



Investment in Connecticut communities gives exponential returns

From April 18 – 29, 2011, the Community Investment Act (CIA) coalition celebrated their accomplishments with an exhibit at the Legislative Office Building. Forty “Success Stories” demonstrated the wide-reaching influence and impact of CIA over the past 6 years.

Affordable housing, open space, farmland and historic preservation advocates asserted that CIA had created more than 2000 jobs through 600 projects in 148 Connecticut municipalities. Since its inception, over \$56 million in grants have been awarded using CIA dollars, creating approximately \$100 million of leveraged benefits.

The news was shared at a press conference on April 20, organized by Senate President Pro Tem Don Williams, D-Killingly, who sponsored the original legislation, along with several other legislators.

The Community Investment Act was signed into law in 2005, and is funded by real estate recording fees. It was 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. The legislation was designed to further the goals of protecting and preserving the beauty and unique character of Connecticut for future

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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

The Community Investment Act is a great example of how investment in our communities yields exponential returns

generations. CIA accomplishes this by providing increased funding for:

- Open space
- Agriculture viability, farmland preservation and dairy support
- Preservation of historic sites
- Creation of additional affordable housing programs
- Important municipal capital improvement projects.

Sen. Williams noted the critical importance of affordable housing to the state's economy, not only by creating jobs during its construction, but also through its long-term role in helping Connecticut attract and retain a solid workforce. Ken Johnson of Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA) described how 100-year-old brick "perfect-sixes" in Hartford were rehabilitated with CIA funding, which not only preserved these historic gems, but created affordable housing for lower-income households.

"The Community Investment Act is a great example of how investment in our communities yields exponential returns," said Ron Cretaro, Executive Director of Connecticut Association of Nonprofits. "At a time when every dollar the state spends is scrutinized, CIA demonstrates that those dollars spent can go far beyond the immediate to help build a society that can sustain job growth and a higher quality of life."

Our thanks to Partnership for Strong Communities for their contribution to this story.

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