

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Grant Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair, at 12:01 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair
Steven L. Elbaum
Kimberly Kennison (*Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary*)¹
Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair
Susan Martin

ABSENT: Alan Mattamana

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel
Charles Bodie, Managing Director of Finance and Operations
Jessica Carducci, Administrative Services Assistant
Jen Chapman, Grants Program Manager
Daniel Giungi, Sr. Government Relations & Communications Specialist²
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller³
Michael Morris, Managing Director, Client Services
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Davis requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025 annual meeting of the Grant Committee. Mr. Elbaum moved for approval of the minutes which was seconded by Ms. Martin.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

AYES

Peter W. Lisi

NAYS

None

ABSTENTIONS

None

¹ Ms. Kennison participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

² Mr. Giungi participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

³ Ms. Mackewicz participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

Lawrence Davis
Steven L. Elbaum
Susan Martin

Ms. Kennison joined the hybrid meeting at 12:07 p.m.

FY 2026 ENTERPRISE CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM – DETERMINATION OF FINALISTS

Ms. Chapman stated that the Authority received Letters of Interest (LOIs) from 89 organizations requesting \$35,429,676 in funding for the FY 2026 Enterprise Capital Grant Program. Following a review of LOI submissions by the CHEFA Officers (Jeanette Weldon, Michael Morris, Denise Aguilera, and Charles Bodie) and Assistant Director Dan Kurowski, 12 organizations were invited to submit full applications for funding. Ms. Chapman reported that the Internal Review Committee (“IRC”) evaluated all submissions in the online Foundant Grant Management System using a numerical scoring system for established criteria. Reviewers’ scores for each applicant were aggregated for a total score, and applications have been ranked accordingly. Ms. Chapman stated that staff proposes that the Grant Committee consider selecting finalists from the six applications that received the highest scores.

The six applications presented by Ms. Chapman were as follows:

Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, Inc.

Hartford Promise

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

The Towers Foundation

The Village for Families & Children, Inc.

Wesleyan University

The floor was opened to questions for each application. The Committee then transitioned into a consensus discussion to determine which applications should be selected as finalists. An application was considered a finalist if the majority of the Committee was in consensus (i.e., 3 or more Committee members considered the application favorable).

The following organizations were selected as finalists:

Boys and Girls Club of Stamford, Inc.

Hartford Promise

Wesleyan University

The Towers Foundation

FY 2026 ENTERPRISE CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM – SITE VISIT PLANNING

Ms. Chapman noted that site visits will be planned for each of the organizations approved as finalists for the Enterprise Capital Grant program. Site visits will be in June and will be scheduled as soon as possible.

FY 2025 NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM – DETERMINATION OF GRANT AWARDS

Ms. Chapman reported that the Authority received 203 Letters of Interest (LOIs) for the FY 2025 Nonprofit Grant program. From the group of LOIs, the IRC invited 37 organizations to submit a full application. Ms. Chapman thanked the IRC for their hard work and reported on the \$100,000 allocated to the cultural sector each nonprofit grant cycle (approved by the Board at the September 2022 Grant Committee meeting). Ms. Chapman commented that the applications were separated into two categories, cultural sector requests and non-cultural sector requests. Mr. Davis turned the floor over to Ms. Chapman to present a brief description of the highest ranked/competitive applications and noted that any application can be brought forward for consideration by the Committee regardless of rating by the IRC.

The discussion started with the cultural applications that scored 100 points or more. Staff proposed that the Committee consider the six non-cultural applications that scored 108 points or more as a highly competitive group and approve those by consensus. The discussion then continued to the remaining applications that scored 100 points or more. An application was considered for an award if the majority of the Committee was in consensus (i.e., 3 or more Committee members considered the application favorable).

Mr. Bodie noted that CHEFA's fund for grants had a March 2025 balance of \$1.175 million, providing an additional \$175,000 in available funding if the Committee decided to use it for this cycle.

After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached regarding using \$71,800 of the additional \$175,000 available and the applications to be awarded for the FY 2025 Nonprofit Grant Program.

The following applications were recommended:

Boundless Literacy Inc.: \$52,000

Center for Children's Advocacy: \$30,000
Child and Family Agency: \$75,000
First Choice Health Center, Inc.: \$75,000
Generations Family Health Center, Inc.: \$74,800
Hartford Stage Company, Inc.: \$25,000
Havenly, Inc.: \$75,000
Lavender Policy Center: \$75,000
Monitor My Health, Inc.: \$75,000
Moving With Health Oriented Physical Education, Inc.: \$75,000
Music Haven: \$75,000
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England: \$75,000
ReadyCT: \$75,000
Susan B. Anthony Project: \$45,000
The Watkinson School: \$10,000
Visiting Nurse Association of Ridgefield, Inc.: \$40,000
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art: \$45,000
Waterbury Promise Inc.: \$75,000

Mr. Davis requested a motion to approve the FY 2026 Enterprise Capital Grant Program finalists and a motion to award the 18 organizations as listed above, totaling \$1,071,800 for the FY 2025 Nonprofit Grant Program. Mr. Lisi moved for approval and Ms. Martin seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the "Ayes," "Nays" and "Abstentions" were as follows:

AYES

Peter W. Lisi
Lawrence Davis
Steven L. Elbaum
Kimberly Kennison
Susan Martin

NAYS

None

ABSTENTIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the "Ayes," "Nays" and "Abstentions" were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

ABSTENTIONS

Peter W. Lisi
Lawrence Davis
Steven L. Elbaum
Kimberly Kennison
Susan Martin

None

None

The hybrid meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Weldon
Executive Director