



**Edition 6:** January 22, 2024

## Support for Federal Funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program




*From Left to Right: Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Representative Rosa DeLauro, State Senator Jorge Cabrera, and DAS Commissioner Michelle Gilman*

Commissioner Gilman joined Governor Lamont, Senator Blumenthal, Congresswoman DeLauro, Senator Cabrera, and Mayor Garrett to support the continuation of funding for the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) in the federal budget. The ACP, which was launched two years ago as part of the federal infrastructure bill, provides discounted internet access and devices for low-income residents and plays an important part in helping our state meet its digital equity goals.

DAS recently rolled out 'Everyone Connected,' the state's five-year digital equity plan, seeking to address:

🌀 Availability and affordability of internet access and devices

 Digital literacy, including training to help develop cybersecurity and other skills

 Technical support, and

 Access to public resources and services.

The public comment period for the **Draft Digital Equity Plan** ends at **11:59pm on January 24th**, and we thank all legislators who made their voices heard or shared the opportunity to comment with their constituents. DAS is currently considering all feedback and revising the plan before finalizing it for submission to the federal government by the end of March.

## Launch of Jobs.CT.Gov - New One-Stop Portal for Job Seekers

On January 18th, Governor Lamont announced the launch of Connecticut's new jobs portal, [jobs.ct.gov](https://jobs.ct.gov). The portal is aimed at assisting Connecticut residents and those seeking to move to the state in finding a job. It also represents the latest development in the Lamont administration's ongoing journey toward an all-digital state government.

[Jobs.ct.gov](https://jobs.ct.gov) joins [health.ct.gov](https://health.ct.gov) and [business.ct.gov](https://business.ct.gov) as the next service category to be developed in the new digital, one-stop government ecosystem. Some of the resources available through the jobs portal include:

- Powerful job search tools;
- Job search tips and personal help;
- Free and low-cost training, certificate, and classroom programs; and
- Resources to help employers hire, train, and retain employees.

“Over the past few years, Connecticut has made dramatic progress on its digital journey,” **Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Commissioner Michelle Gilman said.** “[Jobs.ct.gov](https://jobs.ct.gov) is another example of cross-agency collaboration that will lead to a better experience for the resident. We recognize the need to meet residents where they are, making information more easily

accessible while working to break down agency barriers. The jobs portal is an exciting development, giving jobseekers another tool to help connect them to opportunities, and we expect more initiatives like this in the coming months and years.”

[Visit Jobs.CT.Gov](#)

[Read Governor Lamont's Press Release](#)

## **Information for CT Small/Minority Businesses**

Connecticut's small and minority-owned business certifications help companies build revenue and find potential new customers through growth and marketing opportunities. The DAS Procurement team is committed to proactive outreach and support to businesses as they work to make the certification process as simple as possible. Certification clinics will be offered monthly in 2024. We encourage you to share the flyer below with your constituents including information on how to register for an upcoming clinic.

# CT Small/Minority Business Enterprise (S/MBE) Certification and [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) Registration

## 2024 Hands-On Certification Clinics

S/MBE certification helps companies build revenue and find potential new customers through growth and marketing opportunities.

Representatives from the state's Procurement Division and Connecticut APEX Accelerator will be onsite to review your applications for the S/MBE Certification and the SAM.gov registration (required for certification).

- Review your initial application
- Assist in updating your recertification application
- Answer your questions
- And more!

### Location:

The Metropolitan District (MDC) Training Center  
125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT 06114

**Time:** 12:00 PM—2:00 PM

### 2024 Clinic Schedule: Clinics are held on these Wednesdays:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| • January 17  | • June 12      |
| • February 28 | • August 21    |
| • March 20    | • September 18 |
| • April 17    | • October 16   |
| • May 15      | • November 20  |

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### Pre-Registration is Required to Attend.

**EMAIL:** Kevin Nodwell at: [kevin.nodwell@ct.gov](mailto:kevin.nodwell@ct.gov).

Register to attend one clinic, or more, as needed. If you register and cannot make it, please cancel in advance.

LUNCH IS PROVIDED.  
NO COST TO ATTEND.  
SPACE IS LIMITED.

## Updates on Major Projects



On the Real Estate and Construction Services front, substantial progress has been made on major projects including DEEP's new Western District Headquarters at Black Rock State Park, the first phase of projects under the state's energy audits, and the major door and window replacement project at the Osborn Correctional Institute. We look forward to completing these projects and more – including a number of solar

installations – in the coming months. DAS and our agency partners will be in touch with you about upcoming ribbon cuttings and other events near you.

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Connecticut Department of Administrative Services  
450 Columbus Blvd  
Hartford, CT 06103

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