

Monday March 2nd, 2:30-3:00 PM
 DECD/OWS Appropriations Committee Budget Work Session

Working Session Questions:

1. Various Grants account – Provide a detailed breakout on the account and the proposed cuts.

The Governor’s budget reduces funding for various legislatively directed funds by 20 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 27 in order to meet the constitutional requirements for budget balance and spending cap compliance. This includes the following DECD-administered accounts (original appropriation in brackets and new proposed amount underlined):

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT

Spanish-American Merchants Association	[\$442,194]	<u>\$353,755</u>
CCAT-CT Manufacturing Supply Chain	[\$2,585,000]	<u>\$2,068,000</u>
Hartford 2000	[\$20,000]	<u>\$16,000</u>
Black Business Alliance	[\$442,194]	<u>\$353,755</u>
Hartford Economic Development Corp	[\$442,194]	<u>\$353,755</u>
CONNSTEP	[\$500,000]	<u>\$400,000</u>
Various Grants	[\$20,176,930]	<u>\$16,141,544</u>
Futures Inc	[\$85,000]	<u>\$68,000</u>
Forge City Works	[\$300,000]	<u>\$240,000</u>
CT Community Empowerment Foundation	[\$100,000]	<u>\$80,000</u>
City Seed	[\$300,000]	<u>\$240,000</u>
AGENCY TOTAL	[\$51,654,660]	<u>\$46,919,099</u>

With regards to the Various Grants account, the Governor's budget doesn't identify which organizations are reduced and by how much, just that the Various Grants account be reduced by 20% in aggregate. Decisions about which organizations receive General Fund Various Grants are made by the legislature and ultimately it is up to the legislature to determine what is funded through that line. The administration is open to the 20% reduction being applied equally to each organization or reducing grants at different rates, as long as the total cuts add up to a 20% total reduction.

Here is the full list of entities within the FY 27 General Fund Various Grants line item, showing their original FY 27 appropriation and what a 20% reduction to each award would look like:

Account	Grant/Project	FY 27	FY 27 with 20% Reduction
General Fund			
Various Grants	100 Girls Leading	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	A Little Compassion Inc.	\$10,000	\$8,000
Various Grants	ActUp Theater, Hartford	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Amazing Grace Food Pantry	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	America 250 Commission	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Andover Parks & Rec	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	Angel of Edgewood	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Annex Little League	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Avon Senior Center	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Batchelder School, Hartford - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$110,000	\$88,000
Various Grants	BEDCO: Bridgeport Jazz Festival	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	BEDCO: Downtown Thursdays - Bridgeport	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	Bethlehem House, Bridgeport	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Bolton Parks & Rec	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	Boys and Girls Club of Stamford	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Brass City Harvest Regional Food Hub	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	Bridgeport Fitness Academy	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Bridgeport Pop Warner Raiders Football and Cheerleading	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Bridgeport pride	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Buddy Jordan Foundation	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Building One	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	Burroughs Community Center Infrastructure Improvements	\$900,000	\$720,000
Various Grants	Center for Family Justice, Bridgeport	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Clay Arsenal Development Corporation	\$525,000	\$420,000
Various Grants	Color a Positive Thought	\$75,000	\$60,000
Various Grants	Colors of the World	\$40,000	\$32,000
Various Grants	Community Resources for Justice (Family ReEntry) "Rise" Program, New Haven	\$528,000	\$422,400
Various Grants	Compass Youth Collaborative	\$700,000	\$560,000
Various Grants	East End Tabernacle Church, Bridgeport	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Bridgeport	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	University of Bridgeport	\$500,000	\$400,000
Various Grants	Cornerstone Community Foundation	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	CT Invention Convention	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Danbury Youth Services - Porch & Parking Lot	\$83,930	\$67,144

Various Grants	East Hartford Historical Preservation Projects	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	Fathers Helping Fathers	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Founders Walk	\$600,000	\$480,000
Various Grants	Four Season Ski Jumping Facility Upgrades	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Friends Center Day Care	\$75,000	\$60,000
Various Grants	Friends of Cos Cob Library	\$5,000	\$4,000
Various Grants	Friends of Nathaniel Witherell Inc.	\$20,000	\$16,000
Various Grants	From Quicksand Unto Solid Ground	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Glastonbury Parks & Rec	\$500,000	\$400,000
Various Grants	Hartford Communities that Care - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$110,000	\$88,000
Various Grants	Hartford Police Athletic League - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$115,000	\$92,000
Various Grants	High Poverty Community Leadership Development	\$500,000	\$400,000
Various Grants	Homes for Hope	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Greater New Haven	\$10,000	\$8,000
Various Grants	Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation	\$2,500	\$2,000
Various Grants	Jerome Orcutt Boys and Girls Club, Bridgeport	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	Juneteenth of Fairfield County	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County "Disconnected Youth" Program	\$287,500	\$230,000
Various Grants	Junta for Progressive Action	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	Kamora's Cultural Corner, Hartford	\$10,000	\$8,000
Various Grants	Kennelly School, Hartford - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$110,000	\$88,000
Various Grants	Latinas & Power, Corp.	\$125,000	\$100,000
Various Grants	Life Health and Wellness Center	\$10,000	\$8,000
Various Grants	Lucy Robbins Welles Library Renovation Planning (Newington)	\$20,000	\$16,000
Various Grants	Manchester Park Improvements	\$300,000	\$240,000
Various Grants	Manchester Parks & Rec	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
Various Grants	Middlesex YMCA	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Milford American Legion	\$65,000	\$52,000
Various Grants	Mobility Hub West Hartford	\$300,000	\$240,000
Various Grants	N.E. Supreme Athletes	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Naugatuck American Legion	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	Naylor School, Hartford - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$110,000	\$88,000
Various Grants	New Haven Boys and Girls Club	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Town of Newington Project Planning: 30K to be used for Fire Department planning and 20K to be used for animal shelter planning	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Newington Town Pools Project Planning (Mill Pond & Churchill)	\$15,000	\$12,000

Various Grants	Northern Middlesex YMCA	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	One Love	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	PAL Hartford	\$500,000	\$400,000
Various Grants	Parkville Senior Center	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	RF Youth Boxing, Inc. (RFYB Fitness Professional Academy)	\$160,000	\$128,000
Various Grants	Ridgefield Meeting House	\$25,000	\$20,000
Various Grants	Roaring Brook Nature Center	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Saint Joseph Parenting Center	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	SAND Elementary School, Hartford - Musical Instruments and Instruction	\$110,000	\$88,000
Various Grants	SilverSource, Inc.	\$150,000	\$120,000
Various Grants	Sisters at the Shore	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Sons of Thunder	\$30,000	\$24,000
Various Grants	South End Community Center	\$205,000	\$164,000
Various Grants	Southend Senior Center (Hartford)	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	Special Olympics CT	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	Stamford Museum & Nature Center	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
Various Grants	Stay At Home Wilton	\$60,000	\$48,000
Various Grants	STEAM Train	\$30,000	\$24,000
Various Grants	Stepping to Prosperity Inc	\$75,000	\$60,000
Various Grants	Stratford Old Timers Athletic Association	\$75,000	\$60,000
Various Grants	Stratford Veterans Museum	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Team, Inc	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Town of Farmington - Part Time Seasonal Help	\$20,000	\$16,000
Various Grants	Trumbull Gardens (through Color a Positive Thought)	\$90,000	\$72,000
Various Grants	Trumbull Nature and Arts Center	\$50,000	\$40,000
Various Grants	Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative	\$550,000	\$440,000
Various Grants	Veterans' Memorial Clubhouse	\$450,000	\$360,000
Various Grants	Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative - Recruitment Ambassadors	\$250,000	\$200,000
Various Grants	Wethersfield Senior Center	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	Wilson-Gray YMCA	\$500,000	\$400,000
Various Grants	Windsor Community Center	\$15,000	\$12,000
Various Grants	Wolf Pit School Playground	\$200,000	\$160,000
Various Grants	Working Cities Challenge	\$1,150,000	\$920,000
Various Grants	YMCA of Meriden, New Britain, Berlin	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Youth Business Initiative	\$20,000	\$16,000
Various Grants	Youth programming at Parker Memorial Community Center, Hartford	\$100,000	\$80,000
Various Grants	Upper Albany - City of Hartford	\$1,000,000	\$800,000
Total General Fund		\$20,176,930	\$16,141,544

2. Provide a high-level summary of each Special Identification Number (SID), including metrics that measure progress.

Our most recent [annual report](#) includes a detailed breakdown of each program DECD administers as well as an estimation of the return on investment (ROI) for the state.

3. Community Investment Fund (CIF) – summary of the program, list of projects with a status update.

The Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) is intended to foster economic development in historically underserved communities across the state. CIF was initially authorized for \$175 million each year from FY 2023 through FY 2027. [Public Act 25-174](#) reduced FY 2026 and 2027's authorized amount to \$121 million for each year. CIF provides support to eligible municipalities as well as not-for-profit organizations and community development corporations that operate within them. The CIF board makes awards across two application periods per year.

Grant Types

- **Capital improvement programs**, such as brownfield remediation, affordable housing, infrastructure, clean energy development, and home or public facility rehabilitation.
- **Planning** for capital projects including activities such as community engagement processes, feasibility studies, development of project plan and construction budget.

Roles and Responsibilities

- DECD administers the program by overseeing the application process, vetting applications, sending application summaries to the CIF Board, and managing awards and reporting.
- The CIF Board and Office of the Governor review applications and the summaries prepared by DECD and make recommendations to the State Bond Commission.
- The State Bond Commission approves grants for projects.

Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities designated in state law as Distressed Municipality, Public Investment Community or Alliance District.
- Community Development Corporations which serve one or more eligible municipalities.
- Not-for-profit organizations which serve one or more eligible municipalities.

Eligible Projects

- Promote economic or community development in the municipality where the project is located.
- Consistently and systematically advance fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities such as Black, Latino and indigenous and native American persons, Asian

Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; persons comprising the LGBTQ+ community; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

CIF Projects To Date

Please see the attached summary of projects in the [FY 25 Community Investment Fund Report](#). This report will be updated with Round 7 projects for the next CIF Board meeting in March 2026.

4. State Historic Preservation Office

a. Summary on progress made with SHPO and changes implemented to SHPO.

Section 43 of Public Act 24-1 ([now CGS Sec. 22a-1j](#)) establishes the required steps, timelines, consultation requirements, and reporting obligations for the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) review of projects subject to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

The process applies whenever a sponsoring agency requests an initial determination from SHPO under CEPA. Projects governed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, or those involving archaeological or sacred sites are excluded.

Statutory timelines effective October 1, 2024

- **30 days** for SHPO to issue an initial determination on whether a project may significantly impact historic structures or landmarks.
- **45 days** for SHPO to develop a proposed mitigation plan when an adverse effect is identified.
- **15 days** for the sponsoring agency to request DECD Commissioner review of the proposed mitigation plan.
- **30 days** for the DECD Commissioner to complete that review.
-

Mitigation and Commissioner Review

If a project is found to have an adverse effect and no prudent or feasible alternative is identified, SHPO must work with the sponsoring agency and funding recipient to develop a mitigation plan. SHPO must also consult with the DECD Commissioner (or designee) regarding the project's economic impacts and potential mitigation strategies and incorporate that input into the plan.

If the sponsoring agency or funding recipient declines to execute the proposed mitigation plan, it may request that the DECD Commissioner review the plan and recommend revisions. Upon request, the Commissioner must hold a conference to discuss the project and the proposed mitigation measures before issuing recommendations.

Annual Reporting

SHPO must publish all executed mitigation agreements on the DECD website each year, with posting required by January 1 for the preceding fiscal year.

From October 1, 2024, to the present, SHPO reviewed **3,570** undertakings, with **324** projects (**9%**) subject to the new CEPA review process.

Only **ten (10)** of the 324 projects (**3%**) received an initial **adverse effect** determination or included elements with the potential to adversely affect historic properties. After consultation with applicants, **six (6)** were revised to **no adverse effect**. The remaining **four (4)** were addressed through standard mitigation measures such as documentation and interpretive materials, and no objections were submitted.

SHPO completed all reviews well within the statutory 30-day requirement, averaging 14.8 days per review.

- b. Summary on new procedure in place. How does that work for historic buildings which cannot be maintained and may be transferred to the town or condemned.

The Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) requires State agencies to identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of proposed State actions that may significantly affect the environment. This evaluation allows the sponsoring or funding agency to determine whether it is appropriate to proceed with a project in light of its potential environmental consequences.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) supports State agencies in meeting their CEPA obligations. As part of this role, SHPO evaluates whether a proposed action may disrupt or alter a historic, architectural, or archaeological resource—or its surrounding setting. As noted above, this review process applies only to actions undertaken by a State agency or funded with State agency resources.

If a building cannot be maintained and must be demolished, the action typically results in a finding of Adverse Effect, which requires the development of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate that impact. The procedures for addressing Adverse Effect findings are outlined in [CGS Sec. 22a-1j](#).

The transfer of State-owned property to private or municipal ownership is also governed by ([CGS Sec. 4b-47](#)) and includes several required steps, such as public notice.

In Connecticut, a building may be condemned—declared unfit for human habitation or use—only by local health or building officials. SHPO does not participate in this local condemnation process. However, if a condemned building is part of a State action under

CEPA review, SHPO considers the condemnation status during its consultation.

5. Makerspace – Provide a status update on this program/recent legislation.

[Public Act 25-149](#) requires the commissioner to establish and administer a pilot program, by January 1, 2026, to give financial assistance to entities establishing or expanding makerspaces that may serve as self-sustaining models in Connecticut. Specifically, the grant program will fund capital expenditures and planning activities for makerspaces to develop operational sustainability. Makerspaces are prohibited from using the financial assistance for personnel costs.

The pilot program has an authorization of \$1million in Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) funds. Ten percent (\$100,000) may be used for the cost of administering the program. An annual report evaluating the operation and effectiveness of the program is due January 1, 2027, to the Commerce Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Once Public Act 25-149 passed, DECD met internally to identify an implementation team and determine next steps. DECD has requested the funding be added to the State Bond Commission agenda and once funding is secured, we will be able to administer the pilot program.

6. Provide an update on workforce development initiatives regarding CNAs and LPNs

Regional Sector Partnerships (RSPs) are a core element of state workforce grant programs. Fourteen industry partnerships across Connecticut advise their regional conveners—local Economic Development Hubs or Workforce Development Boards—on current and emerging workforce needs. These engagements provide critical demand signals that guide training investments across sectors including healthcare, manufacturing, IT, green jobs, logistics, and construction. OWS will continue to rely on this structure to ensure training aligns with employer needs.

Healthcare Sector Partnerships Four RSPs focus specifically on healthcare:

- Capital Area Healthcare Partnership
- Eastern Connecticut Healthcare Partnership
- Northwest HealthConnect Regional Sector Partnership
- South Central Healthcare Partnership

Regional Action Teams prioritize:

- **Policy** — Advancing legislative and regulatory solutions to strengthen the healthcare workforce and address systemic barriers.
- **Quality of Life** — Supporting employee safety, wellness, childcare, transportation, and retention strategies.
- **Workforce & Training** — Expanding career pathways, work-based learning, incumbent worker upskilling, and industry-aligned training.

- **Youth Pipeline** — Building early exposure and structured pathways for high school students and young adults.

All four healthcare RSPs meet regularly at the statewide level to coordinate strategy, align policy priorities, and host events throughout the year.

Investment and Training Outcomes Career ConneCT (\$70M ARPA) and the Good Jobs Challenge (\$23.9M) have supported training across multiple industries, targeting unemployed and underemployed residents for entry-level roles with advancement potential. Since 2023, OWS grant programs have enrolled more than 2,000 residents in high-demand certifications.

Grant Program	Enrollments	Completions	Placements
Career ConneCT	1,366	1,055	814
Good Jobs Challenge	814	516	293
Total	2,180	1,571	1,107

(Please see Appendix for detailed healthcare program data.)

OWS plans to invest approximately 70% of the Workforce Innovation and Sustainability (WIS) bond funds directly into grantee-led training, including short-term entry-level programs, work-based learning, and incumbent worker upskilling.

Expansion of Practical Nursing Programs Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) launched the state’s first public community college Practical Nursing Program in fall 2025 at the Quinebaug Valley–Willimantic campus; enrolling 17 students. Board of Examiners for Nursing (BOEN) has approved a second site at the Norwalk campus, which will enroll 14 students beginning Spring 2026. The first cohort is expected to complete in Fall 2026 as the college pursues Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accreditation. CSCU plans to expand to as many as four sites and increase Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) bridge opportunities across its six registered nursing programs.

Appendix

Q6 for Healthcare Outcomes

Career ConneCT: Healthcare Training Programs

Results are September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026

Career ConneCT contracts were executed between August 2022 – February 2023

Some Career ConneCT Grantees have exhausted funds and their contracts have terminated, but the majority remaining are valid through June 30, 2026

Career Connect Training Programs	Enrollments	Completions	Placements
Career_Resources_Health_Career	170	155	135
Nursing Assistants	170	155	135
Career_Resources_We_Rise	41	36	32
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	9	9	8
Medical Assistants	1		1
Nursing Assistants	3	3	3
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists	28	24	20
Charter_Oak_State_College_Foundation	141	140	50
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	141	140	50
Family_Centers	103	73	46
Community Health Workers	2	2	1
Emergency Medical Technicians	19	12	2
Medical Assistants	5	3	2
Medical Equipment Preparers	8	7	5
Medical Records Specialists	17	9	8
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	1		
Nursing Assistants	28	21	17
Pharmacy Technicians	4	4	3
Phlebotomists	13	10	5
Physical Therapist Aides	6	5	3
Havenly	3	3	3
Community Health Workers	3	3	3
TWP_Health_CareeRx_Academy	908	648	548
Emergency Medical Technicians	41	18	14
Medical Assistants	97	55	37
Medical Equipment Preparers	105	77	69
Medical Records Specialists	88	45	38
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	61	34	25
Nursing Assistants	443	375	330
Pharmacy Technicians	72	44	35
Phlebotomists	1		
Career ConneCT Healthcare Totals:	1366	1055	814

Good Jobs Challenge: Healthcare Training Programs

- Results are October 31, 2023 to December 31, 2026
- Good Jobs Challenge contracts were executed in September of 2023 and currently expire June 30, 2026
-

Good Jobs Challenge Training Programs	Enrollments	Completions	Placements
CWP	174	128	46
Central Sterile Processing Technician	25	14	3
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	60	50	29
Medical Assistant	21	17	11
Patient Care Technician	18	13	2
Pharmacy Technician	50	34	1
EWIB_HC	346	220	74
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	202	125	42
Dental Assistant	2	2	2
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	99	59	16
Medical Assistant	14	8	1
Medical Billing & Coding	1	1	
Pharmacy Technician	4	3	
Phlebotomy	21	19	11
Sterile Processing Technician	3	3	2
GNHCC (training has just started)	45		
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	44		
Patient Care Technician	1		
NRWIB_HC	249	168	173
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	79	73	67
Clinical Medical Assistant	7	5	5
CNA and EKG Technician	6	5	6
CNA and Phlebotomy Technician	7	5	3
EKG Technician and Phlebotomy Technician	17	10	10
Patient Care Technician	114	54	68
Pharmacy Technician	5	3	4
Phlebotomy Technician	14	13	10
Good Jobs Challenge Healthcare Totals:	814	516	293