

## CT DOT receives \$2M federal grant for autonomous bus pilot program

By [Sean Teehan](#)

The Federal Transit Authority has awarded \$2 million to Connecticut for a pilot program that will run autonomous buses on the Hartford-to-New Britain *CTfastrak* rapid transit bus line.

The planned two-year pilot program will test three electric-powered, 40-foot self-driving buses on the 9.4-mile *CTfastrak* busway, said DOT Public Transit Administrator Dennis Solensky, who added that this is the first such autonomous public bus pilot in the nation.

[HBJ reported in November](#) that DOT officials hoped to put the automated buses in service by the end of March, but the Covid-19 crisis put other priorities ahead of the pilot, Solensky said.

“We are pleased to have been selected for a federal grant to test this new technology, which we hope will aid drivers in delivering safe and efficient service,” Solensky said. “For now, our priority and focus remains supporting the men and women who are delivering essential transit services.”

DOT officials plan to run the pilot in partnership with bus maker New Flyer of America Inc. If successful, the program could be just the beginning of a larger automated-vehicle program for Connecticut’s public-transportation system, Solensky said.

Using the busway would eliminate many of the concerns that have arisen from testing autonomous vehicles on public roadways. Only DOT buses are allowed to drive on the *CTfastrak* line, which has 10 stations providing service to New Britain, Newington, West Hartford and Hartford. The bus line is protected by guardrails on each side so no other vehicles can veer onto it.

During the pilot, drivers would sit in the driver’s seat, but allow automated technology to control most of the trip, except for parts of the route through heavily trafficked downtown Hartford, Solensky said. Those buses would also collect data that New Flyer plans to share with UConn.

CTDOT is one of 25 departments of transportation, municipalities or other entities to receive part of about \$20.4 million in grants for transportation tech projects. The \$2 million grant Connecticut received was among the largest, with only four others receiving more.

<https://www.hartfordbusiness.com/article/ct-dot-receives-2m-federal-grant-for-autonomous-bus-pilot-program>

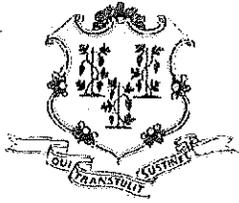
## **COVID-19 Resource Available**

UConn has developed a free non-credit interdisciplinary course for non-UConn audiences, in addition to graduate students, staff, and faculty on COVID-19. Specifically, the course explores the science behind the virus, psychological and social impacts, and business, financial and legal implications.

The first module begins on Wednesday, April 15 and the course runs through Friday, May 8.

For more information about the course and how to register, click here: <https://confluence.uconn.edu/ikb/teaching-and-learning/huskyct/covid-19-non-credit-course>

To view the syllabus, click here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t86hG9YLXrpYcZPGc6u5mqsbBprsDLI-Fqw91wPM3fU/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs>



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546  
PHONE: 860-594-2186



April 14, 2020

Ms. Pauline Yoder  
Municipal Services Director and Special Projects  
Capitol Region Council of Governments  
241 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Yoder:

Subject: Vendor Timesheet Backup Waiver Request

We have reviewed the documentation submitted on November 20, 2019 with your timesheet waiver request.

The documentation provided regarding your agency's fully electronic time-keeping system appears to adequately meet the requirements contained in the September 13, 2019 letter from Mr. Mark M. Hayes, Chief, Financial Management and Support, Bureau of Finance and Administration.

Therefore, for preparation of billings to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, subsequent to the date of this letter, it will not be necessary to submit copies of timesheets to support cost plus billings.

However, please note the following:

As submitting monthly timesheets is a federal requirement based on the latest Finance Integrity Review and Evaluation (FIRE) Billing Transaction Review of the MPO/RPO Planning Programs, the FHWA will find this timesheet waiver acceptable if the following conditions are met:

- Original COG timesheets are retained in the COG office
- Timesheets are based on the UPWP tasks
- Timesheets are signed as outlined in the delegation of authority
- Timesheets (signed) are readily available for any periodic Federal (FHWA, FTA etc.) and/or state (CTDOT) review, upon request

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Boisclair  
Director, Office of External Audits  
Bureau of Finance and Administration

lp

bcc: Lyle Wray, Director (lwray@crcog.org)  
Pauline Yoder (pyoder@crcog.org)  
Winsome Barnaby (wbarnaby@crcog.org)  
Mark Hayes – Eugene Falcone  
Kathryn A. Faraci  
Grayson Wright  
Maribeth Wojenski  
Christine Conroy  
Deirbhille Milloy  
Kevin Markoski  
Mary Freeman  
Joyce Famiglietti  
Sandra Armstrong  
Krista Jankovich  
DOT.ExternalAudits@ct.gov  
DOT.Fedbilling@ct.gov  
Audit File  
Central Files

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 20, 2020  
**TO:** CRCOG Policy Board  
**FROM:** Lyle Wray, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT: COVID-19 Reopening and Economic Recovery**

As we get beyond the current COVID-19 emergency and look towards reopening and plans at the state and federal levels, CRCOG staff has some early suggestions on what role CRCOG would have in this process. Some ideas are as follows:

### Reopening Phase

#### Develop Municipal Best Practices and Checklist for Local Action

As municipalities look to open town halls and public spaces, there will be several practical matters to take into consideration. For example, practical re-opening and consideration of how close people sit together within an office and installing plexiglass or glass barriers at counters.

Although some of this activity will be directed by state and CT DPH guidelines, CRCOG staff anticipates a need for checklists, reference guidelines and best practices and possibly training prior to re-opening:

- Town halls to the public
- Town and public meetings
- Park and recreation programs
- Public pools
- Town public spaces
- Other areas

CRCOG staff could work with the Municipal Services Committee along with local public health departments and districts and CRCOG Public Safety to develop the re-opening guidance, checklist and protocol website, training, resources and documents.

#### Regional Contact Tracing Staff and Volunteer Pool

As it has been clear, rapid available testing and thorough contact tracing will be key in the ability to effectively re-open and remain open. Depending on the state plan and the state resources there could potentially be a role CRCOG could play in developing a shared pool of contact tracers to follow up on positive test results. The assumption being “hot spots” or outbreaks will be local and concentrated, and a regional pool of tracers might be an effective tool to share across the region so that effective follow up action could be taken.

## **Economic Recovery Phase**

Connecticut has about a \$100 billion state domestic product. Estimates are for a 6 percent decline in 2020 followed by a 4 percent increase in 2021. The state of Connecticut will face a budget deficit now and into the next biennial budget cycle. With the public health emergency, CRCOG staff anticipates this structural budget deficit problem will be exacerbated. This increased fiscal pressure will have a downward effect in our region and all our communities. Moreover, grand lists will also be facing downward pressures.

CRCOG's continued role in implementing and advancing the economic development strategy will be critical in assisting the economic recovery. CRCOG should remain attuned to federal and state economic recovery efforts and identify where the region might be helpful to facilitate recovery.

### **State Level Advocacy**

Going forward, it is important that the state guideline process hear from the local health departments perspective. We would suggest advocating for a greater local voice in the state guideline development processes. Continuing to advocate for local health department input in the state processes is important.



## FEDERAL STIMULUS FOR CONNECTICUT

The Office of Fiscal Analysis continues to examine the federal response to the current pandemic. The information below outlines the estimated grants for Connecticut that have been identified in the Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) Budget Brief 20-13. Additionally, we have included information on two non-grant components of the federal stimulus: the enhanced federal match for the Medicaid program and the expanded funding for the Unemployment Insurance program. Please note the information is preliminary, and for many aspects still contingent on further federal guidance. OFA will continue to work with the various state agencies tasked with implementing these programs and will provide additional information as available.

### *TREASURY*

#### **Coronavirus Relief Fund**

Provides \$150 billion fund to states, territories, local and tribal governments to use for expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency, COVID-19. Funds can be used for costs that:

- Are necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19;
- Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of the date of enactment of this section; and
- Were incurred during the period from March 1, 2020, to December 30, 2020.

It does not appear that these funds can currently be used to offset revenue loss related to the economic turnaround.

**Agency:** Various

**Intended Population:** Statewide

**Eligibility:** not applicable

**Distribution Date:** The Department of the Treasury must make payments no later than 30 days after enactment.

**Amount:** \$1.4 billion



## *EDUCATION*

### **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund**

**Eligibility:** The Governor of each state determines how to use funds. The Governor can distribute funds as grants to local education agencies (LEAs) and/or institutions of higher education that are most significantly impacted or most affected to support educational services and ongoing functionality, and/or as support to any education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out various types of educational services or supports (including the protection of education-related jobs).

**Distribution Date:** Not defined. The Education secretary to invite governor applicants within 30 days of CARES Act enactment and approve/deny applications within 30 days of receipt. The Governor must award all funds within one year of receipt.

**Amount:** \$27.9 million

### **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund**

**Eligibility:** State is to allocate at least 90% of funding to local education agencies (LEAs), including charter schools, in proportion to the amount of funds that the LEAs and charters received under part A of Title I in the most recent FFY (i.e., funds are targeted to higher-poverty schools and charters). Recipients may use funds for a wide range of activities and purposes. The state may reserve up to 0.5% of the total funds for administrative costs, and the remaining funds are for grants/contracts by the state education agency to meet emergency needs as it determines, to address issues responding to the coronavirus.

**Distribution Date:** Not defined. Education secretary to invite state education agency applicants within 30 days of CARES Act enactment and approve/deny applications within 30 days of receipt. Governor must award all funds within one year of receipt.

**Amount:** \$111.1 million

### **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**

**Agency:** Constituent units (UConn, CSCU institutions except Charter Oak State College)

**Intended population:** Institutions of higher education and their students

**Eligibility:** 90% of the fund's monies will be divided among institutions of higher education (except those providing solely online-only instruction, prior to the coronavirus, apportioned as follows: (1) 75% according to the institution's share of full-time equivalent (FTE) Pell recipients, and (2) 25% according to the institution's share of FTE students who do not receive Pell grants (i.e., funding is targeted to institutions with higher low-income FTE enrollment). Institutions must use at least 50% of these funds to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus; the remainder must be used "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus," including to cover significant changes to instructional delivery. A second portion of the fund, 7.5%, is designated for additional awards to recipients of certain programmatic higher education funding (e.g.,



support to HBCUs), and a third portion (2.5%) is distributed by the Education secretary to those institutions of higher education that the secretary determines to have the greatest unmet needs related to the coronavirus (with priority to institutions that received under \$500,000 under the first and second portions of the fund). The second and third portions of the fund may explicitly be used to defray coronavirus expenses, including lost revenue.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$131.7 million to both public and private institutions in the state. Estimated amounts to the constituent units (at least half of which must be distributed as emergency grants to students) are: \$29.3 million to the community colleges, \$26.5 million to the Connecticut State Universities, and \$21.1 million to UConn, according to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

## *CHILDREN AND FAMILIES*

### **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**

The CCDBG provides funding for the Care4Kids program through subsidized childcare, professional development, and technology supports.

**Agency:** Office of Early Childhood

**Intended Population:** Low-income families

**Eligibility:** May be used to provide continued payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to coronavirus, and to assure they are able to remain open or reopen as appropriate and applicable; encourage requirements to ensure that child care providers use a portion of funds received to continue to pay the salaries and wages of staff; provide child care to essential workers without regard to income eligibility.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$23.3 million

### **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

The CSBG provides grants to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to help address the causes of poverty, coordinate governmental and non-governmental programs, and provide emergency services to low-income individuals and families.

**Agency:** Department of Social Services

**Intended Population:** Low-income individuals via CAAs

**Eligibility:** Increases eligibility threshold to 200% of the poverty line (\$25,520 annual income from current max of 125% or \$15,950 annually)

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined; this does not include what Connecticut may receive from an additional \$2 billion to be distributed

**Amount:** \$11.9 million



## **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

Funds support the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) through benefit payments to offset home energy costs.

**Agency:** Department of Social Services

**Intended Population:** Households whose income falls at or below 60% of the state median income (SMI, \$67,530 for a family of four)

**Eligibility:** Not fully defined; assume similar to current eligibility guidelines

**Distribution Date:** Not fully defined; disregards cap amount for carry forward purposes in FFY 20

**Amount:** \$11.2 million

## **Family Violence Prevention**

**Description:** We are seeking additional information

**Agency:** Anticipated Department of Children and Families

**Intended Population:** Uncertain

**Eligibility:** Uncertain

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$373,987

## **Child Welfare Services**

**Description:** We are seeking additional information

**Agency:** Anticipated Department of Children and Families

**Intended Population:** Uncertain

**Eligibility:** Uncertain

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$283,606

## **Head Start**

Head Start promotes school readiness of children ages birth to five through a variety of service models.

**Agency:** Office of Early Childhood

**Intended Population:** Low-income families with young children (age birth to five)

**Eligibility:** Not yet defined beyond current program eligibility standards

**Distribution Date:** Per PL 116-136: allocated in an amount that bears the same ratio to such portion as the number of enrolled children served by the agency involved bears to the number of enrolled children by all Head Start agencies

**Amount:** \$5 million



## COMMUNITY LIVING

### Supportive Services

The federal Older Americans Act funds various programs including Supportive Services to enhance the well-being of individuals age 60 or older and to help them live independently in their home environment and the community. Funding is distributed through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which enter into agreements with local service providers to deliver services within their communities.

**Agency:** Department of Aging and Disability Services/Area Agencies on Aging

**Intended Population:** Individuals age 60 or older

**Eligibility:** Individuals age 60 or older with preference given to older persons with the greatest economic or social needs.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$2.2 million

### Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals

The federal Older Americans Act funds various programs including the Elderly Nutrition program which provides both congregate and home-delivered meals to individuals age 60 or older. Funding is distributed through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which enter into agreements with local service providers to provide meals within their communities.

**Agency:** Department of Aging and Disability Services/Area Agencies on Aging

**Eligibility:** Elderly Nutrition program eligibility as shown below.

Age:

- 60 years of age or older, or a spouse of an eligible participant.
- A person with a disability under 60 years of age who lives with an older person.
- A person with a disability under 60 years of age living in an elderly housing facility which has congregate meals sites.

To receive home delivered meals:

- 60 years of age or older, homebound or isolated and qualify for home delivered meals as determined by an assessment

Income:

- There is no income eligibility requirement.
- Services are targeted to older adults who have the greatest economic or social needs.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** Total funding of \$9.1 million: \$2.7 million (P.L. 116-123, \$1.8 million for home-delivered meals and \$900,000 for congregate meals) and \$5.4 million (CARES).



## **Family Caregivers**

The federal Older Americans Act funds various programs including the Family Caregiver Support program which provides a variety of services to address the needs of informal, unpaid family caregivers. Funding is distributed through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which enter into agreements with local service providers to deliver services within their communities.

**Agency:** Department of Aging and Disability Services/Area Agencies on Aging

**Intended Population:** Eligible family caregivers

**Eligibility:** Adult family members or other informal caregivers age 18 or older providing care to individuals age 60 or older. Adult family members or other informal caregivers age 18 and older providing care to individuals of any age with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

Preference is given to older persons with the greatest economic or social needs.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$1.2 million

## **Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans**

The federal Older Americans Act funds various programs including vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

**Agency:** Department of Aging and Disability Services/Area Agencies on Aging

**Intended Population:** Vulnerable elderly

**Eligibility:** Individuals age 60 or older

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$231,740

## **Centers for Independent Living**

Connecticut has five community-based independent living centers (ILCs). These centers promote empowerment and self-reliance for persons with disabilities. There are four core services provided by an independent living center: peer support, information and referral, individual and systems advocacy and independent living skills training. The Department of Aging and Disability Services acts as a pass through for ILC funding.

**Agency:** Department of Aging and Disability Services

**Intended Population:** Persons with disabilities

**Eligibility:** the state's five ILCs

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$972,120



## *DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION*

### **CDC Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing total funding of \$569,822,380 to jurisdictions that responded to the Public Health Crisis Response notice of funding opportunity to support them in: (1) complying with existing and/or future directives and guidance from the Secretary regarding control of the spread of COVID-19; (2) in consultation and coordination with the CDC, providing (commensurate with the condition of the individual) COVID-19 patient care regardless of the individual's home jurisdiction and/or appropriate public health measures (e.g., social distancing and home isolation); and (3) assisting the United States Government in the implementation and enforcement of federal orders related to quarantine and isolation.

**Agency:** Department of Public Health

**Eligibility:** 50 states, six large metropolitan areas, eight U.S. territories, and freely associated states, and one tribe

**Intended Population:** Residents of Connecticut

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$7.6 million

### **Minimum CDC Grant**

**Description:** We are seeking additional information

**Agency:** Anticipated DPH

**Intended Population:** Uncertain

**Eligibility:** Uncertain

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** 7.8 million



## **Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund**

**Agency:** UConn Health Center is eligible to apply.

**Intended Population:** Health care providers

**Eligibility:** Health care providers that provide testing, diagnosis, or care for patients with actual or suspected cases of COVID-19, and have costs associated with COVID-19 (or lost revenues due to it) that are not reimbursed by payors. Eligible costs include, among others listed, building or construction of temporary structures, medical supplies and equipment, and increased workforce costs. Funds can be provided by HHS as pre-payments, prospective payments, or retrospective payments.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined. Applications will be accepted and funds distributed on a rolling basis.

**Amount:** \$100 billion for the entire fund. As there is no formula for distribution, there is no way to estimate the funds received by entities in a state, or the funds any particular entity will receive.

## *HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES*

### **Community Health Center – Targeted Grants (Awarded under P.L. 116-123)**

Community Health Centers (aka Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)) are health centers which provide primary care services in underserved, urban and rural communities. FQHC is a federal designation from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that is assigned to private non-profit or public health care organizations that serve predominantly uninsured or medically underserved populations.

Specific COVID-19 grant funding under P.L. 116-123 may support: testing, including temporary drive- or walk-up testing, and laboratory, support patient and community education; assessment of symptoms, including by telephone, text monitoring systems, or videoconference; hiring and contracting with providers and other personnel; training; vehicles to transport patients or health center personnel; supplies, equipment, and health information technology.

**State Agency:** Department of Public Health

**Intended Population:** Uninsured and Medically Underserved

**Eligibility:** FQHCs "[funded]under the Health Center Program, as defined by section 330 of the Public Health Service Act". Health Center "look-a-likes" are not eligible for these grant funds.

(source: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html>)

**Distribution Date:** The following link provides grant awards issued as of March 2020 for 16 Connecticut centers: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-covid19-FY2020-awards/ct>

**Amount:** \$1.2 million distributed by HRSA



## **Community Health Center (Awarded under C.A.R.E.S.)**

Community Health Centers (aka Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)) are health centers which provide primary care services in underserved, urban and rural communities. FQHC is a federal designation from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that is assigned to private non-profit or public health care organizations that serve predominantly uninsured or medically underserved populations.

**State Agency:** Anticipated -Department of Social Services (DSS)

**Intended Population:** Uninsured and Medically Underserved

**Eligibility:** FQHCs

**Distribution Date:** Not Yet Defined

**Amount:** \$15.4 million

## **LABOR**

### **Unemployment Insurance (UI) Base**

States administer UI systems in partnership with the federal government. Specifically, state UI Trust Funds pay all benefits during an unemployed person's first 26 weeks of unemployment. The federal government provides funds to pay state administrative costs for their UI programs, as well as provide "extended" UI benefits in times of crisis and to provide loans to states when their UI Trust Funds are unable to pay benefits.

**Agency:** Labor Department

**Intended Population:** Unemployed workers

**Eligibility:** All states

**Distribution Date:** Within 60 days of enactment (assuming states meet requirements)

**Amount:** \$6.2 million

### **UI Supplemental**

States administer UI systems in partnership with the federal government. Specifically, state UI Trust Funds pay all benefits during an unemployed person's first 26 weeks of unemployment. The federal government provides funds to pay state administrative costs for their UI programs, as well as provide "extended" UI benefits in times of crisis and to provide loans to states when their UI Trust Funds are unable to pay benefits.

**Agency:** Labor Department

**Intended Population:** Unemployed workers

**Eligibility:** States in which the number of unemployment compensation claims has increased by at least 10% over the same quarter in the previous calendar year

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined.

**Amount:** \$6.2 million



## *JUSTICE*

### **Justice Assistance Grants - State**

Funding is used for a variety of criminal justice purposes including: law enforcement, prevention and education, corrections, substance abuse, and mental health treatment programs, support for crime victims and witnesses and criminal justice policy planning and evaluation.

**Agency:** Office of Policy and Management

**Intended Population:** Anyone who interacts with the criminal justice system

**Eligibility:** Municipalities and criminal justice organizations

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$5.9 million

### **Justice Assistance Grants - Local**

**Description:** Same as State Justice Assistance Grants

**Agency:** Municipalities

**Intended Population:** Anyone who interacts with the criminal justice system

**Eligibility:** Municipalities

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** 2.8 million

## *AGRICULTURE*

Funding for the three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs listed below is provided for in both HR 748, "The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Stimulus Security Act" (CARES) and HR 6201, "The Families First Coronavirus Response Act".

### **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Commodities**

Provides additional funding assistance to food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens as originally authorized under the "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008", known as the "Farm Bill".

**Agency:** Departments of Agriculture and Social Services

**Intended Population:** Elderly and low income

**Eligibility:** not yet defined

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined; available through September 30, 2021 (SFY 22)

**Amount:** \$5.8 million



## **TEFAP Administration**

Provides additional funding associated with the cost of emergency food distribution (“commodities”), to be used in conjunction with the item above.

**Agency:** Departments of Agriculture and Social Services

**Intended Population:** Elderly and low income

**Eligibility:** Not yet defined

**Distribution Date:** not yet defined; available through September 30, 2021 (SFY 22)

**Amount:** \$2.4 million

## **The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC)**

Provides funding for food assistance to WIC participants. Currently, the state Department of Agriculture’s Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) services WIC participants with checks to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey at authorized locations.

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture

**Intended Population:** Low-income pregnant women or mothers with young children

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined, but funding available through September 30, 2021 (SFY 22)

**Amount:** \$3.2 million

## *COMMERCE*

## **Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)**

The program assists small- and mid-sized manufacturers to foster job growth, increase profits, and gain new clients, by streamlining their production processes. This allocation will assist manufacturers to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Note that this funding is exempt from the program's cost sharing requirements. CONNSTEP is the official MEP center for Connecticut.

**Agency:** Department of Economic and Community Development/CONNSTEP (presumably)

**Intended Population:** Small and mid-size manufacturers

**Eligibility:** Not yet defined

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$679,000

## *HOMELAND SECURITY*

## **Emergency Performance Management Grant (EMPG)**

**Agency:** Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

EMPG provides states funding to prepare for catastrophic disasters through a grant process.

Projects and programs funded must be for the purpose of furthering national preparedness objectives determined by the US Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**Additional Information:** [FFY 2020 CBDG Notification of Funding](#)

**Amount:** \$1.4 million (in addition to an existing \$4.9 million allocation expected for FFY 2020).



## **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**

**Agency:** Local governments (through FEMA)

**Description:** EFSP supplements the work of local governments and non-profit organizations to provide shelter, food, and support to families who have economic emergencies. EFSP is open to all organizations that help the homeless and hungry. According to FEMA, this funding may *not* be used for emergency support in response to an immediate disaster.

**Amount:** \$2.7 million

## ***HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT***

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)\***

CDBG develops viable communities by providing support for decent housing and a suitable living environment

**Agency:** Department of Housing

**Intended Population:** Low-and moderate-income individuals

**Eligibility:** Not fully defined; this funding is intended to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus within the State or insular area, including activities within entitlement and nonentitlement communities, based on public health needs, risk of transmission of coronavirus, number of coronavirus cases compared to the national average, and economic and housing market disruptions, and other factors, as determined by the Secretary

**Distribution Date:** Entitlement Community amounts are known

**Amount \$:** 8.2 million State, \$16 million Local

### **Homeless Assistance Grants / Emergency Solutions Grants**

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program provides grants to states and local governments to address and prevent homelessness. These funds are included to address the impact of coronavirus among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance. Eviction prevention activities can include rapid rehousing, housing counseling, and rental deposit assistance to mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic on low to moderate income families.

**Agency:** Department of Housing (DOH)

**Intended Population:** Individuals and Families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness

**Eligibility:** Funds may be used to cover or reimburse allowable costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus that are incurred by a state or locality, including for costs incurred prior to March 27<sup>th</sup>, and are not subject to normal match requirements. In addition to current eligible expenses, funds can be used for temporary shelters (with relaxed specifications), training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation, and hazard pay without being considered administrative costs for purposes of the 10% cap on administrative expenses. None



of the funds provided can be used to require homeless individuals to enter treatment or perform any other prerequisite activity as a condition of receiving shelter, housing, or other services. It is the understanding of DOH that the ESG program will be administered as normal and the municipalities that receive ESG will get an infusion directly from the CARES Act appropriation via HUD, as will DOH.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**State Amount:** \$16.3 million + TBD share of \$2 billion for state and local governments based on a need-based formula determined by HUD secretary

Local Government Amount: \$7.7 million + TBD share of \$2 billion for state and local governments based on need-based formula determined by HUD secretary

## Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

The Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) program is the federal government's largest program for assisting very low-income families to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market. The Disability Voucher Mainstream Program (DV Mainstream) provides vouchers for low-income households that includes a person with disabilities to help tenants with disabilities live independently in the community. Tenant-based rental assistance provides a portable rental assistance subsidy, which allows a tenant to move from one unit to another provided the units meet certain requirements. DOH is one of the 44 public housing authorities (PHA) that administer the programs in Connecticut and the only PHA that is allowed to administer the programs statewide.

**Agency:** Department of Housing

**Intended Population:** Low-income current recipients of tenant-based rental assistance

**Eligibility:** Funding for PHA's (including DOH) for new administrative expenses related to coronavirus and funds to allow current assisted individuals and families to remain in the program, given that larger housing assistance payments to landlords will be required as assisted individuals and families lose jobs and income and correspondingly contribute less towards their rent.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$16.6 million + TBD share of \$400 million available for adjustments in the calendar year 2020 section 8 renewal funding allocations based on need.

## Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA Program, HUD makes grants to local communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

**Agency:** Department of Housing (DOH)

**Intended Population:** low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families



**Eligibility:** Funds to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions. These funds may be used to help individuals living with HIV-AIDS relocate for the purposes of self-isolation and quarantine, or to provide other coronavirus control services as recommended by the CDC.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$475,421 (the state's share of \$50 million allocated based on FY20 HOPWA awards) + possible TBD share of \$10 million in additional one-time funds to be allocated to certain grantees with existing contracts.

## **Public Housing Operating**

Public housing provides decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities at rents they can afford. In Connecticut, there is both state and federally administered public housing. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers federal aid to local housing agencies (HAs) that manage the federally assisted housing for low-income residents. The Public Housing Operating Fund provides operating subsidies to HAs to assist in funding the operating and maintenance expenses of their own dwellings, in accordance with Section 9 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended. The subsidies are required to help maintain services and provide CDC operating reserves.

**Agency:** HUD; These funds go directly to the local housing authorities that own and operate federal low-income public housing units.

**Intended population:** Low-income families and individuals living in federally assisted public housing

**Eligibility:** These funds, to be distributed according to the normal formula, are intended to offset the reduced tenant contributions being collected as a result of significant property tenant unemployment, as well as to offset the cost of additional maintenance, security, etc. caused by coronavirus.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$10.7 million

## **Renewal of Section 8 Project-based Rental Assistance**

While funding is no longer available for new commitments, the federal government through HUD funds the renewal of certain existing Section 8 project-based housing assistance payments contracts with owners of multifamily rental housing. This program assists low-income households in obtaining decent, safe and sanitary housing in these assisted units. Eligible tenants pay a share of their income and the rental assistance pays the rest, up to the approved rent.

**Agency:** HUD; These funds will go through local housing authorities, not the Department of Housing.



**Intended Population:** Low-income households that reside in federally-assisted units of private rental housing, owners of project-based rental assistance units.

**Eligibility:** For assistance to owners or sponsors of properties receiving project-based assistance under this program for maintaining normal operations and taking other necessary actions, given that tenants may lose jobs and income and correspondingly contribute less towards their rent.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined, available until expended.

**Amount:** TBD share of \$1 billion appropriated nationally

## TRANSPORTATION

### Urbanized Area Formula

The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program makes federal resources available to urbanized areas and to governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation-related planning.

**Agency:** Department of Transportation

**Intended Population:** An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**Eligibility:** Urbanized area

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$211.5 million

### State of Good Repair

The State of Good Repair (SGR) Grants Program provides capital assistance for maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation projects of high-intensity fixed guideway and bus systems to help transit agencies maintain assets in a state of good repair. Additionally, SGR grants are eligible for developing and implementing Transit Asset Management plans.

**Agency:** Department of Transportation

**Intended Population:** state and local governments

**Eligibility:** state and local government authorities with fixed guideway and high intensity motorbus systems in service for at least seven years.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$174.4 million

### Nonurbanized (Rural)

The Formula Grants for Rural Areas program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. The program also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program.

**Agency:** Department of Transportation

**Intended Population:** state and local governments



**Eligibility:** Eligible recipients include states and federally recognized Indian Tribes. Subrecipients may include state or local government authorities, nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation or intercity bus service. Eligible activities include planning, capital, operating, job access and reverse commute projects, and the acquisition of public transportation services.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$9 million

## **High Density Population and Growing States**

The Growing States and High Density States Formula Program was established to apportion additional funds to the Urbanized Area Formula and Rural Area Formula programs.

**Agency:** Department of Transportation

**Intended Population:** state and local governments

**Eligibility:** Recipients of funds are existing Urbanized Area and Rural Area formula fund recipients.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$93.8 million

## *ELECTIONS*

### **Election Security Grant**

Funding provided to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus for the 2020 Federal election cycle.

**Agency:** Secretary of the State

**Intended Population:** Election Voters

**Eligibility:** States have certain reporting requirements to explain the use of funds.

**Distribution Date:** Not yet defined

**Amount:** \$5.4 million\* available through December 31, 2020 (SFY 21)

## *ARTS AND HUMANITIES*

### **National Endowment for the Arts**

The Arts Endowment will award funds to nonprofit arts organizations to help these entities survive the forced closure of their operations in response to the spread of COVID-19. The CARES Act specifies that 40% of funds be distributed to state agencies, with the remaining 60% for direct grants. Matching requirements may be waived. Funding may be used for general operation expenses (the NEA grants normally only support project-based funding).

**Agency:** Department of Economic and Community Development

**Intended Population:** Regional nonprofit arts organizations

**Eligibility:** Must be a nonprofit arts organization. Further details to be determined.

**Distribution Date:** Details regarding timing and applications are being developed and will be announced as soon as they are available.



**Amount:** \$447,100 (Note: This figure reflects the state agency grant portion of the allocation.)

**More information:** <https://www.arts.gov/COVID-19-FAQs>

## **National Endowment for the Humanities**

This funding will support at-risk humanities positions and projects at museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, colleges and universities and other cultural nonprofits that have been financially impacted by the coronavirus. The CARES Act specifies that 40% of funds be distributed to state humanities councils (i.e. Connecticut Humanities Council), with the remaining 60% for direct grants. Matching requirements may be waived.

**Agency:** Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Humanities Council

**Intended Population:** Local cultural nonprofits and education programs.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include U.S. nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, public and 501(c)(3) accredited institutions of higher education, state and local governmental agencies, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. International and for-profit entities are not eligible.

**Distribution Date:** Information to apply for funding will be announced by April 30, 2020.

**Amount:** \$486,100 (Note: This figure reflects the state agency grant portion of the allocation for the Connecticut Humanities Council.)

**More Information:** [https://www.neh.gov/COVID19\\_FAQs](https://www.neh.gov/COVID19_FAQs)

## **MEDICAID FMAP**

In addition to the federal grant resources identified above, the federal government is making additional Medicaid resources available to the states through a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), discussed below.

### **Temporary 6.2% Increase in Medicaid FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage)**

**Agency:** Department of Social Services (DSS)

**Intended Population:** Medicaid Funded Program Beneficiaries

**Eligibility:** The increased FMAP is available for certain Medicaid expenditures that rely on the regular FMAP rate and not for expanded Medicaid rates under the Affordable Care Act. (*\*\*\*In addition to Medicaid, additional federal guidance is forthcoming on programs which utilize the regular FMAP and therefore may be eligible for the temporary increase.*)

**Distribution Date:** Effective January 1, 2020, through the last day of the calendar quarter in which the public health emergency declared by the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) terminates.

**Amount:** Impact to Date as reported in OFA's March Monthly Statement:



'The Federal emergency supplemental funding bills provide a 6.2% increase in the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP). As a result, Connecticut is anticipated to receive increased Medicaid reimbursement of approximately \$100 million in FY 20. This increased revenue is reflected in two ways: (1) Federal Grants revenue is up \$20 million due to the 6.2% increase in federal reimbursement for Medicaid-related expenditures that are budgeted outside DSS, and (2) the state share of Medicaid is reduced by \$80 million associated with the increased FMAP on Medicaid account expenditures within DSS.'

### *TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXPANSION*

Apart from grants to states and other sub-national governments, the federal government's response to the COVID-19 crisis includes an approximate \$260 billion nationwide temporary expansion of unemployment insurance benefits via three new programs: (1) Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (adds unemployment compensation of \$600 per week of compensation); (2) Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (extends unemployment compensation by 13 weeks); and (3) Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (covers workers such as independent contractors and freelancers who don't otherwise qualify for unemployment compensation).