

Executive Summary

Grant Name: CEN Community Wi-Fi Grant Program

Department: Finance – Information Technology

Date: October 27, 2025

Funding Request: \$131,000 (Project period: October 27, 2025 – June 23, 2026)

Purpose of the Grant: This funding will be used to expand and enhance community WiFi access across areas of New Haven. The initiative is designed to bridge the digital divide by providing reliable internet access in the City, supporting: Remote learning, Workforce development, Access to essential online services, etc

Use of Funds: The \$131,000 grant will be allocated toward the New Haven City Green Wi-Fi Project.

Program Context: This award is part of the \$10 million Community WiFi Grant Program, administered by CET and supported by CEN, with oversight responsibilities and active sub-awardee management requirements. The program prioritizes underserved communities and encourages cross-sector collaboration.

Impact: This investment will directly benefit residents who currently lack affordable and reliable internet access. It aligns with the City's broader goals of digital equity and inclusion, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring all residents can fully participate in the digital economy.

Urgency: Given the immediate need for expanded internet access and the availability of grant funding, we request unanimous consent to proceed with implementation as soon as possible. The deadline to accept the grant is Friday, October 31, 2025.