COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2030
ROUND 1 BOARD RECOMMENDED PROJECT SUMMARIES

ASYLUM HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION $1,247,038
For the rehabilitation of the Aetna Diner, located on Farmington Avenue, a brownfield site that is currently vacant and blighted. The capital improvement project will remediate the contaminated site, renovate the blighted building, and return a unique historic structure to use as an asset to the community, operating as a full-service restaurant with a banquet facility and meeting room.

BALDWIN HOLDINGS $1,756,164
This is for the second phase of an affordable housing development in Bridgeport on the site of the former Marina Village Apartments, a public housing complex that has been demolished. This phase will include 50 sustainable, attractive, mixed-income units.

BELIEVE IN ME EMPOWERMENT CORPORATION, $2,132,250
Believe In Me Empowerment Corporation, a non-profit community organization in the Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven, will build a new building on a vacant lot at 53 Shelton Avenue. This building will provide affordable units at 50% AMI that will be targeted for individuals leaving their transitional housing program. The vacant lot is currently a site for nuisance and criminal activity in the neighborhood.

CITY OF ANSONIA $6,500,000
CIF funds will go towards the redevelopment of the Ansonia Copper and Brass site at 75 Liberty Street. This parcel is a key 50-acre brownfield in the center of downtown Ansonia. The site has limited access fit for commercial vehicles so funds will go towards improving access and other necessary site improvements to facilitate remediation and redevelopment.

CITY OF MERIDEN – 85 TREMONT $3,000,000
This will fund the adaptive renovation and re-use of a historic mill complex from 1887 and 1920 sitting on 2.2 acres. The project will remediate the brownfield and create a mixed-income development with 82 units of housing in the 123,000 square foot facility. Two city-owned, contiguous parcels that are currently vacant, trash-strewn lots will be improved into active recreation areas with basketball court, playground and fixed seating.
CITY OF MIDDELETON – “RETURN TO THE RIVERBEND” $12,000,000

This will fund the first phase of the city’s “Return to the Riverbend” plan by remediating the brownfield sites along River Road and the Connecticut River for Jackson Corrugated Container, Peterson Oil and the decommissioned municipal Wastewater Treatment facility. This award will fund demolition and brownfield remediation that will help unlock future development of approximately 200 plus acres of city owned land along the Connecticut River.

CITY OF NEW HAVEN – 596-598 GEORGE STREET $1,500,000

This will fund the rehabilitation of two National Historic Register properties at 596 and 598 George Street in the Dwight Historic District. Part of New Haven’s Livable Cities Initiative, the property will be developed into two owner-occupied, three family units in one of the lowest-income census tracts in the city. This will provide affordable housing and an opportunity for families to build generational wealth through home ownership, while eliminating a currently blighted, vacant property and restoring a historic resource to the neighborhood.

CITY OF WATERBURY – FREIGHT STREET RE-DEVELOPMENT $10,000,000

The city requested CIF funding to perform demolition of structures and remediation of land located at 130 Freight Street, 170 Freight Street and 000 West Main Street. The 20.59 acres of brownfield contaminated land is on the western edge of the downtown central business district and positioned for transit-oriented development.

CITYSEED, INC - $1,092,500

CitySeed is a nonprofit serving New Haven engaging the community in growing an equitable, local food system that promotes economic development, community development and sustainable agriculture. CIF Grant funds will go towards a 10,000 square foot manufacturing facility in New Haven. This will allow CitySeed to launch and establish an industry-leading Commercial Kitchen and Food Business Incubator with an explicit focus on supporting under-resourced, under-funded entrepreneurs, primarily people of color, women, refugees and immigrants.

CONNORPS – DIXWELL PLAZA RE-DEVELOPMENT $10,000,000

ConnCAT Place on Dixwell will provide transformative change to a 7.6-acre space that has fallen into disrepair with an active, vibrant mixed-use development. The project provides 150 new housing units, 30 will be affordable housing. Twenty townhomes will be constructed, designed to be an affordable entry into homeownership, promoting the creation of sustained wealth in the community. A grocery store and food hall with restaurants and spaces for locally run food businesses will address the “food desert” and lack of healthy food options for Dixwell/Newhallville residents. A quality daycare center will be part of the development, as well as ConnCATs after-school programs, creating an ecosystem of safe and education activities. Community space to gather and appreciate art and culture and community joy will be realized through a 350-seat performing arts center and a 30,000 square-foot outdoor plaza.
**DOWNTOWN EVENING SOUP KITCHEN - $500,000**

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) will renovate the building at 266 State Street in New Haven to create the Downtown Drop-in & Resource Center, a one-stop, interagency, social services hub for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The Center will provide 1) daytime drop-in services with basic needs provision and onsite outreach and case management; 2) healthcare services in a fully-equipped medical clinic, and 3) a commercial kitchen providing freshly prepared meals.

**EAST MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION ASSOCIATION – $750,000**

This is a planning grant to support the work of the East Main Street Revitalization Association. The proposed project will elevate the potential of small businesses in Bridgeport along East Main Street through façade improvement loans, a sidewalk improvement program with enhances lighting and street security. Outside consultants will be used to facilitate drawings for future plan development and stakeholder engagement/input via community forums and NRZ meetings.

**FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC - $3,000,000**

CIF Funds are requested towards the construction of an expanded facility at 382-394 Grand Avenue. The expanded Health Center will allow for the recruitment of additional medical professionals and increase medical services capacity. The expanded facility will also incorporate a new program known as a “food pharmacy” that will allow doctors to prescribe healthy food to patients managing chronic design or facing food insecurity.

**INTERNATIONAL HARTFORD - $1,137,514**

The request of CIF funds is towards the construction of a year-round public food truck court for ethnic food vendors. The project will renovate an existing 5,500 square foot property at 681 Wethersfield Avenue. The facility will have both outdoor patios and indoor dining, a breakfast café with free community WiFi, a community performance space for activities and programming, a lounge with music as well as outdoor musical concerts, a co-working kitchen space, cold and dry storage, graywater and grease disposal – all in one environment, increasing efficiency for food truck operations.

**LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION - $1,000,000**

LISC will utilize CIF funds to create a revolving loan fund that will leverage $3 million in LISC loan capital allowing LISC to offer loans at rates below prevailing market rate and provide first loss capital. The fund would support a range of capital projects including affordable and mixed-income housing, or other forms of community development including child care centers, retail, employment training centers and incubators. This revolving loan fund would be available to projects in any of the CIF eligible municipalities.
MATCH, Inc - $780,000

MATCH, Inc is an inclusive non-profit manufacturing public training facility. This creative workforce model for inclusive growth in Greater New Haven, offers a path to equity by preparing BIPOC people for careers in manufacturing through a skill training program. CIF Funds will be used towards outfitting the facility with specialized manufacturing equipment.

NORWICH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC) – Reid & Hughes - $550,000

The Norwich Community Development Corporation is requesting CIF Funds towards the re-development of the Reid & Hughes building in downtown Norwich. The project will address the blighted brownfield property in the downtown, and creating space for two minority-owned businesses on the ground floor, market rate housing placed in a central location in the downtown.

NEW HAVEN JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOUSING CORPORATION - $155,000

This is a planning grant to help the applicant explore a potential expansion of services and utilization of land for a third tower to provide additional services, mixed use commercial space and mixed income housing. The applicant will explore a structure that enables co-location of currently unavailable neighborhood amenities such as a grocery store, restaurants, and social service agency offices.

NEW REACH, INC. - $312,619

New Reach, Inc is a non-profit providing a continuum of housing interventions and supports to vulnerable households and individuals experiencing homelessness. CIF Funds will allow New Reach to rehabilitate their facilities to make them more safe and secure, improving the client experience and maximizing energy efficiency cost savings.

NORTH HARTFORD COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP - $4,500,000

The North Hartford Collaborative Partnership is a diverse group of non-profit, CDC and private businesses that are working to make transformative change in the North Hartford Promise Zone. This request will provide $750,000 in a planning grant for the Blue Hills Civic Association for their acquisition and build out of the Neighborhood and Community Development Center, $400,000 to Rebuilding Together Hartford towards home improvements to owner-occupied homes, a $1,000,000 planning grant to the Upper Albany Neighborhood Revitalization Zone towards the acquisition and re-development of a vacant former Salvation Army facility, and $2,350,000 to Hartford Renaissance District towards the Barbour Street corridor home renovation program.

SHELDON OAK CENTRAL, INC - HARTFORD - $3,750,000

Funding is for the re-development of the MLK Apartments public housing development in the Sheldon Charter Oak Neighborhood Buildings built in 1964 will be demolished, eliminating the design style that cuts the community off from the surrounding neighborhood. The newly transformed community will be 155 units of affordable and market-rate housing.
TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD - LIBRARY - $5,526,000

CIF Funds will complete the funding for the renovations and new construction for two public libraries. Expanding both library facilities will instantly increase service capacity to the community. The library anticipates growth in library cards, visits, circulation, technology use and tech assistance, as well as significant growth in the number of programs, program attendance and study room usage.

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD – CHURCH CORNERS - $2,500,000

CIF Funds will be used towards purchase and re-development of the Church Corners Inn, a highly visible location at the top of Main Street and Route 44. The Inn is a dilapidated 53-unit rooming house. It will be converted into 30 larger units of housing, with 6,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor that will be prioritized for new entrepreneurs, women and minority owned businesses. The re-development will maintain the historic character of the building, while improving the housing stock and creating business locations.

TOWN OF HAMDEN - DRAINAGE - $750,000

This is a planning grant for the Town of Hamden to further the development of a repair and upgrade existing stormwater infrastructure to alleviate chronic flooding in the Newhall neighborhood of Hamden. Improvements will conclude pipe, manhole, and catch basin replacement; and the addition of rain gardens and tree canopies to prevent runoff. Repairing the Newhall drainage infrastructure will alleviate flooding issues, protect the residents, and improve their quality of life.

TOWN OF STRATFORD – BRUCE BROOK FLOOD MITIGATION - $1,600,000

The Town of Stratford requested CIF Funding towards the Bruce Brook Flood Mitigation project which would reduce the frequency and severity of rainwater flooding and resulting property damage. The Sage, West, Boew, Graham and Bruce Avenues are the affected areas in three low-to-moderate income census tracts with a high percentage of minority residents. The target population, as a result of natural rainfall, are impacted by the need to pay repeatedly for property damage and losses to automobiles, damage and losses to personal property in basements and first floors.

WINSTED HEALTH CENTER - PLANNING $438,750

A planning grant for the Winsted Health Center, working with Neighborhood Housing Servies of Waterbury as the developer to re-develop the 70,000 square foot hospital campus into a live/work/wellness space. The applicant is in the pre-development phase and is looking for funding towards a community development process to hold 3-5 public charette workshops to gain additional community input into the project and to then develop final construction drawings so that the project is “shovel ready” for future opportunities.