

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Community Investment Fund 2030 Board

December 13, 2022, 10 a.m.
Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hearing Room 1D
300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

CT-N recorded the meeting to be viewed at <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=21224>

MINUTES:

1. Welcome and Roll Call

A meeting of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board was held at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT, on December 13, 2022, at 10 AM. Chair and Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Members in Attendance:

Speaker Ritter

Senate President Looney

Minority Leader Candelora

Representative Borer

Senator McCrory

Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Jonathan Dach, Office of the Governor

Commissioner Gifford

Eileen Michael, Commissioner Gilman designee

Deputy Secretary of State Bates, SOTS designee

Deputy Commissioner Daum, DECD designee

Margaret Chapple, Attorney General Designee

Jennifer Putetti, OTT designee

Charlotte Moller, Comptroller Designee

Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno, Housing

Members Online:

Majority Leader Duff

Senator Moore

Representative Felipe

Secretary Beckham

Minority Leader Kelly

Majority Leader Rojas

Others in Attendance:

Matthew Pugliese, Director, Community Investment Fund

2. Comments from the Chairs

Speaker Ritter brought the Board's attention to Representative Borer who was attending her last Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) board meeting. He expressed gratitude for her service to the state and role in developing the CIF. Representative Borer spoke to the transformation work of the board.

Speaker Ritter thanked Paul Mounds, outgoing Governor's Chief of Staff, for his assistance with CIF. Mr. Mounds thanked the board and spoke to the continuing transformational work the board can do for the state.

Speaker Ritter also noted outgoing Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) David Lehman for his efforts to create CIF.

3. Approval of Minutes from Sept 27, 2022, Meeting

On a motion by Representative Borer, seconded by Senator Looney, the CIF Board unanimously approved the minutes of their September 27, 2022, meeting, as presented, with no discussion.

4. Old Business

a. Letters of Support from Board Members

Director of CIF Matthew Pugliese reviewed the discussion held at the prior meeting regarding members of the CIF Board writing, or not writing, letters of support for municipal CIF applicants to receive statutory prioritization. As administrator for the CIF, DECD proposed updated language for the CIF Policy document. He read the language which had been made available to the CIF Board members prior to the meeting.

Board members, who are members of the general assembly, will not provide written letters of support to municipal applications for statutory prioritization of such application.

In the event that both the Senator and Representative for the district in a municipality where the project is located are sitting on the board, the absence of a letter will not penalize the municipal applicant.

Mr. Mounds questioned the need for legislative action to make this clarification.

DECD Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum responded with confidence that this was a policy level clarification only, without the need for legislative action.

Minority Leader Candelora inquired if the policy would also apply to non-profit organization (NPO) applicants. Mr. Pugliese clarified NPOs do not receive statutory prioritization.

A voice vote was held on the proposed amendment to the policy language. The decision was made to amend the language as suggested.

b. Timeline Adjustment for Round 2 Review and Decision; Round 3

Mr. Pugliese reviewed the proposed timeline for Round 2 in relation to the statute and CIF policy. At the prior meeting, members requested having more time to review applications and executive summaries. The proposed timeline was made available to CIF Board members prior to the meeting. Commissioner Designee

Daum noted the proposed timeline was a compromise based on the statutory requirement to have at least two rounds per year.

Johnathan Dach asked for an indication of the amount of applications for Round 2. Mr. Pugliese responded with the number of requested SharePoint folders from applicants indicating an incoming application pool of at least 100. This seems to indicate even more interest than in Round 1. He also briefly explained the abbreviated re-application process.

Senator Looney asked if DECD planned to prepare the Executive Summaries for Round 2 applications. Mr. Pugliese confirmed that the same approach will be taken in review of Round 2 applications, and materials will be provided to the Board in the same manner.

Senator Moore asked for an indication between re-applications and new applications. Commissioner Designee Daum confirmed this would be done.

Speaker Ritter asked for a confirmation of the amount of funding available in Round 2. Mr. Pugliese noted the amount was approximately \$99 million. Mr. Mounds confirmed the available funding is up to \$175 million per year.

Mr. Pugliese informed the CIF Board members he would be in touch with them after the close of Round 2's application phase with the total number of proposals and the amount requested.

5. New Business

a. Round 1 Project Updates and Round 2 Outreach

Mr. Pugliese reported on December 8, 2022, the State Bond Commission approved funding for all 26 Round 1 CIF projects as recommended by the CIF Board. The contracting process will soon be underway for these projects.

Mr. Pugliese introduced Assistant Director of CIF, Melinda Wilson.

Mr. Pugliese reviewed outreach to municipalities for Round 2. Thirty-three of the fifty-five eligible communities applied in Round 1. CIF staff met with all the municipalities that did not apply in Round 1 to clarify the opportunity. CIF staff have held over 100 one-on-one meetings to guide the application process with potential applicants for Round 2. Round 2 has the potential to have more applicants than Round 1.

b. Ethics Overview

Peter Lewandowski from the State Ethics Office gave a brief presentation on conflicts of interests (COI) in relation to elected officials taking official action.

As public officials, conflicts arise if a public official receives direct financial benefit or loss. This is distinct from other professions. It requires public officials to abstain from official action when a reasonable expectation of distinct financial gain is present for the official or spouses, dependents, parents, spouses of the official's children, and associated businesses. One exception would be to present a written statement, recorded in the official minutes of the meeting, that despite the COI, one can function in the public's interest. The CIF letter of support policy may address this issue. When it comes to appearance, it is left to the discretion of the official whether to take action or not. The term associated business does not include NPOs that a public official may serve as a volunteer director. Nothing under the code of ethics affects a public official from voting provided the official does not get financial benefit.

The Office of State Ethics is available for questions as a resource.

Deputy Commissioner Daum inquired about public statements made by public

officials around applications prior to the CIF Board's deliberation. Mr.

Lewandowski noted it is part of a public official's job to advocate for the communities represented. Nothing in the code of ethics would prohibit public statements regarding applications provided the official does not gain financial benefit.

Speaker Ritter spoke to the uniqueness and efficacy of the CIF Board with different points of view being represented.

Mr. Mounds followed up on Deputy Commissioner Daum's question. He spoke to the importance to the sanctity of the CIF Board to not comment on pending applications to give the members the ability to review applications without judgement and look at projects independently for all applicants. This enables all applications to have due consideration. Commissioner Designee Daum agreed with Mr. Mound's comments and noted that while not an issue from a procedural standpoint, applicants have felt that their application was not getting duly considered and perhaps the members could consider limiting those comments if possible.

Mr. Lewandowski noted that individual state agencies and boards can address circumstances that are pertinent to them and very common. This can go beyond the code.

Speaker Ritter spoke to the meritorious nature of the CIF Board to have economic impact. He agreed with the comments raised by Mr. Mounds and Commissioner Designee Daum.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Senator Looney, seconded by Paul Mounds, the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board unanimously adjourned at 10:31 AM.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR ITEM 4a.

On bottom of page 7 of CIF Program and Policy Guidelines

Projects Receiving Priority

As required by the Statute, the Board shall give priority to eligible projects for any of the following reasons:

1. The application is proposed by a municipality that (A) has implemented local hiring preferences pursuant to section 7-112 of the General Statutes, or (B) has or will leverage municipal, private, philanthropic or federal funds for such project;
2. The application has a project labor agreement or employs or will employ ex-offenders or individuals with physical, intellectual or developmental disabilities; and
3. The application from a municipality includes a letter of support for the proposed eligible project from a member or members of the General Assembly in whose district the eligible project is or will be located.

Board members, who are members of the general assembly, will not provide written letters of support to municipal applications for statutory prioritization of such application.

In the event that both the Senator and Representative for the district in a municipality where the project is located are sitting on the board, the absence of a letter will not penalize the municipal applicant.

ITEM 4b

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR ROUND 2 REVIEW

- This timeline doubles the amount of time the CIF Board had to review Round 1 material from 10 days to 21 days

ROUND 2

Applications Due to DECD	Friday January 6, 2023
Executive Summaries/Applications to Board	Tuesday February 14, 2023
CIF Staff Available for Board Questions	Through March 6, 2023
CIF Board Communicates Recommendations to Board Chairs	Monday March 6, 2023
CIF Board Meeting to Make Round 2 Recommendations	Tuesday March 14, 2023

ROUND 3

Notice of Funding Issued/Portal Opens	Monday May 1, 2023
Applications Due to DECD	Friday June 30, 2023
Executive Summaries/Applications to Board	Tuesday August 15, 2023
CIF Staff Available for Board Questions	Through September 5, 2023
CIF Board Communicates Recommendations to Board Chairs	Tuesday September 5, 2023
CIF Board Meeting to Make Round 3 Recommendations	Tuesday September 12, 2023