

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Community Investment Fund 2030 Board

September 24, 2024, 10 a.m.

Legislative Office Building (LOB), Hearing Room 1D/Hybrid with Zoom

300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Recording can be viewed at <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=23231>**MINUTES:**

1. Welcome and Roll Call

A meeting of the Community Investment Fund 2030 Board was held at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT, on September 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM and via Zoom. Co-Chair and Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter called the meeting to order at **10:02 AM**.

Members in Attendance at LOB:

Speaker of the House Ritter

Senate President Looney

House Minority Leader Candelora

Senator Duff

Senator Harding

Senator Moore

Senator McCrory

Secretary Beckham

Secretary of the State Thomas

Comptroller Scanlon

Representative Napoli

Commissioner Mosquera-Bruno

Deputy Commissioner Pugliese

Eileen Meskill, Deputy Attorney General

Matthew Brokman, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Jonathan Dach, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor

Members Online:

House Majority Leader Rojas

Representative Felipe

Deputy Commissioner Easha Canada, DSS Delegate

Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Alvarez

Ernestine Weaver, DAS Delegate

Others in Attendance:

Melinda Wilson, Director, Community Investment Fund, DECD

Panagiota Capaldi, DECD

Others in Attendance Online:

Avery Gaddis

2. Comments from the Chairs

Senator Looney welcomed everyone and commended DECD for their diligence and the vetting of all the applications. Senator Looney asked Deputy Commissioner Pugliese for the total volume of applications, out of which over \$60 million were being recommended for funding today. Deputy Commissioner Pugliese answered that there were 146 applications total, requesting \$445M. 137 applications were eligible, requesting \$441M. 93 new applications, 53 reapplications. Senator Looney noted that the process is working just as everyone envisioned it would, and he thanked Speaker Ritter for his leadership.

Senator McCrory arrived at 10:05am.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2024, Meeting

On a motion by Senator Harding, seconded by Senator Looney, the CIF Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting.

Senator Duff arrived at 10:06am.

4. New Business

4a. CIF Annual Report

Melinda Wilson, CIF Director, reviewed the Annual Report. She noted that the narrative provides information on the legislative update, which made small business programs ineligible for CIF due to the availability of the Small Business Boost Fund. She pointed out that the report also highlights the prioritization of projects eligible for CIF that aim to eradicate concentrated poverty through a ten-year plan with the to-be-established Office of Neighborhood Investment and Community Engagement. The report also includes updates on projects funded in Rounds 1-4.

Secretary Beckham asked if there is a report detailing the status of projects that have been approved and have not had any expenditures made, and Deputy Commissioner Pugliese explained that there are a few reasons why projects could be advanced out of the contracting phase yet not spending down funds: 1) Other funds need to be used first, with CIF funds coming in last, 2) with housing projects some applicants delay closing until all funding is lined up from DOH, CHFA, and other sources. DECD has come up with MOUs for DOH for housing projects, to increase efficiency. 3) DECD staffing capacity issues and nonprofit capacity issues. Secretary Beckham followed up asking if there are enough contractors and workers to complete this work. Deputy Commissioner Pugliese answered that some projects move forward without a problem, while others have needed to go out to bid more than once to be able to advance.

Speaker Ritter commented that if DECD is worried about projects not advancing beyond 12-18 months, that the Board would like to know about those concerns. Deputy Commissioner Pugliese

thanked the Speaker for the opportunity to bring those concerns forward, and he believes that the Change Policy has helped DECD bring concerns to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Representative Candelora noted that there are projects that focus on the soft costs, and he is worried about not being able to fund those projects when they come back with a Capital application. He asked if this is being taken into consideration, and Deputy Commissioner Pugliese said that a report can be prepared for the next Board meeting breaking down all of the partial awards to show what the full amount of the request is and what the gap might be that they could come to CIF for in future rounds. Additionally, he noted that a lot of the Planning grants do go out competitively for other grant funds, so the scenario is more likely with partial awards than Planning grants. Representative Candelora added that there are projects with long term goals, and he wants to make sure we have the ability in the long run to them to fruition if needed.

Senator Looney asked if the \$250,000 set level for the Planning grant is generally workable in terms of positioning the awardee to apply for funding in the future through CIF or other entities. Deputy Commissioner Pugliese said that it seems to be workable so far, noting that there might be some instances that need to be discussed with the Board when the \$250k is too much funding and could potentially have a balance moved to hard costs to allow them to keep moving forward.

On a motion by Deputy Commissioner Pugliese, seconded by Senator Duff, the CIF Board unanimously approved the Annual Report.

4b. CIF Technical Change

Ms. Wilson reviewed the Technical Change listed in the packet.

On a motion by Matthew Brokman, seconded by Senator Looney, the CIF Board unanimously approved the Technical Change.

4c. Round 5 Recommendations

Ms. Wilson detailed that, within the Capital Projects, rehabilitation of public facilities continues to have the greatest demand, with 33 applications requesting \$124M. Planning grants accounted for 55 applications, and DECD staff provided 145 30-minute consultations with potential applicants. She noted that 1:1s for Round 6 are now live for registration, with DECD offering 15 hours per week with five different staff members. Ms. Wilson reviewed the details of the projects being recommended to receive funding.

On a motion by Comptroller Scanlon, seconded by Secretary of the State Thomas, the CIF Board unanimously approved the Round 5 Recommendations and will be forwarded according to the statute.

5. Reminder of Round 6 Timeline & Proposed timeline for Round 7

Ms. Wilson reviewed the dates for Round 6:

Round 6 opens- October 15, 2024

Informational Webinar- October 15, 2024

Applications due to DECD- December 13, 2024 at 12pm NOON

Board Meeting for Round 6 Recommendations- March 11, 2025

Proposed Round 7 Timeline-

Round 7 NOFA posted- April 21, 2025

Applications due to DECD- June 13, 2025

Board Meeting for Round 7 Recommendations- September 23, 2025

6. For the Good of the Order: Comments from Board Members

No comments

7. Adjournment

On a motion to adjourn by Senator Looney, seconded by Senator Harding, the CIF Board Meeting unanimously adjourned at 10:20 AM.