

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 27, 2020

**TO:** CRCOG Policy Board  
Metro Hartford Future CEDS Implementation Committee

**FROM:** Lyle Wray, Executive Director  
Timothy Malone, Principal Planner

**SUBJECT: Regional COVID-19 Recovery Plan**

The COVID-19 pandemic has a devastating impact on the metropolitan regional and state economy that will take years, not months, to recover from. A recent analysis showed that 10 years of job growth was wiped out in a matter of months. Our emergency management structure is adept at handling immediate needs in such a situation, but it is currently ill-equipped to lead long-term economic recovery and planning for future economic resilience.

In addition to working to develop a systematic regional effort among state agencies, CRCOG and local governments to develop a long-term recovery effort, CRCOG is working with the other eight Councils of Governments (COGs) in Connecticut to apply for a grant from the Economic Development Administration. The grant would fund the development of an economic recovery and resiliency plan for the state. This effort would involve the formation of regional committees, outreach to local and regional stakeholders, technical assistance to business groups, best practices research, and the creation of a plan and guide to recovery.

While this effort is being led by the COGs it will be a multi-disciplinary process. It will require involvement of public, private, and non-profit entities at all levels. Crucially, as an economic recovery and resiliency plan, it will be focused on providing resources to the business community. Primarily, those resources will be focused on small and medium sized businesses, which have been hit hard by this pandemic.

CRCOG and its statewide partners are moving fast with this project. While we are focused on the long-term, now is the time to start planning for recovery. EDA grant resources, while robust, will be exhausted quickly due to the severity of the situation. It is also important to act before the memory of the situation fades. We hope we can count on your support during this process.