	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000,000	State government will also need operational support in the face of the uncertain long-term economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. This can include measures to offset COVID related expenditures and investment in eligible capital projects to create long-term operational efficiencies. Communications efforts related to vaccination, testing, and other responses to the pandemic would also be covered.
39.	State Operations	Premium Pay for Front Line State Employees	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	This funding will provide financial recognition for the essential workers who gave us security during the COVID pandemic.
40.	State Testing Program	Testing	\$ 200,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240,000,000	Unless and until access and uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines becomes widespread and we reach herd immunity, we are going to need to continue our robust testing program - one that has been a national leader to date. We could use these financial supports to cover additional testing costs arising from continuing to follow DPH/CDC guidelines.

**Governor Lamont's Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocation Plan**

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41.	Workforce Development	Workforce Development & Employment Initiatives	\$ 36,576,349	\$ 36,636,349	\$ 30,000,000	\$ -	\$ 103,212,698	We can build on the workforce investment including in the area of short-term certificate programs to get Connecticut residents who have had their employment impacted by the pandemic transition to in-demand employment opportunities. Resources can be used to support necessary wrap-around services that break down barriers to achieving employment success, including but not limited to, transportation, childcare, and social-emotional supports.
42.	Reserves	Governor's Reserves	\$ 25,712,873	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,712,873	
43.		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,809,878</b>	<b>\$ 1,217,441,712</b>	<b>\$ 75,838,410</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,647,590,000</b>	To provide for contingencies in responding to the public health emergency.
44.		<b>Remaining Funds to be Allocated</b>					\$ -	

## Governor Lamont's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Allocation Plan

Connecticut Allocation: \$ 141,531,000  
 Funds Available: Until Expended  
 Total Allocated: \$ 141,531,000  
 Amount Remaining: \$ -

Description	Total	% of Total	Narrative
1. Broadband: Curb-to-home buildout	\$ 15,000,000	10.6%	Buildout for residential access in distressed municipalities for low-income residents by connecting main infrastructure to residences. Makes easier for low-income residents to get connected to wired broadband and incentivizes ISP's to build out these communities. Estimated cost is \$700-\$1,000 to cut into the right of way/road to make the fiber connection at the street and then a trench to the building/home where the connection is made to existing cabling in the building/home.
2. Broadband: Public space connectivity	\$ 15,000,000	10.6%	Grants to support capital improvements or equipment purchases for broadband and wifi connectivity or increased connection speed at community-based organizations, public parks and gathering places, and community centers and access for low-income residents, including through expansion of CEN open access network
3. State GIS capacity for broadband mapping / data and services to support remote work, health, and education	\$ 9,532,000	6.7%	Development of mapping capacity to support allocation of broadband resources, particularly to underserved areas, through acquisition and management of core GIS layers such as aerial imagery, building and parcel data, and updated governmental unit boundaries. GIS supports public health, education, and remote work initiatives by providing governments with the locational data, analytics, and tools necessary to more effectively respond to emergencies, visualize, predict, and respond to environmental transformations including those of climate change, and to design/build community services that enable competitiveness in a new teleworking economy.
4. Resident Digital One-stop	\$ 7,531,000	5.3%	Capital costs of the HHS resident one-stop effort, with operating costs supported through CSFRF
5. Develop/support physical assets along the food chain	\$ 3,000,000	2.1%	In order to enhance our food system, CT has to develop/support physical assets along the food chain. The VT Food Venture Center creates jobs and processing capacity.
6. Health and Safety Barriers to Housing Remediation	\$ 7,000,000	4.9%	At least 30% of homes have health and safety barriers such as abtostos and mold that threaten health of residents and prevent weatherization upgrades such as insulation and efficiency measures that provide critical energy savings. The funds would invested into retrofit programs, making homes healthier for people working and learning from home.
7. Efficient Energy Retrofit for Affordable Housing	\$ 7,000,000	4.9%	This program would provide EE retrofits and access to renewable energy resources (storage, solar) to reduce energy costs and pollution and promote equity and environmental justice for people working and learning from home.
8. Economic Development Action Plan	\$ 57,468,000	40.6%	The investment will support broad economic development throughout the state of Connecticut. These funds will be combined with other funding sources including general obligation bonds, workforce development and small business infrastructure support, and small business tax credits. The combined influx of funding will focus on targeted small business support, transformational placemaking development projects and transformative investments in transit oriented development, and housing. These investments are critical as Connecticut prepares for its recovery coming out of the pandemic and such investments will fuel future economic growth.
9. Nursing Home Infrastructure Fund	\$ 20,000,000	14.1%	HVAC, room conversion, incentivizing green house model for those with quality programs and are not low-occupancy, assistive technology
10. Total	\$ 141,531,000	100.0%	
11. Remaining Funds to be Allocated	\$ -		



## **Connecticut's Plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**