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Fred C. Allyn, III (Co-Chair)
*Mayor, Town of Ledyard
Chair, Southeastern Connecticut
Council of Governments*

Tracey Hanson (Co-Chair)
*First Selectman, Town of
Voluntown
Chair, Northeastern Connecticut
Council of Governments*

Deborah Monahan (Co-Chair)
*Executive Director
Thames Valley Council for
Community Action*

James V. Bellano
Town of Windham

Chuck Bunnell
Mohegan Tribal Nation

Wendy Bury
Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition

James S. Butler
*Southeastern Connecticut Council
of Governments*

Maryam Elahi
*Community Foundation of Eastern
Connecticut*

John Filchak
*Northeastern Connecticut Council
of Governments*

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*Eastern Connecticut Workforce
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*Hartford Healthcare
William W. Backus Hospital*

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*Hispanic Alliance of Southeastern
Connecticut*

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*Eastern Connecticut State
University*

Mark Oefinger
Town of Groton (Retired)

Tony Sheridan
*Chamber of Commerce of Eastern
Connecticut*

Bishop Benjamin K. Watts
*Shiloh Baptist Church of New
London*

Reverend Catherine Zall
*New London Homeless Hospitality
Center*

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SCCOG

DEMHS REGION 4
REGIONAL RECOVERY STEERING COMMITTEE

June 24, 2021

RE: Recommended Use of ARPA Funding

Dear Municipal and School Leaders:

The DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee serves eastern Connecticut as part of Connecticut's emergency response to COVID-19. Over the past year, the Steering Committee has brought together stakeholders from government, business, non-profits, and the public to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 in eastern Connecticut, to identify local solutions to emerging needs, and to coordinate with the State of Connecticut on COVID-19 response. The Steering Committee operates with the administrative support of eastern Connecticut's two Councils of Governments and the State of Connecticut's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

The allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to Connecticut, its municipalities, and school districts provides an opportunity for eastern Connecticut to effectively address societal issues that have only been exacerbated by COVID-19 over the past year. We believe that activities funded through ARPA have the potential to result in permanent systems change that will improve the lives and futures of eastern Connecticut residents.

Our work over the past year has resulted in the identification of numerous unmet needs exacerbated by the pandemic. We believe that several key areas have an outsized role in our region's wellbeing. At our June 3rd meeting, the Regional Recovery Steering Committee unanimously voted to recommend to municipalities and school districts in eastern Connecticut that 30% of local ARPA funds (municipal and education) be dedicated toward addressing:

- 1) Early Childhood Education;
- 2) Mental Wellness; and
- 3) Housing.

We believe that actions to support progress in these three areas may be successfully carried out at a local level or as part of partnerships that work regionally. We recommend these as a starting point for your community's discussions on use of ARPA funds, and do so while recognizing there are many other areas that will require discussion and examination during your local ARPA deliberations.

Members of our Steering Committee would be pleased to discuss this recommendation with you and to provide information about effective ways to most effectively improve the delivery of these services to those most in need. Please feel free to contact SCCOG Executive Director James Butler or NECCOG Executive Director John Filchak for additional information and assistance.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Allyn, III

Fred C. Allyn, III, Co-Chair
Mayor, Ledyard
Chair, SCCOG

Tracey Hanson

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First Selectman, Voluntown
Chair, NECCOG

Deborah Monahan

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Executive Director
TVCCA