



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2008

CONTACT: Rich Harris, 860-524-7313
rich.harris@ct.gov

Governor Rell: Capitol Region Communities Getting Almost \$5.2 Million for Regional Projects

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has been awarded nearly \$5.2 million in state Regional Performance Incentive grants for 10 projects intended to regionalize a number of municipal government functions.

The Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) grants were established by Governor Rell last year to encourage cooperation among municipalities. The funds are paid to regional planning organizations for projects combining the efforts of some or all of the cities and towns in a given region.

The 10 projects range from the establishment of a regional law enforcement training academy at Rocky Hill and a network for law enforcement data-sharing among participating communities to creating three regional accident investigation teams and building a regional facility for the care and detention of impounded animals.

“When communities are thinking and working together, the benefits are enormous,” Governor Rell said. “Many services, programs and functions can be done as well or better on a regional basis, saving money and staff time while ensuring that each municipality has the same high quality. Our crackdown on crime, for example, would be all the more effective if law enforcement in each community knew in ‘real time’ what their colleagues knew. And efforts to improve highway safety will benefit from sharing information about accidents, accident prevention and their effects on the regional road system.

“I am confident the RPI program will pay dividends in local cooperation, reduced duplication of services and improved operations for the participating communities,” the Governor said. “And those dividends should be reflected in lower property tax burdens on local taxpayers. That is why – although this was originally a one-time program paid for with money from the 2007 budget surplus – I am proposing to continue it as part of my property tax cap proposal. The more we can encourage teamwork among our cities and towns the better for them – and for their residents.”

STATE CAPITOL, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TEL: (860) 566-4840, FAX: (860) 524-7396
www.ct.gov/governor

The 10 projects and grant amounts (not all communities are participating in all projects):

- Enhancement of the regional geospatial information system (GIS) system, \$25,000
- Purchase of equipment to be shared among the participating towns for maintenance of the Farmington Valley Greenway and development of the sharing, maintenance and insurance agreement, \$216,300
- Regional traffic enforcement and fatal accident investigation teams to do accident reconstruction, commercial vehicle inspections and weight enforcement, \$353,290
- Standardized, regional computer system for data collection and management among municipal health departments, \$355,476
- Regional orthophotography (the process of correcting aerial photographs so the scale is uniform and the picture can be overlaid on a map) for use in GIS systems, \$357,000
- Regional emergency operations coordination center, \$515,000
- Regional animal control facility, \$515,000
- Development of a standardized method of developing and procuring information technology systems so communities can coordinate more effectively, \$515,000
- Regional police training facility, \$1,051,101
- Regional law enforcement data sharing, \$1,292,860

Members of the Capitol Region Council of Governments are Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

There are 15 planning regions in Connecticut, which by law may be organized as regional councils of governments, regional councils of elected officials or regional planning agencies.