

Economic Development Newsletter July 2023



WBDC's Equity Match Grant (EMG) Program provides grants of up to \$10,000 to Connecticut women-owned businesses for clearly defined projects that will have a measurable impact on the business, its growth, and profitability.

The next application period opens August 14, 2023!

EQUITY MATCH GRANT CLICK HERE



Join us for this inperson international trade event on September 20, 2023, that will include two moderated panel discussions; a small business exporter panel followed by an international trade finance panel. A networking reception will take place following the program.



PROUDINNOVATION

Discover funding opportunities and valuable business growth insights at our Proud Innovation 2023 series on August 3 from 2-4:30 p.m. ET. Join distinguished panels of experts as they discuss the economic impact of LGBTQIA+ businesses and share strategies to secure funding for turning your ideas into marketplace realities. Gain valuable knowledge about the contributions of LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurs to local, regional, and national economies.

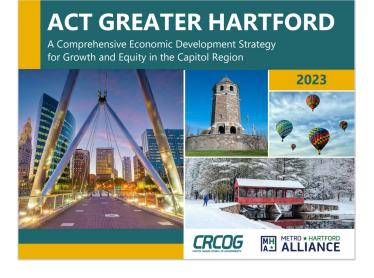


Welcome Back To Westfarms

Elizabeth Ryan has been named General Manager of **Westfarms**, Connecticut's premiere shopping center. Ryan began her new role in June, she originally worked at Westfarms more than 20 years ago as its director of marketing.

Ryan brings her extensive knowledge of the shopping center and retail industries in both mall management and operations. She has overseen multiple shopping center openings and expansions and has held positions for several luxury properties including Valley Fair in San Jose, CA; and King of Prussia in King of Prussia, PA. Upon returning to her Connecticut roots, she was the General Manager of The Promenade Shops at Evergreen Walk and The Shoppes at Buckland Hills, respectively.

Ryan is a Connecticut native and a graduate of The University of Connecticut.



The Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is in the process of updating the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and currently seeking public input on this important planning document, which lays out a broad strategy for the region's economy. The CEDS is a five-year plan identifying regional economic development goals, projects, and strategies to help advance and accelerate inclusive economic growth for the Capitol Region.

Draft Plan: The draft plan can be accessed online here.

Public Presentation: CRCOG and consultant partners Camoin Associates will hold a summary presentation of the final draft plan on Thursday, July 27th at noon. To obtain virtual access information, please emailmgoulet@crcog.org with the subject "CEDS Log-in".

Prior to formal adoption by the CRCOG Policy Board, staff are soliciting public input on the plan. Comments on the final draft will be accepted until August 31st, 2023 and can be emailed to Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner, kshiel@crcog.org.

Read More



ALL COVID EIDL BORROWERS: A Must Read!

To ensure seamless access to information and support regarding any COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), it is recommended to enroll in MySBA, a personalized dashboard for your needs.

For COVID EIDL inquiries, please use the following contact details:

- COVID EIDL Customer Contact Center: (833) 853-5638, email: CovidEIDLServicing@sba.gov.
- If you require assistance or encounter any issues with your Capital Access Financial Services (CAFS) account or login, please reach out via email to CLS@sba.gov or call (833) 572-0502.
- For general questions related to COVID EIDL, such as payment deadlines, amounts, CAFS login instructions, or updates to contact information, please email CovidEIDLServicing@sba.gov.

If you need to request a change or have specific servicing needs for a fully disbursed loan, contact CovidEIDLServicing@sba.gov or call (833) 853-5638 (TTY: 711).

Examples of servicing actions include re-amortization after a large principal paydown, assumption, bankruptcy, business closure, change of ownership, death of a borrower, insurance check inquiries, collateral release, business relocation, sale of business/equipment, subordination, offer in compromise (OIC), UCC release inquiries, and payment assistance/hardship accommodations for loans exceeding \$200K.





CTSBDC Learning & Resource Center

Uncover a wealth of valuable knowledge and expertise by exploring the On-Demand section of our Learning Resource Center. Engage yourself in a diverse array of subjects, such as global commerce, finance, market analysis, and more. With the freedom to learn at your preferred speed, you can broaden your skills and gain a strategic advantage in the corporate realm. Drop by our sessions now to unleash a treasure trove of insights that will fuel your triumph.



Are you aware of the valuable Employee Retention Credit (ERC) available to businesses and tax-exempt organizations affected by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021?

However, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has recently issued warnings regarding aggressive marketing tactics and potential scams targeting unsuspecting victims in relation to the ERC. It is of utmost importance to stay informed and vigilant in order to avoid falling into these traps. Improperly claiming the ERC can lead to serious consequences, including repayment of the credit, along with penalties and interest. We are dedicated to ensuring that this doesn't happen to you! Stay updated and safeguard your business against fraudulent schemes. Let's remain watchful together and make well-informed decisions for our businesses.



The Capitol Region Council of Governments is updating the Plan of Conservation and Development!

WHAT IS A REGIONAL PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT?

As the regional planning organization for the Capitol Region, consisting of 38 cities and towns, CRCOG is responsible for developing and updating this Plan every 10 years. A POCD is often a visionary plan developed with significant community input and insight. The POCD update is an opportunity to think deeply about the places you live, the communities you belong to, and where you work, play, learn, and grow. Engaging with YOU, we also hope to gain an understanding about the problems you encounter as you travel through, live, do business, and work to thrive in the region.

The 2024-2034 regional update to the POCD is required per CT General Statutes 8-35a and is intended to be a guidance document for the Capitol Region and our 38 member communities.



TOPICS COVERED IN THE

Demographics
Natural Resources Conservation
Watersheds + Water Quality
Open Space + Farmland Preservation
Climate Change
Food Systems + Food Security
Land Use
Public Sewer + Water Service
Transportation
Housing
Economic Development

CONNECT WITH US!

You can learn more at www.crog.org/pocd.
There you can join our "Interested Parties List"
and easily find out about opportunities for
public involvement, upcoming meetings,
release of data and/or draft chapters for review,
and provide feedback at any point.

WE WANT YOU!

YOUR region. Getting your feedback is invaluable...

several lucky winners will be randomly chosen for a chance to win various cash prices, up to \$100!



We are also looking for interested hosts to facilitate "Table Talk" conversations and report back on discussion themes and ideas. Email Jacob at iknowlton@crcog.orgl

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Max Apr May Jan Jul Aug Sep Oct New Dec Jan Feb Max Apr May

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CRCOG is the Capitol Region Council of Governments. We are the largest of nine councils of government in the State of Connecticut, representing our 38 member communities and a population of nearly 1 million. CRCOG's mission is to help our cities and towns advocate for policies and projects that improve the quality of life for residents, more efficiently provide services at a regional level. and olan for a better future.

As the regional planning agency for 38 member communities, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is mandated by State statute to update and adopt a regional POCD at least once every 10 years.

This visionary document guides municipalities with regulatory best practices, nurturing environments that feed the soul and create safe and comforting spaces where we live, work, play, learn, grow, and thrive.

It also provides an invaluable opportunity to share the areas that deplete or frustrate us, recognizing that understanding what isn't working and why is just as crucial as shaping our future goals and policies.

Check Out These Career Development Programs Offered at the West Hartford Public Library:





Live job coaching, resumé assistance, interviewing resources, and more

Tech Help @ WHPL

In-person and one-on-one technology help and instruction



Expert mentoring and education for current and aspiring business owners

ONLINE CLASSES

EBSCO Learning Express'
Learning Express Library'

Test preparation and job and career resources



An online learning community that features thousands of classes for the creative and the curious



Online instruction and practice for over 100 world languages



Online classes across all subject areas



https://bit.ly/WHPL_Resources

MyCTSavings Deadline Extended to August 31

overseen by the CT Office of the State Comptroller - has been extended.

The new deadline is August 31, 2023. That means that if you have five or more employees—each paid a minimum of \$5,000 in the calendar year—you have until August 31 to either register for the program or notify the Office of the State Comptroller that you already offer a qualified employer-sponsored retirement plan to your employees.

For more information: visit MyCTSavings.com

Visit WBDC's eLearning Library

The Women's Business Development Council **eLearning Library** provides easy access to take a class when the timing is right for you—at your pace, on your schedule. Gain knowledge and practical skills to keep you moving forward.



Check it out at CTwbdc.org!

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