



State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division

2023 (FY 24) GRANT ROUND
SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
GUIDELINES



The Small Town Economic Assistance Program ([C.G.S. §4-66g](#)) funds economic development, community conservation and quality of life projects for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Action bonds ([C.G.S. §4-66c](#)). A 2023 eligibility list is included in the pages that follow and will be updated when available. This program is coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management and grants are administered by appropriate state agencies.

STEAP funds are issued by the [State Bond Commission](#) and **can only be used for capital projects**. A project is considered to be a capital project if it is new construction, expansion, renovation or replacement for an existing facility or facilities.

STEAP is not an entitlement or formula grant, and as such, any funding associated with an award is on a one-time basis only, with no promise or obligation of additional funding from OPM or the State.



It is important that you read all parts of this guideline document, as each grant round has specific eligibility requirements, application requirements and STEAP grant term periods.

STEAP CONTACT INFORMATION

- Programmatic and application questions should be directed to: Martin.Heft@ct.gov.
- Complete applications must be submitted to opm.steapapplications@ct.gov
- Questions related to a specific grant that has been awarded (including questions about your grant contract/agreement, payment/reimbursement and a one-time extension), must be directed to the [state agency assigned](#) to administer your grant.

- **All STEAP-funded projects are subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations.** Certain projects, if funded with a STEAP grant, may be subject to additional reviews, evaluations, permits, approvals, and/or certifications, including but not limited to: Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities ([CHRO](#)), Connecticut Environmental Policy Act ([CEPA](#)), Flood Management Certification ([FMC](#)); State Historic and Preservation Office ([SHPO](#)) review and determination; and/or Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development ([POCD](#)) provisions with regard to eligibility for discretionary state funding. Such reviews, evaluations, permits and/or certifications could significantly impact project costs and timelines. **The grantee should only submit applications for such projects when it is able to provide the detailed information that might be required for various state review processes and can continue with the proposed project and spend down the grant within the terms of the contract period despite these added costs and extended project timelines.**

GRANT AGREEMENT/CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Grants awarded will have a four (4) year term and may be considered for a one (1) year extension to the grant end date. No grant shall have a term longer than five (5) years.
- Each STEAP grant shall have its own contract and shall not be combined with any other grant contract. STEAP grants are not intended to be “banked” or “grouped together” over the course of multiple years. Each award is to be used expressly for the purpose and scope of work as outlined in the awarded grant application.
- **Any STEAP application, its receipt, and/or any subsequent announcement or notification of an award associated with an application, does not constitute a contract. A contract exists only when you have submitted all required contractual documents and such documents are approved by the administering state agency, and the municipality is notified that the contract is fully executed. Do not incur any anticipated STEAP grant funded project expenditures until a contract is fully executed, as only those allowable expenditures incurred between the start and end dates as established on the fully executed contract can be reimbursed. Expenditures incurred before the contract start date or after the contract end date will not be reimbursed.**
- When a municipality is selected to receive a STEAP grant, the municipality will receive a notification letter from OPM indicating which state agency has been assigned to administer their award.
- Municipalities should be prepared to enter a grant assistance agreement/contract with the administering agency shortly after being notified of an award, therefore municipalities should only apply for a project which is near-term. This means that the STEAP funded portion of the project should be “shovel-ready” or “nearly shovel-ready” at time of application. This is necessary to ensure that the grantee will be able to spend down their grant funds within the defined term of the award, as funds not expended before the grant’s end date will be forfeited.
- Only minor changes germane to the original scope from the approved application shall be approved by the administering agency. STEAP grant funds cannot be repurposed (used for a project other than the one for which it was awarded.) For example:

- A STEAP grant is awarded for a sidewalk project. The original scope was to install 1000 feet of sidewalk. A scope change which would increase the sidewalk to 1200 feet would be germane, therefore would be allowable and could be approved. A scope change to instead use the funding for a veterans' memorial and NO sidewalks would not be germane, therefore cannot be allowed or approved.
- Unspent grant funds will not be repurposed for other uses. Such unspent funds will be returned to the STEAP program account and will be used for awards made in future rounds.
- All grant payments will be made on a reimbursement basis and only after the municipality has:
 - Incurred and paid for the allowable STEAP-related allowable project expenditures incurred between the start and end dates of the contract
 - Match funds must be spent in their entirety (100%) prior to final reimbursement
- The administering agency will provide you with guidance on what information must be submitted to seek reimbursement. Expenditures incurred before the start date or after the end date of the agreement/contract will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Consistent with past practices, these grants will be administered by project-relevant agencies other than OPM.
- Once a grant contract is in place, any grant related project questions, reimbursement questions, or requests for extensions should be directed to the agency assigned to administer your grant.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND PRIORITY PROJECT AREAS

Projects eligible for STEAP funds include:

- Economic development projects such as (a) constructing or rehabilitating commercial, industrial, or mixed-use structures and (b) constructing, reconstructing, or repairing roads, access ways, and other site improvements;
- Recreation and solid waste disposal projects;
- Social service-related projects, including day care centers, elderly centers, domestic violence and emergency homeless shelters, multi-purpose human resource centers, and food distribution facilities;
- Housing projects;
- Pilot historic preservation and redevelopment programs that leverage private funds; and
- Other kinds of development projects involving economic and community development, transportation, environmental protection, public safety, children and families and social service programs;
- Land acquisition associated with the above types of projects.

Priority Project Areas:

- Shovel-ready projects which are at a stage where project work can begin (see below)
- Promoting economic growth particularly in transit-oriented areas
- Developing our workforce
- Improving the quality of life and fiscal stability of municipality
- Improving the grand list
- Infrastructure

- Making government more effective, efficient and customer friendly
- Pollution control (water, waste, energy) in order to reduce costs and environmental impacts
- Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) Consolidation

Shovel-ready projects are defined as those which have:

- Legislative body approval (i.e.: referendum, town meeting)
- All funding (other than STEAP funding) for the STEAP project secured
 - Matching funds
 - Additional project funds
- Local permits in place (i.e.: Inland Wetlands, Zoning, Planning)
- State approvals and permits in place, such as:
 - State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - Flood Management Certification (FMC)
- Utility coordination plan established
- Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) up to date
- Project PS&E (plans, specifications, and estimates) ready to be advertised

EXPENDITURES THAT CANNOT BE FUNDED BY STEAP GRANT FUNDS:

- Programmatic expenditures or recurring budget expenditures are **not** eligible for STEAP or any other state bond program. The Office of Policy and Management reserves the right to not fund or reimburse certain projects or certain project components with State bond funds due to public policy reasons.
- Ceremonial or entertainment expenses; publicity; bonus payments; reserves; charges in excess of the lowest responsible bid where competitive bidding is required unless prior approval is obtained; deficits or overdrafts; interest charged; any judgment for damages arising from the project; fines and penalties; meals, municipal salaries or employee expenses.
- Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E). FF&E includes movable furniture, fixtures or other equipment that have no permanent connection to the structure of a building or utilities. FF&E includes, but is not limited to desks, chairs, computers, electronic equipment, appliances, tables, bookcases, and partitions.
- Goods and/or services purchased and/or provided before the contract start date, or after the contract end date will **not** be funded.
- STEAP funds **cannot** reimburse design, studies, planning and/or engineering costs.
- STEAP funds **cannot** be used to represent the required municipal “match” or “share” portion for another state or federal grant.

2023 (FY 24) STEAP ELIGIBILITY LIST

C.G.S. §4-66g 2023 (FY 24) SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Opt-In provisions can be found after the following chart

Municipality	STEAP Eligible	PIC Community	Distressed Municipality	Municipality w/Urban Center Per Adopted Plan
Andover	YES	NO	NO	NO
Ansonia	NO	YES	YES	YES
Ashford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Avon	YES	NO	NO	NO
Barkhamsted	YES	NO	NO	NO
Beacon Falls	YES	NO	NO	NO
Berlin	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bethany	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bethel	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bethlehem	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bloomfield	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Bolton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bozrah	YES	NO	NO	NO
Branford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bridgeport	NO	YES	YES	YES
Bridgewater	YES	NO	NO	NO
Bristol	NO	YES	YES	YES
Brookfield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Brooklyn	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Burlington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Canaan	YES	NO	NO	NO
Canterbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Canton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Chaplin	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Cheshire	YES	NO	NO	NO
Chester	YES	NO	NO	NO
Clinton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Colchester	YES	NO	NO	NO
Colebrook	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Columbia	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cornwall	YES	NO	NO	NO
Coventry	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cromwell	YES	NO	NO	NO
Danbury	NO	NO	NO	YES

Darien	YES	NO	NO	NO
Deep River	YES	NO	NO	NO
Derby	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Durham	YES	NO	NO	NO
East Granby	YES	NO	NO	NO
East Haddam	YES	NO	NO	NO
East Hampton	YES	NO	NO	NO
East Hartford	NO	YES	YES	YES
East Haven	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
East Lyme	YES	NO	NO	NO
East Windsor	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Eastford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Easton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Ellington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Enfield	NO	YES	NO	YES
Essex	YES	NO	NO	NO
Fairfield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Farmington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Franklin	YES	NO	NO	NO
Glastonbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Goshen	YES	NO	NO	NO
Granby	YES	NO	NO	NO
Greenwich	YES	NO	NO	NO
Griswold	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Groton	NO	YES	YES	YES
Guilford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Haddam	YES	NO	NO	NO
Hamden	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Hampton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Hartford	NO	YES	YES	YES
Hartland	YES	NO	NO	NO
Harwinton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Hebron	YES	NO	NO	NO
Kent	YES	NO	NO	NO
Killingly	NO	YES	NO	YES
Killingworth	YES	NO	NO	NO
Lebanon	YES	NO	NO	NO
Ledyard	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Lisbon	YES	NO	NO	NO
Litchfield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Lyme	YES	NO	NO	NO
Madison	YES	NO	NO	NO
Manchester	NO	YES	NO	YES
Mansfield	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO

Marlborough	YES	NO	NO	NO
Meriden	NO	YES	YES	YES
Middlebury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Middlefield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Middletown	NO	YES	NO	YES
Milford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Monroe	YES	NO	NO	NO
Montville	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Morris	YES	NO	NO	NO
Naugatuck	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
New Britain	NO	YES	YES	YES
New Canaan	YES	NO	NO	NO
New Fairfield	YES	NO	NO	NO
New Hartford	YES	NO	NO	NO
New Haven	NO	YES	NO	YES
New London	NO	YES	YES	YES
New Milford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Newington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Newtown	YES	NO	NO	NO
Norfolk	YES	NO	NO	NO
North Branford	YES	NO	NO	NO
North Canaan	YES	NO	NO	NO
North Haven	YES	NO	NO	NO
North Stonington	OPT-In Eligible	NO	YES	NO
Norwalk	NO	NO	NO	YES
Norwich	NO	YES	YES	YES
Old Lyme	YES	NO	NO	NO
Old Saybrook	YES	NO	NO	NO
Orange	YES	NO	NO	NO
Oxford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Plainfield	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Plainville	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Plymouth	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Pomfret	YES	NO	NO	NO
Portland	YES	NO	NO	NO
Preston	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Prospect	YES	NO	NO	NO
Putnam	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Redding	YES	NO	NO	NO
Ridgefield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Rocky Hill	YES	NO	NO	NO
Roxbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Salem	YES	NO	NO	NO
Salisbury	YES	NO	NO	NO

Scotland	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Seymour	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Sharon	YES	NO	NO	NO
Shelton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Sherman	YES	NO	NO	NO
Simsbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Somers	YES	NO	NO	NO
South Windsor	YES	NO	NO	NO
Southbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Southington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Sprague	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Stafford	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Stamford	NO	NO	NO	YES
Sterling	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Stonington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Stratford	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Suffield	YES	NO	NO	NO
Thomaston	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Thompson	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Tolland	YES	NO	NO	NO
Torrington	NO	YES	YES	YES
Trumbull	YES	NO	NO	NO
Union	YES	NO	NO	NO
Vernon	NO	YES	NO	YES
Voluntown	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Wallingford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Warren	YES	NO	NO	NO
Washington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Waterbury	NO	YES	YES	YES
Waterford	YES	NO	NO	NO
Watertown	YES	NO	NO	NO
West Hartford	NO	NO	NO	YES
West Haven	NO	YES	YES	YES
Westbrook	YES	NO	NO	NO
Weston	YES	NO	NO	NO
Westport	YES	NO	NO	NO
Wethersfield	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Willington	YES	NO	NO	NO
Wilton	YES	NO	NO	NO
Winchester	OPT-In Eligible	YES	YES	NO
Windham	NO	YES	YES	YES
Windsor	OPT-In Eligible	YES	NO	NO
Windsor Locks	YES	NO	NO	NO
Wolcott	YES	NO	NO	NO

Woodbridge	YES	NO	NO	NO
Woodbury	YES	NO	NO	NO
Woodstock	YES	NO	NO	NO

Municipalities which have an Urban Center Per Adopted Plan are NOT eligible for either STEAP or the STEAP Opt-In Provision.

Municipalities which are designated as a PIC Community, and/or a Distressed Municipality, are eligible to Opt-In to STEAP as long as the municipality does not have an urban center as per adopted plan.

The Opt-in period shall be for four years. During that four-year period, municipalities which have opted in are NOT eligible to receive Urban Act funding.

STEAP OPT-IN PROVISIONS

Municipalities deemed eligible for the STEAP Opt-In provision may elect to be eligible for said program individually or as part of a group of municipalities in lieu of being eligible for financial assistance under [C.G.S. §4-66c](#) (Urban Act Grants), by a vote of its legislative body or, in the case of a municipality in which the legislative body is a town meeting, its board of selectmen, and submitting a written notice of such vote to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Any such election shall be for the four-year period following submission of such notice to the secretary and may be extended for additional four-year periods in accordance with the same procedure for the initial election.

It is important to note that once a municipality opts-in to the STEAP program, the opt in period lasts for four years from the submission date of the opt-in request. There is no provision to opt-out prior to the end of the four-year term.

Municipalities which have already opted in, and the term of the opt-in has not expired as of the due date for this application, do not need to submit an opt-in request to apply for STEAP. However, if an opt-in municipality is awarded a STEAP grant from this current round, the town must renew their opt-in if their current opt-in expires during the term of the grant. Reference: [C.G.S. §4-66g](#).