

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY  
Grant Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2024

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, November 13, 2024.

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair, at 11:49 a.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*)<sup>1</sup>  
Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair  
Susan Martin<sup>2</sup>

**ABSENT:** Alan Mattamana

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Charles Bodie, Managing Director of Finance and Operations  
Daniel Giungi, Sr. Government Relations & Communications Specialist<sup>3</sup>  
Rebecca Hrdlicka, Sr. Administrative Services Assistant  
Dan Kurowski, Assistant Director  
Andrew Kwashnak, Senior Data & Systems Analyst<sup>4</sup>  
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 May 15, 2024 meeting of the Grant Committee. Mr. Lisi moved for approval of the minutes.

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

**AYES**

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

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

Kimberly Kennison<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kimberly Kennison participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Martin participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>3</sup> Dan Giungi participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>4</sup> Andrew Kwashnak participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>5</sup> Ms. Kennison abstained from voting as she did not attend the Grant Committee Meeting held on May 15, 2024.

**FY 2025 CLIENT GRANT REVIEW**

Mr. Davis introduced the FY 2025 Client Grant cycle. Mr. Davis reported that there were 46 Letter of Interest (LOI) submissions received, totaling approximately \$3 million. 25 of the 46 LOI requests were selected to submit a full application, which totaled approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. Davis stated that there are \$1,022,407.37 in allocated funds for the FY 2025 Client Grant cycle.

Ms. Martin recused herself from discussion and vote regarding grant applications as her employer, Middlesex Health, submitted an application for review. Ms. Martin left the hybrid meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Mr. Kurowski reported that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for LOI was released on April 25, 2024 and reiterated that 46 submissions were received. Mr. Kurowski reported that 25 of the 46 LOI requested were selected to submit a full application, but 1 applicant decided to withdraw their submission. Mr. Kurowski stated that CHEFA Officers and himself served on the Internal Review Committee (IRC) that reviewed the remaining 24 applications. Mr. Kurowski then reported on the IRC report submitted to the Committee, which provided a weighted recommendation score for each application regarding the request’s target population impact; likelihood of success; diversity, equity, and inclusion; organizational, managerial, and financial strength; and overall grant rating.

Based on the IRC report, Staff recommended the following applications for immediate consideration:

Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)	\$75,000.00
Children's Learning Centers of Fairfield County Inc	\$35,000.00
Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Greater Waterbury Inc.	\$73,928.00
Middlesex Hospital	\$61,200.00
Quinnipiac University	\$75,000.00
Stamford Hospital	\$75,000.00

Following these applications, Staff proposed a consensus discussion be held for the rest of the applications that received an IRC weighted recommendation score of 70% or above.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Elbaum joined the hybrid meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the 6 organizations as listed above. Mr. Lisi moved for approval, which was seconded by Ms. Kennison.

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

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>RECUSALS</u></b>
Peter W. Lisi	None	None	Susan Martin
Lawrence Davis			
Steven L. Elbaum			
Kimberly Kennison			

The Committee then moved into a consensus discussion to decide which additional applications should be awarded. 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).



The consensus discussion reviewed the applications sequentially, based on the IRC report. After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached regarding the applications to be awarded for the FY 2025 Client Grant Program.

The following additional applications were recommended:

Central Connecticut Coast YMCA	\$52,630.00 <sup>6</sup>
Church Home of Hartford, Inc.	\$16,977.00
Connecticut Children's Medical Center	\$62,388.00
Eastern Connecticut State University	\$75,000.00
Greater Waterbury YMCA	\$75,000.00
Hall Neighborhood House	\$55,000.00
New Opportunities, Inc.	\$75,000.00
Saint Mary's Hospital Foundation, Inc.	\$27,287.37
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.	\$75,000.00
The Family Center	\$37,997.00
Wesleyan University	\$75,000.00

Mr. Davis requested a motion to award the 11 organizations as listed above. Mr. Elbaum moved for approval and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

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

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>RECUSALS</u></b>
Peter W. Lisi	None	None	Susan Martin
Lawrence Davis			
Steven L. Elbaum			
Kimberly Kennison			

The grants awarded under the FY 2025 Client Grant cycle total \$1,022,407.37, which equals the total allocated funds for this cycle.

### **FY 2024 ENTERPRISE CAPITAL GRANT REPORTING**

Mr. Kurowski reported on the status updates of the FY 2024 Enterprise Capital award recipients, Freedom Reads and All Our Kin.

For Freedom Reads, Mr. Kurowski reported that the original award funded the construction and opening of 16 libraries within the states. Mr. Kurowski stated that Freedom Reads received additional funding and has been able to expand its scope, which has resulted in opening 42 libraries in Connecticut's prisons. Mr. Kurowski then outlined the growth of the organization that has developed within the past year and the sustainability beyond the Enterprise Capital grant award.

For All Our Kin, Mr. Kurowski reported on the workforce challenges that the organization has faced to support the program proposed in the Enterprise Capital initiative, but that 1 educator in the Waterbury area has completed the training and begun supporting the initiative goals. Mr. Kurowski also commented that the majority of the organization's funds are restricted, but Staff is confident that All Our Kin will overcome the previous year's challenges and be successful in this coming year.

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<sup>6</sup> This award is restricted to utilize the funds for the proposed security project at the New Haven facility. A full description on the use of funds will be captured and outlined in the Financial Assistance Agreement.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lisi requested that Staff communicate the grant awarding to the Biancamano family, as the Client Grant cycle is dedicated in his name (i.e., the John M. Biancamano CHEFA Grant Program).

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Elbaum 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 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director