The Council

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Media Contact:
Mariedy Collazo Cruz
SEC.Community@ct.gov
860-416-9225

Connecticut Social Equity Council Approves More Than 170 Organizations for $36 Million Community Reinvestment Initiative

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

Hartford, Conn., September 15, 2026 – The Connecticut Social Equity Council (the Council) announced today the approval of approximately 174 community-based organizations across Connecticut for funding through the Reimagine & Revitalize (R2) Program, a $36 million, three-year community reinvestment initiative focused on communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs.

The selected organizations will lead community-driven initiatives across three core priority areas: Economic Development, Reentry Initiatives, and Youth Initiatives. Through these investments, organizations will work directly within their communities to expand economic opportunity, promote stability, strengthen pathways to employment and advancement, and improve outcomes for individuals and families.

"We've spent a lot of time talking about what meaningful reinvestment should look like. Now we are turning that vision into action in disproportionately impacted communities across Connecticut, said Brandon L. McGee Jr., CEO of the Council. “The organizations receiving these funds know their communities, understand their needs, and have already built the trust required to make a difference. R2 allows us to invest directly in that work, helping CBOs expand their reach and create new opportunities. This is reinvestment in action and it's where the real work begins."

“The Council is committed to reinvesting in the Disproportionately Impacted Areas of the State by ensuring the organizations and programs that empower residents have the support they need,” said Andréa Comer, Chair of the Council. “I applaud Executive Director McGee and the team at the SEC for their diligence and clarity in implementing this crucial process.”

“This milestone moves R2 from planning and selection into community impact,” said Ojala Naeem, Chair of the Council’s Reinvestment and Workforce Committee. “This has been a long project for the Reinvestment and Workforce Committee, and we are thrilled to see these dollars going to communities throughout the state.”

R2 funding will be distributed over three years, with funded organizations implementing programs and initiatives across ten targeted regions of Connecticut. Regional Grant Managers will administer awards and provide ongoing support to participating organizations throughout the funding period.

Applicants were evaluated on areas such as statement of need, project sustainability, program goals, resources/readiness, budget, existing programs and services and project feasibility. CBOs selected for funding will be onboarded and provided capacity building training. This is the largest community reinvestment program since the agency’s inception.

The R2 Program represents a significant statewide investment in organizations working directly within communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs. With established community relationships and local expertise, these organizations are positioned to develop solutions that respond to community needs and create pathways to long-term economic opportunity and stability.

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/socialequitycouncil