

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 19, 2019
TO: CRCOG Policy Board
FROM: Lyle Wray, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Metro Hartford Future CEDS Update and Economic District Designation at the State and Federal Levels

Included in your packet are correspondence CRCOG received regarding our Metro Hartford Future CEDS and the process of getting designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) at the state and federal level. The CEDS has been completed and was submitted to both the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Both OPM and DECD have approved the CEDS. We are still waiting for EDA approval, but we are told that should come soon. Once we have EDA approval, we will move on to EDD designation at the federal level.

The state moved quickly on approvals. Concurrent with the approval of our CEDS, we also received a letter from DECD indicating they would recommend that the Governor sign-off on CRCOG's request for EDD designation. Subsequently, we received the Governor's letter. With this critical step out of the way, we can apply to the EDA for US EDD designation as soon as they approve our CEDS.

The next steps for our EDD designation are straightforward. We are required to submit a packet of information, most of which is already compiled. The big item that remains outstanding is letters of support. EDA requires that the packet include letters of support from at least a majority of the jurisdictions in the proposed EDD. For CRCOG, that means letters from at least 20 municipalities. We have drafted a template which is included in your packet. There is no requirement from the EDA that the municipality pass a resolution, just that the letter is signed by someone authorized to do so.

Please have the letter signed at your earliest convenience. If you need any assistance, please contact Tim Malone at tmalone@crcog.org or (860) 724-4221.

Once we have at least 20 letters (though of course more is better) we will submit the application packet to US EDA. The application review process can be lengthy as it involves reviews by multiple departments at EDA, including their legal department. We will keep you updated as we go through the process. Following designation, we will be able to apply for an annual planning grant.

Finally, we are in the process of scheduling our first Metro Hartford Future CEDS Implementation Committee meeting. The implementation committee is being co-chaired by David Griggs of the Metro Hartford Alliance and Jay Williams of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. We are finalizing the list of members and hope to have our first meeting by the end of October.