



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MEETING OF THE SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
10:00 A.M. VIA ZOOM**

1) Call to Order, Welcome, and Attendance

Chair Andréa Comer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Andréa Comer (Chair)
Kyle Abercrombie
Tina Beamon
Corrie Betts
Fanita Borges
Greg Davis
Avery Gaddis
Andréa Hawkins
Michael Jefferson
Ojala Naeem
Edwin Shirley
Shirley Skyers-Thomas
Charles Venator-Santiago
Kevin Walton

Members Not Present:

Brittany Lamar
Melvin Medina
Kelli-Marie Vallieres

- 2)** Chair Comer asked for a motion pursuant to 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes requesting an amendment to the agenda adding an item to enter into executive session.

Motion: Michael Jefferson

Second: Kyle Abercrombie

Discussion: None

In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously

Chair Comer asked for a motion to go into executive session. **Motion: Edwin Shirley**
Second: Michael Jefferson
Executive session took place

The parties entered into executive session at 10:10am. Executive session ended at 10:50am. Upon returning from the Executive Session, Chair Comer re-called the roll, and all previous parties remained present with the exception of Councilmember Betts.

3) Approval of June 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Comer asked for a motion to approve the June 2, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion: Michael Jefferson
Second: Kyle Abercrombie
Discussion: None
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously.

4) Updates from the CT SEC

Chief Executive Officer Brandon L. McGee thanked the council members and all who participated in the budgeting process. Explanation was given as to the different approach taken for the fiscal year '27 budget. Smaller budget briefings were created so members could review and ask questions rather than waiting until the budget reached the full council. The finance committee completed its review and voted to recommend the budget to the full council.

CEO McGee explained the strategy behind the budget is moving from building the infrastructure to delivering at scale and with three principles: 1) every dollar should advance opportunity, 2) every investment should produce measurable impact, and 3) every decision should strengthen public trust.

The proposed fiscal year 27 operation budget is approximately \$29.95 million, with the largest share being a little over \$20 million, or approximately 67%, which is within the Council's reinvestment hub.

The SEC staff recommends approval of the proposed \$29.95 million fiscal year 27 operating budget. It expands investments in disproportionately impacted communities, strengthens workforce and education opportunities, and allows leveraging of partnerships instead of trying to

build every solution internally and provides the organizational capacity necessary to manage the investments responsibly.

Councilman Jefferson asked for clarification on how the microgrant funds are accessed. Chief Program Officer, Mariedy Collazo Cruz explained they are still in the design phase of how it will be rolled out. The intent is to roll out the first quarter of 2027 with certain requirements, like an application process, that will be established to ensure the funds are distributed equitably to the smaller entities.\

At this time, Councilman Gaddis reviewed the budget numbers line by line. Councilman Jefferson asked questions about the intent of the MOAs. CPO, Mariedy Collazo Cruz explained that, with the exception of Housing and Southern, the MOAs have not been finalized and anything that is budgeted for \$100,000 or more has to go through the Council.

Councilman Walton questioned what the funding process will look like once the budget is approved. CPO Cruz gave a brief explanation of the process. Councilman Davis asked questions about sponsorships and who the Council is looking to sponsor. CEO McGee explained that the bylaws articulate that any expenses exceeding \$100,000 need to be approved by the Council and proceeded to give examples of the types of organizations that may be entertained for sponsorships.

Councilman Walton and Chair Comer questioned line 20 of the proposed budget regarding professional development and staff development. CEO McGee explained that the difference is one is for things like conferences (line 20) and the other is more internal for items like vendors coming in to help for things like staff training.

5) Vote on FY 2027 Budget

Motion: Ivory Gaddis

Second: Michael Jefferson

Discussion: Council members asked questions to clarify MOAs, microgrants, process for distributing funds, sponsorships, professional development, staff development

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Recusals/Abstentions: Andréa Hawkins

Motion passed.

6) Vote on Policies

Attorney Mullins discussed two policies that were created in response to the most recent legislative session. The policies are a reflection of legislation passed through Public Act 26-100 and Public Act 26-8 and were developed to provide clear operational guidance and establish consistent procedures for carrying out the Council's statutory responsibilities. The drafting

process included internal drafting by staff, review by the Office of Attorney General, review by the Policy Governance and Legislative committees, and external stakeholder feedback. The process did not require formal review by the Office of the Governor, OPM, and any revisions that were made did not require a second review and approval from the Policy Governance and Legislative Committee. Once the policies are approved by the Council they will be posted to the SEC website and the eReg system on September 15, 2026, and become effective October 1, 2026. Later in the year, another process will begin for the formal regulatory rulemaking process which includes public comment.

21a-420d(k) (Changes to Equity Joint Venture/Ownership and Control) - Operational Policy

This policy establishes the process and standards the Council will use to review proposed changes involving backers, ownership, or control of regulated businesses, including the information and documentation required for Council review.

21a-420g (Social Equity Eligibility/Change in Ownership) - Operational Policy

This policy establishes the social equity eligibility requirements that must be maintained or evaluated when businesses undergo a change in ownership, helping to ensure that ownership changes remain consistent with applicable social equity requirements.

Chairwoman Comer requested a motion for the Policy 21a-420d(k): Changes to Equity Joint Venture/Ownership and Control.

Motion: Andréa Hawkins
Second: Michael Jefferson
Discussion: None
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Recusals/Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Comer requested a motion for the Policy 21a-420g: Social Equity Eligibility/Change in Ownership.

Motion: Andréa Hawkins
Second: Michael Jefferson
Discussion: None
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
Recusals/Abstentions: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Council briefly spoke on the upcoming meetings scheduled. September 8, 2026, at 11:00am via Zoom, **Special Council Meeting to review and vote on the proposed grantees and awards** under the R2 Program.

September 17th, Policy, Governance and **Legislative Committee Meeting**

September 17th, **Finance Committee Meeting**

November 18th, 2026, **Annual Impact Summit** at Goodwin University in East Hartford, CT.

7) **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Avery Gaddis

Second: Michael Jefferson

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately **11:40 a.m.**