

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **US Environmental Protection Agency Community Change Grant**

New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability

June 26, 2024

Funding request: \$20,000,000.00 for three years

The City of New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability will partner with Greater Dwight Development Corporation and neighborhood development nonprofits to implement an innovative, holistic strategy for building community strength and resilience capacity. This strategy was designed through a collaborative proposal design process involving workshops with residents, nonprofit organizations, and businesses that are working to address environmental issues while meeting immediate community needs. This process identified a set of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that build on the many current efforts in New Haven, and produced a plan for the proposal that would alleviate energy burden, air pollution, extreme heat, and pollution of Long Island Sound while expanding composting and recycling, stormwater diversion infrastructure, community gardens/greenspaces, and safe routes for zero-emission travel by bicycle and by foot. Projects funded through this plan will involve rigorous community engagement in their design and execution and will create pathways for community residents to enter green careers.

The communities of focus in this project are those that are designated as “disadvantaged” according to the EPA’s Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map, which include the West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Edgewood, West River, Long Wharf, Fair Haven, Annex, Fair Haven Heights, and Quinnipiac Meadows neighborhoods. The strategies named in this plan will strengthen these neighborhoods and build capacity of neighborhood organizations, while improving the lives of residents across New Haven and providing them with job opportunities, and result in a healthier, cleaner, and greener city.