

## **Special Services Districts (SSDs) in Connecticut's Downtowns**

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### **Issue**

Update OLR Report [2012-R-0287](#), which provides a directory of special services districts (SSDs) in Connecticut's business districts.

### **Summary**

SSDs are one type of special taxing district Connecticut law authorizes. They are also referred to as business improvement districts. Under [CGS § 7-339m et seq.](#), a municipality can form a SSD to promote the economic and general welfare of its citizens and property owners. Among other things, the district can (1) acquire and convey real and personal property; (2) provide any service that a municipality can provide, other than education; (3) recommend to the municipality's legislative body that it impose a separate tax on property in the district to support its operations; (4) borrow money for up to seven years backed by district revenues; and (5) build, own, maintain, and operate public improvements. Voters in the district must approve its establishment at a referendum.

Table 1 lists the 14 SSDs in business districts and includes each district's website. We compiled this list with assistance from the Connecticut Main Street Center.

**Table 1: Special Services Districts**

Location	Name	Website
Bridgeport	Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District	<a href="https://infobridgeport.com/about-us/">https://infobridgeport.com/about-us/</a>
Danbury	CityCenter Danbury	<a href="https://citycenterdanbury.com/about/">https://citycenterdanbury.com/about/</a>
Hartford	Hartford Business Improvement District	<a href="https://hartford.com/about-us/">https://hartford.com/about-us/</a>
Hartford	Park Street Special Services District	<a href="http://samact.org/overview/">http://samact.org/overview/</a>
Manchester	Downtown Manchester Special Services District	<a href="http://downtownmanchester.org/about-the-special-services-district/">http://downtownmanchester.org/about-the-special-services-district/</a>
Middletown	Middletown Downtown Business District	<a href="https://www.downtownmiddletown.com/about-the-downtown-business-district">https://www.downtownmiddletown.com/about-the-downtown-business-district</a>
New Britain	New Britain Downtown District	<a href="http://www.newbritaindd.com/">http://www.newbritaindd.com/</a>
New Haven	Chapel West Special Services District	<a href="http://www.chapelwest.com/">http://www.chapelwest.com/</a>
New Haven	Grand Avenue Special Services District	<a href="https://www.grandavenuessd.org/who-we-are">https://www.grandavenuessd.org/who-we-are</a>
New Haven	Town Green District	<a href="https://www.downtownnewhaven.com/what-we-do">https://www.downtownnewhaven.com/what-we-do</a>
New Haven	Whalley Avenue Special Services District	<a href="https://www.whalleyavenuessd.com/">https://www.whalleyavenuessd.com/</a>
New London	New London City Center District	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/newlondoncitycenter/home?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/site/newlondoncitycenter/home?authuser=0</a>
Stamford	Stamford Downtown Special Services District	<a href="http://stamford-downtown.com/about/">http://stamford-downtown.com/about/</a>
West Hartford	West Hartford Center Special Services District	<a href="https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/special-services-district">https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/special-services-district</a>

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