



State Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Advisory Board

NRZ Advisory Board Concepts for 2023

[CGA Sec. 7-608](#) authorizes the Advisory board to do the following things:

(c) The board shall promote neighborhood self-sufficiency and economic development and assist neighborhood revitalization zone planning committees in developing and implementing strategic plans. The board shall make recommendations regarding the disbursement of moneys in accordance with subsection (d) of this section. The board may serve as a clearinghouse for information about neighborhood revitalization zones, including information on (1) linkages with technical experts for the development of strategic plans, (2) innovative neighborhood success models, and (3) training and mentoring opportunities for members of neighborhood revitalization planning zone committees. The board may also conduct seminars or conferences and establish collaborative partnerships with public or private entities, including, but not limited to, financial institutions, nonprofit or religious organizations, state and private institutions of higher learning and libraries.

(d) There is created a neighborhood revitalization zone grant-in-aid program to be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the benefit of neighborhood revitalization zone planning committees. Such financial assistance, within available appropriations, shall be used for activities that promote neighborhood organizational development, economic development and business planning, specialized curriculum development, leadership training, the use of technology, property management, landlord-tenant relations, intergovernmental relations and such other activities as the board may deem appropriate.

NOTE: the grant-in-aid program described in (d) was depleted by 2010. OPM provided funding to the CT Economic Development Fund (CEDF) to administer through its [community development program](#). Small grants were provided to municipalities to hire consultants to assist NRZs with strategic planning.

Potential 2023 work plan topics include:

- What guidance can be provided to NRZ and community members and how should it be provided?
 - Bridgeport's NRZ Academy
 - [Community Organizing Handbook: A Guide for NRZ Members and Leaders](#) (2000)
 - [Guidelines for developing a strategic plan](#) (2005 update to Ch. 7 of the above)
 - [NRZ Resource Directory for Rebuilding Communities](#) (1995) – CT Inst. Of Municipal Studies
 - Other?
- What is the appropriate amount of oversight of NRZs, should it vary depending on level of NRZ activity, and who should be responsible?
 - [Hartford NRZ compliance checklist](#) for NRZs receiving funding
- What neighborhood-level activities are state agencies or municipalities engaged in and do they work through neighborhood organizations? Can coordination of multiple agencies' efforts through an NRZ (or other local organization) improve outcomes?
- Funding and other non-training capacity development: what do the municipalities and state think NRZs need and is it aligned with what NRZs want? Should there be needs assessments of individual NRZs?

- Reintroduce the state Advisory Board to NRZs: many NRZ leaders & members are unaware of the advisory board's existence, of state requirements, and potential state agency roles in support of what NRs do. Should the advisory board reintroduce itself to NRZs, perhaps city by city?
- Who is missing from advisory board meetings? (See attached spreadsheet)
 - A representative of one of the NRZs in each municipality that has NRZs
 - State agencies that are relevant but haven't been included: human services, emergency services/public safety, others?
 - Municipalities whose NRZs are not active?
- Can the state NRZ advisory board provide guidance for NRZs choosing between in-person, fully remote, and hybrid meetings?

Organization	Category	Representative	Title	email address	phone
Bridgeport	Muni	Coleman, William	Deputy Director, Office of Planning & Economic Development	william.coleman@bridgeportct.gov	203-576-7221
Groton	Muni	Bronk, Paige	Economic and Comm. Development Manager	PBronk@groton-ct.gov	860-448-4095
Hamden	Muni	Johnson, Erik	Director of Economic Development	ejohnson@Hamden.com	203-287-7070
Hartford	Muni	Castle, Janice	Director, Office of Comm. Engagement	Janice.Castle@hartford.gov	860-757-9525
New Britain	Muni	Malinowski, Margaret	Neighborhood Preservation Program Administrator	Margaret.Malinowski@newbritainct.gov	860-826-3341
New Haven	Muni	Brown, Laura	Executive Director, City Plan Dept.	lebrown@newhavenct.gov	203-946-6380
Norwich	Muni	Phelps, Sydney	Director of Community Development	sphelps@cityofnorwich.org	860-885-2911
Stamford	Muni	Loren Nadres	Director of Economic Development	lnadres@stamfordct.gov	203-977-5650
Waterbury	Muni	Gilmore, Mike	Re-Investment Manager & Logistics Specialist	gilmore@wdconline.org	203-346-2607, ext 7278
Windham	Muni	Bellano, Jim	Director of Economic Development Dept.	jbellano@windhamct.com	860-465-3062
Hartford Next	NRZ	Griffin, Marion	Chair	mdgriffa@yahoo.com	
CHFA	State	Smith, Marcus	Director, Research, Marketing & Outreach	marcus.smith@CHFA.org	860-571-4369
CSCU	State	Bradbury, Sean	Senior Director of Government Relations and External Affairs	SBradbury@commnet.edu	860-723-0017
DAS	State	Pafford, Matt	Supervising Environmental Analyst, Construction Services – Technical Services	Matthew.Pafford@ct.gov	860-756-6322
DCF	State	Hill-Lilly, Jodi	Deputy Commissioner	Jodi.Hill-Lilly@ct.gov	860-550-6691
DECD	State	Hummel, Sheila	Business Development Program Manager, Office of Small Business & Comm. Development Program	Sheila.Hummel@ct.gov	860-500-2405
DEEP	State	Brunza, Linda	Environmental Analyst, Office of Environmental Review	Linda.Brunza@ct.gov	860-424-3739
DOH	State	Watson, Laura	Economic and Community Development Agent	Laura.Watson@ct.gov	860-270-8169
DOL	State	Polzella, Mark	Deputy Commissioner	Mark.Polzella@ct.gov	860-263-6031
DOT	State	Elder, David	Assistant Planning Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Projects	David.Elder@ct.gov	860-594-2139
DPH	State	Mathieu, Lori	Public Health Branch Chief	Lori.Mathieu@ct.gov	860-509-7333
IMRP	State	Clark, Andrew	Director	clarkanj@uconn.edu	959-200-3929
OPM	State	Heft, Martin	Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division	Martin.Heft@ct.gov	860-418-6355
SEC	State	Edwards, Jennifer	State Program Manager	Jennifer.L.Edwards@ct.gov	860-500-2486
SHPO	State	Carmelich, Julie	Historian	Julie.Carmelich@ct.gov	860-500-2362