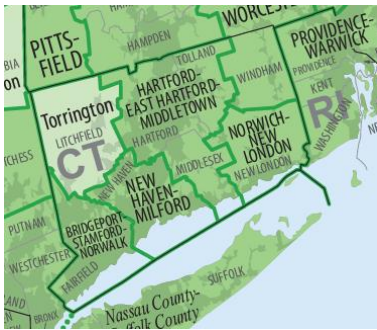


Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
Meeting Date: March 22, 2023
Subject: Resolution to Support CRCOG's Role as Lead Organization for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Introduction: On March 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the first phase of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program (CPRGP). CPRGP will issue non-competitive planning grants to fund development and expansion of climate action plans. Plans will propose policies, programs, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and toxic air pollution in the near term. A second phase of CPRGP will make \$4.6 billion available for competitive implementation grants.



The Hartford-East Hartford- Middletown Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Hartford MSA), as defined by 2020 U. S. Census data, is eligible for \$1 million in funding for planning grants. CRCOG would apply for the grant as the primary regional planning organization in the Hartford MSA. An additional \$3 million is available to the State to develop statewide plans.

Figure 1. Map of MSAs in CT. Of the 57 municipalities located within the Hartford MSA, 67% are within CRCOG.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The CPRGP offers the opportunity to prepare Priority and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans on a regional level, with coordination and collaboration on a local level. The resulting plans can then be used as the basis to apply for future funding opportunities to implement policies, programs, strategies, and/or projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or other toxic air pollution. CRCOG or other eligible entities covered by the plans (including Member Towns) could apply for future implementation grants.

Financial/Operational Impact: The grant will provide funding for staffing and hiring a consultant to complete the plans required in the grant. There is no match required for the grant.

Project Schedule: The lead organization must submit a Notice of Intent to Participate in the program by April 28, and subsequent application package by May 31. The CPRGP planning grant is a four-year program, with the following schedule for key deliverables:

1. Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024;
2. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due two (2) years from the date of award; and
3. Status Report, due at the close of the four-year grant period.

Recommendation: Recommend the Policy Board approve the resolution, demonstrating support for CRCOG's role as lead organization for the planning grant cooperative agreement.

Attachments

- Secretary's Certificate / Resolution
- EPA CPRGP [Program Guidance](#)

Resolution Authorizing the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to Conduct Appropriate and Necessary Activities Related to Application for and Administration of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency for Non-Competitive Funding for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

WHEREAS, The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 appropriated \$5 billion to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP), to be administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 2023, EPA announced availability of \$250 million for the first phase of the program, which will issue non-competitive planning grants, administered as cooperative agreements, to fund development and expansion of climate action plans (Plans) that will include programs, policies, measures, and projects that will achieve or facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Connecticut, including the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT Metro Area (Hartford MSA), as defined by 2020 U.S. Census data, are eligible for \$1 million each for planning grants; and

WHEREAS, The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in its capacity as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for two-thirds of the municipalities within the Hartford MSA, has the programmatic capacity to serve as the lead organization for the cooperative agreement with EPA; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG will coordinate and collaborate with municipalities and/or other Councils of Government within the Hartford MSA to facilitate a regional, multi-town approach to the grant; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, THAT, The Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Director, or the individual authorized to act in that capacity, is authorized to act on behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in negotiating, executing, administering, and amending all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, The Capitol Region Council of Governments authorizes staff to prepare the necessary application materials associated with the CPRGP.

CERTIFICATE The undersigned duly qualified CRCOG Board Member certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the voting members of the CRCOG Policy Board on January 26, 2023.

BY: _____

DATE: _____

Jason Bowsza, Secretary