

## Funding for Historic Preservation

The Community Investment Act will provide up to \$5 million annually to the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism to provide support for:

- **Historic Restoration Fund Grants** for the restoration, rehabilitation or acquisition of historic buildings, structures, and objects as well as the investigation of archaeological sites, if the properties are listed on the State Register of Historic Places and are owned by non-profit organizations or municipalities
- **Supplemental Certified Local Government Program Grants** to supplement municipal preservation programs and activities eligible for federal funding pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- **Basic Operational Support Grants** to advance the mission of historic preservation organizations
- **Endangered Properties Fund Grants** to provide financial assistance for the preservation of historic properties in Connecticut threatened by immediate loss or destruction.

For more information  
[www.cultureandtourism.org](http://www.cultureandtourism.org)  
(860) 566-3005 (Historic Division)

## Funding for Affordable Housing

The Community Investment Act will provide up to \$5 million annually to the CT Housing Finance Authority to provide support for:

- **Developing single family mortgage programs** that will increase home ownership opportunities in targeted urban areas where the home ownership rate is less than 50%.
- **Creating a predevelopment loan program** to assist non-profit developers to pay for costs associated with the preliminary planning and design of affordable housing.
- **Developing a pilot program to provide technical assistance** to help suburban and rural communities with the development of appropriate affordable housing.
- **Funding the Housing Authority Tenants Special Opportunities Families Fund (HATS-OFF)**, which will help public housing authorities take steps to improve the living environment for their tenants.

For more information:  
[www.chfa.org](http://www.chfa.org)  
(860) 721-9501

## Funding for Open Space

The Community Investment Act will provide up to \$5 million annually to provide increased funding to the CT Department of Environmental Protection for:

### **Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program**

This program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space.

Grants may be for the purchase of land that is 1) valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, conservation of wildlife or natural resources; 2) a prime natural feature of the state's landscape; 3) habitat for native plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered or of special concern; 4) a relatively undisturbed outstanding example of a native ecological community which is uncommon; 5) important for enhancing and conserving water quality; 6) valuable for preserving local agricultural heritage; or 7) eligible to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land.

For more information:  
[www.dep.state.ct.us](http://www.dep.state.ct.us)  
(860) 424-3081

## Funding for Agriculture

The Community Investment Act will provide up to \$5 million annually to the CT Department of Agriculture to provide support for:

- **Farmland Preservation Program** - Up to \$4 million will be available to preserve farmland by acquiring development rights to agricultural properties. These protected farms remain in private ownership and continue to pay local property taxes.
- **Agriculture Viability Grants** - \$1 million will be available through grants to farmers, non-profit organizations, municipalities, and regional planning agencies/councils of government for activities that will promote agriculture sustainability, farmland protection, and increase the viability of farm businesses.
- **CT Grown Program** - \$100,000 will be added to the Connecticut Grown Program, an ongoing initiative to increase the visibility of the "CT-Grown" logo and the overall demand for CT Grown products.

■ **CT Farm Link Program** - \$75,000 will go toward a new program that will help match people interested in farming with available farmland.

For more information:  
[www.ct.gov/doag](http://www.ct.gov/doag)  
(860) 713-2530 (Farmland Preservation)  
(860) 713-2503 (CT Grown and Farm Link)

## Key Supporters of the Community Investment Act

- 1000 Friends of Connecticut
- American Farmland Trust
- CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions
- CT Council of Small Towns
- CT Conference of Municipalities
- CT Farm Bureau
- CT Farmland Trust
- CT Forest & Park Association
- CT Fund for the Environment
- CT Housing Coalition
- CT Land Conservation Coalition
- CT League of Conservation Voters
- CT State Grange
- CT Trust for Historic Preservation
- Partnership for Strong Communities
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- Working Lands Alliance



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism



# The Community Investment Act



Investing in our Home, Heritage and Land



A Guide to Public Act 228

In 2005, **Public Act 228**, also known as *The Community Investment Act*, was signed into law. This landmark legislation helps further the goals of protecting and preserving the beauty and unique character of Connecticut for future generations. The Community Investment Act will accomplish this by providing increased funding for:

- Open space
- Protection of farmland
- Preservation of historic sites
- Creation of additional affordable housing programs
- Important municipal capital improvement projects.

The Community Investment Act became law as the result of tremendous bipartisan support at the State Capitol for the work of an unprecedented coalition of farmers, environmentalists, historic preservationists, and housing advocates.

PA 228 is expected to generate approximately \$25 million per year for much-needed state and local programs.

**PA 228 Funding:** Since October 1, 2005 a \$30 fee has been collected by town/city clerks for the recording of all documents into municipal land records. Documents subject to this fee include, deeds, mortgages, mechanics' liens, judgment liens, notices of lease, releases of mortgages and liens, name change certificates, notices of variances, and condominium declarations.

Under the *Community Investment Act*, funds raised through the new \$30 fee are distributed as follows:

- Town Clerks retain \$1 for record management and related costs
- Local governments retain \$3 to help fund local capital improvement projects
- The remaining \$26 is remitted to the State Treasurer's office to be distributed evenly among four state agencies:
  - CT Dept. of Agriculture
  - CT Dept. of Environmental Protection
  - CT Commission on Culture & Tourism
  - CT Housing Finance Authority