



## Community Reinvestment Grant Program Notice of Funds Availability – PILOT Program

Date Released: March 27 - 29, 2023

**REVISED 4/5/2023 – Deadline Extension**

The Social Equity Council 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."

### PURPOSE:

- As part of a pilot reinvestment program the SEC will receive proposals from 3<sup>rd</sup> party grant managers to administer reinvestment funds derived from Connecticut's adult-use cannabis industry.
- The purpose of the grants is to provide immediate financial assistance to create and enhance programs and services for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.
- To support broad-based economic development in DIA communities.
- To increase the quality of life, vibrancy, accessibility, and equity in communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement.

### FUNDING DISTRIBUTION:

- SEC will award grants of \$500K - \$1.0 M each (up to \$6.0M available) ▪ 100% of these funds will be to serve persons living in and/or serving communities that meet the SEC definition of Disproportionally Impacted Area (DIA). The communities and residents will be verified by zip codes/census tracts.

### 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 27 municipalities with qualifying DIA census tracts.

### ELIGIBLE GRANT MANAGEMENT APPLICANTS:

- CT based grant making agencies with 5 or more years of grant management experience.

*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 carryout this contract; experience in project*



*management, development, and compliance with applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations.*

**ELIGIBLE PROJECTS FUNDED USING PILOT GRANT AWARD:**

- Funding shall be used exclusively in the development, expansion, and support of programs that uplift communities and strengthen families disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs in the following categories:
  - i) **Reentry/Reintegration Programs**
    - (1) Programs that support formerly incarcerated individuals and their families (i.e., fatherhood/parenthood/grandparents initiatives); civil legal aid; justice involved youth; expungement/criminal record erasure; homelessness; family stability etc.; community uplifting; organizing and empowerment.
  - ii) **Youth Education, Recreation, and Arts**
    - (1) Enrichment programs for young people and their families that assist in preparing the future workforce; STEM/STEAM; financial literacy; promoting physical and mental health wellness (get outside, get off the games); sports; mentoring; youth and parent leadership and empowerment; creative culture programs(i.e., performance arts, music, dance, instruments etc.); community uplifting; organizing and empowerment.

**ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS BY GRANT MANAGER:**

- Administrative costs (not to exceed 10% of grant awarded to Grant Manager)
- Contract closing fees and legal expenses related to grant administration

**NON-ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS:**

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

**GRANT MANAGEMENT FUNDING RECOMMENDATION PERIOD:**

- July 1, 2023 – September 15, 2023
- Grant Managers must submit recommendations for 100% of the grant award, no later than September 15, 2023.
- The Council will review and approve or deny funding recommendations until October 3, 2023.
  - Community Grant Awardees must spend all grant funds no later than June 30, 2024.
  - Community Grant Awardees must provide quarterly reports to the grant manager on spending, progress, and outcomes.

**MATCH REQUIREMENT:** - No Match required



### APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

- Eligible applicants submit application, budget form, and 3 letters of support to SEC
- SEC staff conducts Initial review of complete application and attachments
- SEC reinvestment committee makes grant management recommendations to the Council
- SEC votes on grant management recommendations
- SEC will notify approved grant management awardees in writing

### TIMELINE

NOFA - Released	March 27 - 28	
Information Session for Applicants (LIVE via ZOOM)	March 31, 2023 April 5, 2023	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Application Period	March 31 - April 9, 2023	11:59 PM
Deadline to submit application	April 9, 2023	11:59 PM
Application Review Period (OSEC)	April 10 - 14, 2023	
Reinvestment Committee Meeting	April 17, 2023	10:00 AM
Council Vote - Special Meeting	April 17, 2023	10:30 AM
Grant Manager Contract Execution	April 18 - May 12, 2023	
Funding Award to Grant Manager/s	May 22 - May 25, 2023	

### HOW TO APPLY:

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
2. Attend Information Session
3. Download Application and Budget Forms  
[Social Equity Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/social-equity-council)
4. Submit Application/supporting documents to [SECPROGRAMS@CT.GOV](mailto:SECPROGRAMS@CT.GOV)  
Application Deadline: ~~Sunday, April 9, 2023, at 11:59 PM~~  
**Application Deadline: Monday, April 10, 2023 at 3:00 PM**

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Answers provided at information session  
**March 30, 2023 at 12:00 PM**  
Live via ZOOM –  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mI4Lx6gcT1SiI2C2xj60FQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mI4Lx6gcT1SiI2C2xj60FQ)  
  
**April 5, 2023 at 12 PM**  
Live via Zoom –  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MvDR5tjxRB2ByxmfbjsjKQg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MvDR5tjxRB2ByxmfbjsjKQg)

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Application
- Budget Form
- Letters of support (3 Letters)



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