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Applications Open for Connecticut Social Equity Council Community Reinvestment Program

Reimagine & Revitalize (R2) will invest \$36 million over three years to support Economic Development, Reentry Initiatives, and Youth Initiatives across Connecticut communities

Hartford, Conn., May 26, 2026 – The Connecticut Social Equity Council (the Council) announced today the statewide launch of applications for the Reimagine & Revitalize (R2) Program, a \$36 million community reinvestment initiative designed to expand opportunity and strengthen communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs.

Through the R2 Program, the Council will invest \$36 million over three years in community-driven initiatives aligned with three core priority areas: Economic Development, Reentry Initiatives, and Youth Initiatives. Funding will support community-based organizations (CBOs) working to create sustainable, locally driven solutions that advance economic opportunity, promote stability, and improve outcomes across Connecticut communities.

Applications are now open for eligible organizations serving one of the Council's ten designated R2 regions. Funding in each region is expected to support approximately 18 community-based organizations, with grant awards ranging from \$75,000 to \$300,000 total.

“The launch of the R2 notice of funding represents a major step forward in delivering on our commitment to areas most impacted by the War on Drugs,” said Brandon L. McGee Jr., CEO of the Council. “This investment is about more than funding programs. It is about creating long-term opportunity, supporting community-led solutions, and ensuring resources reach the communities they were intended to serve so that they may prosper and thrive.”

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“Advancing equity through intentional reinvestment in marginalized communities is our North Star,” said Andréa Comer, Chair of the Council. “There are so many organizations doing incredibly meaningful work in their communities, and we are thrilled to support and enhance their impact in the regions of our state that need it most.”

“The launch of applications marks an important milestone as we move from planning to implementation,” said Ojala Naeem, Chair of the Council’s Reinvestment and Workforce Committee. “The Reinvestment and Workforce Committee has remained focused on ensuring these investments support community-driven solutions while creating pathways to opportunity, workforce development, and long-term growth.”

The R2 Program will be administered through designated Grant Managers serving ten targeted regions across Connecticut. Each Grant Manager will oversee the local application process, administer funding, conduct information sessions, and support awarded organizations within their assigned region.

Regional Grant Managers

Region	Grant Manager
Bridgeport	Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Danbury	United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
Hartford/East Hartford	United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
Meriden	Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
New Britain	Community Foundation for Greater New Britain
New Haven/East Haven/West Haven	United Way of Greater New Haven
New London/Norwich/Windham	United Way of Southeastern Connecticut
Norwalk	United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
Stamford	United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut
Waterbury	United Way of Greater Waterbury

Organizations should apply through the Grant Manager designated for the region in which services will be delivered. Application requirements, eligibility information, timelines, information sessions, and submission instructions are available through each Grant Manager’s website.

Applications open: **May 26, 2026**
Application deadline: **July 15, 2026**

For additional information about the R2 Program and regional Grant Managers visit the [Council’s Community Reinvestment webpage](#).

About the Connecticut Social Equity Council:

The Social Equity Council was established to ensure that Connecticut’s cannabis industry and economic development efforts provide real access and lasting investment for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis criminalization. Through strategic funding, partnerships, and accountability, the Council is creating pathways to prosperity for individuals and neighborhoods long excluded from opportunity. For more information, including highlights of the strategic plan, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/social-equity-council>

