

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Match Fund

Building Sustainable Communities Across Connecticut




Patronicity





10 MORE YEARS: EXPANDING BSBC'S GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

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The Community Match Fund receives generous support from the [Hampshire Foundation](#), the [Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation](#), the [Connecticut Green Bank](#), and [Supporting Organizing Work - CT](#).





CART IN THE STREETS - FREE HART - ART FOR ALL



TREES FOR SUFFIELD INITIATIVE



IN MY ELEMENT: A PLATFORM FOR CREATIVITY & CONNECTION

About the Community Match Fund

Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund is an innovative crowdgranting program building more sustainable, healthy, and vibrant communities across Connecticut.

The Community Match Fund supports projects that have a free and public benefit, align with the Sustainable CT [action roadmap](#), take place in a Sustainable CT [registered town](#), and are led by individual residents, nonprofits, community groups, municipalities, schools, or libraries. Through this program, local crowdfunding campaigns are matched dollar-for-dollar to help turn community-driven ideas into reality—whether that means creating a pollinator garden, launching a community composting initiative, supporting local arts and culture programming, planting trees, developing biking and walking greenways, or other locally-led sustainability projects.

How It Works

1. Changemakers identify an opportunity for growth or change in their community and meet with the team at Sustainable CT to discuss their project idea.
2. Patronicity administers the Community Match Fund program and provides an easy-to-use crowdfunding platform with one-on-one project coaching, helping communities develop a strategy to reach their fundraising goals and engage their community.
3. Community members buy in and support projects with their dollars. Crowdfunding democratizes access to capital, allowing local residents and organizations to create the change they want to see in their community.
4. If an approved crowdfunding project reaches its goal, the project receives a matching grant from Sustainable CT of up to \$6,000 to further the project's impact in the community.

Unlike traditional funding programs, Sustainable CT's innovative Community Match Fund is focused on decreasing the hurdles community leaders often face when applying for grants. The Community Match Fund has no traditional grant application, no deadlines, no lengthy review period, and minimal reporting requirements. Projects are assessed and approved based on simple and objective eligibility criteria, irrespective of the person or group proposing the project. The program is structured to support and amplify grassroots efforts that strive to transform their community, neighborhood, and town for the better.

Do you have an idea to make your community more equitable, sustainable, and vibrant?

Learn more at sustainablect.org/funding.
Contact funding@sustainablect.org to get started.

Need Inspiration?

Browse all Community Match Fund-supported projects on the [Patronicity program page](#). You can also view a [flipbook of all 2025 projects](#).



Impact by the Numbers

This is a snapshot of Community Match Fund projects from January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025.

Total Matched



\$226,998
2025

\$2,311,273
LIFETIME

Total Crowdfunded



\$249,154
2025

\$2,576,300
LIFETIME

Total Projects



42
2025

391
LIFETIME

Total Patrons



3,232
2025

26,621
LIFETIME

Total Dollars Invested

\$476,152
2025

\$4,887,573
LIFETIME

PROJECT CREATORS BY ENTITY TYPE

60%
Nonprofits

31%
Individuals & Groups

9%
Municipalities

HIGHEST RAISE

The West Hartford Tree Project 2025 had the highest crowdfunding campaign raise of **\$8,760**.

SMALLEST CAMPAIGN GOAL

We Will Not Be Erased: An LGBTQ+ Community Art Show! had the smallest crowdfunding campaign goal of **\$1,927**.

LARGEST NUMBER OF PATRONS

Q Plus Summits had the largest number of patrons with **190** contributing to the campaign's success.

\$5,536

AVERAGE RAISE

\$5,459

AVERAGE GOAL

72

AVERAGE PATRONS

SMALLEST TOWN

Goshen
Population:
3,150

LARGEST CITY

Bridgeport
Population:
148,654

TOTAL COMMUNITIES

26
2025

DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES

145 projects have been located in Connecticut's distressed municipalities as defined by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development from 2018-2025.

LIFETIME





Funding Sustainable Action

The Community Match Fund has three funding focus areas that serve as catalysts for intentional action to address vital issues common across the state:

Environmental Fund
Vibrant Communities Fund
Social Change Amplifier Fund

The Environmental Fund

This fund supports projects that relate to environmental sustainability and/or address climate change. This includes projects related to invasive species removal, pollinator pathways, tree plantings, reducing waste, addressing food waste diversion and composting, community gardens, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing climate resiliency, and more.

Total Matched

\$18,688

2025

Total Crowdfunded

\$19,283

2025

Total Invested

\$37,971

2025

Total Patrons

279

2025

Community Composting at Boulder Knoll Farm

CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

CROWDFUNDED: **\$3,602**

CROWDGRANTING MATCH: **\$3,500**

POPULATION: **28,733**

PATRONS: **78**

Local nonprofit [Friends of Boulder Knoll](#) (FOBK) recognized a problem at the [Boulder Knoll Farm](#) and in Cheshire: the farm's reliance on purchased compost and amendments to ensure soil health, and the town's solid waste crisis, where food waste was being transported over state lines for disposal at the expense of both the taxpayer and the environment. Their solution? Building a community composting system at Boulder Knoll!

Through the localized composting system, composting is incorporated into opportunities for neighborhood gardening. Utilizing food scraps from community gardeners, local businesses, and other neighbors, waste is turned into a valuable soil amendment: compost. The community composting facility also acts as a "living laboratory" where FOBK can educate the community about composting's benefits by sponsoring workshops for students, families, and adults to see and understand nature's interconnected web of growth, decomposition, and regrowth.

Marjorie Chapman, President of the Friends of Boulder Knoll, has previously raised funds through Patronicity and Sustainable CT for her [Contain&Sustain](#) initiative, a zero-waste movement to reduce plastic use and food waste by providing a more sustainable alternative for the community. She returned last year for the [community composting campaign](#), raising \$3,602 and earning a \$3,500 grant from Sustainable CT's [Community Match Fund](#) to build awareness and initiate behavioral change around organic waste disposal and nurturing environmental health.

[Read more about the project at resources.patronicity.com.](https://resources.patronicity.com)



The Vibrant Communities Fund

This fund supports projects that work to create accessible, vibrant, inclusive, and thriving communities. This fund supports projects related to providing accessible transportation, thriving local economies, community sustainability events, arts and culture celebrations, public space improvement projects, and more.

Total Matched

\$152,698
2025

Total Crowdfunded

\$171,137
2025

Total Invested

\$323,835
2025

Total Patrons

2,113
2025

Ellington Farmers Market: Farmers Feeding Families

ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

CROWDFUNDED: **\$7,969**

CROWDGRANTING MATCH: **\$7,500**

POPULATION: **16,426**

PATRONS: **81**

The [Ellington Farmers Market](#) is a nonprofit committed to supporting local agriculture and improving food accessibility in Ellington, Connecticut. To further their vision of providing everyone access to fresh, local food, they created Farmers Feeding Families, a program that allows Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Voucher recipients to double their benefits when purchasing nutritious food from local farmers. This initiative bridges the gap between food insecurity and food access while strengthening the local agricultural community.

For the second year in a row, the Ellington Farmers Market launched a [crowdfunding campaign](#) to raise funds to support the Farmers Feeding Families program, again exceeding their goal and unlocking Sustainable CT's [Community Match Fund](#) grant, ensuring that fresh, local food is accessible to those in need while supporting Connecticut farmers.

Read more about the project at resources.patronicity.com.



Social Change Amplifier Fund

Social Change projects are those led by Black, Latinx, Multiracial, Indigenous, and other People of Color community organizers and organizations. Sustainable CT covers all crowdfunding and credit card processing fees for social change projects, allowing all funds crowdfunded to go directly into the hands of the community organizers. The purpose is to support leaders and communities that are frequently underrepresented in the funding landscape.

Total Matched

\$55,612

2025

Total Crowdfunded

\$58,734

2025

Total Invested

\$114,346

2025

Total Patrons

840

2025

2025 Bridgeport Film Fest

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

CROWDFUNDED: **\$7,394**

CROWDGRANTING MATCH: **\$6,000**

POPULATION: **148,654**

PATRONS: **67**

2025 marks the fifth year of the [Bridgeport Film Fest](#), each year bigger than the last. Presented in partnership with the nonprofit [City Lights/Bridgeport Art Trail](#), the Bridgeport Film Fest showcases the humanities and arts through an exciting lineup of film screenings, hands-on workshops, engaging panel discussions, live music, and the immersive “VR for Good” program, which places audiences inside the experiences of historically marginalized communities.

An idea born during the pandemic, the Bridgeport Film Fest has grown and embodied its goal to discover, champion, and develop independent filmmakers while cultivating engaged audiences. It has welcomed more than 1,600 attendees and showcased over 360 films from more than 20 countries, uniting the Bridgeport community, celebrating diversity, and cementing Bridgeport as a thriving cultural, social, and economic hub.

Since their first campaign with Patronicity in 2021, the Bridgeport Film Fest has crowdfunded \$43,084 from 461 patrons across 5 campaigns, earning an additional \$36,000 in matching dollars from Sustainable CT’s [Community Match Fund](#). This year’s [crowdfunding campaign](#) raised \$1,394 over its goal, allowing the fest to bring in two additional guest speakers.

Read more about the project at resources.patronicity.com.



Community Match Fund

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