



# Community Reinvestment Grant Program Violence Prevention Notice of Funds Availability

*Date Released: March 14, 2024*

The Social Equity Council (SEC) is an entity within the Department of Economic and Community Development formed by statute and signed into law by Governor Ned Lamont in 2021. The SEC was created to ensure that the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably, and that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are reinvested in the communities hardest hit by the "war on drugs."

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

- The SEC will receive proposals from third-party grant managers to administer community reinvestment funds derived from Connecticut's adult-use cannabis industry.
- The purpose of the grants is to:
  - Provide immediate financial assistance to enhance programs and services for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.
  - Support broad-based economic development in DIA communities.
  - Increase the quality of life, vibrancy, accessibility, and equity in communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.

## FUNDING DISTRIBUTION:

- Grant managers will be awarded funds from adult use cannabis tax and licensing revenue that will be managed and distributed as part of a **three-year budget contract period**.
- The SEC will award grants to third-party grant managers to administer community reinvestment funds in 36 DIA communities consolidated into 6 impacted regions.
  1. Bridgeport/Stamford Area
  2. New London/Norwich Area
  3. Greater Hartford Area
  4. Hartford Capital Area
  5. New Haven Area
  6. Waterbury Area
- These funds will be used to serve persons living in and/or serving communities that meet the SEC definition of a Disproportionately Impacted Area (DIA). The communities and residents will be verified by zip codes/census tracts.
- Funds will be distributed by grant managers over several rounds of grantmaking across the three-year period to better enable program impact evaluation.

## WHAT IS A DIA?

- A DIA is a census tract in the state that has a historical conviction rate for drug-related offenses greater than one-tenth of the populations, as determined by the Social Equity Council.

- To identify these census tracts, arrest and conviction records from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) were geocoded to calculate the count of cannabis-related convictions in Connecticut from 1982-2020 by census tract. Geocoding refers to a process for converting street addresses into spatial data (latitude and longitude) that can be displayed as features on a map.
- There are 36 municipalities with qualifying DIA census tracts.

**ELIGIBLE GRANT MANAGEMENT APPLICANTS:**

- Grantmaking agencies with 5 or more years of grant management experience
- Headquartered in Connecticut

*All grant management applicants must demonstrate experience and an ability to work in urban centers with diverse groups; experience in managing large scale programs; knowledge of and access to essential resources needed to successfully carry out this contract; experience in providing technical assistance training, project management, program development, and compliance with applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations.*

**ELIGIBLE USE OF GRANT ADMINISTRATION FUNDS:**

- Administrative costs (not to exceed 3-7% of grant awarded to Grant Manager)
- Contract closing fees and legal expenses related to grant administration (*i.e.*: *Single Audit*)

**NON-ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS BY GRANT MANAGER:**

- Loan Fund(create/replenish)
- Lobbying
- Payment of taxes
- Subsidizing a business
- Refinancing or restructuring existing debt
- Relocation of a business
- Personal loans
- Personal needs (child support, rent, utilities, etc.)
- Illegal activities
- Purchase/lease of vehicles

**GRANT MANAGER MATCH REQUIREMENT: - NO MATCH REQUIRED**

**GRANT MANAGER APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Eligible applicants submit:
  - Questionnaire with Supporting Documents.
- SEC staff conducts initial review of completed questionnaires and supporting documents.
- SEC staff makes grant management recommendations to the Council.
- SEC votes on grant management recommendations.
- SEC staff notifies approved grant management awardees in writing.
- SEC staff notifies declined grant manager applicants in writing.



## GRANT MANAGER APPLICATION TIMELINE

NOFA - Released	March 13-15, 2024	
Information Sessions and Q&A for applicants (LIVE via ZOOM)	March 18, 2024 March 21, 2024	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Q & A responses provided	March 25, 2024	3:00PM
Grant Manager Application Period	March 27 - April 9, 2024	11:59 PM
Deadline to Submit Application	April 9, 2024	11:59 PM
Questionnaire Review Period (SEC Staff)	April 10 - 14, 2024	
Grant Manager Recommendations	April 15, 2024	
Reinvestment Committee Meeting	April 17, 2024	2:00 PM
Council Vote – Special Meeting	April 17, 2024	3:00 PM
Grant Manager Contract Execution	April 18 - May 12, 2024	
Funding Award to Grant Managers	May 22 - May 25, 2024	

## HOW TO APPLY:

### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
2. Attend Information Session (Mandatory)
3. To Download NOFA and Questionnaire Forms Go to:  
[Social Equity Council\(ct.gov\)](https://www.social-equitycouncil.com)
4. Submit Questionnaire and Supporting Documents to:  
[SECPROGRAMS@CT.GOV](mailto:SECPROGRAMS@CT.GOV) Application Deadline: **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 11:59 PM**

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Information Sessions Are Scheduled For:  
**March 18, 2024, at 12:00 PM**  
Live via ZOOM  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mcnThmCnQmyOLObfo2wh3Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mcnThmCnQmyOLObfo2wh3Q)
- March 21, 2024, at 12:00 PM**  
Live via Zoom  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-MH49ttiS7WBoHpBjN3NXA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-MH49ttiS7WBoHpBjN3NXA)

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Questionnaire with Supporting Documents