

Nonprofit Collaboration Incentive Grant Program (NCIP) Summary

The Nonprofit Collaboration Incentive Grant Program (NCIP) was established by C.G.S. Section 4-124v (*See Attachment A for statutory authority*). The purpose of the program is to provide grants for one-time infrastructure costs to implement consolidations of programs and services resulting from the collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations. The goal of the NCIP is to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services through collaborations between and among nonprofit providers currently providing services in Connecticut. The consolidation of programs and services is broadly defined to include joint ventures involving shared business operations, functions, or services.

The NCIP is funded by proceeds from State General Obligation Bonds. The State Bond Commission authorized \$5,000,000 in State bond funds to support the NCIP. Since 2010, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) released five Request for Applications (RFA) and the State Bond Commission approved 19 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the State. As a result of the RFA process, a total of 69 applications were submitted, 43 applications were reviewed by the evaluation committee and 19 applicants were granted an award. However, in 2012, the Bridgeport Eastside Promise Neighborhood Group withdrew their technology application for \$84,493 after the grant was awarded. These funds were added to the 2013 RFA. Also, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center withdrew their technology application for \$335,132 after the grant was awarded in 2014. This change leaves \$335,132 of unspent funds from the total authorized amount of \$5,000,000. The total amount allocated for the 17 remaining grants is \$4,664,868.

To date, all of the 2014 grants have been fully executed and programs are up and running and four of the 2013 grants (CIL Resources, Camp Cuheca, Connecticut Association for Community Action and Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation) are still running.

Grant funds were to be used for a (1) facility purchase; (2) facility loan refinancing; (3) facility improvement, including energy conservation projects; (4) equipment; (5) technology; and (6) transportation projects. The majority of current grants are for technology and facility improvement, including energy conservation projects. A chart summarizing the NCIP grants is on the next page.

The following program priorities were taken into consideration during the evaluation and scoring of applicants:

- a) Have existing contracts or agreements with the State of Connecticut to provide health and human services;
- b) Maximize efficiencies gained by streamlining (e.g. those with greater economies of scale or higher ratios of savings over a three-to-five year period that are equal to, or greater than, the grant award received);

- c) Maximize the State’s investment by leveraging additional funding from federal or private sources;
- d) Demonstrate and provide details about projected savings and efficiencies due to the consolidation of programs or services;
- e) Demonstrate fiscal stability and show sustainable funding in the out years;
- f) Plan for and encourage additional nonprofit organizations to join the collaboration in the future;
- g) Demonstrate real change (e.g., actual physical consolidation, not merely designating certain staff within one nonprofit organization to perform functions for another nonprofit organization); and
- h) Consolidate larger scopes of shared business operations, functions, or services, including, but not limited to: (1) fiscal and administrative, such as payroll, billing; (2) human resources, such as staff recruitment, health and retirement benefits; and (3) information and technology, such as telecommunication equipment, electronic medical records systems, computers and laptops.

An applicant had to earn an average rating of 70 points out of 100 points to be considered for funding. Any applicant reaching the minimum average rating of 70 points could earn additional bonus points.

Below is a chart of the NCIP grants by year.

NCIP Projects 2010-2014

2010			
Applications Submitted	6	Applications Reviewed	2
Grants Awarded	2		
Project	Participating Agency	Project Description	Grant Award
CommuniCare Technology	CommuniCare, Inc. (CCI) Bridges, Inc. Birmingham Group Health Services Harbor Health Services, Inc.	Consolidate the information and technology department of the collaboration through the development of a centralized information network and integrated telephone system.	\$331,059
The Fairfield County IT Connection	Family and Children’s Agency, Inc. Family Services Woodfield, Inc. Family Centers, Inc.	Consolidate the information and technology system of the collaboration through the purchase of software, computers, laptops, hardware, servers and networks to support an Electronic Medical Records system, billing and case management services.	\$584,611
Total 2010			\$915,670

2011					
Applications Submitted 5		Applications Reviewed 4		Grants Awarded	2
Wheeler Clinic - Community Health Resources Technology Project	Wheeler Clinic Community Health Resources (CHR)	Development and implementation of an integrated information and technology system. Implementation of a Video Conferencing Technology Project that links staff remotely.	\$121,405		
Community Action Collaboration	Bristol Community Organization, Inc. TEAM, Inc. Human Resource Agency, Inc.	Support the development and implementation of a new technology project to align the software, intake process and case management system among the participating organizations.	\$134,841		
Total 2011			\$256,246		
2012					
Applications Submitted 4		Applications Reviewed 4		Grants Awarded	1
Bridgeport Eastside Promise Neighborhood		Bridgeport Eastside Promise Neighborhood withdrew their technology application for \$84,496 after grant was awarded. Funds were added to 2013 funds.	0		
Total 2012			0		
2013					
Applications Submitted 27		Applications Reviewed 17		Grants Awarded	6
CIL Resources, Inc.	Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, Inc.	Development of a multi-tenant nonprofit center in Hartford that creates a professional community where nonprofit leaders can share ideas, services and knowledge for the benefit of those served. Grant will end on August 31, 2016.	\$1,500,000		
Camp Cuheca	Fresh Farm New London	Support the upgrade of an existing activity site on the grounds of the Waterford Country School. July 29, 2016.	\$62,485		
Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc.	ACCESS Agency, Inc. Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. New Opportunities, Inc. TVCCA, Inc.	Funds will be used to enhance and streamline the CAA network's Data Warehouse, the statewide client database that currently stores demographic, program, service, and outcome information for more than 625,000 individual clients. The grant will end on June 16, 2016.	\$525,000		
Community Mental Health Affiliates, Inc.	Farrell Treatment Center	Support a collaborative information technology (IT) project that will involve a shared telecommunication system, an updated backup disaster recovery system, and management of the new systems.	\$310,885		
Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation	Hands on Hartford	Support the purchase and development of a client database system. The grant will end on June 16, 2016.	\$103,635		

New London Hospitality Center	New London Community Meal Center	Funds will be used to purchase a 15 passenger mini-van to increase access to the New London Community Meal Center.	\$53,000
Total 2013			2,555,005
2014			
Applications Submitted 27		Applications Reviewed 16	
			Grants Awarded 8¹
CCARC, Inc.	CCARC Inc. Hospital for Special Care	Create a joint Multi-Sensory Stimulation Environment to be used by the collaboration.	\$82,925
Clifford W. Beers Clinic Inc.	Clifford W. Beer Clinic Fair Haven Community Health Center	Purchase teleconferencing equipment and software to be used by the collaboration.	\$75,124
Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies Inc.	Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies Inc. Six member agencies	Purchase mobile equipment such as tablets and to upgrade the current web based outcome tracking and performance system.	\$44,614
Family Centers Inc.	Family Centers Inc. Family & Children's Agency LifeBridge Community Services Inc.	Purchase mobile equipment such as tablets and to improve the current Wi-Fi system to be by the collaboration.	\$90,200
Family and Children's Aid Inc.	Family and Children's Aid Inc. Hispanic Center	Create additional office space and a new training facility to be used by the collaboration.	\$250,779
New London Homeless Hospitality Center Inc.	New London Homeless Hospitality Center Inc. Covenant Shelter of New London Inc. Columbus House	Create additional meeting space to be shared by the collaboration.	\$86,300

¹The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center withdrew their technology application for \$335,132 after the grant was awarded in 2014.

The Village for Families & Children Inc.	The Village for Families & Children Inc. Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Children	Create additional office space to accommodate the co-location of the collaboration's staff.	\$308,005
Total 2014			\$937,947
Grand Total			\$4,664,868²

² The Cornell Scott -Hill Health Center withdrew their technology application for \$335,132 after the grant was awarded in 2014.

Attachment A

Statutory Authority

C.G.S. Sec. 4-124v. Bond issue for nonprofit collaboration incentive grant program. (a) For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate five million dollars.

(b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid under the nonprofit collaboration incentive grant program established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) There is established the nonprofit collaboration incentive grant program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for infrastructure costs related to the consolidation of programs and services resulting from the collaborative efforts of two or more such organizations. Grant funds may be used for: (A) The purchase of and improvements to facilities; (B) the refinancing of facility loans; (C) equipment purchases; (D) energy conservation, transportation and technology projects; (E) planning and administrative costs related to such purchases, improvements, refinancing or projects; and (F) any other purpose authorized in guidelines established under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) Not later than February 1, 2010, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall, in consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, and with representatives of nonprofit organizations that receive state funding, develop guidelines for (A) administration of the nonprofit collaboration incentive grant program, (B) eligibility criteria for participation by nonprofit organizations, and for the expenditure of grant funds, and (C) prioritization for the awarding of grants pursuant to this section.

(3) Not later than March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall publish a notice of grant availability and solicit proposals for funding under the nonprofit collaboration incentive grant program. Nonprofit organizations eligible for such funding pursuant to the guidelines developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection may file applications for such funding at such times and in such manner as the secretary prescribes. The secretary shall review all grant applications and make determinations as to which projects to fund and the amount of grants to be awarded in accordance with the guidelines developed under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(d) All provisions of section 3-20, or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to time

renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become due.