

## **Notice of Intent to Apply: (Year 1 Funding)**

*(Matching grants to ignite capital investments to historic structures)*

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(H.R. 1319\)](#) into law. The \$1.9 trillion package, based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan, is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. Counties will receive \$65.1 billion in population-adjusted payments based on each county's share of U.S. population, with additional adjustments for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients. Cities will receive \$45.57 billion in payments and non-entitlement units of local government will receive \$19.53 billion. The City of New London was awarded a total of 25 Million.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, New London City Council approved the first 13 Million in funding on a variety of programs that address social services, education, housing, public spaces, economic development and more. Part of the approval process included establishing guidelines and determining which funding allocations will need to be brought back to council.

As part of the economic development recovery allocation, the Office of Development & Planning (ODP) was awarded funding to manage and invest in historic structures and small businesses. Awards will either be grants (25% min. match) or loans depending on the project details.

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### **Notice of Intent to Apply:**

Please complete the attached form to indicate your interest in applying to any of the include funding opportunities described. The Notice of Intent is non-binding. Initial letters of intent will be reviewed by the ODP department prior to requesting formal bids. Preliminary awards may be granted to applicants but award amounts will not be finalized until (3) formal bids are received, reviewed and the project is 'shovel ready'.

Priority will be given to our downtowns central business district and can extend to include properties within the (Enterprise Zone). Projects will be judged on overall economic impact and graded based on the projects scope of work, ability to sustain & create new small businesses, increase the city's tax base and does this project improve the character, safety and quality of life in our central business district.

<https://developnewlondon.com/doing-business/enterprise-zone/>

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For questions please contact:

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Year 1 funding opportunities are broken down into the following categories:

- Beautification: \$750,000
  - Historic Preservation: \$250,000
  - Storefront Activation: \$150,000
  - Clean Energy & Environmental Remediation: Proposed for Year 2 funding
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The **Beautification** and Infrastructure Plan includes sustainable infrastructure improvement, place making, and programming that encourages walkability and supports economic growth. The proposed plan will present a consistent image for the Downtown Business District and unify synergy of downtown and the waterfront. The plan should be adaptable and accommodating to account for future development. Funds for this program can be used for signage, public spaces, intersections, safety, lighting, building improvements, waterfront improvements, transportation, trash management, art installations, and walkability projects.

The **Historic Preservation** program is to invest in significant historic commercial properties that are tied to the cultural, social, economic, and environmental sustainability of downtown New London. New London is a historic city with an inventory of buildings with architectural importance that require significant investment. Renovating historic buildings while keeping both intended design and meeting modern standards can be very costly. These funds can be used for façade improvements, fenestration, roof repairs, architectural details, structural reinforcement, masonry/plaster, interior architectural details and work related to public safety and egress.

The **Storefront Activation** program will aid businesses and building owners for infrastructure improvements to deteriorated commercial storefronts. The goal of the program to help increase the central business district's number of small businesses by developing attractive and up-to-date commercial spaces. Funds can be used for HVAC, lighting, finishes, façade improvements (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) and associated tenant improvements.

The **Environmental Remediation** program is designed to empower our community to prevent, assess and safely clean up contaminated interior & exterior spaces. Goals for this funding also include incorporating energy saving technology's to reduce energy consumption. The city encourages building owners to coordinate with the CT Green Bank and access additional C-PACE financing that are ideal for green energy projects.

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