



Reimagine & Revitalize Program (R2) *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

ABOUT THE R2 PROGRAM

The War on Drugs significantly disrupted many Connecticut communities, creating stigmas that hindered economic growth, diverted resources from social programs, and created enduring challenges for affected individuals. Through targeted reinvestment, the Social Equity Council's (the Council) Revitalize and Reimagine Program (R2 Program) is using a portion of the revenues from cannabis sales in Connecticut to strengthen these communities and create new opportunities for residents.

The definitions below are to provide context on the specific terms presented in the questions presented below. The FAQ's below are meant to address common themes of concerns in reference to the Council's upcoming Reimagine and Revitalize Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

DEFINITIONS:

Reimagine and Revitalize Program (R2 Program): The Council's program to reinvest cannabis sales tax monies into communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs.

R2 Program Regions: The 10 program regions are Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford/East Hartford, Meriden, New Britain, New Haven/East Haven/West Haven, New London/Norwich/Windham, Norwalk, Stamford, and Waterbury. These regions account for 194 out of Connecticut's 237 disproportionately impacted census tracts.

Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs): a United States census tract in Connecticut that has been identified by the Social Equity Council using (1) a poverty rate metric and (2) ranking of historical conviction rates for drug-related offenses by census tract.

Grant Managers: Entities under contract with the Council to serve as fiduciary of funds to be distributed to CBOs.

Community Based Organizations (CBOs): An organization selected by Grant Managers and approved by the Council to receive funding for existing programs and community impact through funds provided by the Council.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. How were the R2 Program regions selected?

Answer: These regions were selected to account for the towns and regional combinations throughout the state which account for the majority of the DIA census tracts. The R2 Program Regions account for 194 out of Connecticut's 237 DIA census tracts.

2. What types of programs are supported through the program priorities?

Answer: The Council understands the uniqueness of CBOs and that each CBO is different. Each program priority has many options to support impact.

Below are descriptions the Council's focus areas and some examples of the types of programs supported through the R2 Program.

Economic Development: Including Job training, Access to Employment, Workforce Development, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Repair or Limited Renovations to a property.

Reentry Initiatives: Including Employment Assistance, Legal Assistance, Housing Assistance, Social Support and Mental Health Services, Educational and Vocational Training, Financial Literacy and Basic Sustenance Needs, Family Support Services, Entrepreneurship Development, Development and Court Proceeding Education, Transportation Assistance, and Technology Access.

Youth Initiatives: Including Nutritional Education, Mental Health Support, Education and Academic Support, Life Skill Training, Leadership Development, Family and Community Involvement, Physical Health, Financial Literacy, Mentorship, Test prep, Internships, and Youth Entrepreneurship

3. How were the program priorities selected?

Answer: Funding priorities were shaped by sustained listening sessions, stakeholder engagement, and direct input from community-based organizations, residents, and practitioners across the state. These insights were paired with the Council's research, assessment, and analysis of socioeconomic indicators and disparities across the DIAs.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS

1. What are the requirements to apply as a CBO?

Answer: The CBO must meet all of the following:

1. A non-profit registered with the Secretary of State in CT
2. Must have been in operation within the applicable region for at least 3 consecutive years
3. Must be located in and provide services within the R2 Region for which they are applying. Applicant must certify that 90 - 100% of the project/program participants are residents of the R2 Region for which they are applying.
4. Designated IRS status as a 501(c) entity is required for the applicant or its fiscal sponsor, if applicable.

2. Can a CBO apply for funding collaboratively with another organization?

Answer: No, submissions must be submitted by individual CBOs. However, you can subcontract with an organization if it provides services that support the applicant CBO's programming.

3. If a CBO has a fiscal sponsor, are they eligible to apply?

Answer: If the grant manager for your region is your fiscal sponsor, no. If it is another organization, you may apply. There would be a conflict of interest if your fiscal sponsor were to serve as the evaluator and scorer of your application.

4. Is there a restriction on the size of an organization that can apply?

Answer: No, there is no restriction. We encourage CBOs of all sizes to apply.

5. My CBO is based in another targeted region, but I recently commenced operations in this region. Can I apply for funds in this region?

Answer: A CBO applying for funds must be located in and have been serving the region it is applying for for at least 3 years.

6. Can a CBO apply to more than one region or program priority?

Answer: Applicants are limited to one application per region. An entity that meets the requirements in more than one region may apply in those regions. However, the Council may exercise its discretion in deciding whether to fund the same entity in multiple regions.

7. Should a CBO apply to the region where they are headquartered, or should the CBO apply to the region they service the most?

Answer: A CBO should apply to the region in which they are both located and in which they provide services. Example: If an organization is doing work in Hartford and has a location there, the application should focus on that location. The applicant should focus on the DIA municipality. In contrast, if the CBO serves individuals in Hartford but is not located in Hartford, the CBO would not be eligible.

GRANT MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Who are the Grant Managers?

Answer: The Grant Managers are listed below, along with their respective regions.

Region*	Grant Manager
Bridgeport	Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Danbury	United Way of Coastal and Western CT
Hartford, East Hartford	United Way of Central and Northeastern CT
Meriden	Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
New Britain	Community Foundation for Greater New Britain
New Haven, East Haven, West Haven	United Way of Greater New Haven
New London, Norwich, Windham	United Way of Southeastern CT
Norwalk	United Way of Coastal and Western CT
Stamford	United Way of Coastal and Western CT
Waterbury	United Way of Greater Waterbury

*There will be approximately 18 grants per region. For example, Hartford and East Hartford are regions, and the 18 grants will go to applicants for either town.

2. What is the responsibility of Grant Managers?

Answer:

- Grant Managers will conduct the Notice of Funding Opportunity, review and score applications
- Grant Managers will oversee Fiscal and Programmatic Reporting, and distribute funds to CBOs, including site visits to selected CBOs
- Grant Managers will compile and share Programmatic and Fiscal Reports with the Council

3. When will Grant Managers release the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CBOs?

Answer: Grant Managers anticipate releasing the NOFO for CBOs at the start of Q2 in 2026.

4. Will there be training for CBOs who participate in the R2 Program?

Answer: Yes! If awarded, Grant Managers will require in-person onboarding training and educational courses for Community Based Organizations on the following: *Performance Data Evaluation Basics, Financial Management for Non-Profits, Project Management, AI For Non-Profits, Establishing Strategic Partnerships, and Grant Writing Strategies*. Completion of courses will be a requirement for continued funding.

5. How does the Programmatic and Fiscal reporting work?

Answer: Based on feedback from the 2023-2024 Community Reinvestment Pilot Program and best practices from industry experts, the Council has standardized all reporting for CBOs. A grant management software will be used to collect quarterly and monthly programmatic and fiscal reports, respectively.

FUNDING

1. My CBO receives federal funds, given the federal status of adult-use cannabis, am I prevented from applying for or receiving R2 Program funds?

Answer: You should consult your specific federal grant conditions, but funds from the Council will be disbursed through Grant Managers, not the Council.

2. How long is the funding commitment?

Answer: CBOs will receive three-year awards, resulting in grants ranging from \$25,000-\$100,000 per year.

3. Can CBOs apply to future funding opportunities of the R2 Program if selected in this round?

Answer: Yes, there is no restriction on future applications.

4. What is the minimum award and maximum award amount?

Answer: Depending on the program priority, the minimum award is \$25,000 a year for three (3) years or a total of \$75,000. The maximum is \$100,000 a year for three (3) years or a total of \$300,000.

5. What is the funding breakdown per priority area?

R ² PRIORITY	FUNDING TIER LEVELS	ANNUAL FUNDING BY TIER	TOTAL TIER FUNDING/REGION/ YEAR	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS PER REGION
Youth Initiatives	TIER 3	\$72,500	\$145,000	2
	TIER 2	\$50,000	\$100,000	2
	TIER 1	\$25,000	\$25,000	1
Reentry Initiatives	TIER 4	\$100,000	\$100,000	1
	TIER 3	\$72,500	\$145,000	2
	TIER 2	\$45,000	\$135,000	3
	TIER 1	\$25,000	\$25,000	1
Economic Development	TIER 4	\$100,000	\$200,000	2
	TIER 3	\$67,500	\$135,000	2
	TIER 2	\$35,000	\$70,000	2
	TIER 1	-	-	-

6. How were the grant funding amounts decided for each program priority?

Answer: The grant funding amounts for the R2 Program were determined through alignment with the Council’s statutory mission and long-term equity goals. The R2 Program is supported by a global funding amount of \$36 million over three years. Funds are allocated with a total distribution of \$1.2 million per year, per region, over the three-year period. Funds and priority areas were informed by community conversations and stakeholder feedback obtained during and after the pilot.

7. Will there be additional grant opportunities available specifically for smaller CBOs?

Answer: Following this 3-year funding period, the Council will assess the impact of the current version of the R2 program. Future versions of the R2 program will be adapted to community needs based on the data we obtain.

8. Are there specific spending criteria or constraints on the awarded funds?

Answer: Yes. The following is a non-exhaustive list of services, activities, goods, and other costs that cannot be supported:

- Loan Fund (create/replenish)
- Lobbying
- Payment of taxes
- Subsidizing a business
- Refinancing or restructuring existing debt
- Relocation of a business
- Personal loans
- Fundraising events
- Contracts to individuals
- Research and development (*Limited data collection, surveys, or community feedback activities directly related to program evaluation and measuring outcomes are allowable expenses.*)
- Political campaigns
- Fines or penalties
- International or Out-of-state Travel

Any other activities are subject to the Council's approval at its sole discretion.

9. Are administrative costs allowed?

Answer: Yes, administrative costs are allowed, but they are capped at 10% of the amount awarded and must be detailed in the proposed budget.

10. If I apply for the \$100,000 grant and it is determined I don't need the full amount, am I ineligible to receive funds?

Answer: Not necessarily, the Council and Grant Managers may exercise their discretion to determine whether a lesser amount can support the proposal/program if the application is strong enough.

11. Questions or concerns?

Answer: Please contact your region’s grant manager.

Bridgeport & Meriden	<u>Community Foundation for Greater New Haven</u>
Danbury/Norwalk/ Stamford	<u>United Way of Coastal and Western CT</u>
Hartford, East Hartford	<u>United Way of Central and Northeastern CT</u>
New Britain	<u>Community Foundation of Greater New Britain</u>
New Haven, East Haven, West Haven	<u>United Way of Greater New Haven</u>
New London, Norwich, Windham	<u>United Way of Southeastern CT</u>
Waterbury	<u>United Way of Greater Waterbury</u>

Please note that this document may be updated from time to time. For the most current version, please visit our website at <https://portal.ct.gov/socialequitycouncil/community-reinvestment>.

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UNITED WAY
Greater New Haven

ADDITIONAL REIMAGINE AND REVITALIZE QUESTIONS RECEIVED

Please note, responses listed are informed by guidance from the Social Equity Council. Last updated 6/30/2026

Q: Are public schools or family child care homes able to apply?

A: Applicants must be a 501(c) entity to be eligible to apply.

Q: If your organization provides services statewide, are you eligible to apply for funding in each region where you provide services, or is an organization limited to submitting an application for only one region?

A: CBOs are eligible to submit one application per region as long as they are able to meet all eligibility requirements, including having 3+ years of consecutive experience in that priority area in the DIA region.

Q: What are the allowable terms for an organization in terms of working collaboratively (collaboration defined in this instance as subcontracting with a primary organization applying) For example, is an agency that is listed as a subcontractor on another CBO's application eligible to apply themselves?

A: Yes, an agency that is listed as a subcontractor on another CBO's application is eligible to apply themselves. However, this will be evaluated closely to ensure the CBO is truly the

service provider and not getting funded twice by way of collaboration. They would have to be a small portion of the application in which they appear as a subcontractor.

Q: How many grants will be awarded?

A: This varies by priority area, but 18 total will be awarded per region. The priority area breakdown is as follows:

Youth Initiatives: 5

Reentry Initiatives: 7

Economic Development: 6

For more information, please see either the NoFo or the FAQ document

Q: What information can be provided regarding what is required for letters of support or who they should come from?

A: Letters of support may look different depending what the agency is applying for. An organization may want to have letters that could reinforce confidence in their organization, or in a particular program priority. An example might be a letter from a funder that could confirm an agency's ability to manage funds, particularly if that agency has not managed that level of funds prior.

Q: Is this grant intended to support existing programs, new initiatives, or both?

A: This grant is intended to support both, but eligible agencies need to be able to demonstrate 3+ consecutive years of programming in the priority area and in the DIA.

Q: Will there be future funding opportunities if I don't qualify now, but will later to receive this funding?

A: As of now there is not another opportunity tied to the R2 initiative. The grant period for awardees of the R2 grant will span 3 years.

Q: Are there copies of the information session materials available?

A: All materials are posted on the United Way of Greater R2 webpage, including the slides and recording.

Q: How do I resubmit an application/am I able to edit or amend an application once it is submitted?

A: Applications may not be revised or resubmitted once they have been submitted. Only complete and final applications should be entered into the online application portal. Applicants are encouraged to draft and review their responses using [this document](#) prior to submission.

The only exception to this policy applies if the grant manager notifies an applicant of missing required materials. In such cases, applicants must submit the requested documents within 48 hours of receiving the notification.

Q: If notified by the grant manager that my application is incomplete, how long do I have to submit the required information?

A: If the grant manager notifies an applicant of missing application components, the applicant may submit the required materials via email within 48 hours of the notification.

Q: What should be requested from a fiscal sponsor, if applicable?

A: Ask for:

- Fiscal sponsor's two most recent audits, OR two years of CPA-prepared/reviewed financial statements
- Original Fiscal Sponsorship agreement/MOU
- Proof of CT Secretary of State Registration
- Signed copy of Attachment A: Statement of Assurances
- Signed copy of Attachment B: Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Q: What attachments are required?

A:

Organization-Level Attachments:

- Attachment A: Statement of Assurances – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor,** both you and the Fiscal Sponsor must complete and sign Attachment A.
- Attachment B: Conflict of Interest Disclosure – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor,** both you and the Fiscal Sponsor must complete and sign Attachment B.

- Audit Documents – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor**, please submit your Fiscal Sponsors audit documents.
- Organizational Budget – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor**, please submit the organizational budget for the Sponsored Organization, not the Fiscal Sponsor.
- Current Organizational Chart – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor**, please submit the organizational chart for the Sponsored Organization, not the Fiscal Sponsor.
- Current Board of Directors or Advisory Committee List – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor**, please submit the Board of Directors or Advisory Committee List for the Sponsored Organization, not the Fiscal Sponsor.
- Proof of CT Secretary of State Registration – **If applying with a Fiscal Sponsor**, please submit the Fiscal Sponsors proof of registration.
- Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement/MOU (if applicable)

Program-Level Attachments:

- Attachment C: Detailed Funding Request Budget Summary, Justification, & Position Schedule
- Attachment D: Programmatic Indicator Selection
- Overall Program/Project Budget
- 2 Letters of Support
- Resumes & Job Descriptions for Key Personnel
- Copy of Municipal Approval for Shovel-Ready Projects (if applicable)

Q: Does the requirement that 90-100% of recipients living in the DIA need to be met at time of application, or at time of service provision?

A: At the time of the application.

Q: Where will proof be documented that 90+% of participants served are from the DIA, aside from the certification in the application?

A: It is assumed CBOs collect basic contact information and demographics regarding clientele. They may be subject to audits to confirm the veracity of their statement.

Q: If our organization serves different populations in different programs, would we be eligible if the program we are applying for meets the 90% of people from the required area?

A: The program being supported by R2 funds must meet the requirement of serving 90% of people from the DIA (East Haven, West Haven, New Haven). As long as this is the case, organizations with multiple programs are able to apply.

Q: My agency operates in the disproportionately impacted area (DIA) but is headquartered elsewhere. Are we eligible to apply?

A: If the entity has a location in the DIA but a corporate office elsewhere, that is allowed. The entity must control their DIA location by virtue of ownership of the location or because they lease it.

Q: Is further clarity available regarding either documentation of physical space in the DIA, or what qualifies as an eligible space in the DIA?

A: The entity should have a long-term agreement with the owners. This may be a lease agreement or MOA for use of the space evidencing long-term commitment to the area.

Q: If an agency has been active outside of the New Haven region and is conducting expansion into New Haven but is partnered with an organization that has been active for 3 years in New Haven, is it eligible to apply or would the partner need to submit the application?

A: The agency applying has to have 3+ consecutive years of experience in one of the priority areas within the DIA. The way it is written in the NoFo, the primary applicant needs to be the primary provider of the services. This opportunity is not designed for the primary programming or responsibilities to be subcontracted.

Q: For Youth Initiatives, is there a preference for ages of youth, or number of youth impacted vs. Intensity of services?

A: There is no preference for ages of youth as this is not specified by the Council. Youth is defined by the Community Based Organization (CBO). There is also no specification regarding a preferred number of youth served or intensity of services. CBOs should select outcomes they are able to meet and track on a consistent basis.

Q: Can the funding be used to expand our New Haven Tutoring Initiative to support and develop the After School program by hiring youth as mentors and development?

A: Funding via Youth Initiatives for this opportunity includes support of academic mentorships, tutoring. However, we can't speak specifically to expanding a particular initiative such as NHTI.

Q: What specific expense types does the Council define as 'administrative' vs. Direct program costs? (e.g., does a portion of bookkeeping/accounting fees count toward the 10% admin bucket, or can it be allocated to direct program operations?)

A: Bookkeeping is considered A&G (other examples include a portion of any of the following: rent, internet, phone, etc.)

Q: When selecting a secondary tier in the application process, will there need to be two budgets submitted? (e.g. one budget for the first tier, another budget for the second tier)

A: Applicants are required to submit: an organizational budget, program budget, and proposed budget for use of funds. If awarded at a different tier, applicants may be asked to submit a new budget for proposed use of funds at that time. *A second budget proposing use of funds for the alternate tier is not required at time of application.*

Q: Is an organization excluded if they do not have two years of CPA prepared financial statements?

A: CBOs need to be able to submit two years of prepared financials in order to be eligible.

Q: What are the specifics of thresholds for requiring full CPA financial audit vs. a formal CPA review?

A: Entities may provide either one, however: if they are managing more than \$500k annually, they should **at least** have a review. If more than \$1M, an audit is required. Additionally, if they received state funding in the past two years, depending on the amounts, they are required to have an audit. If below the \$500k, they should be able to present the reports submitted by the treasurer to the Board.

Q: Would a single set of comparative financial statements (this would include both years) meet the two year requirement for submitted financials?

A: Yes.

Q: Would compiled statements for 2023/2024 be acceptable, if an agency's 2025 audit is currently in process?

A: Yes, 2023/2024 is acceptable if it is the most recent. Annual audits will be required during the contract term.

Q: Are financial statement disclosures required?

A: If an entity is providing an audited statement that included disclosures, they should be included with their submission.

Q: What tier should an organization fit into?

A: This is largely dependent on the agency/or program. A CBO should look at their program (for example, program needs) and capacity to manage funds. The application should support in narrative and required documents the ability to operate at the selected tier.

Q: Is there a committee reviewing the applications? SEC? UWGNH?

A: United Way of Greater New Haven is in the process of recruiting a community review team for the R2 process. We will make funding recommendations which we then submit to the Social Equity Council. The Council has final authority on all those selected for funding.

Q: Is there a scoring rubric?

A: There is a scoring rubric created by the Council and we have confirmation that what is being scored is directly tied to what is being asked in the application. The evaluation criteria, which are the items scored in the rubric, are part of the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The weights will not be made public in alignment with state practice.