

Connecticut DESPP/DEMHS Region IV  
**Recovery Steering Committee**

**Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group**

February 16, 2021 - Meeting Notes

**Attendance:**

John Filchak	Carla Iezzi	Cathryn Silver-Smith	Jill StClair
Mickey Morabito	Nancy Cowser	Mike Caplet	Jim Bellano
Jay Swan	Carly Holzschuh	Francesca Kefalas	Jennifer Lindo
Michael Gantick	Jim Butler	Tyra Penn-Gesek	Maureen Nicholson
Amanda Kennedy	Sam Alexander	Matthew Bordeaux	Mickey Morabito
Ann-Marie Aubrey	Justin LaFountain	Eric Trott	Gary Goeschel
	Wendy Bury	Chris Lippke	John Guskowski
	Mark Oefinger	Deanna Rhodes	Sheri Cote



**Topics of Discussions:**

- What are the needs?
- How many people are affected?
- What actions must be taken to address these needs?
- What solutions are proposed?
- Were these needs prior to the pandemic?
- Funding needs; how much is required?
- Are there supporting documents that would be helpful regarding the unmet needs

**Previous Meeting Topics of Discussion:**

- One on one support for small business owners to help with assistance applications, loans, human resources, etcetera.
- Language barriers
- Addressing the needs of non-profits, which are not part of SBAs
- Decreased investments in the maintenance of state parks/facilities during time of increased usage
- Use of volunteers to maintain public spaces
- Federal/State assistance for businesses

**Economic Resources Discussion:**

- Language barrier operations - bilingual resources were available early on, but not seem difficult to find.
- Restaraunt that applied for and received grants weren't notified of approval ad monies have since been refunded.
- Financial language barriers - applicants don't understand the application process. Many have difficulty understanding what is needed to apply, not sure where to get it, and/or have the time to understand it.
- Agriculture operations - supply chains have faded and resources/help are difficult to find.
- Considering lines of communications that already exist, opposed to creating new ones to reach involved members as they stand.

**Natural Resources Discussion:**

- Outdoor recreation has been advertised as one of the perceived to be safer activities
- High school seniors may be a good resource for park cleanup needs, all while earning their volunteer hours.

**Cultural Resources Discussion:**

- PPP closes March 31, 2021
- Dedicated funding for general operations support needs

**Future Meeting Dates (3rd Tuesday of the month, 11:00am) :**

- March 16, 2021
- April 20, 2021
- May 18, 2021