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## Demographic & Socioeconomic Data

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Population (2022)</td>
<td>570,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Households (2022)</td>
<td>226,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Per Capita Income (2022)</td>
<td>$46,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Median Household Income (2022)</td>
<td>$83,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Sales Price Single Family Homes – New Haven Market (Berkshire Hathaway 2023 Annual Report)</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Median Age (2020)</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Workforce Population (2023)</td>
<td>323,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population (25+) with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population Burdened by the Cost of Housing</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population Living in Poverty</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Homes with Broadband</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Branford, North Haven, Orange, Oxford, Prospect, Seymour, Southbury, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Haven, Wolcott, and Woodbridge.


NOTE: In 2024, all data sources are transitioning from county-level reporting to the level of regional planning organizations. This change aims to bolster the efforts of Councils of Governments and related economic development initiatives, though it will currently affect the availability of some data.
SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Prime location on the eastern seaboard with access to 1/3 of the nation’s consumers, gross domestic product, and businesses within a 500-mile radius
- Outstanding quality of life
- Highly educated workforce
- Established key sectors: life science; healthcare; higher education; manufacturing; arts, culture, and tourism
- Innovation hub
- Entrepreneurial community

Weaknesses

- Aging population/lack of population growth
- Inequity: education, wealth, home ownership, healthcare, transportation, technology, and environment
- Lack of developable land
- Lack of available, skilled workforce
- Significant need for affordable housing accessible to residents from deeply affordable to workforce-level AMIs
- High energy costs

Opportunities

- Utilize funding to improve and increase the resilience of existing infrastructure (transportation, utilities, etc.)
- Market the region as an innovation hub
- Unlocking social and economic potential through inclusive growth
- Expand workforce development programs
- Provide incentives for housing projects
- Promote and develop the region’s arts, culture, and tourism assets

Threats

- Inflation
- Shrinking workforce
- Other states recruiting businesses, especially manufacturing
- Competition for talent
- Supply chain disruptions
- Climate change
- Cybersecurity
- Decline in business travel
- Disconnected young adults
THE PURPOSE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

As stated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process and document that creates the space for our region to identify its strengths and weaknesses and brings together a diverse set of partners to generate good jobs, diversify the economy, and spur economic growth. This process engages various partners, including Economic Development Districts (EDDs), community leaders and residents, the private sector, educational institutions, and other stakeholders in planning for our region’s future.

An effective CEDS allows a region to maximize its economic development potential and engage with the EDA and other federal partners to receive infrastructure and technical assistance grants, such as those through EDA’s Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. The CEDS is a pre-requisite for federal designation as an EDD and must be updated at least every five years. An inclusive CEDS planning process identifies locally-grown strategies that will guide regional economic development, encourage partnerships and collaboration, and improve economic outcomes and overall quality of life in our region.

About Us

The South Central Connecticut Regional Economic Development Corporation, a.k.a. REX Development (REX/SCCREDC), is the EDD for South Central Connecticut and coordinates the development and implementation of the CEDS.

A public/private partnership, REX/SCCREDC promotes economic development in Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge. Funded by private-sector partners and the towns of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG), REX/SCCREDC supports programs and policies to make the region more competitive in the global economy and provide stakeholder education regarding municipal economic development opportunities.

South Central Connecticut Towns

The Region Defined

Unless noted, we are reporting on the region. However, some data will be identified as New Haven County or the New Haven Labor Market Area.

New Haven County: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Middlebury, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North
Background Summary
Greater New Haven continues to make strides in supporting the region’s economic development initiatives. The region’s key sectors remain unchanged, with healthcare, higher education, life science, manufacturing, and arts, culture, and tourism leading the way.

Healthcare
The expansion of the healthcare system in the region has brought significant economic benefits, promoting both short-term and long-term growth. One notable impact is the improved accessibility and quality of healthcare services, which has led to a surge in demand for healthcare professionals across various specialties, creating employment opportunities. However, there is a need for more registered nurses (RNs) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) than currently available. Furthermore, the infusion of healthcare infrastructure investment has increased construction activity, creating more jobs and revenue streams. The healthcare sector remains the region’s largest employer.

Milestones & Accomplishments
- To address workforce needs, Yale New Haven Health and four local universities help eligible students enroll in nursing programs. Fairfield, Quinnipiac, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), and Connecticut Community College Gateway aim to produce at least 557 more nurses over the next four years. A $10 million grant will train 1,250 patient care associates/technicians at Yale New Haven Hospital during this period. The program participants are full-time employees who receive pay and benefits.
- Yale New Haven Health continues to grow within and beyond the region. In late 2026, Yale New Haven Hospital Neuroscience Campus will open with an expanded emergency department. In addition, the health system is acquiring Waterbury Hospital, Manchester Hospital, and Rockville General Hospital.
- In an initiative designed to streamline care, Yale New Haven Health has launched an at-home infusion pharmacy program to provide eligible patients with IV drugs and nutritional therapies. Additionally, the Visiting Nurse Association Community Healthcare & Hospice has partnered with Yale New Haven Health to enhance its ability to provide high-quality home health services. Yale Medicine and Masonicare have opened comprehensive orthopedic services on Masonicare’s Wallingford campus, providing access to Yale Medicine physician specialists in surgical and non-surgical interventions.
- Hartford Healthcare has a significant presence in the region, with two Primary Care locations, eight Specialty Care locations, and six Urgent Care/Walk-in locations. In addition, Midstate Medical Center is undergoing an $8.4 million expansion, including 16 additional inpatient beds and expanded operating space.
- Harford Healthcare and Yale New Haven Health have established a joint venture to provide proton therapy services at the Connecticut Proton Therapy Center (CPTC), a 25,000 sq. ft. facility in Wallingford. The CPTC will offer proton therapy, a type of radiation therapy that uses high-energy protons to treat many solid cancer tumors, including the brain and central nervous system, eye, gastrointestinal tract, head and neck, liver, lung, prostate, spine, and some breast tumors.
Higher Education
The Greater New Haven area is home to an impressive array of six colleges and universities, including Yale University, Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven, SCSU, Albertus Magnus College, and CT State Community College Gateway. These institutions’ collective contributions have significantly bolstered the region’s economic landscape. Their investments are evident in numerous facets, from infrastructure enhancements and research initiatives to comprehensive educational offerings. These efforts have positioned them as pivotal engines of economic vitality.

In particular, Yale and Quinnipiac’s expansion and renovation projects have transformed the physical campus landscapes and invigorated the construction sector. This has led to the creation of numerous jobs and has infused substantial capital into the local economies. Furthermore, the research activities spearheaded by faculty and students stand at the forefront of innovation and technological progress. These endeavors cultivate an entrepreneurship environment and attract considerable external funding.

The educational programs and training colleges and universities provide equip the workforce with critical skills and knowledge. This is increasingly important as industries evolve and require an adaptable, skilled, and competitive labor force. The collective efforts of Greater New Haven's colleges and universities have enriched the region's educational fabric and significantly contributed to its economic resilience and growth.

Most regional private schools have managed to sustain their pre-pandemic enrollment levels. However, SCSU, CT State Community College Gateway, and Albertus Magnus College have experienced a decrease in enrollment as compared to 2019. Most students in these colleges are residents of Connecticut and, therefore, have a high retention rate after graduation. The decline in enrollment is a matter of concern as these colleges provide the region with a pool of graduates who directly contribute to the workforce. It’s worth noting that there has been an increase in enrollment at these colleges compared to the previous year.

State colleges and universities offer programs catering to our current and future workforce needs. CT State Community College Gateway has a high number of credit-seeking students who are pursuing degrees. 90% of the student population is degree-seeking, with Nursing and Computer Science among the top five programs. This is a significant development as it could help alleviate the shortage of skilled workers in these fields. Additionally, 70% of the students at the college are first-generation college students, of which 62% are female. Meanwhile, SCSU has seen high enrollment in healthcare studies, nursing, psychology, computer science, and marketing, with these fields being among the top five majors entering first-year classes in fall 2023.

Milestones & Accomplishments
Yale University
- Yale is making landmark investments in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to accelerate Yale’s educational and research missions.
- BioLaunch, a ConnCAT program supported by Yale and the Governor’s Workforce Council, aims to extend the benefits of the biotech boom to New Haven residents aged 18 to 26 interested in establishing a foothold in the biotech and biopharma space. It is being offered in collaboration with 10 New Haven-based biotech companies.
• The Yale Center for Infectious Diseases opened with a mission to provide equitable, accessible care.
• Yale University is constructing a new building dedicated to dramatic arts.
• Yale will launch a new Center for Geospatial Solutions to enhance its research, training, and infrastructure in geospatial science, data, and analysis.
• Yale University re-opened the Yale Peabody Museum after a four-year renovation, focusing on the university’s educational mission and community engagement. With the reopening, the museum now offers free admission.
• Yale University Divinity School’s Living Village will be the largest living-building residential complex on a university campus. It is a key component of Yale’s Planetary Solutions initiative, designed to meet the Living Building Challenge, the most aggressive standard for sustainable buildings today.
• The newly renovated Yale Peabody Museum is a LEED-Gold-certified building that is expected to halve its energy usage while increasing its total size by 57,000 square feet.

Albertus Magnus
• Albertus Magnus has two new graduate degree programs, a Master’s in Healthcare Administration and a post-grad certificate in STEM Leadership.

Southern Connecticut State University
• NSF Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Grant - SCSU received a $3.19 million grant to enhance the recruitment, retention, persistence, and graduation rates of students underrepresented in STEM fields.
• NSF S-STEM ComBiNE grant is recruiting its second cohort to begin in Fall 2024. This program, "Preparing Computational Biologists for the New England Workforce (ComBiNE), is an S-STEM program funded by NSF to recruit academically talented students to pursue an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in computational biology.
• A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Grant of $107,700 was awarded to SCSU to provide adaptive sports programming to veterans with disabilities in CT, contributing to the well-being and inclusivity of the veteran community.
• The School of Business building opened in the fall of 2023, Connecticut’s first net-zero structure in terms of carbon footprint.

Quinnipiac University
• Quinnipiac has opened a new 137,000 sq. ft. academic building called SITE, which is focused on Science, Innovation, Technology, and Exploration and is designed to be student-centered and state-of-the-art. The building is LEED-certified.
• Quinnipiac University is set to open a new School of Business with a total area of 79,000 sq. ft. for the academic year 2024-2025. The building is designed to be LEED-certified.
• The Grove, a 417-bed residence hall, will open during the academic year 2024-2025. The building is designed to be LEED-certified.

Life Science
Greater New Haven has emerged as a thriving hub for life sciences, attracting a growing number of biotech companies. The region has become the preferred choice of 46% of the 112 biotech companies in Connecticut due to its robust ecosystem that fosters innovation and progress in the field.

The region has consistently attracted substantial investment in research and development, exemplified by the National Institute of Health investing $636 million in the sector in 2023. This
investment has been instrumental in accelerating the life sciences industry's growth in Greater New Haven.

Several startups have been developed from Yale University's cutting-edge academic research in life sciences, biotechnology, and digital health. The Yale School of Medicine and Yale Ventures are vital in advancing biotech research into the commercial space. The list of companies launched at Yale includes Proteowise Inc., Arvinas, IsoPlexis Corporation, NextCure, Cybrexa Therapeutics Inc., Halda Therapeutics, Allyx Therapeutics, Biohaven Pharmaceutical, and Alexion Pharmaceuticals.

The region's appeal as a center for innovation is further bolstered by its strategic location, which provides easy access to major research institutions, academic centers, and a highly skilled workforce. World-class research facilities and top-notch talent have made Greater New Haven an ideal destination for biotech companies looking to establish themselves in the region.

**Milestone/Accomplishments**

- Paris-based ReST Therapeutics and Heidelberg-based BioMed X have both chosen New Haven as the site for their U.S. headquarters and biomedical research institute, respectively. This influx of foreign companies further solidifies Greater New Haven's reputation as a magnet for top-tier scientific endeavors.
- Breakthrough advancements in healthcare technology from local companies, such as Butterfly Network's FDA-cleared AI-enabled lung tool, underscore the region's commitment to pioneering solutions that redefine medical diagnostics and treatment.
- Significant development projects in the region include the 500,000 sq. ft. med/lab building, 101 College Street, which is currently under construction and set to open in 2024. This building will also include 30,000 sq. ft. of incubator space. The 250,000 sq. ft. med/lab building, 275 South Orange Street, has also been approved for a 2026 opening.

**Manufacturing**

Connecticut's manufacturing industry is a combination of both traditional and advanced manufacturing. The state boasts a highly skilled workforce and proximity to large markets. The state government is actively promoting initiatives to support manufacturing, such as workforce development programs, incentives for innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships with industry stakeholders. However, despite these efforts, the industry's employment has decreased by 2,400 positions since February 2020 due to persistent worker shortages. By 2030, the state's chief manufacturing officer aims to achieve full employment in the manufacturing sector and plans to implement a workforce development plan, a robust workforce growth plan, and a workforce innovation plan to drive innovation.

The manufacturing sector in our region includes companies that specialize in producing precision instruments for medical and aerospace industries, security systems, specialty chemicals, and fixtures in metals, plastics, and other materials. These companies use various technologies and processes, including additive manufacturing, 3D printing, stamping, and machine tooling.

Although the industrial sector has made significant progress, it still faces challenges, such as intense global competition, limited workforce supply, and high operating costs. The transition to Industry 4.0 is happening slowly, and many small businesses have not yet adopted AI due to insufficient capital. This lack of capital is primarily caused by companies shifting from a "just-in-
time" inventory system to advance buying to prepare for possible supply chain disruptions, a decrease in venture capital, and high interest rates. Additionally, global instability is also a contributing factor to the lack of investment.

Milestones & Accomplishments

- MATCH teaches manufacturing by manufacturing. Every business activity at the MATCH factory is an educational opportunity that includes sales, production planning, technical support, and accounting. Skilled workers will leave MATCH proven to be ready for work in manufacturing. The program is specifically designed to cater to the needs of various individuals, including women, high school graduates entering the workforce, unemployed New Haven residents, New Haven residents of color, and re-entry residents. It also offers assistance in financial literacy, housing, and energy, as well as career-building services to enhance employability.
- BYK North America, a chemical and instrument manufacturer and subsidiary of BYK based in Wesel, Germany, has committed to expanding its Wallingford headquarters to become its largest facility globally.
- Connecticut-based electronics maker Amphenol is set to acquire Carlisle Interconnect Technologies, with an expected gain of 6,000 workers.
- In 2023, A&M Bronx Bakery acquired a 42,500 sq ft site in North Haven. A&M has been in business since 1945 and will relocate to the new site from Mt. Vernon, NY. The site will serve as the company’s headquarters and bakery operation center and house 60-90 jobs.
- Athletic Brewing represents 19% of the domestic nonalcoholic beer market, making it the top nonalcoholic beer brand in the country." according to CNBC.
- Connecticut is the only state with a Chief Manufacturing Officer, and due to its commitment to manufacturing, other states across the country (including Washington) consider CT a leadership model.
- The state aims to increase manufacturing employment to 235,000 by 2033 and manufacturing annual gross domestic production to reach 20% by 2029, according to Connecticut’s Manufacturing Strategic Plan for 2023.
- Roehm, a German manufacturer of specialty chemicals, announced a 15,000 sq. ft. Innovation Center near its existing production facility in Wallingford.
- Bausch+Ströbel Machine Company has opened a new state-of-the-art, 55,000 sq.ft. manufacturing facility in Branford and doubled its workforce in Connecticut to 60 employees since 2019.
Arts, Culture, and Tourism
Connecticut's hospitality, leisure, and arts industries have suffered significant setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the state strives toward recovery, various initiatives and challenges have arisen, shaping the trajectory of these sectors.

Hotels have struggled to achieve profitability, with occupancy rates dropping well below the benchmark of 65%. Business travel, a crucial source of revenue for the industry, has yet to rebound to pre-pandemic levels, further hindering recovery efforts. Lodging industry stakeholders are also concerned about the possible increase in hotel tax to fund the semiquincentennial and to support the arts sector. The industry wholeheartedly supports the Arts but cannot withstand an additional increase in occupancy tax when Connecticut already has the highest state occupancy tax in the region. Increasing the occupancy tax would reduce our ability to compete with other destinations in an already challenging market.

REX/SCCEDC offered training on improving online presence, completing a quality RFP, and attracting bus/group tour business to support the sector’s recovery.

Although Connecticut's arts and cultural sector saw a slowdown in growth in 2022, recent federal estimates confirm the sector’s significant impact on the state's economy, maintaining a position within the top 10 nationally. The reopening of the Yale Peabody Museum is expected to drive a surge in visitation, doubling annual attendance to around 300,000 with free admission.

The recent expansion of Avelo air service from Tweed New Haven Airport has generated free media coverage, which promotes Southern Connecticut as an excellent tourist destination. This positive media coverage has reached audiences along the East Coast and in metropolitan areas like Atlanta and Houston. Advertising in these areas can be expensive, making this earned media coverage invaluable. The coverage includes articles in Travel + Leisure, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, WSB (ABC affiliate in Atlanta), WTSP (CBS affiliate in Tampa), Houston Chronicle, The Ticker (Traverse City), Greensboro.com, Houston.culturemap.com, and mypanhandle.com (Destin/Ft. Walton).

With additional destinations, Tweed's passenger volume is expected to approach 1.1 million. Currently, 20-25% of passengers originate outside Connecticut, which may bring 200,000-250,000 visitors over the next year.

Milestones & Accomplishments
- Increased service at Tweed New Haven Airport to 25 destinations with an anticipated passenger load of 1.1 million next year.
- The reopening of the Yale Peabody Museum after a four-year renovation will draw visitors and increase Greater New Haven's media exposure.
- The state of Connecticut launched a new tourism brand, “Make It Here.”

Entrepreneurship
Connecticut is a hub for biotechnology and healthcare entrepreneurs due to its renowned medical institutions and research facilities. These startups focus on developing new pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and healthcare technologies. In addition to high-tech and specialized industries, small businesses and retail ventures are also part of Connecticut’s entrepreneurial landscape.
Connecticut provides support for entrepreneurs through various programs, incubators, and accelerators. The Connecticut Small Business Development Center is one such organization that offers resources, mentoring, and funding opportunities to help startups succeed. Networking events, pitch competitions, and co-working spaces also facilitate collaboration and innovation within the entrepreneurial community.

The state has implemented policies and incentives to support entrepreneurship and innovation, such as tax credits for research and development activities, loan programs, and grants for small businesses. However, the CTNext program has been discontinued and will be redesigned within the CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

The City of New Haven’s Small Business Resource Center, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven’s Mission Investments Corporation, administers NHE3. This small business grant program offers grants of up to $10,000 to companies that can demonstrate a need, proposed use of funds, and how those funds will impact their business.

Yale University established Yale Ventures in 2022 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among its faculty and students. It offers resources such as accelerators, funding, and mentorship through programs like Venture Lab and the Blavatnik Fund. Yale Ventures encourages connections within Yale’s innovation community and facilitates corporate partnerships to advance its research and educational goals. It collaborates with various innovation centers to further support entrepreneurial endeavors.

**Milestones & Accomplishments**

- Since 2018, the residents of Greater New Haven have launched more than 30,000 businesses.
- The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven manages NHE3, a $10 million program funded by State ARP, City of New Haven ARP, and private sources to aid small businesses. This initiative is designed to foster a more equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem and strengthen the resilience of small businesses in Greater New Haven over the next five years.
- The Lab at ConnCORP in Hamden has been awarded $4 million to support Black and minority-owned businesses during their early stages.
- ClimateHaven, New Haven's first climate tech incubator, opened in 2024.

**Technology**

Greater New Haven is leading the quantum computing revolution in Connecticut. Yale University and the University of Connecticut are working hand-in-hand on a joint initiative, QuantumCT, to advance Connecticut’s position as a center of excellence in quantum and accelerate the adoption of quantum technologies in Connecticut and beyond.

The QuantumCT Team is collaborating with a broad coalition of partners from business, academia, government, the nonprofit and innovation community to lay the groundwork for expansive, equitable economic development — promising to fundamentally change how we live, work, and communicate with each other.
Quantum science has catalyzed technologies that touch every aspect of our daily lives, paving the way for remarkable innovations with profound societal implications. Drawing on research excellence at Yale and UConn and a growing innovation ecosystem, QuantumCT is creating a national competitive advantage in an emerging technology domain. Quantum technology can transform hundreds of applications, from smartphones and navigation systems to drug therapy and advanced computers. This technology will impact vital economic drivers in the region, including life sciences, healthcare, and manufacturing. By harnessing the research prowess of Yale and UConn and fostering a vibrant innovation ecosystem, QuantumCT aims to establish a competitive advantage for the nation in quantum technology.

Milestones & Accomplishments

- Quantum-Si unveiled its new Branford headquarters & HealthTech Park.
- The National Science Foundation granted Quantum CT a $1 million planning award to create a partner network among science, education, industry, government, and the broader community.

Workforce

Workforce is an interesting aspect of economic development in Greater New Haven. We have an extremely well-educated population, with 36.6% of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher. However, a skill mismatch exists between available jobs and the minimal unemployed population. Workforce Alliance (the region’s American Jobs Center), local businesses, colleges, and universities have an established network to address business needs with appropriate education and training. The challenge is to draw more unemployed people into workforce programs, typically in underserved communities. To do this, childcare and transportation issues must also be addressed. We are collaborating with the state initiatives to bring more people into the workforce, provide a livable wage, and improve the overall quality of life for people who cannot fully participate in the economic benefits under the current structure.

The CT unemployment rate rose to 4.4%, which is still relatively low—most economists consider 4% full employment. Connecticut had an unsustainably low unemployment rate, below 4% for most of 2023. According to the CT Department of Labor, the state's labor force participation rate is 64.4%.

The New Haven labor market area unemployment rate was 4.7% in January 2024. The unemployment rate indicates that more workers are entering the job market, not that workers are losing their jobs.

Like most of the nation, Greater New Haven suffers from an extreme shortage of RNs, other healthcare workers, and other pockets of high-skilled professions. Our colleges and universities are prioritizing programs to increase capacity to produce more graduates and improving transfer options for those starting at CT State Community College, which, for many, is the most accessible route.

Public School Performance

According to The Nation’s Report Card, Connecticut experienced a significant decline in average scores in mathematics and reading when comparing 2019 to 2022 for students in Grade 4. The percentage of students at or above proficient declined from 45% to 37%. For reading, the decline
was from 40% to 34.6%. Students in Grade 8 fared worse, with a decrease from 39% to 30% in mathematics and 41% to 37.7% in reading. Grade 12 did not have current data.

While these scores continue to be higher than the national average, they indicate that many students in Greater New Haven will need more preparation to enter the workforce or pursue a college education.

Low literacy and math skills pose a significant barrier for adult learners looking to reskill through workforce programs. Workforce Alliance, the South Central CT Workforce Development Board, tracked intake literacy assessments of all jobseekers coming into their American Job Center over 14 years. Among over 14,000 tested, over 60% did not have the literacy level required to enroll in skills training programs (9th-grade reading).

Due to the pandemic-era reliance on remote learning, there has been a significant increase in absenteeism since the return to in-classroom classes, and there is also a teacher shortage in Connecticut.

New Haven Promise has been tapped to partner with Yale University, New Haven Public Schools, and SCSU to address the teacher shortage in New Haven. The new fellowship will fund aspiring teachers to attain a Master’s in Teaching degree in exchange for teaching in New Haven Public School for three years. Once launched, the fellowship aims to place 100 teachers in city classrooms in the next five years. The fellowship is one of several Yale commitments from the Yale and Slavery Research Project.

**Milestones & Accomplishments**
- The labor force increased to 317,074 from 312,278.
- The number of employed persons increased to 305,593 from 300,737.
- To address workforce needs, Yale New Haven Health and four local universities help eligible students enroll in nursing programs. Fairfield, Quinnipiac, SCSU, and CT Community College Gateway aim to produce at least 557 more nurses over the next four years.
- During this period, a $10 million grant will train 1,250 patient care associates/technicians at Yale New Haven Hospital. The program participants are full-time employees who receive pay and benefits.
- MATCH is a manufacturing training program in New Haven that offers bilingual training and pays trainees while they are training. The program is specifically designed to cater to the needs of various individuals, including women, high school graduates entering the workforce, unemployed New Haven residents, New Haven residents of color, and re-entry residents. It also offers assistance in financial literacy, housing, and energy, as well as career-building services to enhance employability.

**Housing**
Solving the housing crisis is vital to solving the workforce shortage. According to the 2023 Key to Affordable Housing Report by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), there is a shortage of affordable housing in Connecticut, and around 92,560 affordable units are needed for extremely low-income renters. Due to insufficient supply for most income brackets, many households are opting for units that are affordable for lower-wage earners, while others are being
forced to live in units that cause a cost burden. This makes it challenging for CHFA to determine the number of units needed for each income bracket. While building extremely low-income housing is critical to resolving the housing crisis, building housing at other price points is also necessary. You can read more about this at https://www.chfa.org/assets/1/6/HNA_10.10.23.pdf.

During the SCRCOG Housing Working Group sessions, participants focused on assessing the state of housing in the SCRCOG Region, highlighting the progress made by municipalities, persistent barriers, and the desired programming for the upcoming fiscal year. The discussions included plans for regional training for Planning and Zoning Commissioners and initiatives such as town-specific assessments of effective strategies. The group raised pertinent questions regarding engagement with CEOs, community discussions, and collaboration with zoning commissions to address housing challenges effectively. Additionally, the session included mixed-income housing tours, visits to homeless shelters, and an examination of inclusionary zoning practices across Connecticut.

Challenges around housing include a 67% increase in the median home sales price since 2019, from $215,000 in 2019 to $360,000 in 2023. Greater New Haven needs around 25,000 units. Despite the increased cost of supplies, labor, and financing, developers still invest in New Haven with multi-unit development projects. Currently, 3,500 units are in the pipeline, with 1,400 deemed affordable in New Haven.

The percentage of affordable units regionally was 13.8%. These units are concentrated in our urban areas. Almost every town in the region has recently completed or is planning a housing project, although these developments tend to be small. However, they are necessary steps in resolving the housing crisis. Another concern is the number of people burdened by housing costs. According to the Partnership for Strong Communities, in Bethany (one of the region’s wealthiest communities), 23% of households were cost-burdened. In New Haven, that number jumps to 49%, West Haven 42%, and Hamden 34%.

This year, SCRCOG has hired a consultant to update the regional action plan. The consultant will gather input from the housing working group and other stakeholders.

The CEDS Housing Committee will be presenting additional ideas to the Housing Working Group of SCRCOG and the project consultants for their consideration. The suggestions include establishing a regional commission for affordable/workforce housing in towns and cities, setting up a Regional Development Authority that can collaborate with developers and municipalities for housing development, obtaining resources to market among all the towns and cities, establishing a regional tool that can be used across all towns and municipalities, and providing resources for financial literacy programming and housing counseling to residents throughout the region.

**Milestones & Accomplishments**
- A 55-room hotel was converted into a homeless shelter in New Haven.
- There are plans for a new Beth-El shelter in Milford.
- Columbus House plans 80 additional units with one- and two-person bedrooms, each with private bathrooms.
The Housing Authority of New Haven shifted its focus from rehabilitation initiatives to expanding the supply of affordable housing through self-perform projects and partnerships with private developers.

**Wealth & Poverty**

The region has a significant income and wealth gap between suburban and urban areas. Unfortunately, the income growth of almost all residents is not keeping up with the rising housing costs and general inflation. According to the data, the poverty level in the region is 11%, which is 0.5% lower than the national average and 1.2% lower than Connecticut's average. However, the highest poverty rates in the region are in New Haven (25.3%), Meriden (15.7%), and West Haven (11.3%).

Another noticeable issue in the region is the digital divide between communities. While 90.3% of households in the region have broadband, there are significant differences between individual communities. Woodbridge has the highest percentage of households with broadband, at 98.7%, while Meriden has the lowest, at 83.5%. Despite these disparities, the region still exceeds Connecticut's average of 88.9% and the national average of 87%.

There is a significant disparity in educational achievement among different towns in Connecticut. As of 2022, the percentage of individuals aged 25 or older with a bachelor's degree or higher ranges from 72.5% in Woodbridge to 19.7% in Meriden. East Haven and West Haven have 23.6% and 26.7% of people with bachelor's degrees or higher, respectively. It is worth noting that the towns with the lowest percentage of their population with Bachelor's degrees are classified as economically distressed by the State of Connecticut.

**Economic Resilience**

Disaster planning must include a cost/benefit analysis of prevention and recovery costs when facing a disaster. The very definition of disaster has changed dramatically over the past few years.

With the expanding risks, we have identified some areas of focus:

- Public health
- Climate change
- Cybersecurity
- Utilities
- Supply chain

The Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) coordinates emergency management and homeland security planning, training, and exercises with various government and private sector entities. It integrates state homeland security communications and systems, distributes information and security warnings, and establishes standards for intelligence information use. DEMHS provides a coordinated approach to statewide emergency management and homeland security, supported by a strategy developed in collaboration with stakeholders from various sectors.
The region collaborates with CT DEMHS Region 2 to coordinate a comprehensive and integrated statewide emergency management and homeland security program encompassing all human-made and natural hazards, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery components.

Adjustments to Strategy
The region's economic development strategy did not significantly change this year. However, we will reevaluate the housing goals and objectives next year based on the SCRCOG Housing Working Group and the consultant’s recommendations. In addition, the training of incumbent workers in AI will also be considered. Although there are no significant adjustments, we will publish the 2024 CEDS Annual Update for public comments for 30 days.

Evaluation of Progress on the Action Plan and Goals
In addition to the milestones and accomplishments noted above, we also track data and benchmarks relevant to our strategy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Current Data (2024 CEDS)</th>
<th>2023 CEDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business Retention, Expansion, and Recruitment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAS Best Practice Certified Towns</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Businesses</td>
<td>6,950 (2023)</td>
<td>7,010 (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Minority-Owned New Businesses</td>
<td>24.7% (2023)</td>
<td>24% (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs in Key Sectors (Switch from county to regional data)</td>
<td>229,703</td>
<td>220,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Development Projects Completed/Underway in Opportunity Zones</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Projects Completed in the Foreign Trade Zone (Port Area)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Clinical Trials (Active, Not Recruiting)</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Visits by GNHCC</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH Funding</td>
<td>$636,241,724</td>
<td>$601,537,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workforce &amp; Employment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Alliance Job Seekers</td>
<td>11, 246</td>
<td>16,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force</td>
<td>317,074</td>
<td>312,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Employed Persons</td>
<td>305,593</td>
<td>300,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Unemployment Rate (LMI)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College &amp; University Students</strong></td>
<td>48,125</td>
<td>48,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Housing</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Housing Units</td>
<td>242,680 (2021)</td>
<td>240,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number/Percentage of Affordable Housing Units</td>
<td>33,134, 14%*</td>
<td>32,989, 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Burdened by the Cost of Housing in New Haven County/Region</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns Committed to Below Market Registry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns with 10% Affordable Housing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Median Sales Cost</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Cost</td>
<td>$2,112</td>
<td>$2,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Infrastructure</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enplanements at HVN</td>
<td>352,000 (FAA 2022)</td>
<td>29,732 (FAA 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Transit Ridership (Buses were free from 4/1/2022-4/1/2023)</td>
<td>5,536,895 (CT DOT 2022)</td>
<td>4,962,725 (CT DOT 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro-North Ridership (New Haven Line)</td>
<td>28 million (2023)</td>
<td>22 million (2022 revised)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTDOT-maintained state bridges are in good or fair condition</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95.40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sustainability</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Brownfields Sites Returned to Use</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of LEED-certified Buildings (U.S. Green Building Council)</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns with Current Plans of Conservation &amp; Development</td>
<td>14, 1 in process</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable CT-certified Towns</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wealth</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Distressed Towns in Region (per DECD definition)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty in New Haven County/Region</td>
<td>11% (2022)</td>
<td>12.0% (2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven County/Region Median Household Income</td>
<td>$83,617</td>
<td>$75,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The percentage of affordable housing in 2023 is based on 2020 Census data, and 2010 Census data are used to calculate the percentage of affordable units in prior years.

Key sectors: healthcare; higher education; manufacturing; arts, culture, and tourism; transportation and warehousing; professional, scientific, and technical services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tradeshows and conferences attended by REX/SCCREDC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yale Real Estate Symposium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• American Bus Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discover New England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yale Innovation Summit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yale Private Equity and Venture Capital Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yale Economic Development Symposium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Big Connect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2024 NADO &amp; DDAA Washington Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2024 An Afternoon with the Districts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CEDAS Annual Meeting and Best Practices Awards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns with CEDAS Best Practices certification.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ten of the 15 towns in the region are certified, with the Town of Madison receiving a gold-level certification. The remaining five towns will be encouraged to apply for certification.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of new businesses formed in the region yearly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 6,950 new businesses were formed in 2023.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 24.7% were reported as minority-owned.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students participating in certificate programs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Workforce Training serves, on average, 1,344 students each year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students pursuing two and four-year degrees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The region’s total number of college students has decreased by 1.4% since 2018. Of particular concern is the drop in attendance at Albertus Magnus, CT Community College Gateway, and SCSU. In the last year, attendance at these colleges and universities has increased year over year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses and clients interacting with Workforce Alliance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 11,246</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The number of employed persons in the region is 305,593, a 1.6% increase over 2022. Employment has increased by 8.8% since 2010.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases in the median wage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Median household income increased to $83,617, an 11.4% increase over 2022.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel occupancy, Average Daily Rate, and Revenue Per Available Room.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Occupancy was stable in 2023 vs. 2022.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hotel occupancy has decreased by 5% since 2019.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Average daily rate (ADR) has increased 7% over last year.
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR) is up 6.4%.
- Using 65% occupancy as the benchmark for profitability, the region’s hotels only met the mark 4 out of 12 months in 2023 (33%).

The number of towns current on their plans of conservation and development.
- All 15 towns are current on their plans of conservation and development.

Partnerships established to support CEDS’ goals.
- See partners list.

Sustainable CT-certified towns.
- Six towns are certified. The remaining nine municipalities will be encouraged to apply.

Ongoing clinical trials.
- The number of clinical trials decreased by 12.8% year over year.

National Institute of Health funding.
- Funding from NIH increased by 5.8% over 2022.

Business visits through the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce BRE outreach program.
- The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce business outreach program is on schedule to meet its goal of 75 business visits.

Maintenance of the Visit New Haven app, website, and social media accounts.
- Ongoing

Market Greater New Haven in Avelo destinations.
- Avelo Airlines and the destination airports are actively promoting Greater New Haven as a place to visit.
- REX met with the West Volusia, Florida, tourism organization and their advertising agency to strengthen the ties between the two organizations.

Towns with a commitment to collaborate on a Below Market Registry for units
- 1, New Haven

Percentage of affordable units throughout the region
- 14%

Increase affordable units in each town to meet the state’s goal of 10%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Total Housing Units 2010 Census</th>
<th>2022 Affordable Units</th>
<th>2021 Affordable Units</th>
<th>2020 Affordable Units</th>
<th>2019 Affordable Units</th>
<th>2018 Affordable Units</th>
<th>2017 Affordable Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethany</td>
<td>2,044</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branford</td>
<td>13,972</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Haven</td>
<td>12,533</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>9,596</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamden</td>
<td>25,114</td>
<td>2,307</td>
<td>2,343</td>
<td>2,252</td>
<td>2,178</td>
<td>2,126</td>
<td>2,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>8,049</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meriden</td>
<td>25,892</td>
<td>4,399</td>
<td>4,303</td>
<td>4,274</td>
<td>4,260</td>
<td>4,077</td>
<td>4,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>2025</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>2027</td>
<td>2028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>23,074</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1,214</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>1,219</td>
<td>1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>54,967</td>
<td>18,343</td>
<td>18,142</td>
<td>17,800</td>
<td>17,615</td>
<td>17,523</td>
<td>17,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branford</td>
<td>5,629</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Haven</td>
<td>9,491</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>5,345</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallingford</td>
<td>18,945</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Haven</td>
<td>22,446</td>
<td>3,486</td>
<td>3,538</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>3,236</td>
<td>2,965</td>
<td>2,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge</td>
<td>3,478</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>240,575</td>
<td>33,134</td>
<td>32,989</td>
<td>32,395</td>
<td>31,950</td>
<td>31,266</td>
<td>31,167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduce people experiencing homelessness
- A 55-room hotel was converted into a homeless shelter in New Haven.
- There are plans for a new Beth-El shelter in Milford.
- Columbus House plans 80 additional units with one- and two-person bedrooms, each paired with private bathrooms.

Schedule of Goals for the Next Year
There are no significant changes in the goals from the 2023-2028 CEDS. Our efforts will continue to support the goals and objectives identified in the Action Plan. Some of the actions to be taken include:

- Host a SBA Resource Fair.
- Host a Government Contracting Fair.
- Request a renewal of the Municipal Services Grant.
- Explore opportunity and funding sources for a New Haven Chapter of CampusCT.
- Encourage towns and organizations to utilize the Arts Council of Greater New Haven’s event calendar to support attendance at art events.
- Collaborate with Avelo destinations to cross-promote regions.
- Identify representatives for the Central Regional Tourism District from each municipality.
- Encourage funding of Shore Line East.
- Promote DEI employment programs including programs for people of different abilities.
- Encourage municipalities to obtain CEDAS Best Practices Certification.
- Encourage municipalities to obtain SustainableCT Certification.
- Increase the number of participants in Workforce Alliance programs.
- Evaluate workforce training for incumbent workers in the use of AI.
- Evaluate workforce training based on current and future workforce needs.
• Include individuals from underserved communities in workforce training programs, college enrollment, and STEM education.
• Update housing goals and objectives based on recommendations of the SCRCOG Housing Working Group and the resulting consultant’s report.
• Continue/complete infrastructure projects relating to transportation, roadways and bridges, freight capacity, optimizing water infrastructure, access to broadband, and renewable energy.
• Increase public health, climate change, cybersecurity, utilities, transportation, and supply chain resilience.
• Increase the number of brownfields returned to use.

Action Plan Update 2023-2024

GOAL 1: Business Retention, Expansion, & Recruitment
Use the region’s competitive advantages to foster equitable, resilient business development, recruitment, job access, wealth creation, and entrepreneurial activity.

OBJECTIVES
Objective 1: Advance growth of key sectors critical to the region’s economic vitality.

STRATEGIES
1.1 Promote the region as a place where bioscience, manufacturing, and diverse entrepreneurs can start and grow businesses.
   - REX promoted the region via social media, e-newsletters, tradeshow attendance, networking events, and a relocation guide.

1.2 Increase tourism, hospitality, and leisure marketing activity.
   - REX has advocated for increased statewide marketing.
   - The State Office of Tourism has launched its new brand, “Make It Here,” for both tourism and economic development.

1.3 Participate in state workforce development programs, including the Regional Sector Partnerships and American Job Centers.
   - The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce represents our region for the Governor’s Workforce Council and Regional Sector Partnerships.

1.4 Promote our Foreign Trade Zone.
   - FullStack Modular, the leading innovator in designing, manufacturing, and constructing mid- and high-rise multifamily buildings, hotels, and student housing, relocated its U.S. headquarters to 30 Edmund Street, Hamden, Connecticut. In addition to the space in Hamden, the company secured space at the Port of New Haven, a Foreign Trade Zone.

1.5 Attract Opportunity Zone Investment.
   - ConnCAT Place at Dixwell is located in Census Tract 141600.
   - Long Wharf is located in Census Tract 140200.
1.6 Educate potential businesses and employees about the region’s high quality of life.
  - REX promoted the region via social media, e-newsletters, tradeshow attendance, networking events, and a relocation guide.

1.7 Develop new commercial mixed-use at Long Wharf, Mill River/River Street, and Boulevard Science Park/Winchester sections of New Haven.
  - Long Wharf Responsible Growth Plan
    The Long Wharf Responsible Growth Plan proposes a comprehensive strategy for transforming the Long Wharf Area into diverse and dynamic mixed-use districts, each focused on an entirely new public realm. The Plan addresses the area’s resilience against future climate-change-induced weather events and sea level rise, needed infrastructure improvements to support new development, and the anticipated costs and revenues associated with the proposed development.
  - Mill River/River Street Initiative
    The City of New Haven has secured a $5.0M state grant to continue work in the Mill River District, including infrastructure improvements, mixed-use/mixed-income housing, coastal resilience, and recreational enhancements. A proposed 10,000 sq. ft. building is at 198 River St. The plan is to use a $969,750 state Department of Economic and Community Development grant to remove the soil contaminated by PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) from 198 River St., with $400,000 allocated by the city for clean fill that will raise the site above the base flood level. The City is looking for development partners for the remaining 15+ acres available in the district.
  - Winchester Works/Science Park

1.8 Expand space for technology transfer at Hill to Downtown, Long Wharf, Downtown, and Science Park districts in New Haven.
  - Hill to Downtown
    The Union Station Partnership (Metro-North, Amtrak, Shoreline East, and Hartford line rail service) is seeking to select development partners who present a vision, strategy, and conceptual proposal for a mixed-use and mixed-income Request for Qualifications that would integrate with other land uses within the area and thereby create jobs, provide affordable housing, offer community amenities, and encourage overall climate sustainability. In 2023, the project received $15 million in state bond funding.
  - Downtown Crossing
    Complete full implementation of Downtown Crossing by completing infrastructure “Phase 4”, opening new development sites at Parcel B and west of Air Rights Garage, along with frontage parcels on MLK Boulevard and South Frontage Road.
  - Union Square
    A new United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) planning grant will revitalize the former Church Street South housing complex.
**Objective 2:** Provide technical support to existing businesses, including resilience planning, succession planning, diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, the use of technology, sustainability initiatives, and compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

**STRATEGIES**

2.1 Maintain strong relationships with businesses through site visits.
   - The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce continued its business visitation program.

2.2 Provide technology training to prepare workers for Industry 4.0.
   - Additional resources are needed for this endeavor statewide. The state’s Chief Manufacturing Officer is pursuing workforce development and expansion funding.

2.3 Schedule programming to support diversity, equity, inclusion, technology skills, sustainability initiatives, and compliance utilizing community resources such as chambers of commerce, libraries, and community centers.

2.4 Collaborate with banks and non-profit lenders to offer technical assistance programming for their customers.

**Objective 3:** Support programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for employment, entrepreneurship, and education.

**STRATEGIES**

3.1 With partners, expand outreach to include more historically marginalized communities to define the area’s economic development needs and goals.
   - Yale Training program aims to extend the benefits of the biotech boom to New Haven residents aged 18 to 26 interested in establishing a foothold in the biotech and biopharma space. It is being offered in collaboration with 10 New Haven-based biotech companies.
   - Several grants at SCSU target students underrepresented in STEM fields and provide programming to veterans with disabilities in CT. MATCH focuses on women, high school graduates entering the workforce, unemployed New Haven residents, New Haven residents of color, and re-entry residents.
   - The Lab at ConnCORP in Hamden has been awarded $4 million to support Black and minority-owned businesses during their early stages.

3.2 Provide education and training through improved access to colleges, vocational training programs, and adult education initiatives.
   - Yale New Haven Health and four local universities help eligible students enroll in nursing programs. Fairfield, Quinnipiac, Southern Connecticut State universities, and Connecticut Community College Gateway aim to produce at least 557 more nurses over the next four years.
   - During this period, a $10 million grant will train 1,250 patient care associates/technicians at Yale New Haven Hospital. The program participants are full-time employees who receive pay and benefits.
3.3 Encourage banks and non-profit lenders, such as micro-loans, to provide capital to entrepreneurs.

3.4 Ensure reliable and efficient transportation options provide equitable access to jobs.
   - Union Station re-development is being planned.
   - REX is advocating for additional Shoreline East trains.

3.5 Encourage inclusive policies and practices in both the public and private sectors.

3.6 Expand access to economic opportunity through cultural equity, including support for incubators like NXTHVN and new digital arts and music proposals.
   - Center for Inclusive Growth
     The Center, funded through Yale’s $5 million commitment, has been formed to develop and promote strategies that lift all New Haven residents.

Objective 4: Develop a well-qualified workforce by creating multiple access points to various career paths.

   STRATEGIES
   4.1 See Goal 2

Objective 5: Expand participation in our robust, diverse entrepreneurial ecosystem.

   STRATEGIES
   5.1 Offer resources such as mentorship, networking opportunities, business incubators, and access to funding to help business owners start and grow their businesses.
     - CONNCorp, ClimateHaven, Collab, Small Business Development Center, NHE3, DNA of an Entrepreneur, and other resources are available.
     - CitySeed Food Incubator
   5.2 Support maker spaces to allow individuals to explore opportunities without capital investment.
     - MakeHaven is the primary maker space in the region.

Objective 6: Advocate for business-friendly federal, state, regional, and local initiatives to encourage economic growth and vitality.

   STRATEGIES
   6.1 Testify or submit testimony to legislators regarding proposed bills.
     - REX testified in support of the conveyance of the 7-acre former Gateway Community College at 60 Long Wharf Drive to the City of New Haven.
     - REX testified in support of Tweed-New Haven Airport (HVN) and its Environmental Assessment (EA) to expand the airport by extending the runway and constructing a new terminal.
     - REX testified to expand commuter rail service for Shoreline East to align with Metro-North and Amtrak service schedules.
   6.2 Meet with legislators regularly.
     - REX and its partners routinely meet/communicate with legislators, particularly during the legislative session, providing information on the impact of specific bills on the region’s constituents and business.
6.3 Provide opportunities for the legislators to meet with the business community.
   - The local chambers of commerce host networking events for members, legislators, and elected officials.

Goal 2: Workforce
Design and deliver real-time, intuitive tools that will enable the regional workforce system to more quickly and effectively respond to employer, education and training provider, and jobseeker needs through industry pipelines, work supports, and labor market information (LMI)-informed career pathways possible.

OBJECTIVES
Objective 1: Expand and support Jobs Pipeline projects in the region.

STRATEGIES
1.1 Enable municipalities, school districts, adult education providers, and other organizations to educate job seekers, students, and parents about job opportunities in demand in and on the region's perimeter.
   - Promoted certificate programs for manufacturing and CNAs to meet regional demands and support the defense industry's major manufacturing contracts.
   - As South Central Connecticut’s American Jobs Center, Workforce Alliance has executed various programs to address existing and emerging workforce needs. Programs have focused on the unemployed and the underemployed and meeting industry demand. Many training programs have been created with community colleges and private sector partners to address the region’s most critical labor shortages, such as IT, utilities, healthcare, social services, hospitality, manufacturing, and the trades. Programs include:
     - Professional Services
     - Manufacturing
     - Hospitality & Retail
     - Healthcare & Social Services
     - Information Technology
     - Skilled Trades & Personal Services
     - Project CEO to prepare young adults for professional careers
   - American Job Centers offer a variety of job fairs in various sectors.

1.2 With chambers of commerce, local and national trade organizations, and other business entities, review, update, and develop core baseline competencies for entry-level and mid-level employment in-demand sectors, which can be integrated into current or developing curricula or training programs on the CT Eligible Training Program List (ETPL). (Years 2-3)

1.3 Develop a cooperative Municipal Employment Pipeline for the region, with assistance from SCRCOG, to provide pathways, internships, and processes to fill difficult jobs and enable those employed in municipal roles to upgrade their skills and continue to serve government entities. (Research in Year 1; Develop and implement by Year 3)
Wallingford held a Municipal Career Night for individuals to learn about careers in law enforcement, fire and emergency services, electrical/water/WPCA utilities, public works, and office and clerical support.

REX promoted open positions in towns and at SCRCOG through e-newsletters and social media.

Objective 2: Provide better local access to existing work supports in the region to provide job and business retention services to workers and their companies.

STRATEGIES

2.1 Catalogue existing and potential work support in each municipality (school-based and out-of-school); distribute information and methodology for potential replication or partnerships. (Begin Year 1, complete end of Year 2)

2.2 Identify work support gaps in service throughout the region. Inform potential partners (public and private) that may be able to assist in addressing the gaps. Chambers of commerce, local and trade organizations, and other business entities encourage private-sector participation in regional job coaching, summer youth employment, and year-round subsidized employment programs. (Year 2)

2.3 Advocate for replication and expansion of best practices in work support for businesses and municipalities. (Year 2-3)

2.4 Tie workforce objectives to regional initiatives for improved transportation systems, routes and access, and affordable housing development.
   - Union Station re-development will provide reliable, efficient transportation options and equitable job access.
   - The housing crisis is being addressed through various avenues, including the SCRCOG Housing Working Group.

2.5 Develop outcome data on the success of individual work support strategies. This should include local access and availability to transportation, childcare, affordable housing, and mental health services. (Year 3-4)

2.6 Strengthen high school-to-college articulation, dual enrollment, and career pathways in the life sciences through 101 College Street classrooms, a BioPath partnership with SCSU, and adult certificate programs.
   - We are promoting the BioPath partnership with SCSU.
   - The 101 College Street classroom will open in 2024 (in partnership with Winstanley, BioLabs, the City of New Haven, CT State Colleges and Universities, and New Haven Public Schools).
   - The City of New Haven has launched a Career Pathways program via New Haven Public Schools (ARP funding) to develop the Career Connected Learning Hub.

2.7 Strengthen non-college career pathways through partnerships with public high schools and private industry, including apprenticeships, paid on-the-job training, and industry certificate programs.
Objective 3: Support a region-wide system providing quality local labor market information and career pathways to long-term unemployed youth, young adults, adults, and dislocated workers (typically laid off).

STRATEGIES

3.1 Engage Workforce Alliance, the CT Workforce Development Council, the CT Office of Workforce Strategy, U.S. and Connecticut Department of Labor, and private LMI researchers to establish a framework for the system. (Years 1-2)

3.2 Utilize business and community organizations (i.e., Chambers of Commerce, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Data Haven) to assist in system design.

3.3 Link to and leverage existing resources that aggregate labor market information, job postings, and available training options such as CareerConneCT, CTHires, and Level All.

3.4 Develop systems for engaging and serving immigrants and speakers of languages other than English to fill existing gaps.

Goal 3: Housing

Ensure continued action in creating and preserving housing to offer a broad spectrum of housing options for people of all income levels, working regionally to build market rate and affordable housing, deconcentrate poverty, and promote integration utilizing the SCRCOG regional housing plan upon completion.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: Support opportunities for incentivizing housing production.

STRATEGIES

1.1 Develop regional housing growth zones to give developers access to state funding for affordable and market-rate housing.

1.2 Support statewide approach to affordable housing, including using quasi-development authorities and formula-based gap financing sources.

1.3 Establish a regional recommendation to solicit increased funding allocated to housing development and incentives for affordable housing development.

- This is being considered in the SCRCOG Housing Working Group recommendations.

Objective 2: Establish and expand the Below Market Registry across the region to support Housing for All.

STRATEGIES

2.1 Identify towns and cities utilizing the Below Market Registry effective tool.
- New Haven is utilizing the Below Market Registry.

2.2 Provide widespread marketing of the availability of these programs.

**Objective 3:** Support Workforce Homeownership Programs offered by the state and local government throughout the region.

**STRATEGIES**

3.1 Establish a database of available and accessible funds across the region.
3.2 Improve access to lenders.
3.3 Unlock the potential of multi-family ownership models, including accessory dwelling units.

**Objective 4:** Educate residents on available programs and regional housing units.

**STRATEGIES**

4.1 Build a regional database of affordable housing units across all towns and cities.
4.2 Support a regional marketing campaign to engage and support first-time homebuyers and workforce homeownership programs.
4.3 Establish a regional down payment assistance program.
4.4 Establish regional assistance to include households whose average medium income exceeds 80% to include working families to participate in homeownership programs.

**Objective 5:** Implement the SCRCOG regional housing plan.

5.1 Aid in implementing the Housing Action Plan once adopted by the SCRCOG Board. The Action Plan will move beyond education and into collaboration with municipalities, including regular regional planner & land use staff meetings.

**Goal 4: Infrastructure**

Develop, maintain, and effectively use a robust, integrated, multi-modal transportation, communications, and information system that facilitates the efficient, convenient movement of people, goods, and data intra-regionally, inter-regionally, and internationally.

**OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1:** Improve and rebalance the multi-modal transportation network with an emphasis on safety, congestion mitigation, reduced carbon emissions, and the accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians.

**STRATEGIES**
1.1 Support efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on highways, roads, and public transit and for drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians by focusing on designing for safety and participation in the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) initiative. Completion: Ongoing

- SCRCOG received funding to hire a community highway safety specialist to address behavioral causes of crashes in the region.
- SCRCOG completed the update of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan.
- SCRCOG adopted Vision Zero Resolution.

1.2 Support measures to improve air quality and address noise and light pollution caused by the transportation system infrastructure.

- SCRCOG is the lead agency on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. It completed the MSA's Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory.
- Completed the Priority Climate Action Plan.
- SCRCOG entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for two USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants to fund Climate-Friendly Regulations and Processes and Solar on Public Housing.

1.3 Encourage the promotion of more ways to travel by foot, mobility aid, bike, and micro-mobility devices through infrastructure investment, primarily through the Complete Streets program.

- The New Haven Parking Authority (NHPA) intends to launch a new Bike Share system with 100 regular bicycles, 100 electric bicycles, and ten electric cargo bicycles. NHPA is contracting with a local bike shop for maintenance and rebalancing. Drop Mobility will launch the system in May 2024 with internal funds, planned grants, user fees, and sponsorship revenues to sustain.
- SCRCOG completed the following studies in 2023:
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the City of West Haven
  - Hamden Farmington Canal Trail Crossings Evaluation Study
  - Woodbridge Business District Connectivity Study
  - Central Connecticut Loop Trail Connection Study - Meriden
  - Existing Conditions – Bike-Ped Safety Improvements Study - Madison
  - Feasibility Study of Connecting Plains Road via an At-Grade Rail Crossing in Milford
  - Walkability Study – Town of Branford
  - Northrup Road Study – Town of Wallingford
  - Route 10 Complete Street Study – Town of Hamden
  - Fountain Street Corridor Study – City of New Haven

- The SCRCOG LOTCIP program supported New Haven’s efforts to improve bike-ped infrastructure improvements.
- SCRCOG contracted with SLR to create a Regional Bike Ped Plan to be completed by Dec 2024.
- SCRCOG staff participates in the Route 146 Corridor Management Plan Advisory Committee. Project page - Route 146 Corridor Management Plan (route146cmp.com)

1.4 Support the establishment of a firm footing for future changes in transportation technology.
1.5 Implement CT Transit's Move New Haven Study, which will result in more frequent and efficient bus service and the creation of crosstown routes and transit hubs.
- New Haven Bus Rapid Transit is under design.

1.6 Continue participating in Northeast Corridor passenger rail plans to create a regional high-speed rail network, supporting an Amtrak proposed route through New Haven Union Station.
- SCRCOG is co-hosting with the Central Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) in revitalizing the Corridor Advisory Committee of Chief Elected Officials for CTfastrak and CTrail-Hartford Line.

1.7 Support New Haven’s Union Station improvements, including shops and restaurants, a bus depot, parking, and EV charging.
- The City and State of Connecticut have launched a new 55-year Union Station Partnership (USP) to preserve and adapt the historic New Haven Union Station for the next 100 years of its life. The USP has received $17 million in bonding from the State of Connecticut to invest in the physical plant of the building, double the amount of retail space, triple the amount of bathroom stalls, and enhance passenger amenities while preserving the historic elements of the station. A Lactation and Wellness room was opened in 2023, with plans to install a family restroom by the end of 2024. More information can be found at the project website: https://unionstationnewhaven.com/
- The CTDOT has received $15 million in bonding from the State of Connecticut to work with the USP to develop the two surface parking lots at New Haven Union Station. The USP will redevelop the West Lot into a mixed-use intermodal center (MUIC) with a first-floor bus depot, 450-car parking garage, sidewalk-level retail, and offices and bathrooms to support the bus operations. The design has begun. The CTDOT has selected a consultant to support the redevelopment of the East Lot with a planned two-phase RFQ (04/2024) and RFP (Winter 2025) process. The development can be followed at our website: https://unionstationnewhaven.com/
- The rights of way continue to evolve to support redevelopment at New Haven Union Station. Columbus Avenue and S. Orange Street have fully reopened and have begun operation in the district. The City of New Haven will reconstruct the pedestrian and bicycle connection on Route-1/Water Street this Spring, connecting the Post Office and Long Wharf district with the train station. CTDOT has begun designing a road diet on Union Avenue to provide 10’ of additional sidewalk on the side of the station and developments listed above. The Union Square project, across the street from the station, has begun a year-long planning process to redevelop the former Church Street South property, significantly impacting circulation.
- Fourteen electric vehicle chargers operate at the existing New Haven Union Station parking garage.

1.8 Support the efforts of the City of New Haven and private sector investment to construct a new passenger terminal and other new infrastructure to modernize and expand Tweed-New Haven Airport and provide frequent commercial passenger flight services to popular destinations and regional hubs.
• The City of New Haven, the Greater New Haven Transit District, and the NHPA have partnered with Via and funded by the CTDOT to launch a microtransit service in the City of New Haven. The service will connect half of the neighborhoods of New Haven, the two train stations, and all of the NHPA public parking garage facilities with an easy $10 flat fee ride to Twee-New Haven airport. The service will launch in November 2024, before the holiday season.

• Over the past year, the airport has added destinations to Daytona Beach, FL; Greenville-Spartanburg, SC; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Knoxville, TN; Destin-Ft. Walton Beach, FL; Atlanta, GA; Lakeland, FL; and Charlotte, NC. So, with our current terminal, the region continues to demonstrate the demand for additional nonstop service out of HVN, with passenger volume approaching 1.1M annually.

• Avports is designing the new East Terminal, starting at risk before the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) decision was concluded. The runway extension and other capital programs at the airport that will bring economic benefits to the regional community are also in the design phase.

• The airport is working with Avis on adding level 2 EV charging for Rental Cars and Airport operations.

• The airport is working on adding Hydrogen Fueling services for airport operations, which would be the first in the US at an airport.

• We have expanded the fiber connectivity at HVN to include fiber into the East Haven side of the airport to use for current operations and as the connectivity point for the future East Terminal development.

• HVN has invested in the tide gates, which allow airport operations to manage the flow of water that runs through the airport and mitigate flooding in the local communities and at the airport. Avports has invested in flood management assets, allowing flood mitigation at airport departure and arrival terminals.

1.9 Market the region’s commuter rail and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) assets to attract potential businesses and investors.

• The Union Station Partnership (USP) scheduled a public Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the New Haven Union Station East Lot. The City of New Haven, led by the New Haven Parking Authority (NHPA), has submitted a new zoning district for the train station called Transit Oriented Community (TOC). For more information on the TOC, please follow here: https://unionstationnewhaven.com/development-plan/zoning/

1.10 Coordinate with CTtransit to evaluate upgrades and the potential for service improvements.

• Due to investments from the State of CT budget, all CTtransit routes operate throughout the day until after 1 a.m. The expanded service, an over 30% increase from prior years, was the most significant service expansion in CTtransit-New Haven history. Additional routes were planned and implemented to link job centers to the other routes.

• The Downtown Green Free Shuttle route was expanded from 5 to 7 days a week. It now connects New Haven Union Station to the downtown green and supports post-COVID transportation patterns.

• Continue planning for future bus rapid transit service in New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven.
1.11 Continue to engage public and private partners on an economic development strategy for Metro-North, Hartford Line, and Shoreline East train stations, highlighting TOD opportunities.

1.12 Engage CTTransit and the private sector to evaluate opportunities to increase transit ridership.
   - SCRCOG continues to work with CTRides and the Regional Mobility Manager to encourage ridership.
   - SCRCOG has contracted with VN Engineers to conduct a Regional Mobility Study for the Aging and Disabled Communities to be completed by Dec 2024.

1.13 Encourage the use of electric and alternative fuel vehicles and develop an accessible network of EV charging stations to reduce emissions that cause climate change and air pollution, which disproportionately affects low-income and urban people.
   - The NHPA has successfully installed public level 2 EV chargers in its publicly owned garages and designed over 40 additional chargers to expand its program to all transient parking lots and add to its existing 2 ‘electrified’ parking lots.

**Objective 2:** Support continued investments in roadways and bridges.

**STRATEGIES**

2.1 Engage in strategic, coordinated planning to determine the most effective use of the current unprecedented infusion of federal investment in our transportation infrastructure to implement transformative projects and to maintain other vital assets in a “state of good repair.”
   - The City of New Haven, through the Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) at SCSU, has received a $3.4 million grant from the CDC titled REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health). This second REACH grant will fund an additional five years of engagement with underserved and under-resourced communities to implement the City’s new Active Transportation Plan and Safety Plan titled “Safe Routes for All.” The City will work to engage with neighbors as projects from the plan are implemented with federal and state funding.
   - The City of New Haven received over $20 million in various separate funding sources from the Federal Government to expand safe and equitable transportation infrastructure. One of the projects that earned grant funding is the 4.4-mile expansion of the Shoreline Greenway Trail to connect to the Farmington Canal Line in New Haven’s Mill River neighborhood. The State Street Corridor project, the Whalley Avenue Corridor Project, the Water Street Multiuse Path, Valley Street, and more are examples of State and Federal funding that the City has earned.

2.2 Support significant regional transportation projects such as Downtown Crossing and reconfiguring the I-91/Rt. 15/I-691 merge, the rehabilitation of Heroes Tunnel, and the reconfiguration of Exit 59 on Rt. 15.
   - At the last quarterly CTDOT/COG meeting, New Haven said they are internally working on the Downtown Crossing Phase 4 project. CTDOT will support the City’s project and its efforts to secure federal dollars, get this into the Capital Program and STIP, and encourage New Haven to pursue any grant opportunity for this project.
• Work is currently being performed within the Heroes tunnel to address some deficiencies. Restriping the lanes and replacing the light fixtures with new LED fixtures are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024. CTDOT is still evaluating the need to widen the tunnels to add traffic capacity.
• Modifications to the Route 15 Exit 59 interchange ramps were evaluated, and CTDOT is conducting a revised traffic analysis to determine whether they would improve traffic operations through the tunnel.
• The last update was in December 2023, when it was reported that the Route 15 project was in the final design stages and working towards starting construction.

2.3 Maintain a balance between local and regional interests in considering approval of infrastructure projects and when advocating for infrastructure funding.

2.4 Encourage the adoption and implementation of Complete Streets policies with a focus on high-crash segments of state arterial roads, including Route 80 (New Haven – North Branford), Route 10 (New Haven – Hamden), and Route 146 (East Haven – Madison).
• SCRCOG staff is participating in the Route 146 Corridor Management Plan Committee, which is currently being studied through the CTDOT corridor planning program. A contiguous sidewalk on one side of the road is desired to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and driver safety throughout the corridor.
• Route 80: from 91 to NH line – CTDOT is working on countermeasures for speed control.
• Route 10: A temporary Road Diet was put in place for speed control.
• Two-way, complete/slow street initiatives throughout New Haven, including Downtown core, Orange Street, Whitney Avenue, and State Street.

2.5 Support reconstruction of I-95 over West River and replacement of Kimberly Avenue Bridge over I-95 in West Haven, and encourage TOD development near West Haven Train Station, redevelopment in the Allingtown section and at the waterfront area of West Haven (former proposed site for “The Havens” retail development).

2.6 Support implementation of better ways to link Downtown New Haven, Union Station, and Tweed-New Haven Airport.
• See microtransit above.
• The NHPA partnered with Tweed-New Haven to provide long-term, remote parking for Avelo customers in peak season. The airport runs a shuttle to downtown, and the parking revenues help offset the program’s shuttle costs.
• New Haven received a grant for a pilot micro transit program connecting several neighborhoods with existing transit services to close gaps in Connecticut’s public transportation system.

2.7 Continue the I-95 Eastern CT Planning & Environmental Linkages Study (I-95 Eastern CT PEL) and widen I-95 from Branford to the Rhode Island border.
• The project page is I-95 Eastern CT PEL (i95easternct.com).
• Public outreach is anticipated in the fall of 2024.

2.8 Design and start extending entrance and exit ramps on Route 15.
• An interim safety project was completed to finish the sidewalk network and rebuild the intersection of Pond Lily and Route 69.
• CTDOT has three active projects (exits 59, 61, and 62NB), and we are examining the rest of Route 15.
• CTDOT Route 15-Interchange 62 Northbound Ramps Reconfiguration is underway.
• The CTDOT project team delivered a live presentation to the public and stakeholders on March 21st, 2024.

2.9 Support government and private-sector investments in zero-emission vehicle fleets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.
• The NHPA has switched the security division vehicles from gas-powered to electric vehicles (Chevy Bolt).

**Objective 3: Expand the freight capacity of the region.**

**STRATEGIES**
3.1 Support investments in the Port of New Haven to expand freight capacity by deepening the shipping channel consistent with approved dredge depth.
• SCRCOG has contracted with VN Engineers to conduct a Regional Freight Study to be completed in 2024.
• Expand the use of rail and other intermodal connections from port terminals to end users to limit laydown needs outside of the Port District.

3.2 Garner supports and advocates for continued federal funding for shipyard improvements and repairs.

3.3 Continue supporting the state and port landowners in connecting the Port of New Haven with the Providence and Worcester Railroad.

3.4 Coordinate site development projects with transportation improvement plans in the region’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
• SCRCOG has contracted with VN Engineering to conduct a Regional Freight Plan as part of the UPWP 2024-2025 Work Plan.
• SCROG Staff participates in the MAP Forum (Transportation Planning with CT, NY, NJ, and PA)
• MAP Forum (arcgis.com)

3.5 Support efforts to establish dependable and sustainable funding sources for the State Special Transportation Fund, including the recently enacted highway use tax for heavy commercial trucks using Connecticut’s highways.

**Objective 4: Optimize water infrastructure and partnerships for maximum economic impact.**

**STRATEGIES**
4.1 Identify municipalities ready and able to fund water system expansion into unserved areas or regionally partner in funding.

4.2 Determine if state or federal funds are available for economically driven water system expansion.
4.3 Support the Regional Water Authority (RWA) in its efforts to harden its infrastructure and to optimize its resilience to climate change, extreme climate-driven and weather events, shortened cycles of drought and water surplus, as well as strength to domestic or foreign terror, vandalism, and cybersecurity attacks.

4.4 Support the rehabilitation of the Whitney Dam in Hamden and the protection of land surrounding Lake Galliard in Branford.

4.5 Support efforts to preserve land in drinking water watersheds in their natural state, separate stormwater and wastewater in the combined sewer systems remaining in the City of New Haven, and encourage exploring and establishing stormwater authorities.

4.6 Support projects that harden the infrastructure of wastewater treatment facilities in the region to increase resilience to storms and sea level rise and plan for necessary capacity and reliability.

4.7 Encourage towns to start stormwater diversion infrastructure such as rain gardens and bioswales and requirements for Low-Impact Development (LID) to safeguard drinking water from stormwater runoff and pollution.

**Objective 5: Ensure the entire region has affordable telecommunications infrastructure to support modern communication and information systems.**

**STRATEGIES**

5.1 Determine the region’s access and telecommunication infrastructure requirements using the state’s Internet for All data.

5.2 Promote using the state’s Affordable Connectivity Program—$30/Month Discount for Internet Service; All SNAP and Medicaid Members Eligible.
   - New Haven received a $250,000 grant to fund a weekly outreach and sign-up event series that will rotate between Elm City Communities properties, New Haven Free Public Library branches, and community non-profits.

5.3 Identify the capacity needed to support high-tech companies.

5.4 Support and promote efforts to enhance the region’s faster, cheaper broadband service.

5.5 Use federal infrastructure funds for broadband expansion, focusing on reaching underserved areas and equity.
   - The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has accepted the State of Connecticut’s digital equity plan, “Connecticut: Everyone Connected.” Federal acceptance of this plan makes the state eligible for $18 million in Digital Equity Act Capacity Grant funds, which would support the plan’s implementation.
Objective 6: Support the expansion of renewable energy sources, reduction in cost, and resilience of the electric grid to extreme weather events caused by climate change and physical and cyber attacks.

STRATEGIES
6.1 Promote energy-efficient programs, including the expanded use of Energy Saving Performance Contracts (ESPC).
   • Avangrid (UI/SCG/CNG) conducts regular community tabling events to promote energy efficiency programs in settings like town/city festivals, food pantries, senior centers, conferences, etc., throughout the Greater New Haven region.

6.2 Assist low-income homeowners with soaring electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil costs.
   • Avangrid (UI/SCG/CNG) conducts regular community tabling events to promote energy efficiency programs in settings like town/city festivals, food pantries, senior centers, conferences, etc., throughout the Greater New Haven region.

6.3 Promote the development of safe, clean, and reliable electricity with such generation provided by solar and wind energy.
   • Avangrid (UI/SCG/CNG) conducts regular customer enrollment events throughout the service territory. These events allow customers to meet directly with customer service representatives to enroll them in energy bill payment assistance programs on-site. These events are in partnership with Community Action Agencies so that customers can apply for CEAP in tandem with our programs. These events are held in community spaces such as senior centers, public libraries, etc.

6.4 Implement measures to prevent and respond to power outages to provide resilience to storms and other disruptive natural events, malicious attacks, accidents and failures, vandalism, and physical and cyberattacks from domestic and foreign terrorists. Activities include utility pole management, vegetation management, microgrids, energy storage, cybersecurity analysis and upgrades, and grid infrastructure hardening.

Goal 5: Real Estate, Land Use & Sustainability
Developable land is an extremely limited resource in the region. The region must continue to embrace and adopt strategies that focus on cleaning up contaminated sites, supporting effective and efficient development plans, and protecting resources that contribute to its overall sustainability.

OBJECTIVES
Objective 1: Support brownfield redevelopment.

STRATEGIES
1.1 Identify properties within the region with the most significant potential for return on investment (ROI) that are vacant or underutilized due to environmental contamination and would have strong market demand for reuse if remediation occurred. Criteria should
include the potential for development, private investment, and proximity to public transit.

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1.2 Identify and advocate for funding opportunities for environmental assessment and clean-up, seek to aggregate resources for use in the region, and promote those resources region-wide.

1.3 Actively market target sites.

1.4 Monitor proposals from DEEP for the transition from the Transfer Act to Release-Based Cleanup Regulations

**Objective 2:** Utilize best practices for development projects, including mixed-use development, transit-oriented development (TOD), adaptive reuse, green building, and smart growth.

**STRATEGIES**

2.1 Develop a marketing plan for sites that could support these types of development.

2.2 Develop a resource list of next-generation mixed-use combinations and TOD that maximize the value of unique municipal characteristics and target emerging industry needs.

2.3 Create a resource team of professionals to define next-generation mixed-use combinations and TOD and provide technical assistance to municipalities.

- The SCRCOG Housing Working Group is bringing together representatives from various aspects of community development to evaluate opportunities.

- SCRCOG recently hosted a 4-credit Land Use Commissioner Training that included Land Use Basics and Affordable Housing. The training satisfies the four-hour training requirements created in Public Act 21-29. The session recording and handouts are available on SCRCOG’s Basecamp webpage.

2.4 Prioritize infill development.
2.5 Increase the use of public transportation to reduce the amount of land used for parking spaces.

**Objective 3:** Manage the region’s natural, cultural, and economic resources.

**STRATEGIES**

3.1 Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the region’s natural, cultural, and economic resources.

3.2 Execute the 2018-2028 SCRCOG Plan of Conservation & Development and monitor outcomes.

3.3 Monitor use and support the development of recreational land use assets, including parks, greenways, and bicycle/pedestrian trails.

- **Connecticut Trail Census**
  (statewide volunteer organization)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Uses</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Farmington Canal Trail, Hamden</td>
<td>48,035</td>
<td>57,137</td>
<td>52,051</td>
<td>180,226</td>
<td>182,799</td>
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<td>Farmington Canal Trail, New Haven</td>
<td>73,491</td>
<td>108,212</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>212,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>257,160</strong></td>
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<th>State Park Usage</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut Trail</td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>17 million</td>
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Census is a volunteer group that tracks the number of uses on selected trails. When data collection fails, the organization estimates the totals using the average daily visits.

- The state does not report visitation by park on an annual basis. However, Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison is the most visited outdoor attraction in the state, with over 3 million visitors in 2021.

3.4 Encourage connectivity of trails and recreational assets to transportation nodes and centers for economic activity, including commercial centers and downtown areas.

- West Haven plans a 1.3-mile bike path connecting Yale West Campus to the train station.
• New Haven plans to construct 4.4 additional miles of a car-free pathway, connecting two existing corridors. The Shoreline Greenway is a 25-mile route stretching from East Haven through Madison. The Farmington Canal is another linear park that starts in New Haven and spans 84 miles to Northampton, Massachusetts.

3.5 Monitor and support energy usage and reliability and encourage the development of renewable energy assets for residential, commercial, and agricultural uses.

• The City of New Haven has launched Solar for All, a leasing program to provide homeowners with affordable solar energy and energy efficiency upgrades. The program will help residents reduce their electricity bills and carbon footprint.

• Colleges & universities are leading the way with sustainable building practices.
  o Yale University Divinity School’s Living Village will be the largest living-building residential complex on a university campus. It is a key component of Yale’s Planetary Solutions initiative, designed to meet the Living Building Challenge, the most aggressive standard for sustainable buildings today.
  o The newly-renovated Yale Peabody Museum is a LEED-Gold-certified building expected to halve its energy usage while increasing its total size by 57,000 square feet.
  o SCSU’s School of Business building opened in the fall of 2023, Connecticut’s first net-zero structure in terms of carbon footprint.
  o Quinnipiac University opened a new 137,000-square-foot academic building called SITE, which is focused on Science, Innovation, Technology, and Exploration and is designed to be student-centered and state-of-the-art. The building is LEED-certified.
  o Quinnipiac University is set to open a new School of Business with a total area of 79,000 square feet for the academic year 2024-2025. The building is designed to be LEED-certified.
  o The Grove, a 417-bed residence hall at Quinnipiac University, will open during the academic year 2024-2025. The building is designed to be LEED-certified.
3.6 Use the 2023 SCRCOG Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to facilitate coordinated efforts and information sharing among municipalities, organizations, and agencies toward improved storm preparation along the coastline and climate change resilience.

- New Haven County has released the final Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) as part of the national Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program (CPRG). It includes a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, examining low-income and disadvantaged communities, mitigation strategies, and a communications toolkit. The next grant deliverable is the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

3.7 Educate the public on the importance of sustainable resource use, including energy consumption, solid waste reduction, and natural environment protection.

**BENCHMARKS**

- Number of brownfield sites returned to use
  One completed, one underway
- Number of LEED-certified buildings
  260, an increase of 13
- Usage of outdoor recreational facilities
- Number of towns with Sustainable CT certification
  Six, an increase of one
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Partners

Adult and Basic Education Agencies
AdvanceCT
Albertus Magnus
Amtrak
Arts Council of Greater New Haven
Avangrid
Banks
BioCT
CEDAS
Center for Housing Opportunity
Chambers of Commerce
City of New Haven Affordable Housing Commission
Community Investment Corporation
Connecticut Community College Gateway
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Connecticut Department of Labor
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Connecticut Green Bank
Connecticut Lodging Association
Connecticut Office of the Arts
Connecticut Office of Tourism
Connecticut Restaurant Association
CT Data Collaborative
CT Department of Housing
CT Main Street Center
CT Technology Council
CT Workforce Development Council
CTtransit
Desegregate Connecticut
Discover New England
Energize Connecticut
Eversource
Foundations
Frontier Communications
=Governor’s Workforce Council
Higher Education
Housing Development Fund
Housing for All
Local Initiative Support Corporation
ManufactureCT
Metro-North
Municipal Economic Development Staff & Commission Members
Municipalities
New Haven Festivals
New Haven Port Authority
Non-profit Organizations
Office of Workforce Strategy
Organized Labor
Partnership for Strong Private Employers
Public School Systems
Quinnipiac University
ReadyCT
Regional Leadership Council
Regional Sector Partnerships
Regional Water Authority
Rent Café
SCRCOG Housing Working Group
Shoreline East
Small Business Administration
Small Business Development Center
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Southern Connecticut Gas
Southern Connecticut State University
State Agencies
State of Connecticut
Sustainable CT
The Hartford Line
The Housing Collective
Tweed-New Haven Regional Airport
U.S. Department of Transportation
UCONN
United Illuminating Company
University of New Haven
US EDA
US EPA
U.S. Green Building Council
Volunteer Groups
Workforce Alliance
Workforce Development Organizations
Yale New Haven Health
Yale University
Appendices

Appendix A: Demographic Data

Public Availability

The 2024 South Central Connecticut CEDS Annual Update is posted on the REX/SCCREDC website. Printed copies are available upon request. A 30-day public comment notice was published in the New Haven Register, La Voz, and the Meriden Record Journal. The information about the comment period was also distributed via REX/SCCREDC newsletters and social media accounts.

Public comments will be submitted between April 17 and May 17, 2024.

New Haven Register & Meriden Record Journal
Public Comments

XX
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

REX Development would like to thank the following organizations for providing the ongoing financial support necessary to produce this CEDS update:

- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- CT DECD
- The 15 Towns of the South Central Regional Council of Governments
- SCG & UI - Part of the Avangrid Family

This CEDS update profited from the efforts of many volunteers and partner organizations from the public and private sectors who worked together throughout the CEDS process. A special thanks to the chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, First Selectman Michael Freda, who provided exceptional leadership, guidance, and support.

CONTACT

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