

From: Pamela Mola <pamela@cfect.org>

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Subject: American Rescue Plan: an opportunity for transformative recovery

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Dear Municipal Leaders:

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides us with a historic opportunity to rebuild our region in an equitable way as never imagined before in order to create a truly thriving region. The Community Foundation has partnered with thought leaders on the national scale and in Connecticut to devise a strategy that would enable us to invest these precious dollars such that the yields would be truly transformative. We have reviewed data from research centers, spoken with community leaders and school districts. We have convened some of our practitioners, advocates, experts and nonprofit leaders in the community including leadership and staff from TVCCA, Child & Family, New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Riverfront Children's Center, LEARN, EASTCONN, TEEG, United Services, and Windham, Norwich and New London Human Services. Together, we are embarking on a campaign and calling on all municipalities and school districts in Eastern Connecticut to commit to deploy at least 30% of the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act towards:

1. Early childhood education and care;
2. Mental health and well-being; and
3. Safe and affordable housing.

It is clear to all experts with whom we have conferred that these three issues are completely interlinked and essential components in creating a healthy functional family unit, supporting the healthy development of the next generation and addressing the mental health of the entire family through wrap around services. This is a historic opportunity to address past injustices and ensure that all our children and families have the opportunity to thrive from day one by living in a safe environment and being supported with essential learning tools so they can thrive. We are asking that you join efforts with school districts and commit at least 30% of the funds received towards early childhood education and care, mental health and safe and affordable housing.

This is a critical moment that arrives once in a life time to truly correct our course. It is a wonderful opportunity and it is clear to us all that we need to work together strategically and with a plan to address the underlying systemic issues. Eastern Connecticut towns, collectively, will receive over \$200,000,000. Let's work together to ensure that these funds are transformational to lift our most vulnerable population and give all an opportunity to excel in school, work and life. Our businesses will thrive when we prioritize investing in a healthy recovery for our human infrastructure.

Please verify that you are interested in joining us. The Community Foundation is deeply committed to working with each and every one of you to address questions and help convene partners to ensure

that we are aligned and not duplicating efforts but rather building a collective impact model that will succeed in achieving a transformative recovery in our region.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Maryam Elahi
President & CEO

Kindness is contagious!

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

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