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Connecticut Social Equity Council Launches Statewide "More Than Funding" Tour

Community roundtables will highlight partnerships, community impact, and resources available through the Reimagine & Revitalize (R2) Program

Hartford, Conn., June 25, 2026 — The Connecticut Social Equity Council (the Council) today announced its statewide "More Than Funding" Tour, a series of community roundtables designed to highlight how partnerships and community investments are advancing opportunity across Connecticut.

The tour supports the Council's broader effort to increase awareness of its work beyond grantmaking and showcase how collaboration with community organizations, educational institutions, workforce partners, and local leaders is helping create opportunity and strengthen communities across the state.

"Many people know the Council for its funding programs, but our work extends beyond grantmaking," said Brandon L. McGee, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Social Equity Council. "Through collaboration with community organizations, local leaders, and regional partners, we are helping create pathways to opportunity and lasting impact in communities across Connecticut."

The Council's "More Than Funding" message reflects its commitment to investing not only in programs but also in the partnerships that help communities identify priorities, expand access to resources, and create meaningful opportunities for residents. Through these partnerships, the Council supports efforts that advance economic mobility, workforce development, education pathways, health equity, and community revitalization.

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"Through the R2 Program, the Council works with regional partners to support community-led initiatives and connect residents and organizations with resources that create lasting impact," said Mariedy Collazo Cruz, Chief Program Officer and General Counsel for the Connecticut Social Equity Council. "This tour will help raise awareness of available resources, highlight the impact of regional partnerships, and connect communities with opportunities to engage with the Council's work."

The statewide tour will bring together residents, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, local stakeholders, and regional partners to learn more about the Council's work, discuss community priorities, and explore opportunities for collaboration. In addition to highlighting the Council's broader mission, the roundtables will provide information about the Council's R2 Program and connect attendees to available resources and program information.

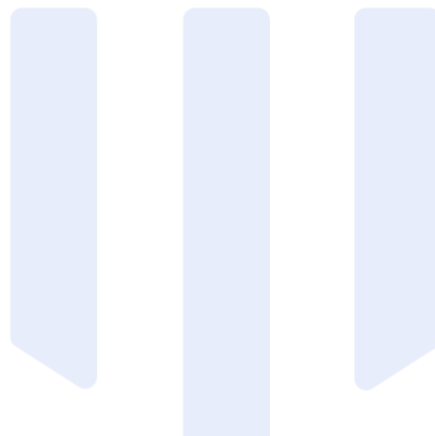
The tour will include stops in Norwalk, New Haven, Hartford, and Norwich on Thursday, June 25.

Regional R2 Grant Managers will join Council leadership to share how community investments are supporting local priorities and expanding opportunities in communities across Connecticut.

For more information about the Reimagine & Revitalize (R2) Program and other Council initiatives, visit the [Council's Community Reinvestment webpage](#).

About the Connecticut Social Equity Council:

The Social Equity Council was established to ensure that Connecticut's cannabis industry and economic development efforts provide real access and lasting investment for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis criminalization. Through strategic funding, partnerships, and accountability, the Council is creating pathways to prosperity for individuals and neighborhoods long excluded from opportunity. For more information, including highlights of the strategic plan, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/social-equity-council>



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