

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2025

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair, at 11:41 a.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair
Steven L. Elbaum¹
Kimberly Kennison (*Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary*)
Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair

ABSENT: Susan Martin

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
Dan Giungi, Sr. Government Relations & Communications Specialist
Dan Kurowski, Assistant Director
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller
Julia Pollano, Operations Reporting Analyst²
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services
of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 Grant Committee meeting. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

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

AYES

Peter W. Lisi
Steven L. Elbaum
Kimberly Kennison

NAYS

None

ABSTENTIONS

None

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

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

Mr. Davis joined the hybrid meeting at 11:54 a.m.

FY 2026 JOHN M. BIANCAMANO CLIENT GRANT PROGRAM – DETERMINATION OF GRANT AWARDS

Ms. Chapman introduced the FY 2026 John M. Biancamano Client Grant Program. Ms. Chapman reported that there were 51 Letter of Interest (LOI) submissions received which were reviewed by the CHEFA officers and herself. Ms. Chapman stated that 33 of the 51 LOI requests were selected to submit a full application, and the 33 applications were reviewed by the Internal Review Committee (IRC) which consisted of Rob Blake, Krista Johnson, JoAnne Mackewicz, Julia Pollano, and herself. Ms. Chapman reported that IRC evaluations were conducted in the Foundant system using a rubric with a scoring range of 0-5, with 5 representing the highest score, for each of the seven criteria (responsivity; project need; impact; intended outcomes; likelihood of success; organizational managerial and financial strength; and overall). A report was generated in Foundant to aggregate ratings from all reviewers to create a total score, and applications were then ranked from highest to lowest rated.

Ms. Chapman stated that staff recommends the Committee consider competitive applications that scored a total of 120 points out of 175 points. Ms. Chapman noted that the competitive applications total requests equal \$1,344,221. Ms. Chapman reported that there is \$1 million budgeted for the cycle and \$33,576 of unspent funds from previous cycles that have been returned to the Authority, totaling \$1,033,576 in available funds for the FY 2026 John M. Biancamano Client Grant Program. The Committee then moved into a consensus discussion to decide which applications should be awarded.

The consensus discussion reviewed the applications sequentially, based on the summary report. After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached regarding the applications to be awarded for the FY 2026 John M. Biancamano Client Grant Program.

- American School for the Deaf: \$54,512
- Central Connecticut Coast YMCA: \$75,000
- Connecticut College: \$20,000
- Gaylord Hospital, Inc.: \$75,000
- Goodwin University: \$75,000

- Griffin Hospital: \$75,000
- Hartford Hospital: \$74,985
- Horizons Greens Farms Academy: \$30,000
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.: \$51,000
- Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center: \$75,000
- Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.: \$75,000
- The Family Center: \$19,570
- The Village for Families & Children, Inc.: \$75,000
- Trinity College: \$48,355
- University of Hartford: \$75,000
- University of Saint Joseph: \$60,154
- YMCA of Metropolitan Hartford, Inc.: \$75,000

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the 17 organizations as listed above for the FY 2026 John M. Biancamano Client Grant Program. Mr. Davis moved for approval, which was seconded by Ms. Kennison.

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

AYES

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

NAYS

None

ABSTENTIONS

None

ENTERPRISE CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Ms. Chapman reported that the Enterprise Capital Grant Program was originally proposed to run on an 18-month grant cycle. Staff proposes that CHEFA maintain the planned FY 2027 Enterprise Capital Grant Program cycle (expected to be released in June of 2026) and then transition to a 24-month Enterprise Capital Grant Program cycle. Staff feels strongly that establishing 24-month cycles will strengthen outreach, reduce confusion, and ultimately lead to higher-quality funding proposals. This 24-month cycle also minimizes the overlap of determining award recommendations for multiple grant programs at the same meeting.

Ms. Chapman referenced the calendars provided in the meeting package. Ms. Chapman stated that CHEFA staff would seek \$2 million in years that don't include an Enterprise Capital Grant Program award and \$3 million in years when Enterprise Capital Program Grants would be awarded. Over time, this proposed change does not significantly impact the program budget assuming \$1 million will still be allocated per cycle. Ms. Chapman noted that the proposed change would impact the annual scheduling for Grant Committee meetings due to the need to select finalists for the Enterprise Capital Grant Program awards. A brief discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kurowski noted that New Opportunities was awarded a CHEFA FY 2025 Client Grant for \$75,000 to replace the elevator in their building and they have not moved forward with that project. Mr. Kurowski stated that New Opportunities staff only recently discussed modifying the original grant proposal after CHEFA staff inquired about the financial situation of the organization and the status of their project. Mr. Kurowski stated that CHEFA staff will not be approving a grant modification and will be requiring that the grant funds be returned to the Authority. A brief discussion ensued.

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

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

NAYS

None

ABSTENTIONS

None

The hybrid meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette W. Weldon
Executive Director