



Justin Elicker  
Mayor

**City of New Haven**  
**Office of the Economic Development Administrator**  
**165 Church Street**  
**New Haven, Connecticut 06510**



Michael Piscitelli, AIC  
*Economic Development  
Administrator*

February 24, 2026

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President  
Board of Alders  
City of New Haven  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN, APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND PLANNING GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 TO SUPPORT PLANNING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HBCU EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW HAVEN

Dear President Walker-Myers:

The State of Connecticut is making available over \$800 million to support transformative investments in communities such as New Haven through the Community Investment Fund 2030 (“CIF”). As part of CIF Round 8, the City of New Haven (the “City”) is proposing a planning initiative (the “Project”) that advances educational equity and neighborhood revitalization in partnership with the Connecticut Historically Black College & University Alumni Network, Inc. (the “Alumni Network”), to establish the first Historically Black College and University (“HBCU”) presence in New England, located in New Haven.

These planning efforts build on proposals explored by the New Haven Board of Alders. For example, proposed resolution LM-2024-0502 explored acknowledging and apologizing for the City’s role in opposing the 1831 proposal to establish a Black college in New Haven and explored having the City foster educational opportunity and racial equity as a form of remediation.

As envisioned, the Alumni Network would serve as the lead CIF co-applicant and the recipient of planning funds, supporting stakeholders who want to advance the project through a feasibility study; academic and financial analysis; development of a strategic plan; community and stakeholder engagement; and early academic and campus visioning. In parallel, the effort would support near-term HBCU-focused programming, such as college fairs, campus tours, and student send-offs—that connect Connecticut students to HBCUs. Through a subrecipient pass-through agreement, the City, also a project co-applicant, would lead the RFQ procurement process and coordinate technical partners to ensure the work is high-quality, accountable, and aligned with New Haven’s education–workforce partnership experience.

The Project responds directly to these conditions by strengthening local talent pipelines into high-wage fields—such as bioscience, quantum, health care, advanced manufacturing, computing, and climate-related industries—through a potential HBCU presence in New Haven that is grounded in community input and

aligned with employer demand. Planning funds will allow the City and the Alumni Network to assess market demand, identify degree and credential pathways, outline governance and affordability models, and convene students, families, educators, employers, and neighborhood leaders to shape a shared academic and campus vision.

Thank you for your consideration of this CIF Round 8 request. The City of New Haven and its partners stand ready to work with the State to deliver planning outcomes that can support transformative, equitable investment in our educational ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, consisting of the letters 'MPL' in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Michael Piscitelli, AICP

Economic Development Administrator