

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely Philadelphia, with several buildings illuminated and their lights reflecting in a body of water in the foreground. The image is partially obscured by a teal and blue diagonal graphic overlay.

CRCOG

*Regional Services
Grant Spending Report
FY 2022-2023*

crcog.org



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September 27, 2023

Dear Planning and Development Committee, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, and OPM Secretary Beckham:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to submit its Regional Services Grant Spending (RSG) Expenditure and Performance Report as required by CGSSec. 4-66r.

Overall demand continues to be strong for CRCOG services to coordinate and lead regional planning and transportation projects, administer public safety and homeland security grants, promote and facilitate service sharing among our members, and to harness the collective purchasing power of over one hundred entities to lower costs for everything from electricity to lawn seed. Workforce challenges and the desire to leverage federal and state grant funding are increasing the demand for collective regional efforts.

Some of the major highlights of a busy and productive year include:

- Administered over \$69 million of transportation spending, including over \$30 million of federally funded projects, and over \$39 million of State LOTCIP funded projects.
- Completed update of Metropolitan Transportation Plan and initiated update of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Completed Transit Oriented Development Study, initiated Route 44 Corridor Study and advanced four other studies: East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study, Route 20 Corridor Study (Windsor Locks), Farmington Area Connectivity Study, and Region Roundabouts Screening Study.
- Saved members \$1.83 million via Capitol Region Purchasing Council bids and initiated \$34.2 million in job order contracting projects.
- Received \$1.38 million in Regional Performance Incentive Program grants to establish regional programs in code enforcement/building inspection, animal control, and tax assessment..
- Began our 20th year of managing State Homeland Security Grant Program funds on behalf of our region. Administered 14 local public health department and district subcontracts for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program with grant funds totaling over \$1.2 million.

CRCOG appreciates its strong partnership with state government and its 38 member municipalities. We are proud of our accomplishments for 2022/ 2023 and look forward to continued progress in 2023/ 2024 on behalf of our region

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. W. Hart".

Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

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Grant Expenditures



New Britain, Connecticut

- **Expenditure Summary**
- **Allocation by Project**

Expenditure Summary

Category	Amount
Salaries	\$268,916.30
Allocation Leave Costs	\$49,702.33
Fringe Benefits	\$131,733.92
Indirect Costs	\$245,610.07
Contractual, Consultants and other Direct Costs	\$153,440.16
TOTAL	\$849,402.78

Note: CRCOG is \$54.14 over the allocated RSG amount. CRCOG will make up this defecent from CRCOG local funds.

Allocation by Statement of Work Category

Original and Actual Spending

Statement of Work Categories	Original	Actual
Comprehensive Planning	\$190,628.58	\$262,069.12
Regional Services	\$518,744.98	\$479,050.46
Municipal Technical Support	\$139,975.08	\$108,283.20
	\$849,348.64	\$849,402.78

Regional Services and Performance



CTRail Train, Berlin, CT

- **Comprehensive Planning**
- **Regional Services**
- **Municipal Technical Support**

Comprehensive Planning: Regional Planning and Development

Introduction

Mission: Develop and support integrated regional approaches to planning, projects and investments that promote vibrant, healthy communities; protect natural resources and open spaces; increase equitable access to opportunities including housing and jobs, and support an economically competitive Capitol Region to serve all our citizens today, and future generations.

The Regional Planning and Development Department's major areas of responsibility are regional planning that balances conservation and development within the region, and general leadership on program and policy development around livable and sustainable communities. For many projects, CRCOG integrates land use and transportation planning as the results of those two disciplines are inextricably linked. Staff have expertise in both areas, enabling them to effectively integrate CRCOG's planning for active transportation, transit, transit-oriented development, and transportation corridor studies into multi-disciplinary regional plans and policies for the Capitol Region.

Committees:

Community Development staff provides support to the following committees:

- CRCOG Regional Planning Commission (RPC)
- CRCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Active Living & Active Transportation Committee (ALAT)
- CTrail-Hartford Line and CTfastrak Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC, with Administration staff)
- CRCOG Foundation
- CRCOG Planning and Development Forum
- Metro Hartford Future Implementation Committee (CEDS)

Program Areas:

- Regional planning and policy development related to building livable and sustainable communities. This program area integrates CRCOG's planning and investment in the areas of: housing, transportation, environmental protection, land use, economic development, redevelopment, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also touches on all aspects of the connected, competitive, vibrant, and green vision for the New England's Knowledge Corridor and the Capitol Region.
- Advanced scenario planning to aid in regional and local policy decisions around development, conservation, and the integration of transportation and land use.
- Collaboration on regional transit-oriented development.
- Active transportation (bike and pedestrian), complete streets, and trail planning and promotion in coordination with the Transportation Planning Department.
- Regional Micromobility Program.
- MetroHartford Brownfields Program.
- Staff support for the CRCOG Foundation.
- Implementation of the Metro Hartford Future Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which seeks to accelerate inclusive economic growth.
- Technical assistance to towns on development and conservation strategies, including strategies to create and maintain sustainable and livable communities.
- Promotion of sustainable development and design principles.
- Regional Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning.
- Statutory planning responsibilities: Regional Plan of Conservation and Development maintenance; input on land use, transit, and active transportation components of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan; review

of zoning and subdivision proposals along town boundaries; review of municipal plans of conservation and development; review and support of municipal grant applications that advance regional plans and policies.

- Working in coordination with CRCOG’s GIS Department to provide advanced mapping and analysis services for member municipalities and all CRCOG departments.

CDC SPAN Grant, aka “Active CT”

In 2019, CRCOG received a CDC SPAN sub-grant through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to carry out the physical activity components of the program across the State of Connecticut. This program works at the state level to implement evidence-based nutrition and physical activity strategies that address health disparities related to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and/or obesity. Various tasks related to designing communities to increase access to physical activity are associated with the CDC SPAN Grant including but not limited to:

- Workshops/Trainings
- Quick-Build Demonstration Projects
- Bike Racks (purchasing)
- Small Area/Concept Plans
- Design/Implementation Guides
- Web/Digital Tools

CDC BRIC Grant

In 2021, as new challenges surfaced or were exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CRCOG received a CDC BRIC sub-grant through the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to carry out the physical activity components of the program in specific, identified communities – Hartford and New Haven. This program sought to address food and nutrition security, improve safe physical activity access, and reduce social isolation and loneliness through a policy, systems, and environmental change lens. Tasks as part of this effort included:

- Clay Arsenal Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan (Hartford)

- Quick-Build Demonstration Project at Derby Avenue/George Street (New Haven)

EDA Cares Grant

In FY 21-22 CRCOG received an EDA CARES sub-grant through CT Department of Economic Community Development (DECD) and is using part of that funding to staff the RRSC and identify needs and opportunities. There are four tasks associated with the EDA Cares Grant:

- Webinars and Business Networking
- Digital Assistance
- Long Term Recovery
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

Goals for Regional Planning and Development

- Work to improve the livability and sustainability of Capitol Region communities through projects that:
 - ◊ Foster distinctive and attractive communities with a strong sense of place and are socially sustainable and resilient.
 - ◊ Thoughtfully locate development, balancing economic development and preservation of land, and encouraging mixed use development.
 - ◊ Expand housing opportunities, including housing to meet the needs of all our citizens, regardless of income, age, race, ethnicity, and special needs.
 - ◊ Create walkable, bikeable and accessible communities.
 - ◊ Accelerate inclusive economic growth.
 - ◊ Preserve open space, working and prime farmland, and critical environmental areas.
 - ◊ Strengthen communities and direct development toward existing infrastructure, infill opportunities, and town centers.
 - ◊ Make development decisions predictable,

fair, and cost effective.

- Encourage meaningful and equitable community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.
- Embrace advanced scenario planning to create land use models and pursue investment that will provide opportunities for more energy-efficient transportation and housing choices, enabling towns to utilize data in their decision-making processes.
- Support the assessment, remediation, and reuse of brownfields to help achieve the region's sustainability goals.
- Support municipal efforts to protect against loss of life and property due to natural hazards through appropriate planning and infrastructure improvements.
- Work toward enhanced regional coordination among state, regional and local levels of government and across functional disciplines, as well as between the public and private sector.
- Complete the tasks outlined in the CDC SPAN Grant by September 2023 (application for another five years of funding submitted for FY 24-29)
- Complete the tasks outlined in the EDA Cares Grant by September 2023

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Staff works with public and private partners to implement recommendations contained in the ***Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development, 2014-2024***, the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Action Plan, ***One Region, One Future: An Action Agenda for a Connected, Competitive, Vibrant, Green Knowledge Corridor***, and the region's ***Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)***. The following activities were conducted in FY 2022-2023:

Regional Planning

- Utilized statutorily required CRCOG reviews of municipal plans of conservation and development, zoning amendments, and subdivision proposals as an opportunity to provide comments on enhancements which could support implementation of TOD opportunities, increasing housing choice with a focus on housing affordability, and attention to complete streets per our regional Completes Streets policy.
- Carried out Statutory Planning Responsibilities: Regional Plan of Conservation and Development maintenance; gave input on land use, transit and active transportation components and brownfields and natural disaster implications of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan; reviewed zoning and subdivision proposals along town boundaries, and municipal plans of conservation and development, for consistency with regional plans and policies, and the concerns of neighboring municipalities; review and support of municipal grant applications that advance regional plans and policies. Involved CRCOG Regional Planning Commission in the regional review process.
- Provided planning and implementation assistance in support of: transit-oriented development; expansion of housing opportunities; increased job and business opportunities; creation of bike and pedestrian friendly communities; green building and infrastructure; neighborhood planning and placemaking; preservation of working farms and key environmental resources; and other topics consistent with the principles of livable and sustainable communities.
- Initiated visits to communities as part of a municipal outreach effort to better understand their challenges and goals to better understand how CRCOG can assist our cities and towns
- Helped municipalities and developers provide for housing to meet the needs of all our citizens through responses to individual requests for information and assistance.
- Staffed the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission and shared with these representatives from municipal planning and

zoning commissions topics and strategies to create a more connected, competitive, vibrant and green Capitol Region. Organized education presentations on a variety of topics including reforms to statewide zoning laws, land use law, affordable housing, and natural hazards mitigation planning.

- Received a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) grant applications to update the Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan must be updated every five years to ensure our member municipalities have access to FEMA grants for hazard mitigation projects. The plan will include risk and vulnerability analyses and strategies to help member communities protect against the impacts of natural hazards.

Transit Oriented Development and Sustainability

- Nearing completion on a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Roles and Responsibilities study for the region that was initiated in FY 21-22. Working with towns to identify specific sites in their communities, the study assesses the financial feasibility of individual sites in station areas along the CTfastrak and CTrail corridors.
- Continued efforts to better integrate transportation, community development, municipal services, natural hazard mitigation and public safety activities within CRCOG that are related to building and maintaining livable and sustainable communities.
- Represented CRCOG in the Sustainable CT municipal certification program, assisting with reviews of municipal applications for certification and hosting Sustainable CT Fellows.
- Used the regional statutory land use review process to make recommendations to local planning and zoning commissions on actions which would advance regional sustainability. Provided CRCOG support to municipal open space, housing, recreational trail, brownfields and other grant applications.

Economic Development and Brownfields Program

- Initiation of Metro Hartford Future, the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) under the guidance of the Metro Hartford Future Implementation Committee. The plan focuses on talent and workforce; connectivity within the region and to the broader region; and branding and promotion efforts.
- In coordination with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), applied and was awarded a grant from the US Economic Development Administration for CARES Act funding. The funding would provide resources for CRCOG to update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding allowed CRCOG to provide some technical assistance to regional stakeholders for webinars and business networking opportunities, digital assistance, and long-term recovery for businesses and also funded the CEDS update.
- Improved the potential for the clean-up and redevelopment of contaminated properties through the MetroHartford Brownfields Program. FY 2022-2023 accomplishments included:
- Updated the application for Assessment funds and expanded outreach to our member towns to identify project sites. With the pandemic slowdown, we extended our contracts with the Licensed Environmental Professionals for Assessment consulting services, Fuss & O'Neil through September 2022. We have \$300,000 from the U.S. EPA for Brownfields Assessment funding. We continue to focus on sites with TOD potential in Hartford and along transit corridors
- Continued to work with Towns of Somers and Berlin on the Revolving Loan Fund subgrant projects. We received a Credit Approval form from our contracted fund manager, Capital 4 Change, for East Hartford Venture, LLC. This is a remediation project at 794-850 Silver Lane in East Hartford. We drafted a loan agreement which was reviewed by CRCOG's attorney and has been provided to East Hartford

Venture and their attorney and we anticipate executing a contract for a \$325,000 loan. The Remediation Grant award . Continued to market the RLF program to potential borrowers. The Revolving Loan Fund has \$1,346,469.05 on hand.

Micromobility and Complete Streets

- Supported expansion of the regional pedestrian and bicycle network through planning and conducting CRCOG Bike and Pedestrian Committee meetings. Conducted the 9th Annual September 2022 Bike/Ped Count and Active Transportation Audits to monitor the current walkability/bikeability of count locations and identify trends in walking/biking in the region.
- Continued work on a grant-funded Active CT project through the Connecticut Department of Public Health's (DPH) State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
 - ◊ Successfully completed bicycle education "train-the-trainer" program
 - ◊ Purchased bicycle racks for five communities
 - ◊ Hosted a series of complete streets and bicycle education workshops
 - ◊ Completed the Meriden Parklet Activation Plan; completed the Housatonic Rail Trail Extension Plan
 - ◊ Completed traffic calming design plans for Groton
 - ◊ Supported other projects as part of Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC) program also through DPH from CDC
 - ◊ Began to execute scopes of work for projects that will be completed in 2023,
 - ◊ Partnered with DPH to submit an application to CDC for an additional five years of funding, continuing and expanding the work done to date.
- Served on the Hartford Complete Streets Task Force, a group which grew out of the national Mayors Complete Streets Challenge.

- Served on the CT Vision Zero Council subcommittees of Equity and Engineering as part of an interagency, statewide effort to eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serve injuries involving all roadway users.
- CRCOG led an effort to bring a bikeshare program to the region in 2019. When the selected vendor went out of business staff worked with the successor entity to modify the program into a scooter share program for the City of Hartford. We continued to explore the feasibility of a regional micromobility system by completing the CRCOG Regional Micromobility Feasibility Study which explored the feasibility of, and pathways to, implementing a regional micromobility program. We continue to support the successful program in Hartford and work to expand the program to other municipalities. To this end, we held a regional discussion with interested towns in Fall 2022 and continue follow-up conversations for pilot program potential in several communities.

Other Areas

- Staffed the CRCOG Foundation. The Foundation works as a convener, an educator and a funder to help advance policies, programs and direct service activities that forward the CRCOG mission.
- Represented CRCOG on the Central Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), a committee which completed a Comprehensive Water Supply Plan for the Central Connecticut area in June 2018.
- Represented CRCOG on the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Council (CTRC&D). The CTRC&D was established under a program of the United States Department of Agriculture and is designed to help communities and individuals care for and protect their natural resources in a way that improves the local economy, environment, and living standards.

2022-2023 Performance

State Statutory and SGIA Responsibilities:	2021-2022	2022-2023*
Number of CRCOG zoning and subdivision reviews conducted	155	191
Number of reviews of municipal plan updates	2	7
Number of funding application reviews for projects implementing regional goals and policies	1	3
Brownfields		
DECD brownfields assessment and inventory funds expended		N/A
EPA brownfields assessment funds expended	\$12,025	\$29,008
# of sites on which environmental assessments were completed	0	0
EPA remediation funds committed (loans and subgrants)		\$0
# of sites selected for remediation	1	1
Implementation of Plans, Practices and Information Sharing that Support Sustainable Communities		
Reports Published	3	2
Environmental Team Projects Supported	1	0
Training workshops conducted or co-sponsored by CRCOG, and/or in which CRCOG staff participated as panel members	4	3
Number of bike/ped counts completed	32	30
Number of active transportation intersection audits completed	24	30
Building Program Capacity		
New grants applied for that support CRCOG mission	2	2
New or continued grants awarded that support CRCOG mission	3	3
Notes: *Includes data for 5/1/2022 - 4/19/2023		

Comprehensive Planning: Transportation Planning

Introduction

Mission: Work to achieve a multi-modal, balanced regional transportation system inclusive of automobile, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian options; support the development of more livable communities; help sustain the City of Hartford as the core of a strong region; and assist our member towns in reaching their local transportation goals.

The Transportation Planning Department is responsible for defining the region's long-term vision for transportation, developing a strategic plan to achieve that vision, and programming projects that implement the plan. As a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), we provide local elected officials with a voice in the decision-making process regarding how federal transportation funds are invested. For many projects, CRCOG integrates land use and transportation planning. Staff have expertise in both areas, enabling them to effectively integrate CRCOG's planning for active transportation, transit, transit-oriented development, and transportation corridor studies into multi-disciplinary regional plans and policies for the Capitol Region.

Committees

- Transportation Committee
- Cost Review and Schedule Subcommittee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
- Greater Hartford Traffic Incident Management Coalition

Program Areas

- Transportation planning and policy development
- Transit planning
- Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Freight planning
- Project financing and programming

- System management and operations planning, including congestion management, safety management, incident management, and emergency management
- Regional travel forecast model
- Technical assistance to towns (traffic analyses, GIS, project financing, etc.)
- Public participation, Title VI, and Environmental Justice
- Influencing state transportation policy (includes serving on statewide committees)

Goals for Transportation Planning

- Support the Policy Board and Transportation Committee in developing transportation plans, policies, programs, and projects to achieve a balanced, safe, and efficient regional transportation system.
- Ensure a regional voice in the development of state transportation policies, plans, and programs.
- Fulfill all federal MPO planning requirements to ensure a sound performance based decision-making process regarding how federal transportation funds are invested (required to maintain the region's eligibility for federal funds).
- Make sound decisions regarding how transportation funds are programmed and work with municipalities, Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), and other stakeholders to ensure projects are advanced in an efficient manner.
- Provide technical assistance to member communities.

2022-2023 Accomplishments

- Completed update of Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Unified Planning Work Program.
- Awarded over \$39 million in State Fiscal Year 2023 Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) funding (measured in total “authorization to award” amounts).
- Completed a solicitation for 2023 LOTICIP projects including roadway reconstruction, bridge and culvert construction, pavement rehabilitation, stand-alone sidewalk, and bicycle-pedestrian projects, resulting in the selection of 18 projects totaling \$36.3 million.
- Complete a CRCOG solicitation for Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) projects that selected four projects to compete for funding statewide.
- Managed on-call consultants that assist CRCOG and member municipalities with LOTICIP project reviews and delivery.
- Worked with municipalities and CTDOT to advance projects under the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside program.
- Analyzed, presented, and approved numerous amendments and actions for the FFY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Continued to update the web-based tool for mapping LOTICIP and TIP projects and work with CTDOT on their E-STIP project.
- Provided technical assistance to towns to solve traffic problems, resolve project funding problems, and mediate design issues. Also provided assistance to towns and other agencies with mapping, census, and socio-economic datasets.
- Completed the TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis study.
- Continued Advancement of the Route 190 study in Enfield, the Regional Roundabout Screening Study, the Farmington Area Connectivity Study, East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study, and Route 20 (Windsor Locks) Study.
- Initiated the Route 44 Corridor Study in Canton.
- In partnership with CTDOT and CTtransit, CRCOG continued to advocate for implementation of recommendations from the Capitol Region Transit Priority Corridors Study as well as the Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis of CTtransit’s Hartford and New Britain/Bristol Divisions.
- Received a federal RAISE grant to complete the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail through Plainville and to link that trail to the CTfastrak trail in New Britain. Almost \$16.4 million in RAISE Grant funding was received to accompany the \$13.8 match commitment in the form of State Fix-it-First and Community Connectivity funding.
- Received a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan award in the amount of \$958,000. The award will be used to update and expand upon CRCOG’s existing comprehensive safety action plan with enhanced data analysis and an equity focus, and lay the groundwork to convert high crash intersections to roundabouts.
- Continued to work in partnership with CTDOT, the City of Hartford, and other stakeholders to advance the Greater Hartford Mobility Study.
- Supported CTDOT and affected communities on initiatives related to the CTrail Hartford Line and CTfastrak.
- Conducted utilization counts of the Region’s commuter park and ride lots in October 2022 and April 2023. Data summaries and infographics were updated and shared with the Transportation Committee and on CRCOG’s website.
- Continued organizing and holding Greater Hartford Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Coalition meetings for the Hartford Urbanized Area.
- Assisted municipalities in regional transportation safety plan strategies to support Vision Zero initiative.

- Greater Hartford Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Coalition assisted and supported emergency response organizations with a focus on key areas within transportation planning and operations. Some examples are: 1) updating of diversion plans, 2) adoption of a unified response manual for all TIM responders, and 3) increased TIM training for all responders.
- Continued to manage consultant contract for assistance in providing CRCOG with travel demand modeling and data management service.
- Continued coordination with CTDOT and members of the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum to understand freight planning roles and opportunities. Hosted MAP Forum virtual Spring Meeting in June 2023.
- Continued to monitor regional traffic and congestion as part of a continuous Congestion Management Process.
- Promoted selection and implementation of projects aligning with CRCOG’s Regional Transportation Safety Plan.
- Participated in regional and project-specific traffic management discussions related to construction activities in the Greater Hartford Area.
- Continued a second phase of Scenario Planning efforts including modeling the region utilizing additional Scenario Planning Software.
- Worked with CTDOT, federal officials, and other stakeholders to further advance performance-based planning initiatives including improvements to performance measurement and target setting.
- Worked to understand and advance projects under new IIJA funding sources including discretionary grant programs. Supported municipal application efforts.

2022-2023 Performance

The summary below highlights the programs in which CRCOG has a direct (or major role) in project development and selection. The provided funding grant/obligation program amounts and project counts represent projects specific to the CRCOG region and omit larger multi-region or statewide efforts. Federal programs are reported on federal fiscal year (October of previous year through September of year) and other programs are tracked on state fiscal year (July of previous year through June of year).

Program	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023*
STP Urban & LOTCIP Programs			
◇ Total federal STPU funds obligated	\$24,041,132	\$17,929,225	\$25,543,320
◇ Total state LOTCIP funds granted	\$5,930,707	\$17,382,865	\$39,094,432
◇ Number of LOTCIP project grants	6	8	15
(CMAQ, LRAR, TA Set-Aside)			
◇ Total federal funds obligated	\$27,877,160	\$6,337,000	\$4,638,000
◇ Number of projects	5	2	3
TIP Amendments:			
◇ Number of amendments approved	52	48	57

*FY 2023 full year funding estimates as of 3/31/2023

Transportation Program Performance:	% Complete
Special Studies Currently Managed	as of 3/31/2023
Route 190 Corridor Study, Enfield	60%
Regional Roundabout Screening Study	85%
Farmington Connectivity Study	75%
TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis	85%
East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study	15%
Route 20 Corridor Study, Windsor Locks	25%
Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton	Initiation Phase
Regional Representation on State Task Forces, Committees and Programs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Strategic Highway Safety Committees • Connecticut Vision Zero Council • CT Bike Ped Advisory Board • Traffic Records Coordinating Committee • Greater Hartford Mobility Study Coordination Meetings • State GIS Coordinating Committee • CT GIS User Network Steering Committee • Technology Transfer Center Advisory Committee • Safety Circuit Rider Advisory Committee • Traffic Signal Circuit Rider Advisory Committee • HNS / CTtransit, CTDOT Monthly Coordination Meetings • Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut • Institute of Transportation Engineers, Connecticut Chapter • Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), Connecticut Chapter 	

Federal MPO Requirements: Fulfill federal planning requirements to assure a sound decision-making process and to maintain the region’s eligibility for federal funds.

Document Date	Adopted
Unified Planning Work Program	May-23
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	Apr-23
Transportation Improvement Program (2021-2024)	Oct-20
Capitol Region Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan	Mar-15
Public Participation Plan	Apr-17
Congestion Management Process Report	Nov-20
MPO Certification	Oct-21

Regional Services: Municipal Services

Introduction

Mission: To expand municipal sharing opportunities.

CRCOG's Municipal Services Department is divided into three programmatic areas: Municipal Services/Service Sharing, Capitol Region Purchasing Council and the IT Services Cooperative. The CRCOG Municipal Services Committee oversees the work of all three areas and sets and reviews strategic goals.

The Municipal Service/Service Sharing programs major areas of responsibility include administering the OPM Service Sharing Grants, supporting and coordinating the efforts of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority, statutorily required functions and serving as a research and analysis resource for towns to explore service sharing opportunities. Statutory responsibilities include Regional Election Monitoring duties and the Human Services Coordinating Council. This area supports the Crumbling Foundations Testing Program, and the Ad-Hoc Working Committee on Crumbling Foundations. This also supports the Regional Performance Incentive Program Shared Services grants for Assessment, Building and Code Enforcement, and Animal Control (ACO).

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council's major areas of responsibility include Annual/Biennial cooperative bids, the CRCOG Energy Consortium, Indefinite Quantity Construction Program (ezIQC), and our e-Procurement software. The Purchasing Council Executive Committee hosts an Annual Meeting of the groups' membership (now over 125 local governments and agencies). Staff also continuously reviews the programming offered through the Council and explores new areas of service.

The CRCOG IT Services Cooperative pursues regional software and other IT programs, services, and solutions for municipalities looking

to save tax dollars and enhance operating efficiencies. This group has successfully supported the establishment of a commonsense, affordable fiber network for municipalities, which will enable the next generation of service sharing to gain local operating efficiencies. All municipalities in Connecticut now can connect to the Nutmeg Network. More service sharing opportunities are now possible as a result of this network connectivity and the establishment of the CRCOG Data Center, which can provide a wide array of IT hosting and software sharing to municipalities.

In addition to these areas, in 2020-2021, the state of Connecticut requested that CRCOG stand up the regional Long Term Recovery Committee and staff meetings as well as help develop and shepherd action plans for the Regional Long Term Recovery Steering Committee (RRSC) for DEMHS Region 3. In 2022-2023, CRCOG continued to work on Long Term Recovery and received an EDA CARES sub-grant through DECD. The Regional Long Term Recovery Steering Committee Work will sunset in early 2023-2024.

All these programs are open to towns outside of CRCOG's borders, supplementing municipal dues and other grant monies with fee-for-service income which helps us carry out our mission.

Committees:

- Municipal Services Committee
- Capitol Region Purchasing Council
- Human Services Coordinating Council

Program Areas:

1. Municipal Service Sharing
 - Regional Geographic Information System (GIS)
 - OPM Regional Service Sharing Grants
 - Waste Management and Diversion
 - Human Services Coordinating Council

- Regional Election Monitoring
2. Purchasing Council
 - Annual/Biennial Cooperative Bids
 - e-Procurement System
 - Natural Gas Consortium (on hiatus)
 - Electricity Consortium
 - Job Order Contracting construction (ezIQC)
 3. IT Services Cooperative
 - Fiber Infrastructure (SERTEX)
 - General IT Services (Novus Insight)
 - Hosting/Disaster Recovery
 - Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
 - Regional Online Permitting Program
 - Cybersecurity Policies and Services
 - Time and Attendance software (Novatime)
 - Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)
 4. HR-Portal
 - Salary Survey and Reporting Module
 - Model Document
 - Interview Panel
 - Human Resources Consulting Services
 5. Waste Management and Recycling
 - Waste Management and Diversion
 - Textile Recycling

Goals

- Research, analyze and implement programs that help municipalities work together in a more efficient, cost-effective manner.
- Maintain our current level of excellent service delivery with a philosophy of continuous improvement and an eye to changing needs and regulations to provide the best solutions to a wide variety of municipal operational needs.
- Expand and Promote the offerings of the CRCOG IT Services Cooperative. Promote CRCOG as a proving ground for innovative ideas and activities that benefit municipalities within our region.

- Explore and Implement waste management and diversion strategies to provide opportunities for our region to reduce, reuse, recycle, and divert waste and reduce disposal costs.
- Grow direct service offerings for smaller towns that focus on core operational needs such as assessment, building and code enforcement, human resources, social services, and accounting that can be difficult to maintain in a challenging fiscal environment.
- Respond to additional mandates from the state to add regional responsibilities and needs, including response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Municipal Services

- Worked with the CRCOG Municipal Services Committee to address issues and implement initiatives that helped enhance local government efficiency, effectiveness and intergovernmental cooperation. Actively engaged in CRCOG stakeholder outreach and other efforts to further develop the CRCOG services available to towns on a fee basis.
- Regional Election Monitoring: CRCOG staff is now serving as Regional Election Monitor (REM) and has been keeping abreast of developments with the Secretary of State. State legislation is pending for a change of the title to Regional Election Advisor (REA) which more closely represents the activity of the REM.

Regional Performance

Incentive Program

- Received \$1,379,500 in RPIP grants for Shared Assessment, Shared Building and Code Enforcement, and Shared Animal Control.
- Executed Notice of Grant Award and began kick-off meetings with interested towns.
- Conducted surveys to further shared assessment.

Waste Management, Diversion, and Recycling.

- Continued textile recycling programs and services through BayState Textiles.
- Successfully completed an RFP for a Waste Management and Diversion Study and established a Waste Management and Diversion Steering Committee
- Completed Tasks I and II of CRCOG's Waste Management and Diversion Study to inventory and access existing infrastructure, explored short-term (1 to 5 yr.) challenges, strategies, and opportunities for continuous process improvement and organics diversion, and completed an Application to fund a Regional Waste Authority (e.g., reconvene CCSWA) to address long-term options to increase waste disposal capacity and reduce costs in our region.
- Met with various stakeholders regarding Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA). Convened members regarding the future of MIRA and the future state of waste management and diversion in our region.
- Presented results of CRCOG's Waste Management and Diversion Study to CRCOG's Policy Board, Municipal Services Committee, and other stakeholders.

Human Resources Initiative

- Competitively bid for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Services for member towns.
- Updated the CCM Municipal Salary Survey.
- Continued to market on-call Human Resources Consulting Services
- Continued pilot of the shared municipal job applicant portal.

Crumbling Foundations

- Continued administration of the Governor's Crumbling Foundation Testing Program, which provides reimbursement for core testing or visual inspections to homeowners.
- Collected and vetted submissions to the CRCOG Qualified Vendor List. The Qualified Vendor List continues to be utilized by the Connecticut Foundations Solutions Indemnity

Company as a resource in their application process.

- Received \$2MM in Congressionally directed funding for Crumbling Foundations remediation via the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

CRCOG IT Services Cooperative

Continued to develop and expand cost-effective regional shared programs and services for municipal Information Technology in partnership with the Novus Insight, the Capital Region Purchasing Council (CRPC), NECCOG, the CT Council of Small Towns (COST), and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

Cybersecurity

- The Cybersecurity Task Force and met six times during FY 2022-2023. This Task Force is in conjunction with Public Safety as part of the DEHMS Region Cybersecurity Task Force. Both Municipal Services and Public Safety staff work on this task force.
- Continue to promote US National Guard municipal cyber security assessments.
- Serve on the CTDEMHS Cyber Grant Planning Subcommittee.
- Continued to distribute and share Cybersecurity Model Policies for municipal access.
- Continued to promote Cybersecurity Infrastructure Services with Novus Insight, allowing municipalities access to Cybersecurity Assessment, Remediation, Maintenance, and Staff Training Services.
- CRCOG completed a webinar series for Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers to give CEO's and CAO's an understanding of policy needs for cybersecurity.

Regional Online Permitting

- Continued to expand the online permitting programs and services (Municipality/ICC-CDS and ViewPoint Cloud/OpenGov), including amending Master Contracts and securing cost-effective pricing for CRCOG and CRPC members.

Electronic Document Management Service (EDMS)

- Transitioned South Windsor, CT from Hyland/OnBase to LaserFische EDMS platform.

Capitol Region Purchasing Council

- Continued to provide programmatic support to Cooperative Purchasing activities, focusing on continuous improvement of long-standing offerings. Presented to several of our COG partners, Business Administrators of Southeastern CT, and promoted our programs across the state.

CRPC Bids

- Administered the Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) Cooperative Purchasing Program. Annual volume-based savings generated by the Cooperative Purchasing Program were estimated at \$1.83million in FY2022-23 for CRPC members. CRPC membership is now over 120 public entities (municipalities, boards of education and other public entities). It is important to note that the savings reflect only those quantities that were given to CRCOG prior to the bid. Many of the CRPC communities choose to piggy-back on our bids after the bids have been submitted and tabulated.

CRCOG Energy Programs

- Natural Gas Consortium – This program will continue its hiatus due to NYMEX market conditions. Market pricing is still much higher over the next three-year contract term versus what is available from the utilities.
- CRCOG Electricity Consortium – With the help of CRCOG’s consultant, CRCOG conducted a reverse auction in October of 2020 which resulted in a savings of 18.2% for participating members over the then current consortium contract. Based on the review of the consortium members, the pricing was locked in for four years. Participating members continue to experience benefits from the reverse auction. Although new members cannot lock in the October 2020 rates, there are still competitive opportunities to join.

ezIQ (EZ Indefinite Quantity Construction)

- This program has picked up pace after a concerted continuous improvement effort by staff. Efforts of staff have included holding an information session in the Southeast which included several new members of the CRPC, an informational presentation to the NECCOG board of directors, close monitoring of key new projects, website and informational materials improvements, resumption of the annual ezIQ user’s group, and direct involvement in marketing campaigns developed by The Gordian Group.
- Eighty-nine towns and entities have issued purchase orders since the program's inception. Purchase orders for FY 2022-2023 are over \$34.2million.

e-Procurement

- CRCOG continues to use its Bonfire e-procurement platform. This has been a powerful and effective bidding and tracking tool.

2022-2023 Performance

	2021-22	2022-23
Dollars saved through CRPC bids (annual total for CRCOG members)	1.92 million	1.83 million
Number of bids conducted by CRPC	17	13
Number of Request for Proposals or similar processes conducted	4	5
Value of ezIQC Purchase Orders (since program inception)	\$73 million	\$85.3 million
<i>CRCOG Program Participation</i>		
Number of ezIQC users (since program inception)	87	89
Number of Electricity Consortium members	9	9
Number of CRPC members	119	125
Number of Regional Permitting members	53	58
Cybersecurity Program Participants	12	12
Textile Recycling Participants	57	65

Municipal Technical Support: Public Safety and Homeland Security

Introduction

Mission: To access and coordinate federal, state, and local grant and financial opportunities to enhance the region's capabilities to protect the safety, security, and health of its citizens through the region's police, fire, public health, emergency management, EMS and emergency planning organizations.

CRCOG's Public Safety and Homeland Security Department coordinates and assists the efforts of 41 participating towns to plan for, access state and federal funding for, and develop and implement projects that will improve the region's safety and security. Major areas of responsibility include administration of the statewide CAPTAIN mobile data communication system and project management and oversight of federal grant funds in the following categories: State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and Citizen Corps programs (CCP).

Committees:

- Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council
- Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps
- CTDEMHS Reg 3 Cyber Security Task Force
- Urban Area Working Group
- Training and Exercise Planning Workgroup
- I:COMM Team
- Incident Management Steering Committee
- Capitol Region HAZMAT Team Steering Committee
- Regional Mobile Command Post Committee
- Capitol Region Pre K-12 Emergency Planning Committee
- Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council:

R-ESF 1 Transportation

R-ESF 3 Public Works & Engineering

R-ESF 4 Firefighting

R-ESF 5 Emergency Management

R-ESF 6 Mass Care

R-ESF 7 Resource Management

R-ESF 8 Public Health & Medical Services

R-ESF 9 Search and Rescue

R-ESF 10 HAZMAT

R-ESF 11 Animal Response

R-ESF 13 Public Safety and Security

R-ESF 14 Economic Recovery

R-ESF 15 External Affairs (Media)

R-ESF 16 Volunteer Management

R-ESF 19 Special Needs Management

R-ESF 20 Faith Based Organizations

R-ESF 21 Collegiate Services

Program Areas:

1. Public Safety Planning and Policy Development
2. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Planning and Policy Development
3. Technical Assistance to Towns
4. HSEEP Complaint Training and Exercise Coordination
5. Project Financing and Programming
6. Project Implementation and Management
7. Influencing State Homeland Security Policy (includes serving on statewide committees/ stakeholder groups)

Goals for Public Safety

- Support the Policy Board and Public Safety/ Homeland Security committees in developing appropriate plans, policies, programs, and projects to achieve a safe, balanced, and efficient regional public safety and homeland security system.
- Assure a regional voice in the development of state public safety and homeland security policies, plans and programs.
- Manage and administer federal homeland security funds, in compliance with State and

Federal laws, on behalf of the 41 communities that make up the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council and the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 3.

- Appropriately staff the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council and its Emergency Support Functions, Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association, Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council, and the Region 3 Cybersecurity Task Force.
- Manage the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant from the CT Department of Public Health on behalf of the 14 local public health departments and districts in our region.
- Provide technical assistance, HSEEP compliant training development and exercise coordination services to member communities.
- Continue to run Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) for first responders within our region.
- Assure the development of public safety education programs within Connecticut by service on various boards and advisory commissions for high school and college programs specializing in public safety and homeland security.
- Administer and maintain the CAPTAIN mobile data communication system and prepare for the transition of the system.
- Continue to promote the means to create accountability tags for the communities through the Salamander identification system.
- Continue to conduct After Action Reviews and Real-Life Incident Reviews for our communities as requested.

2022-2023 Accomplishments

Public Safety and Homeland Security – overall

- Staff members serve on the governing boards of the Goodwin College Homeland Security Program, the Greater Hartford Public Safety Academy and the DEMHS Statewide Advisory Council, Statewide Cybersecurity Committee, Statewide Citizen Corps Council and Statewide Homeland Security Working Group.
- Completed work on an After-Action Review of the region's response during the covid pandemic conducted by Tetra Tech.
- Organized several virtual meetings for FirstNet/AT&T to present on this first nationwide public safety broadband network.
- Participate in the Traffic Records Coordinating Council.
- Continued working with the Connecticut Department of Public Health as the fiduciary agent for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds.
- Our 24/7 coverage forms, MCM Action Plan and Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plans have been submitted. CRCOG distributed the new Administrative Service Agreements for BP4. We continue to have monthly ESF-8 meetings and bi-weekly meetings with the local Public Health Directors.
- Staff completed work on the deliverables for the infectious disease funding. An order using the balance of the funds was placed for the purchase of PPE for our EMS providers.
- CRCOG staff coordinated Law Enforcement Day at Camp Courant where more than 25 police departments participated to interact with 500 campers from the City of Hartford.
- CRCOG staff attended training sessions with Everbridge and worked to completely update and enhance our current alerting system.
- CRCOG staff assisted with the establishment of a Civil Disorder Task Force and a FEMA

Crowd Control course for police departments within our region.

Homeland Security Initiatives

- FFY 2019 SHSGP – Completed project work and closed out this grant. Through the Statewide Homeland Security Working Group CROG received an additional \$60,000, which included set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad and Capitol Region HAZMAT Team.
- FFY 2020 SHSGP- Received grant award and continue to work on grant deliverables. Through the Statewide Homeland Security Working Group received additional funds for the Hartford Bomb Squad and planning work.
- FFY 2021 SHSGP – Received grant award and have begun project work.
- The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council approved a Spending Plan for the FY 2022 Homeland Security funds at their July quarterly meeting. The region will receive \$480,956 from the State Homeland Security Grant Program. This includes a slight increase from last year and set asides for Protection of Soft Targets and Election Security. In addition, we will receive grant awards for the Capitol Region HAZMAT Team and our Metropolitan Medical Response System.
- Purchased various equipment for regional SWAT and Dive teams, the Regional Incident Dispatch Team, Incident Management Team, the four regional mobile command posts and the Hartford Bomb Squad.
- The Regional Emergency Support Plan was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, and remains in monitoring status. Coordination is being done by the ESF-5 (Emergency Management) and ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services) duty officers.
- CROG began running a Regional Distribution Site at a Public Works Facility in the Town of West Hartford during the pandemic and now continues to open it on an as needed basis. This allows us to receive, stage and distribute Medical Countermeasures including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as it becomes available. We are working with the Department of Public Health with PPE for EMS, first responders, Long Term Care facilities, and community health organizations.
- The Region 3 Cybersecurity Task Force was designated as the new ESF-17 Cybersecurity and work has begun on the new RESP Annex. A Tabletop Exercise was held for the region's IT Directors with plans to make it a series.
- The Region 3 Incident Management Team leadership has been meeting monthly with DEMHS to further support and enhance the ability of the State IMT.
- CROG offered to assist in funding the region's Emergency Management Directors to obtain their Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) or Associate Emergency Management Director (AEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers.
- The K-12 Emergency Planning Committee has continued their good work through quarterly meetings. The group is made up of Superintendents and school security personnel.
- Resource Typing Initiative – Completed DEMHS requirements for collection and submission of resource data.
- Regional Exercises - Supported regional exercises and coordinated training classes. Due to the pandemic these activities were limited this year however several are currently in the planning phase.
- HAZMAT – Continued meeting with the Regional HAZMAT team and developed spending plans for sustainment. Provided orientation sessions for the new leadership. Purchased equipment and initiated training programs.
- Continue to administer and enhance the Get Ready Capitol Region citizen preparedness website which also includes a Twitter feed and Facebook page.
- Support an ambassador program made up of CERT members to promote the site and message. Most trained are members of the region's CERT teams.

- CRCOG assisted communities to roll out the FEMA Student Tools for Emergency Preparedness (STEP) Program to all of their K-5 and K-8 schools.
- ESF-11 (Animal Response) - Focused on retaining and recruiting volunteers. Made virtual presentations to CERT teams who would like to take on an animal protection role and continue to make caches of equipment available to those teams. Recently made a stock of animal crates and cages available to interested communities.
- Functional Needs Training Program – Continue to train first responders for emergency responses dealing with citizens with functional needs. Training will resume shortly.
- Continued training and education sessions for the mutual aid plan for all long-term care facilities.
- CRCOG staff attended the annual CT SWAT Challenge. The I-COMM team participated with MCV-3 and the radio truck.
- Staff members participated in a Detect and Resolve Exercise and several transportation exercises with the TSA and continue to partner with them.
- Committee memberships - Staff members serve on various DEMHS statewide stakeholder and regionalization subcommittees.
- Partnered with DEMHS Region three staff to hold introductory meetings with new Chief Elected Officials and Emergency Management Directors.
- Participated in the DEMHS Best Practices Forum and Emergency Management Symposium. The history and capabilities of the Capitol Region Incident Communications Team was highlighted.
- Continue to offer Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400 classes to all police, fire, and emergency management personnel in the region according to national guidelines. CRCOG instructors have completed familiarization with new course materials, and they will begin teaching this in Summer 2023.
- Homeland Security conducted a hybrid onsite/virtual monitoring visit with CRCOG and viewed all equipment purchased for the Hartford Bomb Squad and regional SWAT teams.
- CRCOG coordinated with each community to put together a list of Municipal Water Coordinators as directed by DEMHS.
- Interoperable Communications training sessions were presented to the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association and Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council.

Regional Emergency Support Plan (RESP) Plan Enhancements

- RESP Plan – Annual updates and plan maintenance
- Completed updates for Regional ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services plans as part of the NACCHO Project public Health Ready reaccreditation.
- Integrating the Cybersecurity Task Force as a new Emergency Support Function.
- Integrating the Regional Distribution Plan into the overall document.

Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System (CRMMRS) and the Region 3 Emergency Support Function 8

- Managed fourteen local public health department/district subcontracts for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program grant funds totaling over 1.2 million dollars.
- Managing, monitoring, and reviewing the R3 LHD sub-contractor contractual reporting deliverables and preparing and submitted the required R3 reporting to CTDPH.
- Hosted and maintained bi-weekly situational awareness meetings to local public health department/district during the COVID-19 Stand-by Regional Status notification.
- Completed an AAR/IP for Regional COVID-19 Response on the CTDPH Template

- Review and update the Region 3 Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP), Medical Counter Measure Plan (MCM), Emerging Infectious Disease Response Plan (EIRDP) and the MMRS Critical Workforce Dispensing Plan.
- Completed a Training Needs Assessment of R3 Local Public Health staff to inform an R3 Integrated Training Planning and the R3 Public Health Workforce Development Plan.
- Planning two contractual exercises R3 Tabletop Exercises (TTX). One on pill dispensing and the other on vaccination scenarios as PHEP deliverables for CTDPH.
- Supported contractor in conducting and providing a Region 3 AAR/IP Response to COVID-19 for CREPC.
- Working with CMED to assess the training needs of the R3 EMS personnel and other critical first responders to maintain and enhance current capabilities for regional public health and medical response in compliance with state and federal directives.
- Continued to review and update original MMRS deliverables / emergency preparedness planning.
- Maintain an updated antibiotics cache of pharmaceutical countermeasures for first responders/critical staff in Capitol Region. Exploring expansion to respond to all five DEMHS regions through the CT Healthcare Coalition.
- Participate in meetings and training opportunities of the MMRS National Leadership Group and continue to work on local responder medical preparedness issues.
- Participate and support continued training of LTC Mutual Aid Plan members of the Regional Coordination Center in the Manchester EOC serving as the LTC Coordination Center.
- Participate on the statewide Long-Term Care Mutual Aid Plan Steering Committee.
- Participate in the Region three monthly EMS Chiefs meetings.

Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps (CR-MRC)

- Post COVID-19 pandemic, CR-MRC continues to be a valuable asset to public health missions. CR-MRC provides vaccinators to community-based clinics particularly in Hartford and is supporting the Town of West Hartford and the Host Community project.
- On-going requests for the CR-MRC Cabana unit. The unit will be delivered to the Travelers Championship in June 2023 to support St. Francis Hospital and the Medical Center's medical operation throughout the course of the tournament.
- Continued collaboration with MRC sub-units to enhance MRC training opportunities.
- CR-MRC continues to conduct monthly training sessions in accordance with the Regional Training and Exercise Work plan.
- CR-MRC provides a bi-monthly orientation for new volunteers including medical and non-medical.
- CR-MRC continues to use the CT-Responds volunteer management system and makes recommendations on improvements.
- CR-MRC conducted a Feasibility Assessment to support continuing to be housed with CRCOG and to evaluate the value to local health departments and districts.
- Staff completed an application to the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) on behalf of the CR-MRC to strengthen the unit's Logistics Team and to implement an accurate and sustainable inventory of CR-MRC equipment and supplies to be ready to deploy within 72 hours of a request or incident.
- Staff completed a successful NACCHO Respond, Innovate, Sustain and Equip (RISE) award application.
- CR-MRC submitted and received three Connecticut Health Care Coalition Special Project awards: to create a CR-MRC Training Academy, To create a Long Term Care mission ready capability and to support a dedicated trainer and training plan for the CR-MRC.

- CR-MRC is working with the Town of West Hartford to reduce the equipment footprint and is creating a complete inventory of supplies.

Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council

- Host bi-monthly Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council meetings.
- Expansion - Continued to expand our Council and added CERT teams within our communities.
- Hosted the inaugural regional CERT Training class at CRCOG and will continue to provide these sessions twice a year.
- Our CERT teams found creative and innovative ways to help during the pandemic and have continued many of these missions. Many of our teams assisted with a mask and thermometer distribution program for local businesses. They assisted with meal delivery for elderly and shut-ins within their communities, partnered with local Boards of Education for meal distribution to school children and helped at United Way Farm to Families events. Traffic control was conducted for drive by high school graduations and covid test kit distributions.

- Hosting - Hosted joint refresher training sessions for all teams.
- Missions - Expanded the missions of current teams.
- The 3rd Annual CERT Awareness Day is being planned for July and will be held in region 3 on the Wesleyan University campus.

2022-2023 Performance

Provide responsible management of all homeland security projects	Calendar 2021	Calendar 2022
Federal/state SHSGP grants received (planning, equipment, training & exercises)	\$189,313	\$546,881
Homeland Security reimbursement requests and reports completed in a timely manner (%)	100%	100 %
CERT training courses administered	3	11
# of ICS 300 and 400 classes held/# of individuals trained	0/0	0/0
Homeland security exercises conducted including full scale, tabletop and drills	1	1
Reimbursed training hours to local first responders (hours)	315	575.5
Regional Coordination Center activations	1	1
National or regional deployments, Incident Management Team/ individuals deployed	2	1

Opportunities



- Existing Services with Potential for Regional Expansion
- Legislative Recommendations
- Report Distribution

Existing Services with Potential for Regional Expansion

Regional opportunities may be grouped into three areas:

- Back office functions? support services for town and city services;
- Direct services to residents or communities such as building inspections or property tax assessment; and
- Convening around significant regional issues to arrive at solutions such as solid waste management and regional homeland security.

Back Office Functions

Many of current back-office functions that support direct services to residents that are currently performed at the municipal level could be leveraged on a regional scale for efficiency and greater effectiveness. Past and current successful CRCOG programs include cooperative commodity bidding, CAPTAIN mobile data display systems, CT Chief document management systems for police, and Regional Online Programming. CRCOG believes the following back-office functions could be transferred to the regional council of governments:

Finance / Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP): With the newly required Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA) for municipal government and boards of education, cooperative purchasing of Financial Management Systems or an ERP system becomes more realistic and possible to implement across various towns over the Nutmeg Network. Towns would retain control over the systems on an individual basis but would be able to take advantage of lowered costs for such a system as well as the ability to implement best practices and learn from other towns.

Facilities and Asset Management Systems: Cooperative purchase of Facilities and Asset Management Systems over the Nutmeg Network would enable towns to increase efficiency while reducing costs. In addition, depending on need,

implementing regional facilities maintenance would enable towns to share resources and increase efficiencies.

Data Services: Front Office Government Functions

Some front-end customer facing government functions could take advantage of economies of scale at a regional scale. These include: building permitting and inspections and animal licensing and control and assessment services.

These three are all areas where CRCOG is currently conducting RPIP grants to pilot the concept with member towns.

Council of Governments as a Convener and Facilitator

In the past, CRCOG has been a convener and facilitator of municipalities to help solve important municipal issues that benefit from regional approaches. Past successes include creating the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority and convening stakeholders to develop a regional approach to homelessness. Currently CRCOG has convened communities affected by crumbling concrete foundations in the eastern half of the region. Additional areas where Councils of Governments could assist in arising issues include:

- Economic Development at state, regional and city levels
- Human Services (the Human Resources Council is the first step in this arena) for case management and document management
- Local Risk Assessment Program: Establish areas of local policy standards and training on a regional basis.

Legislative Recommendations

CRCOG recommends updating the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grants such that bargaining unit notification would be required upon grant approval instead of grant application. In addition, CRCOG recommends waiving notification if positions are not directly affected. The current RPIP legislation requires notification to the bargaining units with grant submittal and has proved challenging for some municipalities to even be able to explore potential participation in a regional program of any sort. When the grant sought does not directly affect any existing positions, bargaining units must be notified and this has caused some municipalities to withdraw from potential opportunities.

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*Please note: After January 2024,
we will be at a new location*