



May 19, 2021

Dear Chief Elected Officials of SCRCOG,

Since our April report, we have been fortunate to meet with many of you and your economic development commissions as part of our community outreach program for the South Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. We have gained valuable insight regarding ongoing issues and priority concerns in terms of pandemic response and long-term recovery. Some of the areas that need additional attention include bilingual small business training, personal finance management, company disaster recovery planning, and comprehensive access to essential broadband service for remote learning and work from home. Commercial broadband service to support economic development initiatives in data mining, bioscience, telehealth and manufacturing has also been raised as a priority issue. We are also seeing the fruits of the SCRCOG Housing Committee in developing the region's housing plan. The critical need for attainable and affordable housing in our towns is becoming critical with the increased demand for homes in Connecticut. In addition to meeting with the towns, we have been collaborating with sector specialists to identify paths to recovery. We continue to collaborate with DEMHS Region 2 and AdvanceCT on recovery and best practices.

With the full reopening of the state, we are marketing our regional tourism assets including restaurants and attractions. While many of our indoor attractions have not yet reopened, we are seeing a dramatic uptick in outdoor events. We cohosted the Spring Brochure Swap and have contracted with CTM for the distribution of the 2021-2022 Greater New Haven Visitors and Relocation Guide at AAA office within our drive market. We anticipate an increase in leisure travel during the summer months and want to maximize the economic impact of seasonal travelers as we expect a protracted decline in business travel.

At our monthly REDFO meeting, we hosted Lou Mangini from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office. He shared the pertinent information about the American Rescue Plan at that time. Since then, he provided us with the US Treasury's Interim Final Guidance and Fact Sheet which you should have received from us via email.

We will be providing a draft 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Update and Performance Report on Monday, May 24 and will present an overview strategy at the meeting on May 26. We are eager to receive your feedback on the data we have collected and your thoughts on moving forward.

Graphs of regional unemployment claims are attached. If you would like the spreadsheet by town, please let us know.

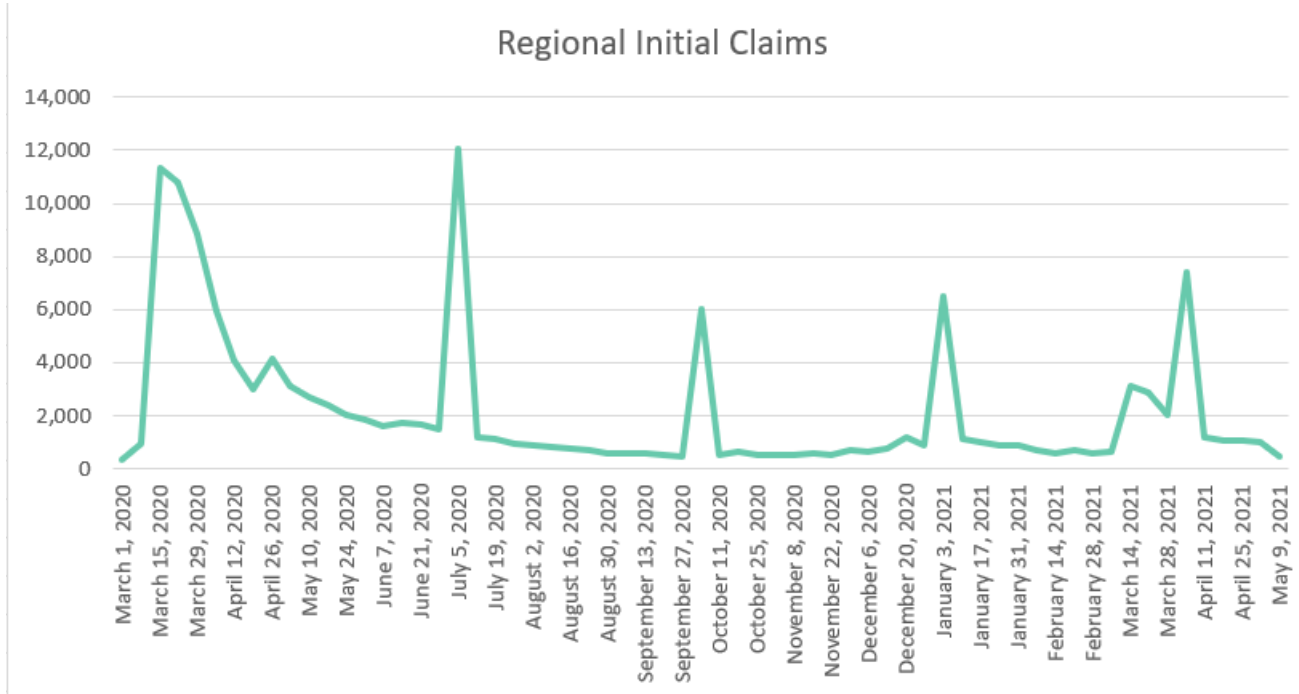
Sincerely,

Ginny Kozlowski
Executive Director

PO Box 1576, New Haven, CT 06506
T 203 821 3682 www.rexdevelopment.com

BETHANY BRANFORD EAST HAVEN GUILFORD HAMDEN MADISON MERIDEN MILFORD
NEW HAVEN NORTH BRANFORD NORTH HAVEN ORANGE WALLINGFORD WEST HAVEN WOODBRIDGE

Regional Initial Claims – Updated May 17, 2021
 Dept. of Labor Office of Research



REX

DEVELOPMENT

Regional Continuing Claims – Updated May 17, 2021
 Dept. of Labor Office of Research
 Claims after April 21 incomplete

