

Welcome

Policy Board

We have muted attendees upon entrance. We will unmute people either individually or for everyone depending on the situation.

Kindly have your Zoom name to reflect your name and affiliation. e.g., Matt Hart, CRCOG

Speakers must identify themselves with their name and town. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.

If you are abstaining or objecting to an action item, please state your name and town.

You may also submit questions & comments to the chat which will be directed to the host only.

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>



Rainbow in Suffield. Photo by Jeffrey Greer.

November 15, 2023

Agenda

AGENDA

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director, Administration & Finance

BIL/IIJA Update

Municipal Services

Transportation Planning

Public Safety

Regional Planning and Development Legislative Update

PRESENTATIONS

United Way presentation on ALICE, Maura Cook Senior

Vice President of Marketing & Development

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution authorizing three EZIQC regional contractor awards –
General Construction

Resolution authorizing four EZIQC regional contractor awards –
Road and Bridge Construction

Resolution to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for
the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ITEMS

Action: TIP Amendments – Postponed from October (Posted)

Action: TIP Amendments (Posted)

Action: 2024 Annual CTDOT Safety Performance Targets (Posted)

Action: Endorsement of Enfield Traffic Impact Study (Posted)

INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITY/RESOURCE ITEMS

Correspondence / Handout

Other Business

Adjournment

2. Public Comment

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>



3. Approval of Minutes from 10/25/2023

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>

CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

12:00 NOON

This was a virtual meeting.

For more information, email or call [Laura Rosenbluth](mailto:Laura.Rosenbluth@crcog.org) at 860-724-4283

Attendance

Eric Anderson
Jon Colman
Jim Rupert
Mark Walter
Jason Bowsza
Matthew Reed
Lori Spielman
Ellen Zoppo-Sassou
Jonathan Luiz
Randal Davis
Raúl De Jesús
Andy Tierney
Steve Stephanou
Ryan Aylesworth
Toni Moran
David Nagel
Mike Paulhus
Wendy Mackstutis
Mark Sciota
Colin Moll
Steve Jones
Rick Ledwith
Michael Rell
Peter Souza

Town/Organization

Andover
Bloomfield
Bolton
Columbia
East Windsor
Ellington
Ellington
Enfield
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
Mansfield
Newington
Plainville
Simsbury
Southington
Suffield
Tolland
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor

Staff

Kyle Shiel
Pramod Pandey
Elizabeth Sanderson

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

4. Staff Reports

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>

❑ Executive Director

- ❑ Welcome to the new members of the Policy Board and congratulations to those who were re-elected!
- ❑ Nominating committee preparing slate of Policy Board Officers and Executive Committee members for the 2023-25 term.
- ❑ Legislative Committee will meet on Nov 21 (9-11am), Dec 6 (9-11am), and Dec 21 (1-3pm) to prepare CRCOG's Legislative Agenda.
- ❑ Congratulations to the CRCOG communities of Berlin, Canton, East Granby, Manchester, New Britain, and South Windsor for receiving grant awards under the state-funded Community Connectivity Grant Program!
- ❑ NADO Annual Training Conference very informative & productive.
- ❑ Our office move date rescheduled to March 2024.

❑ BIL/IIJA Update

- ❑ Pleased to see \$104.9M in Federal Funding for Hartford Line's double-tracking program.
- ❑ Congratulations to Newington and West Hartford for SS4A grants! U.S. DOT anticipates additional awardees in December.

4. Staff Reports

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>

❑ BIL/IIJA Update

- ❑ US Treasury released Final Interim Rule expanding eligible uses for unobligated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF, a.k.a. ARPA Funds). A summary of Rule available [here](#).
- ❑ US DOT announced Round 2 of Bridge Investment Program for Large Bridges. CRCOG prepared [three static maps](#) and [interactive online map](#) depicting bridges listed on the National Bridge Inventory that are rated in poor or fair condition to assist municipalities with identifying projects that may be eligible for funding.
- ❑ US EPA announced over \$4 billion nationally for projects cited in Climate Action Plans. Visit [CRCOG's CPRGP webpage](#) for more information.
- ❑ Rural communities may be interested in reviewing the following lists of key funding opportunities:
 - [U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities for Rural Projects](#)
 - [National Center for Rural Road Safety Key Funding Opportunities](#)

4. Staff Reports

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>

❑ Administration & Finance

- ❑ CRCOG continues *CRCOGWhat*, *CRCOGWho*, *CRCOGWhy* social media campaign for the public to bring awareness to what we do and why it matters to our region.
- ❑ CRCOG staff continue to play a leadership role to enhance cyber security in DEMHS Region 3.
- ❑ CCSWA recently appointed a Finance Committee to develop FY 2024/25 Budget. CCSWA to hold its annual meeting on Dec 18.
- ❑ HSCC met virtually on Oct 19 to discuss food systems and food insecurity in our region. Next meeting of HSCC to be held on Dec 19 and will focus on homelessness and contributing factors.
- ❑ CRCOG continues to expand its IT Shared Services Cooperative Purchasing programs, services, and enhancements, including online permitting (ICC-CDS (Municipity)/OpenGov), fiber/broadband (Sertex), and VOIP (IP Genie) services.

4. Staff Reports

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>

❑ Transportation Planning

- ❑ CRCOG distributed new LOTCIP solicitation on Nov 8. The solicitation includes \$42 million in funding, and applications are due February 21, 2024. Additional details available at <https://crcog.org/request-for-proposals-2024-lotcip-solicitation/>.
- ❑ Staff continue to coordinate with FHWA and New Britain to update the Regional Transportation Safety Plan using SS4A funds.

❑ Public Safety

- ❑ Staff administering FY 20 **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)**. Program includes funds for training and exercise, contractual support, and maintenance of regional equipment.
- ❑ Capitol Region Incident Communications Team (I-COMM) awarded “Team of the Year” by the North Atlantic Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO).
- ❑ CRCOG’s PK-12 Emergency Planning Committee was recognized as a “Best Practice” by DEMHS’s Regional Collaboration Committee.

4. Staff Reports

All handouts can be found at:

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❑ Regional Planning and Development

- ❑ Staff making progress on the update to the region's POCD.
- ❑ CRCOG continues as lead agency for Hartford MSA on US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program.
- ❑ CIRCA and staff continue work on the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan update as well as Resilient 2.0, which are being completed concurrently.
- ❑ CRCOG staff submitted a \$500,000 grant application to the state for new assessment funds for our regional Brownfields Program.

5. Legislative Update

All handouts can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/>



6. Presentations

All handouts can be found at:

[https://crcog.org/event/
policy-board-53/](https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/)

United Way presentation on ALICE,

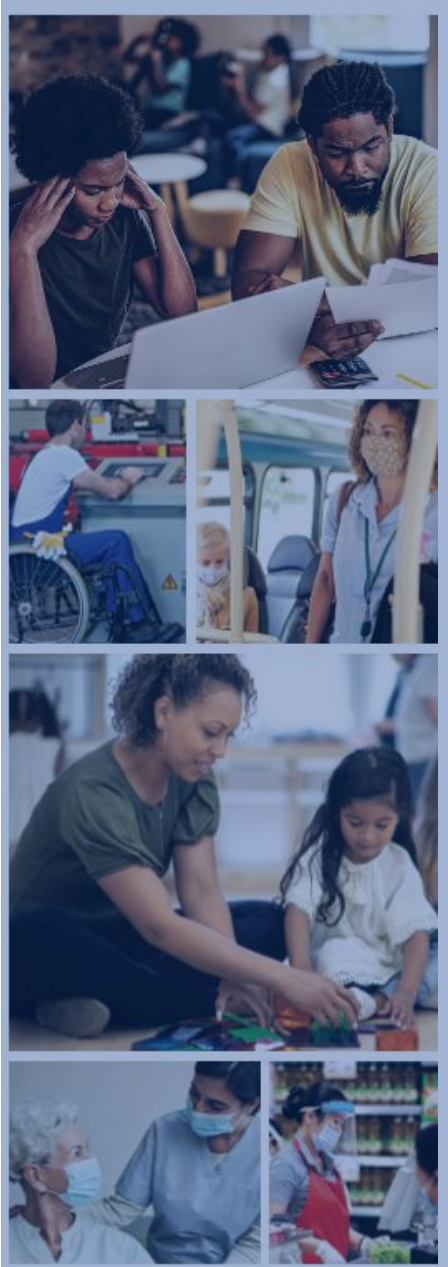
Maura Cook

Senior Vice President of Marketing & Development

ALICE:

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.





ALICE Methodology: Overview.



ALICE Household Survival Budget Methodology Overview		
	Description	Source
Housing	Fair Market Rent (40th percentile) for an efficiency, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom apartment (based on family size), adjusted in metro areas using the ACS – minus utilities.	ACS metro housing costs and US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Utilities	As captured by the Community Expenditure Survey.	CEX
Child Care	Cost for registered Family Child Care Homes for infants (0-2 years), preschool-age (3-4), and school-age children (5-12).	Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, 2022
Food	USDA Thrifty Food Plan by age with county variation from Feeding America; reflects updates to USDA Thrifty Plan in 2021.	Feeding America; US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Transportation	Operating costs for a car (average daily miles by age, cost per mile, license, fees, and insurance), or public transportation where viable.	AAA, Federal Highway Administration, The Zebra (car); CEX (public transportation)
Health Care	Health insurance premiums based on employer-sponsored plans plus out-of-pocket costs for households with \$40,000-\$69,000 annual income by age, weighted with poor-health multiplier.	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); CEX (health); Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Technology	Smartphone plan with 10GB of data for each adult in a household; increased from 5GB to 10GB data to reflect increased need for internet access.	Consumer Reports
Miscellaneous	Cost overruns estimated at 10% of the budget, excluding taxes, to cover one-time unanticipated costs within the other categories.	
Taxes	Federal, state, and local taxes owed on the amount of income to cover the Survival Budget, as well as tax credits, including the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC); due to the significant effect of the expanded tax credits in 2021, total taxes before federal credits and the credits are both listed.	Internal Revenue Services; Tax Foundation

The full 2023 ALICE Report methodology is available at unitedforalice.org/methodology



alice.ctunitedway.org | UnitedforALICE.org



COVID AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP IN
CONNECTICUT

2023 Report | UnitedforALICE.org



Connecticut Key Findings:

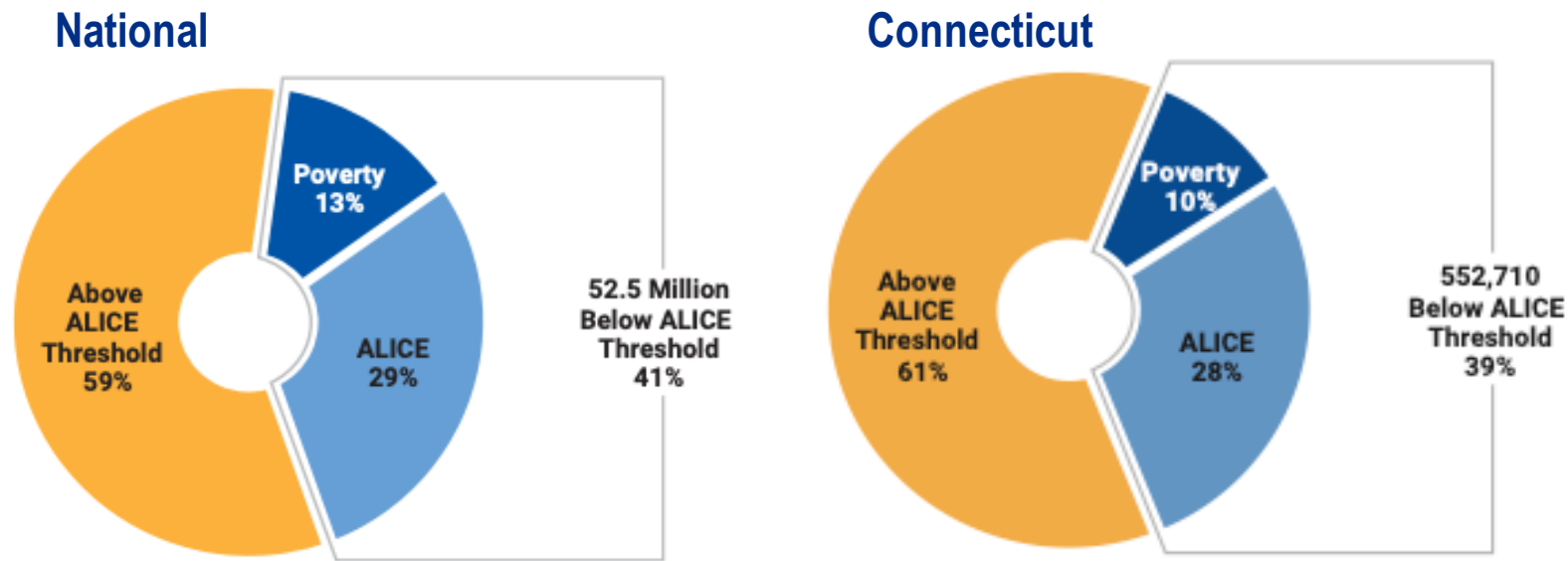
- Financial hardship of Connecticut households continues to grow.
- The problem: a mismatch between wages and the costs of basics.
- Racial, age and gender disparities persist.
- Pandemic-related enhancements to federal benefits have expired – increasing the strain.
- The rising costs of household essentials is putting financial stability further out of reach.



Connecticut United Ways



Of the 1.4 million households in Connecticut, 552,710 – or 39 percent – had income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2021; more than 54,000 additional households compared to 2019.



What households are saying:

- **20 percent** did not have enough food;
- **19 percent** were behind on rent; and,
- **22 percent** felt nervous, anxious and/or on edge every single day.



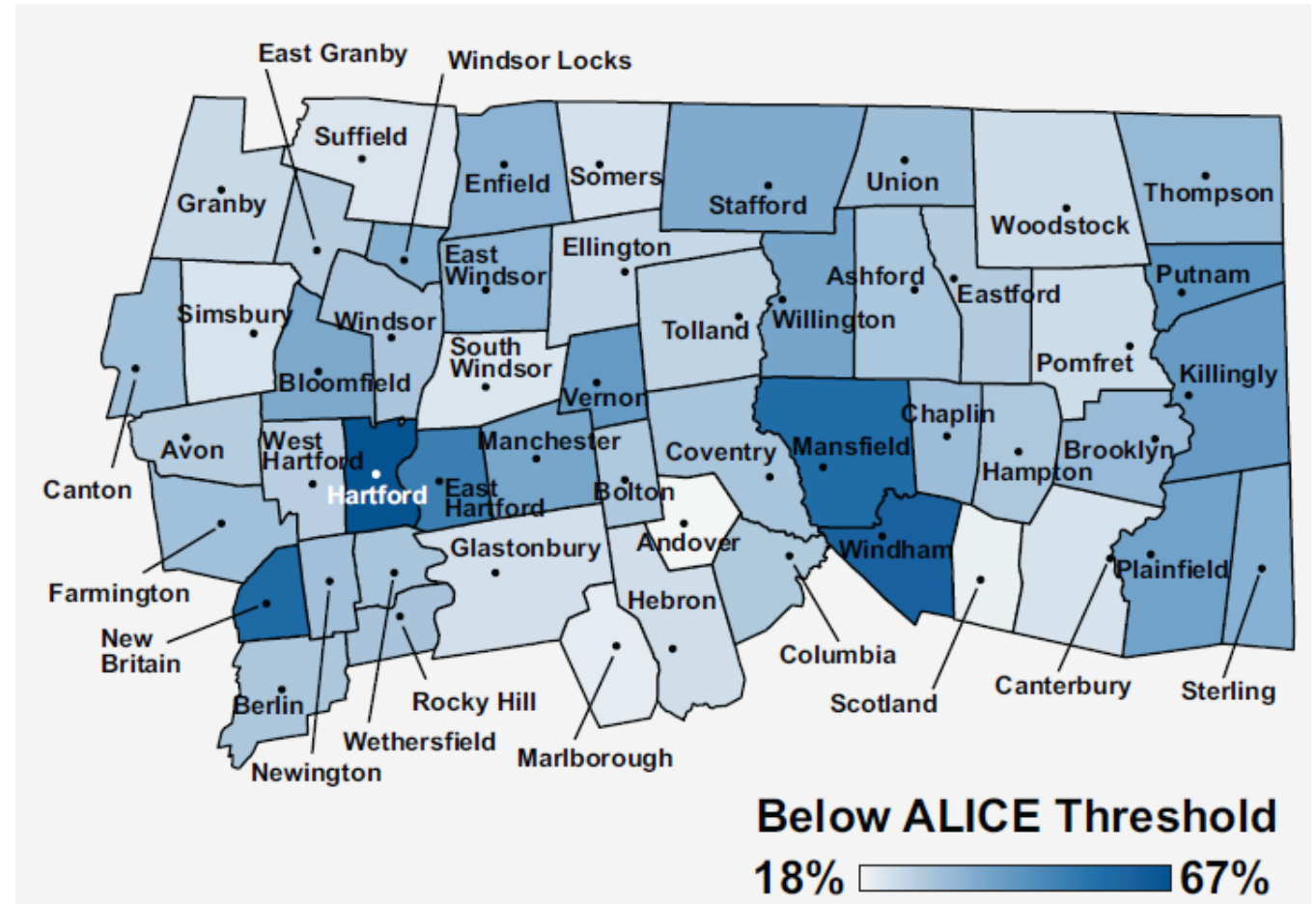
KEY FINDING:

Financial hardship continues to grow in Connecticut.

ALICE households live in every community in our region.

39 percent of central and northeastern Connecticut households live below the ALICE Threshold.

In some communities, that percentage is as high as 68 percent.



Town	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Andover	1,178	18%
Ashford	1,762	29%
Avon	7,398	27%
Berlin	8,105	29%
Bloomfield	8,802	37%
Bolton	1,868	28%
Brooklyn	2,807	32%
Canterbury	2,138	22%
Canton	4,232	30%
Chaplin	893	32%
Columbia	2,216	28%
Coventry	4,780	29%
East Granby	1,896	27%
East Hartford	19,647	51%
East Windsor	4,916	34%
Eastford	630	28%
Ellington	6,714	25%
Enfield	16,588	34%
Farmington	10,986	31%
Glastonbury	14,078	23%

Town	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Granby	4,247	24%
Hampton	690	29%
Hartford	46,879	67%
Hebron	3,603	23%
Killingly	7,099	41%
Manchester	24,952	38%
Mansfield	6,482	57%
Marlborough	2,142	20%
New Britain	28,261	58%
Newington	12,575	30%
Plainfield	6,045	39%
Pomfret	1,690	24%
Putnam	3,756	43%
Rocky Hill	8,894	30%
Scotland	591	19%
Simsbury	9,110	22%
Somers	3,340	22%
South Windsor	9,926	21%
Stafford	4,747	37%

Town	Total Households	% Below ALICE Threshold
Sterling	1,255	35%
Suffield	5,209	21%
Thompson	3,802	33%
Tolland	5,411	26%
Union	413	31%
Vernon	13,695	42%
West Hartford	25,805	27%
Wethersfield	11,411	29%
Willington	2,542	38%
Windham	8,862	62%
Windsor	11,278	29%
Windsor Locks	5,357	35%
Woodstock	3,405	24%
United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut	405,108	39%
Connecticut	1,397,324	39%

The Household Survival Budget adjusts for geography and household composition.

View more household compositions and maps by county, town and legislative district at unitedforalice.org/Connecticut



KEY FINDING:

The problem - mismatch between wages and the cost of basics.

Eight of the 20 Most Common Occupations, Connecticut, 2021.

Occupation	Total Employment (BLS)	Median Hourly Wage (BLS)	Percent Median Wage Change From 2019 (BLS)	Percent Workers Below ALICE Threshold (ACS PUMS)
Retail Salesperson	41,520	\$14.16	6%	32%
Personal Care Aides	38,040	\$14.30	12%	58%
Cashiers	37,600	\$13.80	17%	43%
Stockers and Order Fillers	30,160	\$17.34	29%	43%
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	29,060	\$20.53	2%	28%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	24,960	\$22.73	-1%	24%
Cooks	18,930	\$16.56	11%	46%
Secondary School Teachers	16,890	\$37.72	-1%	9%

60 percent
of the top 20
jobs in
Connecticut
paid **less**
than \$20/hour
(\$40,000/year)
in 2021.

Data for the 20 top occupations in Connecticut, 2021, are available in the 2023 ALICE Report.

Household Survival Budget, 2021*

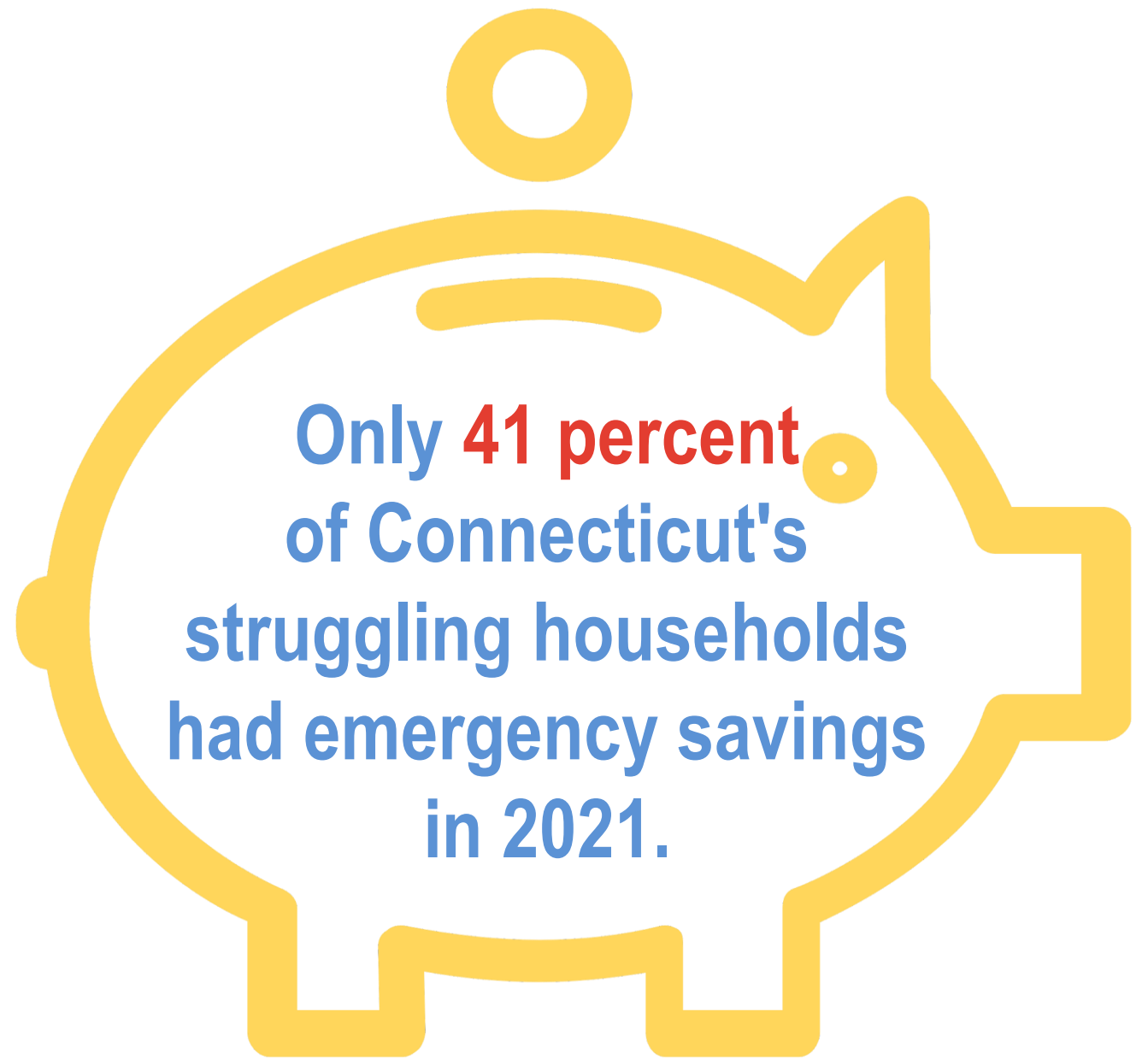
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$719	\$965
Utilities	\$154	\$292
Child Care	-	\$1,910
Food	\$489	\$1,334
Transportation	\$357	\$834
Health Care	\$241	\$815
Technology	\$75	\$110
Miscellaneous	\$204	\$626
Taxes	\$395	\$1,383
Monthly Total	\$2,634	\$8,269
Annual Total before Credits	\$31,608	\$99,228
Full-Time Hourly Wage**	\$15.80	\$49.61
Federal Tax Credits (CTC and CDCTC)***		(\$15,204)
Monthly Total with credits	\$2,634	\$7,002
Annual Total with Credits	\$31,608	\$84,024
Full-Time Hourly Wage with Credits**	\$18.67	\$42.01

The **ALICE Household Survival Budget** provides the *bare minimum budget* for essentials by household composition, in every county.

*Full-Time Hourly Wage is based on working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

The Household Survival Budget includes only the necessities to live and work in the modern economy.

Most notably, it does not include **savings** or **debt service**.





KEY FINDING:

Rates of financial hardship in Connecticut differed substantially by race, age and gender.

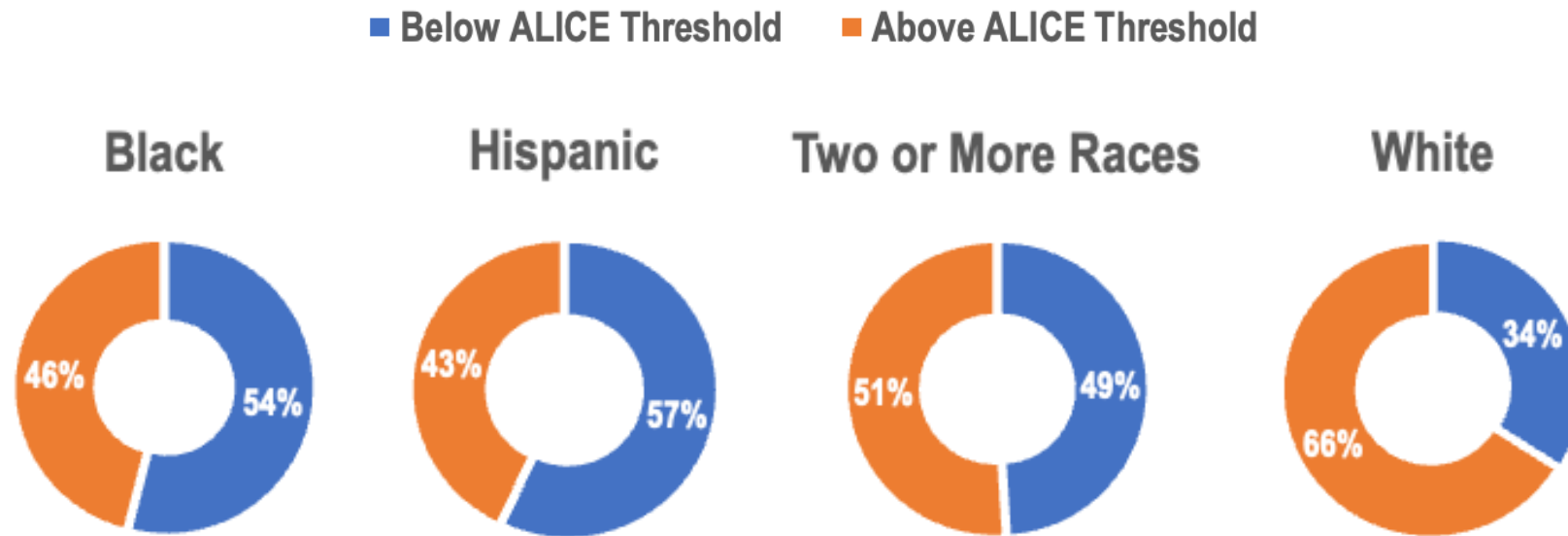
Disparities are a result of multiple factors including **persistent racism, gender discrimination, age and geographic barriers.**

In Connecticut:

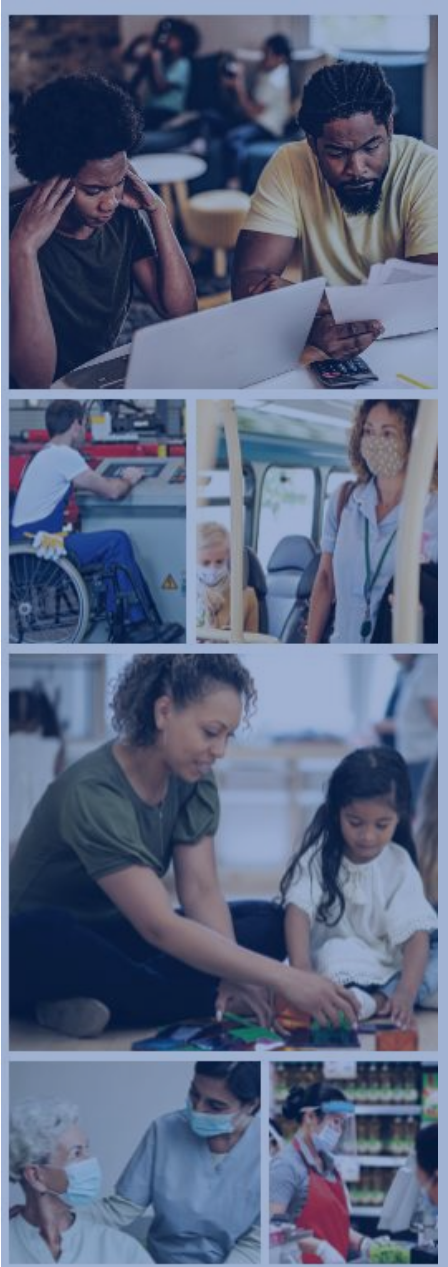
- 54 percent of Black households
- 57 percent of Hispanic households
- 68 percent of female-headed households with children
- Youngest (25 and younger) and Eldest (65+) households

lived below the ALICE Threshold.

In many cases, the **pandemic exposed and exacerbated disparities** and vulnerabilities that have long existed in our society, with substantial differences in rates of hardship by race/ethnicity, age and household composition.



In Connecticut in 2021, **Black and Hispanic households, young households and single-parent households had the highest rates below the ALICE Threshold.** White and Asian households, working-age households and married-parent households had the lowest rates below the Threshold.



KEY FINDING:

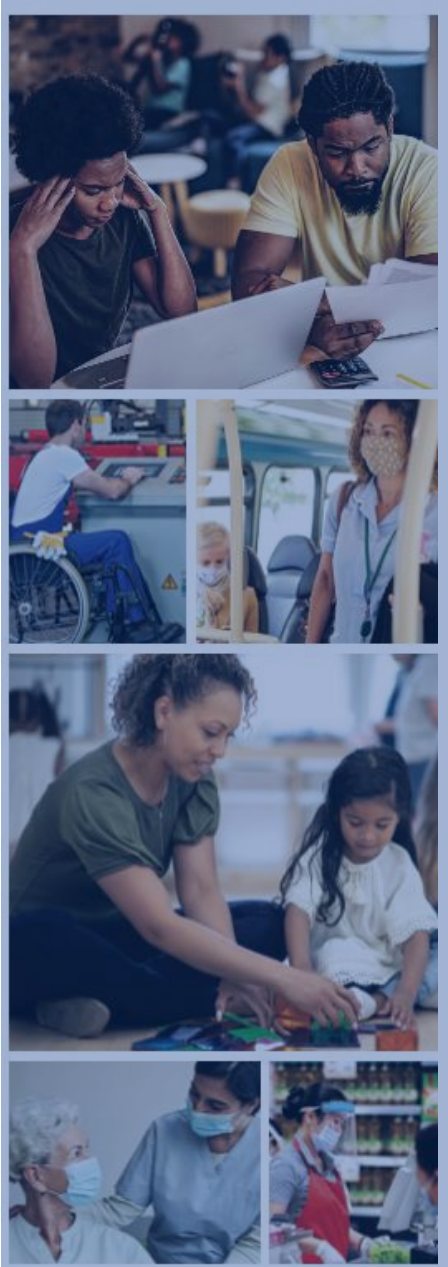
Pandemic-related enhancements to federal benefits have expired – increasing the strain.

In 2021, the enhanced **federal Child Tax Credit + Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit** contributed **\$15,204** to the household budget of two working adults with one infant and one toddler.



Pandemic Assistance in 2021:

- **January to November 2021** — Emergency rental assistance provided on average \$4,345 to lower-income households to pay rent/utilities
- **March 2021** — Economic Impact Payments of up to \$1,400 for eligible individuals.
- **July to December 2021** — enhanced Child Tax Credit + direct monthly payments (up to \$300/month/child).
- **September 2021** — National end of all Emergency Pandemic UI benefits.
- **October 2021** — End of CDC's eviction moratorium.



KEY FINDING:

The rising costs of household essentials is putting financial stability further out of reach.

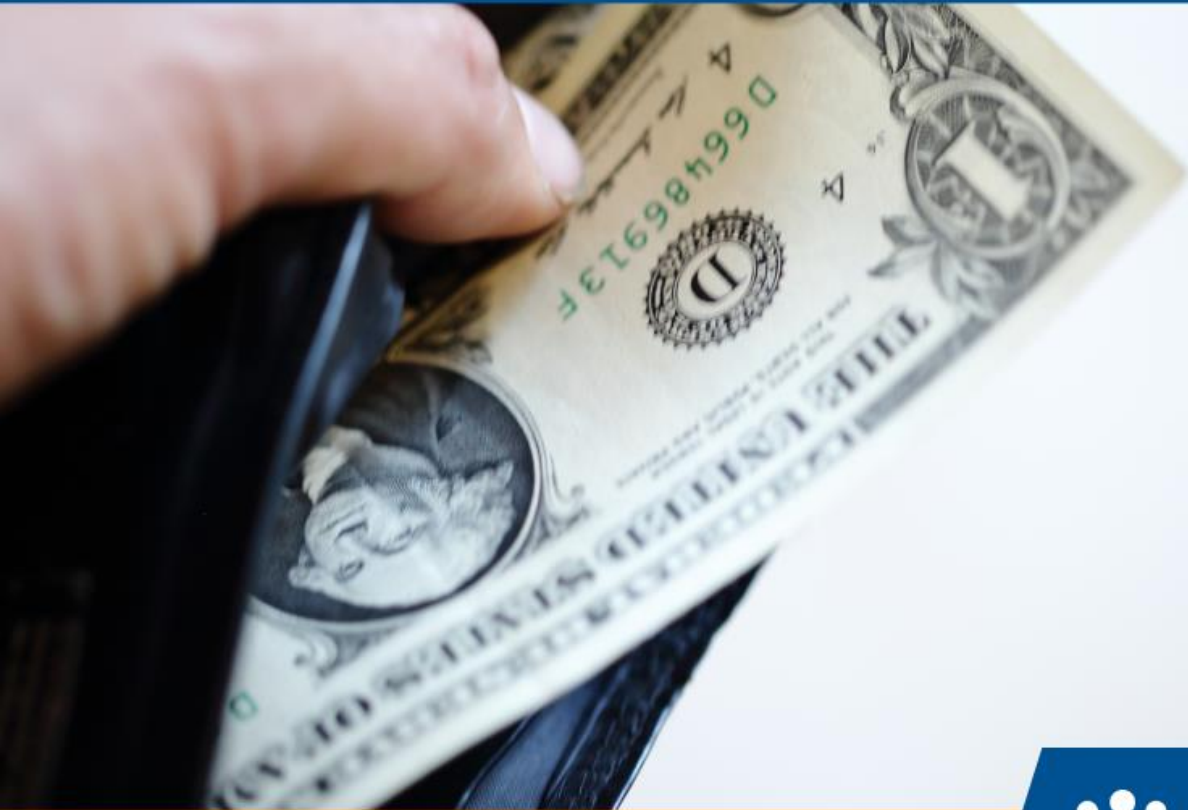
The **ALICE Essentials Index**, which measures change over time in the cost of household essentials, projects an **18.2 percent statewide increase in the Household Survival Budget from 2021 to 2023** (before taxes).

For the average central and northeastern Connecticut household, depending on the available tax credits, the costs of basics in 2023 could be as high as **\$117,000 for a family of four** and **\$37,300 for a single adult**.

Learn more at unitedforalice.org/essentials-index.



ALICE IS LOSING MAJOR GROUND



With the cost of basics climbing higher and ALICE wages failing to keep up, ALICE households continue to lose buying power.

For a retail salesperson in Connecticut, that loss over 15 years equates to nearly \$42,500 – more than a full year's earnings.

#ALICEindex



Connecticut United Ways





UNITED WAY RAPID RESPONSE FUND:
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut

<https://unitedwayinc.org/rapid-response/>

Questions.



Connecticut United Ways



THANK YOU!

For more information, contact:
Maura Cook, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut
mcook@unitedwayinc.org

alice.ctunitedway.org

7. Resolution authorizing three EZIQC regional contractor awards – General Construction



860.522.2217 | 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 | crcog.org

Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board

From: Kim Bona, Program Manager

CC: Matthew Hart, Executive Director

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Resolution Authorizing Three ezIQC Regional Contractor Awards – General Construction

Background:

CRCOG advertised and bid four ezIQC contracts for on-call general construction work. There was one contract bid for each of four regions: Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast. There were 2 bidders for each contract.

Upon careful evaluation of the bid submissions and Millennium's performance over the last three years, Gordian recommends a strategic shift in CRCOG's 4-contractor preference to safeguard the best interests of CRCOG members.

Both Millennium and BMP have maintained a series of contracts within the ezIQC program at CRCOG. Despite their historical engagements, recent apprehensions about Millennium's operational efficiency prompt us to exercise prudence in granting them more than one region. Hence, Gordian recommends the allocation of two contracts (for the SW and SE Regions) to BMP for the full three-year contract and one contract (for the NW Region) to Millennium, for a defined one-year term.

Gordian feels that based on BMP's proven track record, that BMP is well-equipped to effectively manage the two southern regions for the entire duration of this three-year contract. Moreover, we maintain the flexibility to expedite the bidding cycle and engage new contractors earlier if any party displays indications of potential performance deterioration within the initial year.

CRCOG will conduct an expedited rebidding process for the NE Region to potentially engage a third contractor and secure an award by January. This process may involve contractors who have previously participated in the mandatory pre-bid, fostering a competitive yet fair environment. Notably, Millennium is eligible to bid for the NE region; however, their prior performance dictates that a secondary contract would not be guaranteed. Likewise, BMP will not be the primary selection if other responsive and responsible bids, with reasonable variation from BMP's award criteria, are presented by additional bidders.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:

Andover | Avon | Berlin | Bloomfield | Bolton | Canton | Columbia | Coventry | East Granby | East Hartford | East Windsor | Ellington | Enfield | Farmington | Glastonbury | Granby | Hartford | Hebron | Manchester | Mansfield | Marlborough | New Britain | Newington | Plainville | Rocky Hill | Simsbury | Somers | South Windsor | Southington | Stafford | Suffield | Tolland | Vernon | West Hartford | Wethersfield | Willington | Windsor | Windsor Locks

Millennium Builders, a familiar participant in the ezIQC program, brings an extensive network of relationships to the program. However, their past struggles in maintaining a satisfactory level of responsiveness, especially in the northeast region, during the preceding contract necessitate the limitation of their workload to the northwest region. This approach offers them an opportunity to concentrate their efforts and achieve success within this confined scope. Municipalities within the awarded region who have experienced issues in the past year with this contractor will not be required to utilize them going forward.

BMP Construction, an established ezIQC contractor, has demonstrated steady growth over the years, undertaking various small to medium-sized public general contracting and site work within the ezIQC program, alongside public bid projects. Leveraging their significant experience in the public sector, spanning seven years of successful engagement with the ezIQC program, and their proactive efforts to enhance their general contracting capabilities, BMP is anticipated to not only meet but surpass expectations.

Given the limited response to the bidding process, the decision to award contracts for four separate regions has posed challenges. It is essential to ensure that the awarded contracts maintain quality standards and adhere to competitive adjustment factors. Therefore, the proposition to allocate two regions to BMP, considering their existing adjustment factors, emerges as a prudent decision, given the unavailability of adequate competitive bids. This strategic choice aligns with the objective of best representing the communities served by CRCOG, effectively leveraging BMP's proven track record to uphold quality standards and operational excellence.

Financial/Operational Impact:

Pricing is based on a Construction Task Catalog (CTC) and is competitively bid upfront.

Project Schedule:

If approved, the ezIQC program will continue with these awarded contractors effective January 1, 2024.

Recommendation: Move to Approve the Resolution Authorizing Contract Awards for General Construction of the Northwest Region to Millennium Builders, and of the Southeast and Southwest Regions to BMP Construction with the understanding that CRCOG will immediately rebid for the Northeast Region and secure an awarded contractor for this region by January. This will be brought back to the Policy Board for consideration at its December meeting.

Attachments:

- Resolution Authorizing Three ezIQC Road and Bridge Contractor Awards – General Construction

8. Resolution authorizing four EZIQC regional contractor awards – Road and Bridge Construction



860.522.2217 | 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 | crcog.org

Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board

From: Kim Bona, Program Manager

CC: Matthew Hart, Executive Director

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Resolution Authorizing Four eZIQC Regional Contractor Awards - Road and Bridge Construction

Background:

CRCOG advertised and bid four eZIQC contracts for on-call road and bridge construction work. There was one contract bid for each of four regions coinciding with the DOT districts: 1, 2, 3, and 4. There were 3-4 bidders for each contract.

Based on the bidders' responses and CRCOG's preference for as many contractors as possible, Gordian is recommending the following approach in what they feel is in the best interest of CRCOG's members.

Upon thorough review, Laviero's bid has been deemed incomplete due to multiple deficiencies. These include the failure to issue individual bid forms for each region, non-acknowledgment of the addendum, incomplete line items, insufficient details in the work history and active projects section, and absence of the required transit certification signature section.

Both Hemlock and BMP have held multiple contracts with CRCOG in the eZIQC program, demonstrating commendable performance and acquiring new clients based on their strong reputation over the past few years. Yield Industries, although a newcomer to the program, exhibits competitive award criteria and appears to be a credible and stable contractor.

It is Gordian's recommendation to award two contracts (Regions 1 and 2) to Hemlock, one contract (Region 3) to BMP, and one contract (Region 4) to Yield Industries. Hemlock has proven its ability to manage multiple regions, particularly considering their consistent performance and track record, especially when offered the majority of the work from Suchocki's region the past.

All contractors will be granted a one-year contract, subject to renewal for an additional two years, contingent upon their ability to maintain their region at an acceptable level of responsiveness and demonstrate progress in project execution. In October, which marks

the customary start of the bidding cycle for January 1 awards, CRCOG will have the opportunity to re-evaluate any underperforming regions for potential rebidding with one-year contracts with the option for a one-year renewal. At the conclusion of the contract term, all four contracts will be synchronized to expire on 12/31/2026. Gordian is confident that, based on Hemlock's past performance, they will effectively manage the two northeastern regions for the entire three-year duration of this contract. As always, should any contractor display signs of falling behind within the initial year, we will expedite the bidding cycle and engage new contractors as needed.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:

Utilization of the eZIQC program saves member towns time and promotes efficiency as CRCOG and Gordian Group competitively bids a contractor for construction work up front, allowing towns the ability to forgo soliciting for these services on their own. In addition, the eZIQC program allows towns to perform multiple projects under one contract.

Hemlock Construction and BMP Construction are both established and previous eZIQC contractors who have consistently demonstrated success. Their active engagement has contributed to fostering numerous relationships and referrals within the program, bolstering their favorable reputation.

Yield Industries, a new bidder in the program, is anticipated to be a valuable addition for CRCOG's clientele. Situated in Torrington within Region 4, their local presence positions them favorably, with pre-existing connections with several municipalities in the area. Yield Industries secured the second-lowest bid in this region, following BMP, who is already slated to be awarded a region within the program. This allocation allows Yield Industries the opportunity to focus on a single region, enhancing their prospects for success.

Financial/Operational Impact:

Pricing is based on a Construction Task Catalog (CTC) and is competitively bid upfront.

Project Schedule:

If approved, the eZIQC program will continue with these awarded contractors effective January 1, 2024.

Recommendation: Move to Approve the Resolution Authorizing Contract Awards for Road and Bridge Construction for one year, with optional two-year extensions, as follows: Region 1: Hemlock Construction; Region 2: Hemlock Construction; Region 3: BMP Construction; and Region 4: Yield Construction.

8. Resolution authorizing four EZIQC regional contractor awards – Road and Bridge Construction



**CAPITOL REGION
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**
Working together for a better region.

860.522.2217 | 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 | crcog.org

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FOUR EZIQC REGIONAL CONTRACTOR AWARDS – Road and Bridge Construction

WHEREAS, CRCOG has been providing an Indefinite Quantity Construction Services Program (eziQC) for its members since 2009 in partnership with The Gordian Group; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG's current contract with The Gordian Group runs through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the four (4) current regional service contracts are slated to expire on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Transportation COST Sub-Committee acted to approve developing an eziQC program for Transportation Services, known as the Road and Bridge Construction eziQC program, on June 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Gordian Group and CRCOG staff performed a competitive bidding process and have four recommended contractors to serve the program for the next year, with optional two year extensions: Region 1: Hemlock Construction; Region 2: Hemlock Construction; Region 3: BMP Construction; and Region 4: Yield Construction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CRCOG's Executive Director is authorized to negotiate, execute and amend, as necessary, contractual instruments for the purpose of providing on-call construction services under the agency's eziQC program with up to three preferred contractors (Hemlock Construction; BMP Construction, Yield Construction).

I certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on November 15, 2023

Jason Bowsza, Secretary

Date

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9. Resolution to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board

From: Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Resolution to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

Background: In June 2023, the CRCOG Transportation Committee acting as the Policy Board approved a resolution authorizing CRCOG to negotiate, execute, administer, and amend all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG), a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program providing grants to states and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CRCOG is the lead agency for the Hartford MSA and has been awarded \$1 million in noncompetitive planning funds to develop regional climate action plans – the first of which is a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and a second, more detailed Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). CRCOG staff conducted a Request for Proposals to select a consultant to work on the PCAP and CCAP. The selection committee chose Dewberry as the best respondent to the RFP.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The CPRG planning grants are intended to help municipalities develop an actionable roadmap towards reducing their carbon emissions. The second phase of the CPRG program includes \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Participation in this program will make CRCOG member municipalities eligible applicants for CPRG implementation funds.

Financial/Operational Impact: CPRG-related activities will be conducted at no cost to member towns.

Project Schedule: The consultant will begin work on the PCAP once the contract is signed (est. November 2023) with final submittal to EPA by March 2024. The CCAP is expected to be submitted in summer/ fall of 2025. The final deliverable is a Status Report, due at the close of the 4-year grant period (summer-fall 2027).

Recommendation: Move to approve the resolution authorizing CRCOG to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP).

Attachments:

- Resolution

Resolution Authorizing the Capitol Region Council of Governments to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

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, 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 received \$1 million and entered into a cooperative agreement with EPA; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG in coordination with its selection committee conducted a competitive Request for Proposals process, and selected Dewberry Engineers Inc. as the highest ranked consultant team;

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 negotiate, execute and amend contractual agreements with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP).


CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the CRCOG Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, at its meeting on November 15, 2023.

BY: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary

DATE: _____

10. Action: TIP Amendments – Postponed from October



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COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board; Transportation Committee
From: Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning
CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director
Meeting Date: October 25, 2023 (Transportation Committee: October 23, 2023)
Subject: TIP Amendments

Background: Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to maintain a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), detailing all federal surface transportation funding. As part of maintaining this document, the MPO approves amendments as needed.

Benefit to Member Towns/CROC: The following projects are included:

1. District 4—Various—Replace traffic control signals at various locations
2. District 1—I-91—Replace cameras and communication equipment
3. Ellington—CT 140—Intersection realignment and increase horizontal curves
4. Southington—CT10/332—Remove and reconstruct bridges

Financial/Operational Impact: See attached table and backup material for individual project funding details.


Project Schedule: See attached table and backup material for individual project schedule details.

Recommendation: CROC Staff recommends approval. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on October 23, 2023.

Attachments:

- TIP Amendment Summary Sheet
- Project Backup Materials as provided by CTDOT

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CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

11. Action: TIP Amendments



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Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board; Transportation Committee

From: Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023 (Transportation Committee: November 13, 2023)

Subject: TIP Amendments

Background: Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to maintain a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), detailing all federal surface transportation funding. As part of maintaining this document, the MPO approves amendments as needed.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The following projects are included:

1. East Hartford – Trail – Hockanum Park Trail Phase 3
2. Plainville – Trail – RAISE Phase P1

Financial/Operational Impact: See attached table and backup material for individual project funding details.

Project Schedule: See attached table and backup material for individual project schedule details.

Recommendation: CRCOG Staff recommends approval. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on November 13, 2023.

Attachments:

- TIP Amendment Summary Sheet
- Project Backup Materials as provided by CTDOT

12. Action: 2024 Annual CTDOT Safety Performance Targets



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Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board
From: Roger Krahn, Principal Transportation Engineer
CC: Matt Hart, Rob Aloise, Cara Radzins
Meeting Date: November 15, 2023
Subject: 2024 Annual CTDOT Safety Performance Targets

Background: In accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established five safety performance targets for calendar year 2024. Historically, CRCOG has supported CTDOT's targets, considering that selecting specific targets for the Capitol Region would require substantial data collection and analysis efforts.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: Support for safety targets shows our collaboration with CTDOT to reduce serious injuries and traffic deaths.

Financial/Operational Impact: Support for annual safety targets is required by FHWA, who provides funding for all programs in the Uniform Planning Work Program.

Project Schedule: CRCOG needs to endorse safety targets by February 27, 2024.

Recommendation: CRCOG staff recommends approval of the attached Resolution supporting the 2024 CTDOT Safety Performance Targets. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on November 13, 2023.

Attachments:

- a. 2024 Annual CTDOT Safety Performance Targets Staff Memo
- b. Resolution Supporting 2024 Targets For Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT

13. Action: Endorsement of Enfield Traffic Impact Study



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Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board, CRCOG Transportation Committee
From: Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning and Development
CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning
Date: November 15, 2023 (Transportation Committee: November 13, 2023)
Subject: Resolution for Endorsement of Enfield Traffic Impact Study

Background: CRCOG staff is seeking Policy Board endorsement of the Enfield Traffic Impact Study and its recommendations. The study began in 2021 with the goal of evaluating traffic, congestion, safety, and roadway implications for a potential future mixed-use redevelopment of the Enfield Square Mall. Recommendations from the study include adjusted traffic signal timings, improved pedestrian phasing and accommodations, improved vehicle detection, and additional pedestrian, transit, and off-road bicycle facilities. Future studies are recommended to accommodate these facilities and to explore modal shift around the study area and the Thompsonville train station. Access management modifications to the mall site were also analyzed.

Enfield's Planning and Zoning Commission endorsed the Study's recommendations on October 26, 2023. Staff is seeking endorsement of the Study by the Policy Board so that its recommendations may be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The Study provides a vision for future development of the Enfield Square Mall site that can be used as a resource for the Town of Enfield and future property owners. Implementation of the recommendations of the Enfield Traffic Impact Study will improve levels of service at intersections and will create a safer environment for vulnerable users within the study area.

Financial/Operational Impact: N/A

Project Schedule: To be determined. Following Policy Board approval, Staff will work towards implementation of the Study's recommendations in partnership with CTDOT and the Town of Enfield.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on November 13, 2023.

Attachments:

- Memo: Enfield Transportation Impact Study Update
- Resolution for Endorsement of the Enfield Traffic Impact Study
- Approved Resolution for Endorsement of the Enfield Traffic Impact Study by the Town of Enfield Planning and Zoning Commission
- Final Enfield Traffic Impact Study (<https://crcog.org/enfield-traffic-impact-study/>)

14. INFORMATION OPPORTUNITY RESOURCE ITEMS

All handouts can be found at:

[https://crcog.org/event/
policy-board-53/](https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-53/)



15. Other Business

All handouts can be found at:

[https://crcog.org/event/
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16. Adjournment

All handouts can be found at:

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Thank

You.

