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Deputy Director, Ron Thomas
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Writer, Christopher Gilson

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CCM’s 2022 Legislative Program
Across nine policy areas, CCM fights for municipalities

Our Legislative Program is the backbone of our advocacy at the Capitol. Each Legislative Session, we work hard on your behalf to ensure positive outcomes wherever possible and to avoid negative ones when proposed. Below you will find key examples from our 2022 legislative proposals that merit action over the next 100 days by the Governor and General Assembly leaders.

“Here are key examples from a comprehensive series of proposals that were vetted and approved by committees of CCM member mayors, first selectmen and town/city managers over the last five months... They cover nine critical policy arenas -- taxes and finance, local public education, energy and environment, labor relations, land use, housing and community development, and more – that will make or break the successful delivery of local public services across Connecticut in FY 2022-23.”

- Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford and CCM President

“Town and city leaders believe these proposals will help enhance essential services in their communities while at the same time providing fiscal relief from the level of local property taxation needed to pay for critical local services,”

- Joe DeLong, CCM Executive Director and CEO

Taxes and Finance
- Reduce the current over-reliance on a regressive property tax system through municipal revenue diversification and providing incentives for municipalities to expand shared and regional services.
- Provide taxpayer relief by allowing for a phase-in of the current property tax revaluations and provide a local option to delay property tax revaluation for one year.

Local Public Education
- Make state bond funds available for local and regional school districts through the school construction grant program for HVAC repairs and air filtration improvements. The quality of indoor air in public schools is critical to the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.
- Fully fund the state’s Special Education Excess Cost Grant. Currently the Excess Cost Grant is capped, which is negatively impacting local and regional school districts’ ability to address the rising cost of special education.

Energy and Environment
- Establish a One-Touch-Make-Ready (OTMR) process to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of broadband services to better meet underserved and unserved areas across the state.
- Eliminate the Virtual Net Metering Credit Cap. Such change should include the requirement that electric distribution companies allow “unassigned” VNM credits to be applied to future bills on a month-to-month basis, known as “banking,” as expressed in CGS 16-244u(c).
**Labor Relations**

- Help prevent unreasonably contested workers’ compensation claims by allowing municipal employers a 45-day period to review workers’ compensation claims from the date at which the municipal employer receives notice of such claim being filed.
- Promote and eliminate barriers to shared services. Allow for towns and cities to more efficiently allocate resources by:
  a. Exempting the establishment of such service sharing agreements from the definition of “change in working conditions” for purposes of collective bargaining.
  b. When service sharing arrangements affect two or more collective bargaining units, the interests of all employees affected by the new arrangements may be represented by either a coalition of bargaining units or a new bargaining unit will be created to represent all affected employees.
  c. Allow municipalities to repeal or amend any municipal charter provision that prohibits or limits a municipality from sharing services with other towns or cities provided each participating municipality’s legislative body approves a resolution with the specific charter provision they are repealing or amending.

**Land Use, Housing and Community Development**

- Transit Oriented Development, Primary Transit Station: CGS Section 8-2 shall allow, as of right, parking requirements not to exceed one parking spot for studio and one bedroom and two parking spots for two bedroom or more dwelling units, mixed-use developments with at least four dwelling units, mixed-use developments with at least four live work units, or multi-family housing with at least four dwelling units at a minimum density of fifteen units per acre in at least fifty per cent of the lot area served by water and sewer infrastructure and within a one-half mile radius of that or any municipality’s primary transit station.

**CCM Affirms Governor’s Tax Proposals, Urges MRSA Reinstatement**

Governor Lamont’s strong emphasis on local aid is encouraging for members

We commend the Governor for his investments in municipal aid and education aid, as well as direct relief to property taxpayers, as Connecticut continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, and state and local leaders continue to seek opportunities to grow and diversify Connecticut’s overall economy and tax base during these still challenging times.

CCM supports the Governor’s call to cap the onerous local motor vehicle tax at 29 mills and reimburse towns for any lost car tax revenues; and to reinstate the property tax credit on the state income tax. CCM is also calling for priority action to reinstate and fully fund the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants for town

While the Governor has placed an emphasis on protecting and advancing aid to local governments, it is imperative it be done without creating a fiscal cliff in future budget years.

CCM also calls on the Governor and General Assembly leaders to protect funding for the new Tiered-PILOT program for local governments with large amounts of tax-exempt property; and to look closely at those already statutorily enacted municipal aid programs that are funded at less than the 100 percent-intended level.

Investing in state aid commitments to towns and cities will go a long way toward restraining the financial burden on Connecticut’s overburdened property taxpayers. As the Governor is committed to tax reductions, his recommendations on direct property tax relief and increases in municipal and education aid will go a long way toward restraining local property taxes across the state.

The proposed state budget clearly increases state investments in towns and provides greater local budget predictability for municipal leaders and property tax-paying families and businesses.

It is crucial that towns and cities continue to have a seat at the table with the Governor and state legislators this session to ensure adequate levels of state aid for towns, fight against unfunded state mandates, encourage regional service sharing, and diversify local revenues.
Public Safety, Crime Prevention and Code Enforcement

• Regarding Police Body and Dash Cameras, encouraging the state to offer greater financial support for the acquisition of police body and vehicle cameras, in particular allowing the funding to be used for data storage. In addition, encourage the State to develop a central deposit for camera data.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

• Support the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) in order to a) provide sustainable funding to maintain and improve state and local transportation infrastructure; b) improve the process by which additional funding raised by the TCI and provided to municipalities, by supplementing existing programs like TAR, LOCIP and Local Bridge Program rather than creating new programs.

Public Health and Human Services

• Enhance efforts to combat the State’s opioid epidemic by requiring DMHAS, the Governor’s office, and the Department of Public Health to better allocate funding and resources towards substance abuse prevention and recovery. This may include designating the Chief Operating Officer of Connecticut or other official as Connecticut’s Drug Abuse and Control Ombudsman tasked with coordinating efforts to enhance and examine sustainable funding streams to support substance abuse prevention, education and recovery efforts.

Municipal Law, Liability and Insurance

• Support a constitutional amendment to authorize no-excuse absentee voting. During the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly passed a resolution to place the question to modify the Constitution to allow for no-excuse absentee voting on the 2021 ballot for voters to consider, however it failed to reach a 75% majority. As a result, the next sitting legislature (convening in 2023) would need to adopt a similar resolution to place it on the following ballot without needing 75% of the General Assembly approval.

Read the complete unabridged 2022 State Legislative Program at issuu.com/ccm_ct
CCM 2022 Policy Committees

Each year CCM’s Policy Committees guide the organization on issues most important to towns and cities during the legislative session. Below are the nine committees, their chair, vice chair, and a short description on their areas of focus.

**Education**
Chair – Elinor Carbon, Mayor, Torrington  
Vice Chair – Erika Wiecenski, First Selectman, Wilington  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies concerning education issues. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Environmental Management & Energy**
Chair – Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, Avon  
Vice Chair – Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Stratford  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies in environmental management in such areas as solid waste, hazardous waste, and air quality. Reviews the activities of relevant state agencies, boards and task forces. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Labor Relations**
Chair – Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager, Cromwell  
Vice Chair – Pete Bass, Mayor, New Milford  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies concerning municipal personnel and labor relations issues; reviews and recommends proposed legislation and administrative regulations relating to employee relations and collective bargaining; exchanges information on contract negotiations.

**Land Use, Housing & Community Development**
Chair – Mark Walter, Town Administrator, Columbia  
Vice Chair – Robert E. Lee, Town Manager, Plainville  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies in the areas of land use, community development, economic development, and housing. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Municipal Law, Liability & Insurance**
Chair – Ben Blake, Mayor, Milford  
Vice Chair – Dan Jerram, First Selectman, New Hartford  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies in municipal law, municipal powers, legal issues, state mandates, liability and insurance, and risk management. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Public Health & Human Services**
Chair – Don Stein, First Selectman, Barkhamsted  
Vice Chair – Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, Ridgefield  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies concerning social services, welfare, health issues, and substance abuse. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Public Safety, Crime Prevention & Code Enforcement**
Chair – Michael Criss, First Selectman, Harwinton  
Vice Chair – Suzette DeBeatham Brown, Town Councilmember, Bloomfield  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies regarding public safety, and crime control, including fire safety and building safety. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Taxes & Finance**
Chair – Shari Cantor, Mayor, West Hartford  
Vice Chair – Mary Calorio, Town Manager, Killingly  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies in the areas of state and local taxes and finance. Reviews proposed state legislation and proposed state policies regarding tax issues, the relationship of state aid to local property taxes, and other government finance issues. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.

**Transportation & Infrastructure**
Chair – Matt Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Bethel  
Vice Chair – Matt Hoey, First Selectman, Guilford  
Helps develop and establish CCM policies concerning transportation and mass transit issues; advocates transportation funding by the State and Federal governments to enable CT to move forward on important projects. Assists in educating the public and state and federal policy leaders about the importance of transportation investments to CT’s towns and cities, economy and quality of life. Helps build coalitions for transportation investment between municipal officials and business organizations, state agencies, environmental advocates, mass transit users, and others. Reviews state legislation and proposed state policies. Recommends appropriate legislative and administrative solutions.
As expected, the Department of Treasury released the Final Rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) of the American Rescue Plan Act. This important update provides greater clarity and context, and, in some cases, broadens uses. Still, this bill requires navigation, and CCM is committed in providing additional resources that will help municipalities including an initial summary that covers the Final Rule (FR).

In general, the FR is separated into five broad categories; (1) responding to the public health emergency and the negative economic impacts of COVID-19; (2) replacement of loss revenue; (3) premium pay; (4) water and sewer infrastructure; and (5) broadband infrastructure. And in many cases, the FR was consistent with the Interim Final Rule across the categories.

For instance, under Category 1, responding to the public health emergency, there are plain and obvious uses such as vaccination programs, testing programs, contact tracing, public communication efforts, PPE and more. These are considered enumerated projects. But there is also a two-step process to determine whether an unenumerated program may be eligible. One, a COVID-19 public health or economic impact must be identified, and two, the ARP funds must respond to that impact.

Importantly, the FR maintains most of the administration, compliance, and reporting requirements that have been articulated in the IFR or Treasury’s Compliance and Reporting document. Specifically, the funds must be used for costs incurred after March 3, 2021 and obligated by the end of 2024. And prohibited uses, including deposits into pension funds, replenishments of rainy-day funds, or legal settlements, might result in the recuperation of funds.

ARP funding to Connecticut municipalities is very substantial: towns and cities are anticipated to receive $2.55 billion statewide ($1.56 billion to general government / $995 million to schools). Funding for towns and cities will be distributed in a modified CDBG formula with entitlement cities (those with a population over 50,000) receiving funding directly from the Treasury Department and non-entitlement towns (those with a population under 50,000) distributed by the State as a pass-through.

Importantly, there is a provision that will allow municipalities in states—like Connecticut—to receive additional funds that would have been allocated to counties, if the State had county-level government. For Connecticut towns and cities, that will mean $690 million in funds that otherwise would not have been received.

CCM will continue to update their resources and these will include providing an updated ARP Advisory Toolkit – V2.0, best practices and examples, and develop further assistance in compliance and reporting requirements. You can access a webinar held on the final rule here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iI8mPC6Gxl4

The Treasury has hosted webinars about the FR, which have been made available on their YouTube page. For specific details and Treasury resources, please refer to the following:

- Treasury Final Rule
- Overview of Final Rule
- Compliance and Reporting

If you have any questions regarding the ARP program, please contact Mike Muszynski, State and Federal Relations Manager with CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or 203-500-7556. Information is also available on our website at www.ccm-ct.org/Advocacy/Federal-Policy-and-Advocacy/American-Rescue-Plan
One of the most important aspects of our advocacy is to ensure that municipalities have a seat at the table no matter if it is at the Legislature or a specific department. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) is one such crucial partner for municipalities. This past January, we had occasion to submit joint comments with the Council of Small Towns (COST) on One-Touch Make Ready programs, as well as important updates on weather & load capacity management and tariff programs for net metering credits.

ONE-TOUCH MAKE READY

One-Touch-Make Ready is a process by which one company works with utility poles to rearrange existing attachments on a pole (‘make ready’ work), which avoids the delay of sending multiple unique crews to do this work sequentially. OTMR programs help facilitate the expansion and enhancement of broadband services to better meet underserved and unserved areas across the state. Both CCM and COST are strong supporters of the expansion of these services to minimize or eliminate the digital divide and enhance our preparedness for a modern, digital economy.

WEATHER + LOAD CAPACITY MANAGEMENT

CCM participated in an education technical meeting hosted by PURA in which the Companies (Eversource and UI) and ISO New England presented their plans for potential blackout events and energy load capacity management. They also touched very briefly on their emergency response plans. The main focus of PURA is to encourage the Companies to outline, in more laudan terms, the information necessary for towns and other stakeholders to react and respond to during these events. The communication in many past events has been an issue and the goal here is to fine tune it so that it is communicated in a language everyone can understand and thus take action to mitigate and restore. There is a request for comments that is being issued today ahead of a second meeting on this topic on February 7th.

TARIFF PROGRAM FOR NET METERING CREDITS

Per a legislative change a couple years ago – PURA initiated a docket a couple years back to reorganize and establish a new renewable energy credits program for both residential and non-residential solar projects. Many towns have benefited from the former Virtual Net Metering program which allowed them to install solar or other renewable energy in one part of the community and share the benefit across all buildings/municipal accounts within the community. Residents also benefited from installing renewables and selling back the excess energy to the grid. Now the PURA has established a new program – the gist of those two programs can be found here - this new webpage that highlights the four new programs that launch in 2022, including the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions, which replaces VNM programs.

- RECORDING: Connecticut’s New Clean Energy Tariff Program
- PRESENTATION: Connecticut’s New Clean Energy Tariff Program

For more information, you can contact Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Advocacy Manager at dhamzy@ccm-ct.org.
Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government has provided an almost unprecedented amount of stimulus to states. These funds, while crucial, were meant to bridge the gap between needed services to address the pandemic, not to address long standing issues. Congress passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will help states – and by extension, towns and cities – transition from recovery to investment. Mark Boughton, Past President of CCM and current Senior Advisor to the Governor for Infrastructure and Commissioner of Revenue Services addressed CCM at the January Legislative Committee meeting on this crucial crossroads.

To begin, the sheer amount of funds that have been received by states is a staggering $6.3 trillion, with an additional $1.75 trillion still invested in the Build Back Better reconciliation bill, bringing the total to $8.13 trillion dollars. Many of these funds have gone to efforts the CARES act or ARPA funds, but the IIJA is a little different.

Boughton broke down the components of the bill, splitting it into two categories – preauthorized and new funding. Of the $550 billion in new funding, it could be further broken down into $270 billion for transportation, $185 billion for utilities, $71 billion for the environment, and the rest under other. Of this, Connecticut is expected to receive $6 billion in additional funds, which will go to roads, bridges, rail, public transit and more.

Like ARPA funds, his presentation noted that the IIJA will require plans for funds, but also intergovernmental coordination and competitive applications. Further, states that are interested in receiving funds for Cybersecurity and Broadband must be prepared to submit a comprehensive analysis and plan as part of their proposal for funding. CCM has been a strong advocate for broadband internet, noting the inequities of distribution to both poorer communities in cities as well as rural areas.

Currently, the plan is set to begin distributing money throughout this year and there is a possibility that funds from ARPA can be used for non-federal match on infrastructure projects. What isn’t certain is the future of the Build Back Better Act. It contains even more funds for investments in specific kinds of infrastructure, specifically those related to the environment and clean energy.

He summed up saying that this is no easy task to manage all these funds. That using them wisely would be a top concern going forward. “We need to apply as much regional cooperation as we can, work with the communities around you,” Boughton said, “And when we do apply, we have to make sure we’re within the categories in the IIJA.” Beyond that, he encouraged talking with the state, who he himself now represents. Like most other federal funds, it’s just a matter of crossing each bridge as you come up to it.
In 2021, CCM embarked on a training workshop in conjunction with the Campaign School at Yale called Representation Matters. In this two-day training event, we advocated for communities of color to become more involved in the civic process, to run for local office or serve on a board or commission. It is important that everyone have a seat at the table if we want a more equitable future for our state. Representation Matters was an incredible success and we are happy to announce that we are bringing it back for 2022.

This year’s training, to take place on March 12 and 19 via zoom, will mostly fall along the same lines as last year with an added emphasis on State Office this year. The first day will once again be helmed by the Campaign School at Yale. Individuals who have completed this training include local officials like former New Haven Mayor Toni Harp, as well as U.S. Representatives Nikema Williams and Gabrielle Giffords and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

Their one-day intensive training will focus on helping people of color with a passion for politics learn the foundation of smart campaigns and the right skillset to become community leaders. Topics will include Making the Decision to Run; Essentials of Fundraising; Finding Your Voice, Making it Matter; Effective Networking Techniques, Steps and Questions; as well as the popular Roundtable Discussion with TCSYale Alumnae.

The second day will be led by CCM in coordination with state officials with varying government backgrounds. The goal is to meet learning objectives for the attendees so that they will not only know what they are getting themselves into, but feel empowered to do so. Learning objectives include: Why and how to get engaged and involved in your community; How to pursue elective (or appointive) office in state government (or municipal government); and What to know when assuming elective (or appointive) office, including ethics, public meetings, basic government and finance, and more.

The schedule includes a panel of seasoned experts made up of state legislative leaders who have successfully navigated the state election process, as well as discussions with individuals who hold appointed and elected state office.

Over 200 individuals attended our initial Representation Matters in 2021, a sign that people want to become more involved in local politics, some of whom wanted to run for office, others who wanted to become simply more engaged in the process. For our underrepresented communities of color, this is fundamental to living up to our founding principles: that of a truly representative government.

Registration via Zoom is available at www.ccmcares.com, and more information will be added there as it is made available.

Please contact Richard Porth at rporth@ccm-ct.org for more information.

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**Representation Still Matters**

2022 Free training focuses on state office elections for people of color

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

The Campaign School at Yale University

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For the first time since COVID-19 hit, CCM along with the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), will be hosting the Connecticut Emergency Management Symposium (EMS). This year it will be held on Wednesday, April 27th at Aria in Prospect.

The symposium, which has been on a two-year hiatus as we managed the current pandemic, is the premier Emergency Management conference in Connecticut, attracting hundreds of local public safety officials from around the state.

EMS offers workshops, discussions, networking opportunities, and vendors with the best and newest Emergency Management technology, products, and services.


While the exhibit hall is still being filled up, there will be representatives from CCM, DEMHS, DPH, CIRMA, and more!

This is a once a year opportunity to hear from the best minds in emergency management, to network with colleagues in the same fields, and to see the latest offerings from dozens of vendors.

Registration is now open for municipal, state, and local officials. Be sure to register early as attendance is limited. As an added bonus, for our CCMO officials, EMS is three hours towards your certification.

For more information, and to register online, visit: https://www.ccm-ct.org/Education-and-Events/Emergency-Management-Symposium

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CCM Job Bank

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NEW MILFORD

**Town Manager**

TOLLAND

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“A little bird told me about a job you might be interested in.”

Jobs posted to CCM’s Job Bank can also be found on twitter @CCM_ForCT
Who Ever Heard of Creature Theory?
Workshops present expert info for those new to local government

Every other January, CCM holds an informative series of workshops aimed at individuals who are embarking on their journey in public service. Over 110 Municipal officials who won a term in office in November hit the ground running by attending our Newly Elected Day where they learned the Fundamentals of Municipal Government, FOIA/Meetings/Ethics, and Municipal Budgeting 101.

Matt Knickerbocker, First Selectman of Bethel, gave an engaging talk on the fundamentals of municipal government by comparing and contrasting the different forms of local government in Connecticut and the many challenges facing our towns and cities.

Some notable facts include the concept of “Creature Theory.” Taken from a Supreme Court case, this interesting idea posits that local governments are simply the State exercising its power through municipal corporations: “A municipal corporation is simply a political division of the state, and exists by virtue of the exercise of power of the State through the legislative department – the city is a creature of the state.” Worcester v. Worcester Consolidated Co.

In Connecticut we know that there is Limited Home Rule authority under state law, and municipalities choose a form of government by charter. The three basic forms are Mayor-Council, Council-Manager, and Selectmen-Town Meeting. Council-Manager is the most common form of local government in the United States, while the Selectmen-Town Meeting is uniquely New England. Each has its own distinct style of government, and there are even distinctions among these archetypes. For example, a mayor can either be strong or weak.

And perhaps most importantly are the challenges that face local government. Knickerbocker noted uncertain state aid, need for regional efficiencies, need to address transportation infrastructure, and overdependence on local property taxes to fund essential services. Comparing Pennsylvania to Connecticut, attendees heard that municipalities in the Quaker State can use common revenue tools like general and selective sales taxes, corporate taxes and even income taxes. Most strikingly, property taxes in Pennsylvania are at 49.1%; in Connecticut, they are at 61.2%.

While many municipal officials who have been with us a long time know these fundamentals, for the newly elected it can often be a surprise. Local government is a calling and it involves lots of hard work and expertise in a multitude of subjects, but it is also some of the most rewarding work a person can do.

Mayor Mike Walsh of East Hartford gave the presentation on Municipal Budgeting 101. Kari Olson and Joseph Schwartz of Murtha Cullina gave the presentation on Ethics, FOIA, and Conducting Public Meetings, and CIRMA’s Pamela Keyes and Fiona Porto presented on the CIRMA promise.

For interested members, the webinars and materials from the Newly Elected Workshops, including First Selectman Knickerbocker’s, are available on the CCM website under Workshop and Event Recordings (https://www.ccm-ct.org/Education-and-Events/Workshop-and-Event-Recordings) under the date it was held, January 8, 2022. (You must be logged in to view the material and recordings.)

For any official just starting out, those who want to learn some interesting facts, or even for those who want a refresher, the Newly Elected Workshops are the place to start.
Energia STEM Scholarship for Young Women

Energia empowers the next generation of young women to pursue educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The Energia STEM Scholarship for Young Women™ funds scholarships in each school district we support.

As a woman-owned and led business, the Energia team is excited and honored to encourage young women to follow their passions and interests wherever they may lead.

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CCM’s ARP Advisory Committee developed a toolkit to help be a resource and provide thinking into eligible uses. This toolkit v2.0 is intended to reflect the provisions in the final rule, along with providing greater examples and resources that have been developed.

Read the ARP Toolkit at issuu.com/ccm_ct
The 2021 CCM Annual Report is heading your way, and in recounting the year – our first full year under COVID – we had a special realization. We’ve never quite had an opportunity like this to not begin anew, but to look at the world with fresh eyes. In 2021 and beyond, your municipality will be embarking on projects with federal funding like never before. And there has never been an environment more geared towards regionalization and collaboration than the times ahead of us.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is the leading state-local think tank and premier local government advocate at the State Capitol, tackling issues like government finance and labor relations; our services are geared toward local government because we understand exactly what municipal leaders need; and we are the number one resource on innovative ideas for municipal government.

And we are here to help usher in a new era for Connecticut municipal growth.

This is not surprising considering the unprecedented year that we had in 2020. We called it a sea change year in our annual report last year, and that has turned out to be true. By December, when the first vaccines were rolling out, we were able to breathe a sigh of relief. And throughout 2021, Connecticut has shown how ready we all were to get back to some form of normal by being one of the nation’s leaders in vaccination rates and at times – for some weeks and months – having the lowest per capita infection rates in the country.

In fact, Connecticut was recently placed at the top of the list for Safest States during COVID by WalletHub. We cannot downplay the role that our State leadership has played in this, but the boots on the ground were in our towns and cities. It was the work all of you did in working together, with public health departments and districts, and of course, the residents of this great state.

It has been tough adjusting to this new normal – but each passing day we start to approach a world that looks more like March 2019 than March 2020. This isn’t to deny the ongoing concerns of the pandemic, but to say that we are building a path out of it even as we gracefully deal with the restrictions it places on us.

We look forward to the opportunities afforded to us by the ARPA funding, infrastructure funding, and possibly more. We look forward to the possibility of regionalization and cooperation among municipalities. We look forward to a time when we can get back into rooms together more regularly because the Convention reminded us how special how valuable our time together is.

Most of all we look forward to making the everyday life of every citizen of Connecticut better. It is our goal every year, and every year we have our successes, but no time has presented us with so much opportunity. It will be hard work, but for many of us it will be the most rewarding work we can do.
Find out how to pay for today's improvements with tomorrow's savings.

Contact The ECG Group for a free 15 minute consultation.

Contact Beth Scanlon, Programs Manager • 203-946-3782 • bscanlon@ccm-ct.org
During a crucial moment for towns and cities, Luke A. Bronin, midway through his second four-year term as Mayor of Hartford, has been re-elected President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) for 2022 at the 2021 Annual CCM Convention. He began his second year-long tenure as CCM President on January 1. Thomas Dunn, Mayor of Wolcott, was elevated to 1st Vice President as an officer of CCM, and Laura Hoydick, Mayor of Stratford, became a CCM officer as CCM’s 2nd Vice President. Six other municipal CEOs are newly elected to the CCM Board. Seventeen municipal leaders were re-elected to the CCM board. See below for complete list.

Bronin served as CCM President in 2021. He has been a leading player for CCM members in helping to push state legislative action on local revenue diversification, advance climate initiatives, and promote greater regional service sharing among towns.

“I’m grateful for the confidence of my colleagues around the state and honored to serve as President of CCM for another year,” said Mayor Bronin. “We’re at a critical moment in our recovery, and it’s critical that we continue to build a strong partnership between state and local government and ensure that our cities and towns are working hand in hand on issues that affect our local communities.”

“2022 will represent another crucial crossroads in the relationship between Connecticut local governments and its state leaders,” said Joe DeLong, CCM Executive Director and CEO. “CCM is very fortunate to have such an experienced mayor to lead our 168 member communities in 2022. He is well-respected on both sides of the political aisle at both the state and local levels and will play a key role in forging consensus on important state-local issues during the 2022 General Assembly session.

“We look forward to Mayor Bronin leading CCM as we work closely with Governor Lamont and the General Assembly to enact the key state-local legislation needed for property tax paying residents and businesses across Connecticut; as our state continues to forge a roadway to greater economic prosperity and safer public health while we continue our effective, vigilant battle against the variants of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Here is CCM’s Board of Directors for 2022:

**Officers**

**President** — Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford

**1st Vice President** — Thomas Dunn, Mayor of Wolcott

**2nd Vice President** — Laura Hoydick, Mayor of Stratford

**Newly-Elected Directors**

- Jason Bowsza, First Selectman of East Windsor
- Mary Calorio, Town Manager of Killingly
- Fred Camillo, First Selectman of Greenwich
- Maureen Nicholson, First Selectman of Pomfret
- Caroline Simmons, Mayor of Stamford
- Gerard Smith, First Selectman of Beacon Falls

**Re-Elected Directors**

- Elinor Carbone, Mayor of Torrington
- Paula Cofrancesco, First Selectman of Bethany
- Justin Elicker, Mayor of New Haven
- John A. Elsesser, Town Manager of Coventry
- Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman of Old Saybrook
- Laura Francis, First Selectman of Durham
- Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor of Bridgeport
- Matthew Hoey, First Selectman of Guilford
- Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman of Bethel
- Rudolph P. Marconi, First Selectman of Ridgefield
- W. Kurt Miller, Chief Fiscal Officer, Ansonia
- Edmond V. Mone, First Selectman of Thomaston
- Michael Passero, Mayor of New London
- Brandon Robertson, Town Manager of Avon
- John L. Salomone, City Manager, Norwich
- Erin E. Stewart, Mayor of New Britain
- Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator of Columbia

**Past Presidents**

(who continue to serve on the board)

- Michael Freda, First Selectman of North Haven
- Neil O’Leary, Mayor of Waterbury
- Herbert C. Rosenthal, Former First Selectman of Newtown
With so many unprecedented events going on in the world, CCM strives to be a constant for municipalities to rely on. None of us know which way COVID is going to turn, nor how much funding we’ll get from federal or state resources, but we want you to know that we are maintaining the course so that your municipality will not have to wonder where we are going. For the 12th out of the last 13 years, we are looking at no increase in annual dues.

At the January 11th CCM Board of Directors meeting, we reported out an “early reading on the expected budget as we enter the next fiscal year. And from that we were able to determine that in all likelihood, the dues amount you paid CCM for this fiscal year will remain the same for the next fiscal year.

CCM is taking this action yet again to continue to be very sensitive to the fiscal challenges facing our towns and cities as the Omicron variant of COVID-19 now confronts local governments in a myriad of ways. This will mark the 12th year out of the last 13 years that CCM members have had a zero percent increase in their annual dues. It also follows up on our recent one-time rebate in the first months of the pandemic of 50 percent of your dues for FY 2020-2021 to help make your fiscal ends meet during those initial difficult times.

With the continuing public health, fiscal, social, and economic challenges facing Connecticut’s towns and cities, the collective power of CCM’s membership remains of paramount importance. Municipalities must continue to stick together under the CCM banner to present a unified message on behalf of Connecticut local governments.

CCM’s unparalleled services — from our top-flight, effective advocacy and invaluable research and information services, to our free training, energy savings, drug testing, labor relations, discount prescription drug program, grant finder software, municipal consulting and executive search, IT services, certified Connecticut municipal official program, and much more — ensure a return on your investment that far and away exceeds your CCM member dues.

In addition this fiscal year, CCM has worked especially hard work on channeling the unprecedented infusion of Federal funding to towns and cities under the American Rescue Plan, as well as significant funding under the National Opioid Settlement.

On behalf of all of us at CCM, we look forward to working hard on your behalf in 2022 to protect the interests of your community and its property taxpayers. Thank you for your continued support.

Please contact us or Kevin Maloney, Director of Communications and Member Relations, at (203) 710-3486 or kmaloney@ccm-ct.org at any time with any questions or concerns.
It’s a New Day for CIRMA’s Annual Meeting of Members: Thursday, May 26


Save the (New) Date

● Thursday, May 26, 2022 (Rescheduled from January)
● Hartford Marriott Downtown
● 9:30 AM (Registration Starts) – 2:00 PM

CIRMA
Win The Day At CIRMA’s Annual Meeting of Members
The Highly-Anticipated Connecticut Public Entity Event of the Year
Thursday, May 26, 2022 | Hartford Marriott Downtown

COMMUNITY wins the day

AWARDS PRESENTATION

CIRMA Excellence in Risk Management Awards
Presented by Matthew Knickerbocker, First Selectman, Bethel; Chairman, CIRMA Board of Directors

The Excellence in Risk Management Awards program was first introduced in 1982 to celebrate the accomplishments of CIRMA members while raising the profile of the risk management discipline. The program has been widely credited for cultivating risk management advocates across the Nutmeg State for almost 40 years.

Each year, CIRMA celebrate its Excellence in Risk Management Awards program by honoring members who have demonstrated notable distinction as trailblazers in the Risk Management profession. Award recipients set themselves apart by establishing extraordinary programs that are augmented by dynamic teams of risk-management champions.

Four deserving recipients will be announced during this year’s Annual Meeting of Members. Each awardee will receive a handsome crystal award and a $2,500 Risk Management Grant from CIRMA.

Award categories include:
• Establishing Risk Management as an Organizational Priority
• Substantial Impact on Total Cost of Risk
• Sustained Risk Management Program
• New and Innovative Risk Management Initiative

SEMINARS

Municipal Law Update and Navigating Fair Housing Liability
Presented by Thomas R. Gerarde, Managing Partner, Howd & Ludorf, LLC
This seminar provides municipal leaders a look at a number of recent claims, how they were caused, how they escalated, and strategies to help prevent or mitigate them. In addition, the presenter will include an in-depth examination of the requirements of the Act as it applies to elected town leaders, appointed zoning officials, and fair housing officers. The presenter will provide best practices to assist municipal officials in navigating the dynamic legal environment that has led to civil action, reputational risk, and increased insurance costs.

Navigating the Waves of Mandates
Presented by Johanna Zelman, Office Managing Partner, FordHarrison; and the CIRMA Risk Management Team
This session will provide attendees with additional insight into what the State will require of each employer and school district, including the expectations under the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to assist CIRMA members in maintaining compliance with these mandates and addressing employee concerns. Attorney Zelman will provide an employment practice map for navigating crucial issues, including necessary forms and records, declarations of authenticity, regulations for testing in lieu of vaccinations, and guidance on maintaining required records.

9:30 AM – 12:45 PM
CIRMA Welcomes New Staff

We’re excited to welcome these impressive professionals to CIRMA. CIRMA’s employees are at the heart of everything we do. It’s CIRMA’s staff who help create our innovative solutions and deliver on the promises we make our members, every day.” said David Demchak, President and Chief Executive Officer of CIRMA.

Annalys Fuentes joined CIRMA’s Claims team as their Workers’ Compensation Claims Administrative Team Leader. With an MBS in Business Management, Annalys joins CIRMA with over ten years of administrative experience. Prior to joining CIRMA, Annalys held the position of Administrative Manager for the West Haven Community House located in West Haven, Connecticut.

Jeffrey Joseph joined CIRMA’s Risk Management team as their newest Risk Management Consultant. Jeff is a graduate of St. John’s University located in Queens, New York. Prior to joining CIRMA, Jeff held the position of Workforce Manager for Convene in New York, New York managing 31 locations across the country. He is currently serving our country as a Financial Management Support Commander for the Army National Guard.

Invitations will be sent via email in March so watch your inbox. Visit cirmaeventhq.org for more information.
A municipality is not just the square miles or population or form of government, but the sum total of the history that led us to today. In Derby, one enterprising historical society member brought that history to the modern age by creating a digital map of historic Birmingham Borough.

Though the town holds the distinction for being the smallest, that wasn’t always so. Starting out as a much larger area, Jack Walsh, former head of the Derby Historical Society, decided to concentrate on an area of town that was known as Birmingham Green or Birmingham Borough.

It was built during a time in which the economy was struggling, and seeking out ways to create new economic development, they built a green with Churches and other amenities.

Users can virtually traverse the city – to the post office, train station, and library. These are all included on Walsh’s map. Noted in an interview with the New Haven Register, Walsh also says that some private residences are included in his map because of the significance of the individuals.

One such individual was Henry Shelton Sanford, who would found another town in Florida as well as becoming a “pivotal figure in the colonization of what would be known as the Congo Free State.”

This isn’t Walsh’s first endeavor in mapping out historical sites. On the Derby Historical Society website, you can access the Heritage Driving Tour, which includes information on the historic homes and locations throughout the entire Valley. The Yale Boat House, the Sterling Opera House, but perhaps most importantly, Roseland Apizza.

From the Register article, Walsh said that he thinks that plaques should go up around town to commemorate these locations for future generations, especially with the ongoing construction. Currently, Derby is in the middle of the Route 34 project that will alter the current landscape where many historical buildings once stood.

Often, some residents believe that the way things are are the way that things have always been, while others believe that we are currently experiencing unprecedented times. Diving deep into our rich past proves that both are true to some extent. (We’ve been through pandemics before, but until now, no one’s had Netflix to help get them through it.)

While many of the buildings and locations that are marked on Walsh’s map are no longer there, they are part of the history of Derby. With towns and cities that are centuries old, each municipality would have a rich landscape to choose from should they map their own history.
If it’s going to be cold, you might as well have fun with it. That was the idea in New Canaan when they approved a special permit for an ice-skating rink at Waveny Park.

After what was described as a decade of work and multiple placement options, the town settled on Waveny Park for its location and size. The rink is set to be a “pop-up” situation for the town, as it will only run during the colder months.

While the rink won’t be permanent, there will be some infrastructure that is needed to stay in place. That includes a chiller, which aids in the rink formation. The Zamboni, which refinishes the surface, will remain in a tent on-site, at least during the winter months when it is operational.

Although mother nature helps a bit with the formation of the rink simply by being cold, running and maintaining the rink won’t be free. Some equipment, including the chiller, was purchased for $75,000 according to figures from the New Canaan Advertiser, and the yearly operating costs are expected to be $175,000 between staffing and other expenses.

In order to recoup some of these costs, the town plans on instituting a skate fee which would be $10 for a day pass or $500 for the entire season, which may seem like a lot, but would average out to about $5 a day if you have it in you to skate that often. Additionally, they will add advertising opportunities to the rink that they expect to take in about $20,000 per season.

All of this won’t be enough to get the plan off the ground, but fortunately, they got an investor that will help them and give the rink a name, too. Former State Senator Toni Boucher was able to donate $100,000 to the project, who said that it was a “missing gem” for the area. For her generosity, the rink will be named the Boucher Community Ice Rink in honor of the Senator and her late husband, Bud Boucher.

There is still a need for additional funds to complete the rink plan, but the volunteers are working hard to make that happen. State Rep. Tom O’Dea, who represents New Canaan, is among those that are trying to get this plan off the ground, and First Selectman Kevin Moynihan had suggested ways that they might be able to make that a reality.

What’s clear is that the community thinks this is a great idea for New Canaan. Ice Skating is a winter pastime that many can enjoy – it’s healthy exercise, it’s fun to get on the rink with friends and family, and if you can keep warm, it’s a nice way to spend some time outside even in the coldest months.
New Vibes For Bridgeport

Sound on the Sound brings live music back to Seaside Park

Live music is a great connector. Everyone coming together, swaying to the music, holding up a lighter (or cell phone) during the ballad. Even during COVID, people yearn for those collective memories. In September, Bridgeport will be home to a festival that will be one for the memory bank. The new Sound on the Sound Festival will make its debut at Seaside Park in Bridgeport with headliners including Stevie Nicks, whose work both solo and with the legendary Fleetwood Mac speak for themselves, as well as a set by Dave Matthews with longtime collaborator Tim Reynolds.

The organizers, Founders Entertainment, said that they want to put together a big late-summer draw for Connecticut. And with the success of the Governor’s Ball that they hold in New York every year, they already have links to the industry that will get them access to big names like Nicks and Dave (which is what his biggest fans call him). They will build on the success of Gathering of the Vibes, which had ended in 2015. Originally begun as a tribute to Grateful Dead singer Jerry Garcia, it had been held both in Bridgeport and in New York through its twenty year history. Founders Entertainment will honor the jam band roots by adding a second weekend of concerts in 2023 dedicated to jam bands in the tradition of the Vibes concert.

But with festival circuits these days, organizers have to plan sometimes years in advance to get the headliners they want. And while Founders says they have four headlining acts over the two weekend days, many of the jam bands they wanted to book for the next weekend were already billed somewhere else. And though September is quite a ways away, the festival will likely have vaccination or test requirements that have generally made these events relatively safe.

The current unknowns are the total amount of acts that will play and who they will be, how much the ticket prices will be, and how popular this event will be. The organizers had suggested that up to 35,000 people can attend the event over the two days, and speaking to the Connecticut Post, discounts will be provided to Bridgeport residents.

One thing for sure is that this will be a boon to Bridgeport. Any attendees of the past Gathering of the Vibes know what a great place Seaside Park and Bridgeport can be to see live music.
One thing that was sure to come out of the American Rescue Plan Act was a staggering amount of innovative ideas from our towns and cities. The town of Winchester is one of the first out of the gates with a program to kick start economic development downtown with the Business Start-Up program.

According to the town’s press release, the town will be dispensing forgivable loans from $500 to $10,000 to applicants to help open a new business within Winchester/Winsted, given that they meet all the required criteria.

Funding will help prospective business owners acquire property, make improvements to their business site, or hire additional employees that can help them expand. Other possibilities for receiving the grant money are available, but eligibility would be determined by the town.

The eligibility requirements are fairly simple: a complete application must be submitted, operations must be in town borders, it must be a new business or new to Winchester, it must be opened within six months of awarded money and open at least 30 hours, moving into a visible area, and the business must demonstrate their value to the community. (A full, detailed list of requirements is available at the town’s website.)

In order to help facilitate this program, the town has designated $50,000 to a part-time director of Economic Development who will be responsible for guiding in the growth of the local economy as well as an additional $40,000 for town marketing and economic development activities.

In addition to the ARPA funds, the town is using funds from the Building Healthier Communities Fund for a $150,000 Façade Improvement Program.

These funds are also forgivable loans between $500 and $20,000 to businesses in Winchester that are aimed at improving the exterior or visible interior of a commercial or industrial building. Unlike the Business Start-Up program, these funds are aimed at businesses that already existed in town, or for current owners of vacant buildings or storefronts.

It’s evident that economic development will be a crucial piece during recovery from the pandemic. While the news shows that the economy is rolling along, many towns and cities have felt the hit as fewer people walk down their main streets, patronizing the local businesses and restaurants that are the cornerstone of our municipalities.

As we move on through the year, we will begin to see more and more stories from around the state sharing just what Connecticut’s municipalities are going to be doing with ARPA funds. The programs here in Winchester are just the beginning.
Eating Healthy Crucial For Children
New Britain Roots teaches importance of starting young

Apples, broccoli, and cauliflower are just as important as the A, B, Cs when it comes to growing children. At New Britain Roots, students learn the benefits of not only a healthy diet with locally sourced food, but the power of growing your own garden.

New Britain Roots has their – well – roots down in many areas that impact the local community. Some include farmers markets that bring together local vendors, they create food maps on resources around the city, but most importantly, they have a hand in educating children about the importance of good food.

With the elementary and middle schools and the New Britain Parks and Recreation, they offer “garden-based education [...] allowing youth to experience food in new ways and discover the impacts of a healthy lifestyle.” Children in these clubs spend time in gardens and greenhouses where they learn sustainable practices and the time-honored methods of growing your own food.

For at-risk students they offer after school programs where they can take the food that is grown through the sustainable agriculture and learn how to process it into something tasty and nutritional.

Through these and the other programs that are offered, students can learn the value of food through examining exactly what it is that they eat. Something that has become lost over time as society has relied more and more on processed foods.

Noted journalist Michael Pollan who writes frequently about the importance of food offers the rule “If it’s a plant, eat it, if it was made in a plant, don’t.”

“Pollan,” on his website, “points out that populations that eat like modern-day Americans — lots of highly processed foods and meat, lots of added fat and sugar, lots of refined grains — suffer high rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. But populations that eat more traditional diets don’t. Our great-grandmas knew what they were doing.”

This is extremely important information as children have recently seen an uptick in the rates of obesity. Largely due to the pandemic, this has drawn attention from state and national health experts who express caution about the negative effects on health issues and mental issues like self-esteem.

Learning the value of good food is clearly just as important as calculus or chemistry – and to be fair, you might not need to use advanced equations, but you do have to eat every day. With New Britain Roots, students can get outside and get their hands dirty – and truly reap the fruits of their labor.
Black Future Month
Bloomfield Library discusses Afrofuturism and other topics

With roots going back to the 1920s, Black History Month is historical itself. Officially recognized during the United States Bicentennial in 1976, it has been a jumping off point for many to celebrate the successes and achievements of Black Americans. Today, Bloomfield Public Library is using the month as a jumping off point to ask about the future.

On February 1, the library kicked off the month with a program called “Black to the Future: Afrofuturism as a Creative Force” with the guiding principle: “How do we acknowledge our history while paving the way for an informed and hopeful vision for the future, which may be difficult?”

A Mark Dery essay also entitled “Black to the Future,” sought to look at the ways Black Americans envision the future through literature, movies, and music by individuals such as Octavia Butler, the hip-hop group Outkast, and movies like Black Panther.

While mainly existing in the realm of science fiction under the name of Afrofuturism, many of these artists use their creative powers to envision not a dystopian future, but a better one.

Under the banner of Black Future Month, Bloomfield also held programs ranging from “Lessons from Apartheid: How Americans Can Join Across Racial Differences” to “Social Justice Book Club: Parable of the Sower (graphic novel) by Octavia Butler” in order to discuss the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality in this country.

The concept of Black Future Month is expanding in recent years as many of the documents that were once futuristic are coming to pass. For instance, Parable of the Sower was set in the futuristic year of 2024.

Even recently, artists like Ye (formerly known as Kanye West) have called upon February to invest in the work, especially creative work of Black Americans.

This is a noted departure from Black History Month’s origins. Recognizing history and building upon it for a better future is a strong message, one that echoes the sentiments of the Black Lives Matters protests of 2020.

In Bloomfield, the library is acknowledging both the past and the future. Reading important documents and learning from the past is as crucial as ever, for all Americans. Talking about science fiction and superhero movies are important parts of our shared American culture. To honor the work of the Afrofuturists that the Bloomfield Public Library are highlighting, we should all be working towards making that better future less science fiction and more a reality.

In this graphic-novel adaptation of Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower by Damian Duffy and John Jennings, the author portrays a searing vision of America’s future.
Just a few years ago, it might not have seemed doable to make the switch to solar. The cost of the panels and the installation would be high. But Newtown is leading the way on their solar journey, with the possibility of hitting over 90% in 2022.

To start, some facts. It would take approximately 21,000 square miles of solar panels to power the entire United States. Using those figures, Connecticut would need somewhere in the range of just 31 square miles, plus a little bit extra for our density.

So where do you find that extra space? Mostly here and there.

Newtown will be able to reach the 95% threshold for their buildings through arrays that were placed both in town, on buildings, as well as purchasing solar energy from larger systems across the state.

Because electricity is so expensive in the state of Connecticut, we were the second state in the Union to reach what is known as grid parity.

According to the folks at the Climate Reality Project, that is “when an alternative form of energy generates power at a levelized cost of electricity that’s equal to or less than the price of buying power from the electric grid”

Naturally, the first state to reach grid parity was Hawaii, which is isolated by thousands of miles of ocean. Connecticut doesn’t have that excuse.

Getting back to the 21,000 square miles, while that might seem like a lot to power the entire United States, it’s actually a fairly small percentage of land. As a percentage of the entire land area, that’s around 0.5%. It is also half of the land that is leased or owned by the entire oil and gas industry.

But according to some figures, individuals like Elon Musk who has made a name for himself in the electric industry by purchasing the companies Tesla and SolarCity, the actual amount of space it will take is closer to 10,000 square miles, with one-square mile of battery storage.

And with the grid parity, it’s almost always easier and cheaper to install solar panels or other forms of renewable energy. In Newtown, through smart efficiency programs, they are saving over $100,000 a year in one school alone.

In 2022, it’s not so much a question of should you do renewable energy projects, it’s how and when. There are clear benefits to making the switch, and every town and city should be asking how much money would I save if I adopted these measures?
Sustainability isn’t just solar panels and composting. Although renewables and recycling are hugely important, we need our residents to have pride in the places they are protecting. Sustainable Meriden recently took advantage of the Sustainable CT match fund to beautify an often-overlooked piece of infrastructure – the bridge underpass.

In a project that saw the collaboration between the city of Meriden, Sustainable Meriden youth group, RiseUP for Arts and the Department of Transportation, the Bunker Ave bridge got a much needed makeover with a simple mural.

Reminiscent of Lego bricks, the underpass will be bedecked in a combination of jewel tones and rainbow colors that are sure to brighten up the underpass.

RiseUP for Arts is no stranger to these projects. On the fundraising site, they note that they have worked on over 50 mural projects throughout the state, with 25 local artists, 50 partners, and over 500 volunteers. They can be seen at their website, www.ctmurals.com

Because they are professionals, this project was perfect for the community match fund. Taking steps to ensure that there’d be a good bond with primer and wall prep, important safety measure, the paint itself, and even an anti-graffiti clearcoat means that some costs would be associated with this mural.

Over 60 donors included local businesses, clubs, and individuals combined their powers to raise the $5000 needed for half the job in just over two months. The other half was provided by the Sustainable CT community match fund.

This program is open to anyone in a Sustainable CT municipality. This means that youth groups, nonprofits, and more can double the impact of the funds that they raise for projects like this one.

Sustainable Meriden is a student-led program that engages the community to achieve Meriden’s sustainability goals. Through the efforts of this program, environmental and social goals can be achieved while promoting a vibrant community and economic growth. The collaborative community engagement will help Meriden achieve certification through the Sustainable CT initiative and become a thriving, resilient city.

Though it might seem like just a coat of paint that is going up, murals like this create more investment in local communities. A virtuous cycle where beauty gets more beauty. It’s important enough that Sustainable CT has made supporting arts and creative culture one of their action points.

Establishing a poet laureate, a cultural office, or an artist-in-residence all help towns reach their goals of sustainability. It’s all part of their goal of having a greener future, one that is also red, orange, yellow, blue, indigo, and violet as well.

Beauty And Infrastructure Meet
Sustainable Meriden adds mural to bridge underpass
GOVERNANCE

All The Data That’s Fit To Print

Data Haven helps municipalities govern with equity reports

In order to govern, one must know a bit about what it is you are governing. At its very essence, data is the primary factor in many governing decisions—from planning and zoning to mill rates. Data Haven, in partnership with Sustainable CT, recently released the Connecticut Town Equity Reports that will help our local leaders govern.

Data Haven has been around for 25 years now, setting up reports like the CT Town Equity Reports. They are designed to “inform local-level efforts to improve community well-being and racial equity;” the Town Equity Reports cover topics like demographics, housing, education and more.

Because of the partnership with Sustainable CT, they also include a section on Environment & Sustainability. The project notes that in addition to social factors, there are many environmental factors that will affect the lives of residents. Towns and cities can see were they rank on a risk scale for things like lead paint exposure, air cancer risk, or proximity to treatment facilities.

For Sustainable CT, they write that environmental justice is “the idea that these factors of built and natural environments follow familiar patterns of socioeconomic disparities and segregation.”

Taking a look at the map for New Haven, for instance, one will see that lead paint exposure risk is highly concentrated in the city, petering out as you move outwardly towards inner-ring suburbs, outer-ring suburbs and beyond.

On the other hand, New Haven has excelled in creating a more walkable city than the average town or city in Connecticut. Only 54% of Connecticut residents have stores within walking distance, while 77% of New Haven residents have that privilege. The same trends follow for sidewalks, bikes, and even local recreational facilities. This is largely due to the denser neighborhoods and traffic that comes with living in a city.

Naturally, how each individual chooses to interpret and utilize this information is highly subjective. With limited resources, one might not be able to tackle every single issue. But if you live in an area where pollution is less concentrated in the air, but don’t have any sidewalks or safe places to bicycle, then you can choose where to most wisely spend your money.

Thanks to Data Haven and the support from Sustainable CT, all 169 towns and cities have access to this information to make those decisions on their own. Interested municipalities can visit www.ctdatahaven.org to find those reports and more.

NEW HAVEN 2021 EQUITY PROFILE

TABLE 11: HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN STRUCTURES BUILT BEFORE 1960 BY RACE/ETHNICITY OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 2019

<table>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Count</th>
<th>Total Share %</th>
<th>White Count</th>
<th>White Share %</th>
<th>Black Count</th>
<th>Black Share %</th>
<th>Latino Count</th>
<th>Latino Share %</th>
<th>Other race Count</th>
<th>Other race Share %</th>
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<td>42%</td>
<td>399,512</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>63,552</td>
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<td>24,866</td>
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<td>Greater New Haven</td>
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<td>48%</td>
<td>75,044</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>16,514</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>19,135</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>5,048</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>31,615</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>11,190</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>10,014</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>8,163</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>2,248</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children under 7 years old are monitored annually for potential lead poisoning, based on having blood-lead levels in excess of the state’s accepted threshold. Between 2013 and 2017, 7.9 percent of children tested in New Haven were found to have elevated lead levels. Children living in homes built before 1960 are at a higher risk of potential lead poisoning due to the more widespread use of lead-based paints in older homes. Black and Latino households are slightly more likely to live in structures built before 1960.
high time to lower property taxes

Mayor Luke Bronin joins the Municipal Voice to talk governance

With the legislative session set to start next week, Connecticut towns and cities say it’s high time to help lower property taxes in a meaningful way.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, and also President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities joined the Municipal Voice, a co-production of CCM and WNHH 103.5 FM, to talk about the legislative proposals set by towns and cities that they think the Governor and General Assembly should act on in 2022.

“Reducing overreliance on the property tax as the sole source of local government funding has been a longstanding priority for CCM,” Bronin said, “We are one of the most reliant on property taxes in the country.”

As part of the legislative proposals, towns and cities are asking the state to consider municipal revenue diversification and providing incentives for municipalities to expand shared and regional services.

For cities like Hartford and others, Bronin says that there is a need-capacity gap. This term refers to situations in which municipalities simply do not have enough capacity through taxable property to meet the needs of the community, while others have more than enough. This can create vast disparities in tax rates and outcomes between different communities.

In Hartford, there’s more than a fair share of non-taxable properties – state property, colleges, and hospitals – that even fully funding programs like the Payments in Lieu of Taxes would not overcome these gaps.

This is true also of education.

As part of the suite of proposals from towns and cities, they believe that the funding of the Special Education Excess Cost Formula should not be capped.

Bronin, said while this formula could use an update for the 21st century, small towns and big cities are hamstrung by insufficient state funding and volatility. Stating that these students with special needs deserve to have their needs met, but just one student can alter the budget in a small town, while there may be a concentration of need in a city.

The Mayor also spoke to proposals on Transit Oriented Development, Opioid Ombudsman, and the Transportation Climate Initiative saying that Connecticut is in a position to make big changes in a lot of areas that will help the everyday citizens of Connecticut by creating housing, stemming the opioid epidemic, and future proofing our infrastructure.

The will is there to make many of these changes, and on more than one occasion the mayor applauded efforts from the state to help with these issues. For municipalities, it’s a matter of having that voice at the capitol where decisions are being made.

“There are so many ways in which this pandemic has changed the game at the local level and raised the stakes,” Mayor Bronin said, “and we’re all dealing with unprecedented challenges, but we also have some unprecedented opportunities.”
A Downtown Rebirth

Danbury is taking the moment to reexamine the sidewalks

There’s a movement underway to reinvigorate streets in municipalities around the state, even extending beyond state and national borders. Although this trend has gone largely unremarked upon on a cultural level, towns and cities like Danbury, Connecticut have officially begun to move on from the 20th century streetscape into a 21st century renaissance.

The word renaissance itself means rebirth, and this is precisely what modern streetscapes require. For nearly 100 years, streets were reconfigured for the automobile to the exception of everything else. While it might seem obvious and reflexive to say that streets were designed for cars, it’s just as evident that has not always been the case. And often, automobiles limit the use of downtown areas – when an area becomes overly reliant on travel to a destination, that area’s capacity is limited to how many parking spots are available.

The goal is to make many more destinations more pleasing to the pedestrian and cyclist, and this is precisely the project that Danbury has embarked on.

One of the primary goals was to replace sidewalks, which had not been replaced since the 1990s and were nearing the end of their lifecycle. So too were trees, planters, and other fixtures. By the first quarter of 2022, Danbury officials expected to have repaired and replaced many of these, despite setbacks from ongoing supply chain issues.

This phase of construction is notable since these are the kinds of repairs that would not normally be noticeable from a car driving at even low speeds.

Future phases of the project introduce transit-oriented development, which could be situated around Union Station and a renewed push to bring fast train service to New York City back to Danbury. Moving the current bus station closer to the trains is just one idea that is being looked at and a slew of new buildings are in varying stages of development in and around the downtown area that would add to the need for additional transportation options.

As part of the initial planning, the town said in a presentation that this is an “opportunity to improve downtown green space which is a valuable and scarce commodity in urban centers,” “represents City’s commitment to the importance of its downtown,” and “Improved streetscape helps to incentivize economic development.”

But that doesn’t mean that change happens overnight. In three years, this project has already been manned by three mayors, with phases that will take time – especially the train service upgrades.

The Renaissance – the real one – didn’t happen overnight either. Whether you call it a walkable city, transit-oriented development, or something else, changes are coming to main streets.
Making The Connection

East Hartford has a new high speed calling card

It doesn’t take much to realize how important the internet has become over the last 30 years. COVID has only increased the necessity of good, high speed internet. East Hartford is beginning down a path that will be a new calling card for the town.

As of late last year, the town, in partnership with SiFi Networks, is installing an open access network of fiber cable. Bob Knight, a spokesman for SiFi Networks described this arrangement to CT Public Radio as most like an airport. In his metaphor, the airport is the network they are building, while the airlines that operate there (Delta or American) are equivalent to the Internet Service Providers (Comcast or Verizon).

This incentivizes competition between companies, and those benefits will see their way to the town and its residents.

Many will be most interested in the speeds of the internet. Gone are the days of the dial-up – the speeds that can be achieved with fiber optic will be almost 20,000 times faster to begin with, with that speed increasing to 10 gbps over time. These are speeds that are nearly 200 million times faster than our operating speeds just 20 years ago.

While residents will see the benefits when it comes time to listen to their streaming music or watch a movie on Netflix, this infrastructure will also pay dividends with the business community.

In East Hartford, this plan has already attracted the interest of longtime businesses like Pratt & Whitney, as well as the many businesses that are tied to the aerospace industry, per reporting from the Hartford Business Journal. But Alexandra Daum says that this will be a kind of ace in the hole when businesses are looking to move their operations.

In that Hartford Business Journal article, she says that businesses that are interviewing Connecticut tend to place broadband internet at the top of their priorities list. Although this project isn’t expected to be done for a few years, it was more than a few years in the making. Former Mayor Marcia Leclerc began looking for solutions back in 2014. With SiFi, she may have hit the jackpot as the entire project will be funded privately at no cost to the taxpayers.

As a major focus of the past few years, CCM, municipal and state leaders, teachers and students, business- es and work-from-homers all have asked for better and more reliable internet at reasonable prices. East Hartford’s new calling card says to the state that those...
Often, when openly discussing the idea of cameras in public spaces, images out of George Orwell’s 1984 are conjured in the imagination. So when New Haven argued that it wanted to purchase 500 additional surveillance cameras, it was met with pushback from some constituents who felt this was a step towards an Orwellian future. Others felt that not only will this be a useful tool in solving crime, but it also has the possibility to prevent crime.

The proposal began as part of the pandemic-relief money that was given to all towns and cities. New Haven already had about 200 cameras, which pales in comparison to Connecticut’s other large cities. Hartford for instance has 1200, while Bridgeport has 1,600 according to figures reported in the New Haven Independent.

But these cameras are not simply a matter of keeping up with the joneses. New Haven has a lower closure rate than these cities, and often the issue isn’t that the police don’t have credible leads, but simply that they do not have evidence that will stand up in court or community members are reticent to share information with the police.

During a press conference on the subject, Mayor Justin Elicker noted one strong advantage: “Cameras don’t lie.” That is an ongoing reason why police more and more are relying on video evidence from all manner of sources.

One obvious resource are police body cameras. Mandated to be worn by all police, it is generally accepted that the footage these cameras collect protect both the police officer and the public from any abuse of power.

But towns and cities across the country are increasingly looking towards cameras not installed by the municipality, but the public themselves. These cameras come in the form of doorbells and other such devices that homeowners install to protect their homes. And with this valuable resource police departments, including several in Connecticut, have asked homeowners to become part of their database of cameras.

The way it works is that the police don’t have access to the cameras 24/7, but if a suspect robs a bank and travels through a neighborhood, they could then ask the homeowners along the route to share the video to accurately trace the vehicle’s path.

While the fictional world presents a cautionary tale against Big Brother style spying on everyday citizens, the real world presents a different kind of tale. It’s one where people prefer to have the record reflect the truth, honestly and accurately. Even the best-intentioned citizen does not have the recall of a camera record.

There’s no guarantee that cameras will be a cure-all for the cities problem, and more than one individual in the city said they were just one tool in the toolbox. But for New Haven, it’s important that those tools are available when they are needed most.
Over the last two years, our nation has had a sometimes difficult conversation over policing. Though there have been disagreements over which direction we should be taking our police departments, one area that has seen support from many sides is the addition of social workers to the force to aid in public safety. Stamford has recently been awarded a grant to continue this expansion of their Community Response Initiative.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Justice Department in the amount of $550,000 over three years to hire a social worker that will ride along with police during calls that are more in line with their capabilities.

One line we’ve heard often over the past two years is that we’ve expected our police force to take on more and more expertise while still performing their basic duties. So when responding to calls that involve mental health or substance abuse challenges, the person best able to respond would look more like a social worker than a police officer.

Many departments around the nation began to wonder, why don’t we simply hire social workers to engage with these challenges and respond to these calls?

These social workers will be wearing many hats themselves. From the original grant, Stamford says that they will use the funds to “hire additional Master of Social Workers (MSW) from our mental health partner, the Recovery Network of Program (RNP) to embed in the Police Department, to, when safe and appropriate, respond to calls for service with the Police Behavioral Unit (BHU), to conduct mental health assessments, coordinate care, referrals and assertive linkage for Emotionally Disturbed Persons (EDP). Other activities include; conducting a systems-wide needs assessment to identify service gaps, assigning a Project Manager to manage the CRI, enhancing training for all relevant staff, conducting an extensive outreach campaign to engage a host of cross sector service providers, conducting Mental Health Fairs, and employing a robust social media campaign and a progressive training regimen, as well as working with BJA Technical Assistance.”

Stamford has asked that question, and the funds from this grant will actually go towards the second social worker to be aligned with the police force. Not only do they ride along on appropriate calls, but they also follow up with individuals in some situations, which can lead to preventing that second call.

The grant will be applied over the course of three years and some of the funds will go towards helping the traditional force secure training as well as mental health fairs and outreach programs.

With even just one social worker assisting the force, calls have already decreased, a sign that the program is working. For Stamford, this can only be seen as a positive development. At the end of the day, keeping people safe is what it’s all about.
Getting Involved Realizes Local Silver
Girl Scouts learn the ins and outs of local gov

Each year, CCM hands out #locoolgov scholarships to Connecticut schoolchildren who submit a project on what makes local government cool. So whenever we hear a story about a group of kids getting together to get involved in the local government process, like Girl Scout Troop 30223 did in Fairfield, we just have to share.

Two of the troops girls, Ayla Eyikan and Teagan Weber – both middle schoolers – decided that they wanted to make their city a little bit cleaner and to encourage others to respect others with none other than a dog waste station at the Pine Creek Open Space park.

From the Fairfield Citizen, they write that these girls took charge of the entire process. From proposing the idea for the station, presenting it to the Fairfield Conservation Department, selecting the location, researching and obtaining all the supplies, digging the hole, pouring the concrete and, finally, installing the station, including the first allotment of bags needed to supply the station.

Their plan was to get badges for their work on their way to completing a Silver Award, which is one of the highest honors in Girl Scouting. One of the keys to earning this award is to “explore your community and think of how [an] affects your community.”

And for them, there are many definitions of what a community is: “Communities are groups of people who have something in common. You belong to many communities: Your school is a community, for example. So is your math class or your debate team. Even kids who ride the same bus every day are a community. Other communities include your neighborhood, your place of worship, your town, and so on. Think about what communities you belong to.”

Though it might seem a simple task, this is a reminder that no matter what age you are, engaging in their respective communities and in local government is entirely up to the individual to help make the changes they want to see.

With #locoolgov, CCM wants to make sure that students around the state are aware of their communities and the role they can play in shaping them. It is nice to see the Girl Scouts playing a role in helping young adults foster a sense of civic duty and what it means to be active. It’s not just a dog waste station that was put up in Fairfield, it was a series of steps from idea to reality, and an investment in community.
Spooky Tales Abound

Morris library event gathers folks around the campfire

It may be a cold Winter’s day in Connecticut, far from Autumn, but with so much legend and folklore surrounding New England, any day is a good day for the telling of stories around a campfire. The Morris Public Library held just that, at least a virtual campfire, with master storyteller, Jeff Belanger this past January to an intrigued and sometimes frightened audience.

Host of the New England Legends podcast, which catalogs the many stories of “haunts, monsters, aliens, and weird history” from Connecticut and beyond.

In addition to his podcast, he is an Emmy-nominated television presenter with a show on the same subject airing on PBS and Amazon Prime, as well as several books including several on the ghosts of the White House, communicating with the dead, and plenty of other spooky topics.

He regaled the audience with several tales of supposed alien sightings, pirates who were masquerading as school teachers, and more before getting into an often comical tale of Connecticut intrigue.

Individuals in Glastonbury might know the story of the Glawackus, described as a legendary creature, something of a cross between a panther, a bear, and a lion.

This tale was not so much hearsay for it was reported in the Hartford Courant for several years. In the pages of the country’s oldest continually running newspaper they reported sightings and went on hunts with enthusiasts.

Not long afterwards, advertisements began showing up saying that the Glawackus would make an appearance. A tailor offered to make a Glawackus coat or scarf, and a butcher said that they were regrettably out of the rare animal’s meat, but that beef would be plenty in supply.

But soon the gig was up - the Glawackus was made up by the paper’s assistant state editor Frank King. He came up with the name by combining Glastonbury and Wacky and throwing the –us at the end for good measure.

Though the story might have been silly, it wasn’t just the Courant that made out from this legend. People got together and told tall tales about the things they had seen, some truthfully, some in good fun.

The individuals who joined Belanger and the Morris Library were there, partaking in that tradition of New England Storytelling. Connecticut has more than its fair share of strange tales, and Belanger himself notes that “the bizarre is closer than you think.” Just hopefully not as close as the dreaded Glawackus.
Why Not Ask?
Greater Groton Projects invites community discussion

There’s community engagement, and there’s community engagement – that special kind of partnership between a municipality and its people. When constituents are really heard, instead of just listened to. These relationships need some kind of platform, and the Greater Groton Project is an example of a town going the extra mile to get the public involved.

Going live late last year, Groton debuted the latest in community engagement at greatergroton.com. This website is designed for the town to engage with the public on important issues.

One example is the ever popular Downtown Mystic district within Groton and neighboring Stonington. Anyone who has been there during the summer knows that both traffic and parking can be a tricky situation to navigate.

The website offers this explanation:
Visitation to the area is at an all-time high as exciting shops and restaurants open and draw visitors from well beyond Connecticut’s borders.

While we welcome both residents and visitors enjoying all that Mystic has to offer, and appreciate the support for our local businesses and nonprofits, it has placed growing pressure on the parking supply. The Towns of Groton and Stonington jointly commissioned a study to identify effective parking strategies to better manage and improve parking conditions for customers, visitors, employees and residents of Downtown Mystic.

The complete study, as well as a video presentation of the findings, can be found on this page.

In addition to this brief overview, they let you know exactly who your comments and ideas are going to – in this case it is the Economic and Community Development Manager and Economic Development Specialist.

Individuals can even collaborate with each other by commenting in support of an idea or even just clicking the heart icon to say you agree.

Other projects on the platform include topics like “How should Groton spend our Federal Recovery Dollars?” “Help Beautify Groton,” “Small Business Forum,” and “Age Friendly Groton.”

This is preferable to individuals commenting on Facebook, which can be notoriously finicky with showing comments from all individuals and has little transparency.

Quoted in an article from The Day, Lauren Post said that it is hard to correct misinformation online, so offering a platform like greatergroton.com gives constituents “transparency and the voice they deserve.”

Especially during COVID, it has been important to discover new ways to keep community engagement going. While it will never replace the open forum of public meetings, towns and cities will have to continue to meet people where they are. As Post said, at lot of times that means online.
Some Assembly Required

By Dale Bruckhart, Digital BackOffice

With the holiday season and the frustration of assembling gifts still fresh in mind, let’s take a look at purchasing information technology (IT) when “some assembly is required”.

Public bidding is of course required by statute to ensure that our tax dollars are spent judiciously and legally. IT bid documents and specifications are prepared by business managers, purchasing agents, technology directors, consultants, attorneys or they may be a collaborative effort by all. The business terms and conditions are often standard, but the hardware and software descriptions and specifications are often quite detailed with brand, model and part numbers provided for easy pricing and response.

Why do many IT bid specifications end with “Quote Installation and Configuration” and provide zero or little detailed description of the expectation, qualifications or metrics for the installation?

Some requests for proposal do require the winning bidder to show proof of hardware or software resale authorization by the manufacturer or certification, but differentiating qualified IT vendors requires more than a certificate. Here are several suggestions which may improve the procurement process, separate qualified from unqualified vendors and improve the performance and reliability of your network infrastructure.

Provide Logical Network Design Goals with the Bid Specifications

Don’t expect the winning vendor to configure network IT infrastructure hardware such as switches, routers, firewalls, and servers unless you have provided prospective bidders with the logical network design objectives and the IP addressing scheme as a component of the equipment specifications. Without the details on what’s expected of the winning bidder the vendor will often assign a junior, less experienced engineer to a job to lower the cost of labor. That means on the job training for the assigned technician, potential cost overruns or worse. If the existing or new logical network design does not accommodate the new network hardware, legacy network hardware, applications or address concerns about security and growth, the installation of network components may result in complete network failure or recurring network problems. Bid specifications should provide bidders with the logical network design details and implementation plan parameters for minimizing network downtime and recovering from a potential network failure. Better yet, contract for the logical network design separately or engage a qualified consultant or managed service provider to review the logical network plan, IP addressing scheme and the implementation plan.

What does “installation” mean?

Equipment installation may include some or all of the following but don’t assume that the bidder knows what you expect or need, so spell it out. The last item is critical to every installation and should be required on every IT bid request. If the engineer/vendor leaves your site without providing this information you may be locked out of accessing the equipment in the future to make changes.

• Remove equipment from packaging and mount in existing cabinet, rack or shelf.
• Provide aforesaid cabinet, rack or shelf.
• Assemble optional modules, power supplies, or interfaces on the equipment
• Configuring equipment with a name and IP address provided by buyer
• Connecting patch cords between equipment and data cabling infrastructure.
• Connecting equipment power supplies to buyer provided power source preferably an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).
• Loading or updating the Operating System on the equipment
• Configuring the equipment according to the aforementioned logical network design and acceptance plan.
• Removing and/or disposing of obsolete equipment.
• Pre-staging and/or burn-in of equipment on the bench or off-site.
• Project acceptance and as-built documentation to include a network diagram, IP addresses, OS ver-
sion, passwords, serial numbers, current equipment configuration, start-up test results, warranty status, technical contact and business contact information. On large, complex projects a project manager may be needed to coordinate the installation with the owner’s representative, the technology department, tradesman, the internet service provider, etc. Don’t assume a project manager is included with every installation.

Is the equipment manufacturer or the bidder going to support the IT infrastructure installation and/or the post-installation?

Equipment manufacturers provide warranties ranging from 90 days to lifetime, and maintenance contracts with a variety of coverage options and prices. The project contract and acceptance, however, is often between the buyer and the systems integrator or equipment reseller. In fact, the manufacturer may not support equipment that has been improperly configured, installed unsafely or in a manner which conflicts with industry protocols and standards. When a network is made up of components from multiple manufacturers, finger pointing between vendors may exacerbate network installation problems and potential failures.

A detailed acceptance plan needs to be included with the bid specifications to ensure that the network is working properly and that equipment has been installed according to the logical network design and the manufacturer or industry best practices. The acceptance plan should spell out the process for testing every device, application and operating system with the new network equipment preferably in a manner which will not affect the production environment.

Look for experience, depth, references and consider managed services.

Administrators can expect infrequent network service interruptions, because IT infrastructure is complex, susceptible to power outages, equipment failure, human error and external network factors. Setting a network service level goal and response time expectation raises the bar for employees, budgets and vendors. Managed service providers may own and lease back some portion of the network infrastructure including equipment, technical support, logical network/security administration, and refresh the network components every 60 months with an SLA. Managed network infrastructure services will alter IT budgeting and procurement practices as the IT industry moves towards managed/cloud services and longer term agreements.

Equipment resellers are not managed IT service providers. Managed IT service providers add value with experienced employees and trouble-shooting processes, network operation facilities to support your service level goal 24x7, network management software tools and the ability to manage the logical network infrastructure remotely as well as on-site. If you have any doubt about a vendor’s claims, check out the references, visit the vendor’s network operations center or request a SOC report.

Choosing the right vendor to install, configure and manage your network infrastructure is critical to the delivery of 21st century electronic communications. Providing detailed installation and configuration requirements in bid specifications will significantly improve the quality of IT services and ultimately network infrastructure performance.

Dale Bruckhart is Vice President for Public Sector Sales & Marketing, Advanced Corporate Networking, d.b.a. Digital BackOffice. He can be reached at 203-874-5545 Ext. 118 or by email at daleb@digitalbackoffice.com. Visit the website at www.digitalbackoffice.com

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