

CITY OF TORRINGTON COMMUNITY GRANTS



July 6, 2022

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

- City received \$10,074,000
- Approved Strategic Spending Plan
- Goals of the Spending Plan
 - Sustain and Strengthen Torrington's Economic Recovery due to negative impacts from COVID-19
 - Improve Vital Public Services and relieve one-time expenses (capital projects) from the Operating Budget
 - Make investments that support long-term growth, opportunity and equity for Torrington Residents and Businesses.
- Approx. \$3M earmarked for Community Grants

ARPA COMMITTEE

- Ad-hoc committee has been established to provide oversight of these grant programs and make funding recommendations to the City Council.
- Committee Members are:
 - Elinor Carbone, Mayor
 - Anne Ruwet, City Council
 - John Kissko, Board of Education
 - Laurene Pesce, Board of Finance
 - Molly Spino, Board of Public Safety
 - Casey McKenna, Park and Recreation Commission

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Impact Grant and Partnership Projects**

Make transformative investments, over a wide-range of uses, that address the negative impacts caused or exacerbated by the Pandemic, while also strengthening the fabric of the community

- **Façade and Building Improvement Grants**

Strengthen the economic vitality of the City, stimulate reinvestment in commercial buildings and facilitate local economic development, by encouraging improvements to commercial buildings.

<https://www.torringtonct.org/Communitygrants>

**Note: All applications for the Community Impact Grants must be submitted through the NW CT Community Foundation website

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Eligible Applicants:

- Non-Profit
- For-Profit Organizations

Provided all funds **must be** allocated to providing resources or services to Torrington residents or Torrington businesses.

Grant Awards

- Mini Grants – Less than \$10,000
- Partnership Grants – Greater than \$10,000

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Eligible uses

- **Re-engages Torrington's Youth** through youth sports and activities. Applications should focus on youth's overall well-being, such as mental health, depression, addiction etc... and have an outreach plan to connect with youth that may otherwise not have access to these programs or activities are encouraged.
- **Increases Child Care capacity** within the City of Torrington. This may include training/services that help fill job vacancies/ or increase offering or physical improvements that increase the number of children that can be cared for. Other creative or collaborative initiatives will also be considered.
- **Provides Mental Health Support** throughout the community. Applications may target a specific population, such as seniors, care givers, youth etc.. and may address, but not limited to, depression, anxiety/stress, suicide, loneliness and obesity
- **Support the Travel and Tourism Industries** by attracting visitors to the City of Torrington through programming, community events and/or marketing efforts.

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Eligible Uses (cont'd):

- **Supports Torrington's Creative Economies** by providing opportunities for local artists (of all kinds) or creates partnerships/collaborations between arts and cultural organizations within the community.
- **Workforce Development or Job Training** programs or collaborations that provide re-skilling, job growth and/or business expansion and retention
- **Addresses drug and alcohol addiction or domestic violence** within the community
- **Increased capacity to address human needs** such as food insecurity, housing insecurity & homelessness

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS & PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

	Scoring Criteria
20	Directly addresses an economic or community hardship that was exacerbated or caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic as identified in both the ARPA guidance and within the Torrington Community
20	Project application is well thought out and designed to assist its target audience and clearly describes how the proposal will solve or address the identified need
20	Project budget is detailed and sufficient to complete the project
20	Goals are clearly identified along indicators of success. Data to determine if project goals were met will be submitted as appropriate
10	Proposal supports population, household or business that has been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
5	Project duration is significant to meet community need or demonstrates sustainability beyond grant funding
5	Includes collaboration across organizations
100	Total Points

FAÇADE AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Eligible Applicants:

- Owners of existing commercial* structures
- Tenants of existing commercial* structures; with owner's permission
- Private, non-profit organizations: provided they:
 - Enhance economic development within the City of Torrington
 - The facility is open to the public **and**
 - Building use(s) is consistent with local revitalization goals.

*Mixed-use projects provided there is commercial space on the ground floor

Grant Awards:

- This program will reimburse 50% of approved improvements up to \$50,000 of total project costs. Maximum award of \$25,000.

FAÇADE AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Eligible Uses (Exterior)

Materials and wages for improvements to the front, rear and side facades of buildings that are visible from a public street or parking area.

- Carpentry
- Storefront construction
- Awnings
- Painting
- Signs (when done in conjunction with other façade improvements)
- Masonry cleaning and repair
- Window repair/replacement
- Doors/entryways
- Lighting
- Sidewalks construction/replacement
- Improvements to allow outdoor dining/programming
- ADA improvements in conjunction with façade work
- Roof repair/replacement (when done in conjunction with façade improvements and when the roof is a distinctive element of the façade and is visible from the street)
- Other work as deemed appropriate by City Council.

FAÇADE AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Eligible Uses (Interior)

Materials and wages for improvements that improve the overall condition of commercial buildings within the City of Torrington. Expenses related directly to a specific tenant fit out is not eligible

- Utility upgrades
 - Electrical
 - Gas
- Improvements that bring the building up to current Building & Fire code standards
- Increased/improved services to expand uses or improve efficiencies or reduce operating costs.
- Fire Protection
 - Sprinklers,
 - Alarms
 - fire rated walls/ceilings
- Elevators
- Ventilation
- Carpentry
- Doors/entryways
- Lighting
- ADA improvements
- Other work as deemed appropriate by Torrington FIP committee.

FAÇADE AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Successful applications will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- ✓ Building is located within the Downtown District or directly along one of the City's Gateways (Route 4, Route 202 or Route 800)
- ✓ Interior improvements that address Building and/or Fire Code deficiencies.
- ✓ Interior or exterior improvements that attract businesses to vacant spaces and/or improve the City's Grand List
- ✓ Improvements that preserve Buildings that are historically and/or architecturally significant.
- ✓ Projects which enhance economic development (e.g. Tourism, travel, hospitality).

Priority will be given to:

- Non-tax exempt properties
- Projects that clearly meet the stated goals of this program
- Use of local contractors

QUESTIONS



Contact info:

Community Impact Grant

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Façade and Building Improvement Grant

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CITY OF TORRINGTON
AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN

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ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY GROWTH PLAN