



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Mayor Elinor Carbone  
City Hall  
140 Main Street  
Torrington, CT 06790

November 5, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I am respectfully requesting to be added to the agenda for the Torrington City Council meeting on November 11, 2020. There is an urgent funding issue facing the Torrington Youth Service Bureau due to the unexpected cut the City of Torrington made in September of 2019.

As you are aware, the Torrington Youth Service Bureau relies on the city's annual allocation of \$37,139 to provide programs and services to over 1,000 youth annually. These funds are matched by the state Department of Children and Families to assist in staffing, support for rent, and program supplies needed to operate. In September of 2019, the city unexpectedly cut funding by \$23,139. Fortunately, the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut was able to fill that void that had been left so that the important work of the Youth Service Bureau could continue through June 30, 2020.

It was at that time that we were made aware that the city had no plans to reinstate any of the lost funding. On November 3, 2020 we learned that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF) requires that the cities and towns that the Youth Service Bureau serves, match dollar for dollar the grant dollars the state provides. The State of Connecticut's grant totals \$33,915, for which the Youth Service Bureau must have equal municipal contributions. After the cut from the City of Torrington, the Youth Service Bureau only has \$17,400 in municipal funding, leaving a shortfall of \$16,515.

The Youth Service Bureau was told by the State of Connecticut, that if we are unable to secure municipal matching dollars, they will be forced to pull the original grant of \$33,915 plus the enhancement grant of \$12,967, for a total of \$46,882. That is over 30% of the Youth Service Bureau's annual budget, and a devastating blow to such an important organization.

This funding issue needs to be heard by the City Council, because without their support and the support from the City of Torrington, we will lose our Youth Service Bureau that serves over 1,000 youth annually. We will lose our youth employment program, our juvenile review board, critical mental health support, and an organization that has served tens of thousands of kids from Torrington for over 37 years.

I look forward to hearing back from you to confirm I have been added to the agenda.

Sincerely,

Catharina Ohm, MSW  
Executive Director

**NORTHWESTERN CT YMCA –TORRINGTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU**  
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