

American Rescue Plan: an opportunity for transformative recovery

July 6, 2021

Dear Municipal Leaders and Superintendents:

I am following up on the letter we sent to you on June 18 focused on the American Rescue Plan Act and the opportunity to lift our communities. We are organizing two convenings to discuss how towns may use these funds to benefit our most vulnerable citizens at a critical juncture. These first conversations will be virtual and held on July 19 from 10-11 for New London County and July 26 from 10-11 for Windham/Tolland County. Please invite members of your team, town planning or zoning or finance officers or youth bureaus or other relevant members of the community with whom you partner on the three salient issues of early childcare and education, mental health, and safe and affordable housing to join the call.

We have organized a panel of experts from our nonprofit community leadership to discuss these issues. They include Cathy Zall from New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Susan Radway from Riverfront Children's Center and Diane Manning from United Services. We will also have a presentation from Joe DeLong, Executive Director and CEO of the CT Council of Municipalities, and Lee-Ann Gomes, Director of Human Services in Norwich, who will help address some questions regarding process. Deb Monahan, Executive Director of Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) will help facilitate this conversation.

We are also including a valuable resource of a study commissioned by The Boston Foundation that helps reimagine inclusive, safe, and affordable housing. The full report on the Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2021 is available at <https://www.tbf.org/gbhrc2021>

Lastly, here is a link to an OpEd that I submitted to The Day newspaper related to the ARPA funding, published on July 4, 2021: <https://cfect.org/news/seize-this-moment-transform-region-for-betterment-of-all>

Looking forward to our conversation.



Maryam Elahi
President & CEO

Kindness is contagious!

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

68 Federal Street, New London, CT 06320
860.442.3572 | 1.877.442.3572 (toll free) | 860.442.0584 (fax) | www.cfect.org

