



Economic Development Newsletter February 2023

Help Us Get to Know You Better!

Take Part in the Town's Economic Development Survey

The Town of West Hartford's Economic Development team is interested in getting to know our businesses and non-profit organizations better!

We are asking business owners/managers to complete a brief survey, which will gather important information about West Hartford's business and non-profit community. This information will allow staff to be more informed about your business, its needs and the current climate you are operating in with the goal of helping you grow your business here in Town.

[Click Here to take this survey now!](#)

For any questions regarding the content of the survey, please reach out to
Kristen Gorski, Economic Development Coordinator:
Kristen.Gorski@WestHartfordCT.gov or (860) 960-6136.

MyCTSavings: A Retirement Savings Plan for Small Business Employees

The Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller has launched **MyCTSavings**, a program that provides employees of small businesses an opportunity to save for the long-term, if they choose, with a retirement savings program. MyCTSavings involves a process with automatic payroll contributions to a Roth IRA. The program is funded by participant contributions, enrollment is free for employers and easily integrates with the employer's payroll process.

Businesses with 5-25 employees **must** register no later than March 30, 2023. For those with 26 or more employees, the deadline has passed but businesses can still register.

If you are a qualifying business but have not yet enrolled and would like to learn more, the **West Hartford Chamber of Commerce** is hosting a free, informational webinar on **March 8th at 9am**.

To register for the webinar, click on the Small Business Forum image (right) or call the Chamber at **(860) 521-2300**.



CONNEX Connecticut is Live

Recently launched, **CONNEX Connecticut** is a free online platform that provides one-stop access for manufacturers in the state to connect with each other, find local suppliers, discover new business opportunities and manage their supply chains.

The program is funded through the State's **Manufacturing Innovation Fund** and is being managed by the CT Department of Economic and Community Development and the consulting firm, CONNSTEP. The platform is open to large and small manufacturers who participate as buyers or suppliers in the manufacturing supply chain.

[Click here to participate and request an account.](#)

Tap Into the Future of CT Manufacturing

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology has launched the **Summer 2023 Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF) Internship Program** and is looking to connect college sophomores, juniors, and seniors with employers who can offer students hands-on experience with paid internships in engineering, computer science, or business operations.

Companies with less than 300 employees can apply for a matching wage subsidy grant and receive up to \$7,000 for up to two qualified engineering interns for Summer 2023 work.

To get learn more and get involved, visit **makemultipliers.com**.

Important Deadlines to be Aware of

Arts Workforce Initiative

"Intent to Apply" Application Closes on February 24th

Arts Workforce Initiative (AWI) is a paid apprenticeship program that gives Connecticut based individuals interested in exploring a career in the arts an opportunity to gain high-level professional work experience with not-for-profit arts and cultural host organizations throughout the state.

A host organization must provide a hands-on and engaging learning opportunity that allows an individual to gain relevant skills and work experience in the arts. Selected host organizations will be granted \$3,750 to be used to pay an hourly rate of \$15. Selected participants work 25 hours a week for 10 weeks for the selected host organization.

[Click here](#) for more information or contact **Kolton Harris** at **kolton.harris@ct.gov**

Beware of Frauds Offering Report Filing Services

The Connecticut Small Business Development Center wants you to know that third party companies are seeking additional unnecessary fees to file annual reports with the Secretary of State's office. These extra fees can be avoided by filling the document on your own.

The LLC filing period began on **January 1st with a deadline of March 31st**. All other business entities file on their anniversary date before the annual report due date. The fee for LLC's filing their report is \$80.

The annual report varies by business type and can be found by [clicking here](#).

Cottage Food Operator License Renewal is Due

If you are a licensed **Cottage Food Operator** in Connecticut, you should have received an email notification from the Department of Consumer Protection regarding your renewal. If you did not receive this email and were previously licensed send an email to dcp.foodandstandards@ct.gov or give them a call at **860-713-6100**.

Unsure if you need a Cottage Food Operator license? If you prepare food that is made in your home for direct sale to consumers, a license is likely required.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how to ensure you are properly licensed.

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