

Summary of Fiscal Year 2024 K12 Congressionally Funded Community Project Application
ED_GRANTS 041224-001, BioCity Academy, New Haven, Connecticut

General description of the project. The City of New Haven, in partnership with New Haven Public Schools, is seeking \$1.5 million in federal support for a new BioCity Academy and related dual enrollment academic pathways in the biosciences. BioCity is aimed to provide high level academic support in a best-in-class industry setting beginning with experiential programs in the early high school years. The program will be based at bioscience incubator and co-work facility within 101 College Street, a new 500,000 s.f. med/lab building now under construction. Supported by a dual enrollment agreement with Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), BioCity is intended to elevate the academic performance of New Haven residents as they develop the hard- and soft-skills necessary to work in highly-competitive scientific environments.

What are the benefits of this project and why is it a priority? As part of a statewide effort to develop talent across the spectrum of careers in the biosciences, BioCity is specifically aimed at developing a high-quality degree program with academic supports geared to New Haven Public School students. Forecast economic growth in this bioscience sector is significant. Connecticut ranks #2 in patent activity and #4 in venture capital. The new BioCity Academy will be located within the largest concentration of this bioscience activity anywhere in Connecticut, providing students with an opportunity for an immersive educational experience and a sense of belonging in a sector of national significance. This project is a priority for inclusive growth, both for industry and the community. There are approximately 19,500 NHPS students, of which 85% identify as Black or Hispanic and 69% are eligible for free or reduced lunch as a measure of economic stability. The BioCity Academy is one of four new science pathways designed to meet the goals set forth in the NHPS Strategic Plan, which sets forth equitable opportunities, continuous improvement, high expectations and collaboration as core values. For this project, the collaborations with local colleges ensure a strong connection to existing programs with proven industry relationships. The BioPath program at SCSU has placed over 50 students in internships or full-time employment over the past two academic years alone. A bioscience industry partnership led by the Governor's Workforce Council has prioritized workforce development as one of the core strategies needed to grow the economic base over time. The BioCity Academy provides a key pathway for New Haven residents to access meaningful career opportunities in the biosciences.

Who are the Project Partners: The BioCity Academy is a partnership led by the City of New Haven and New Haven Public Schools and the BioPath program at SCSU. Gateway Community College is also a program partner, providing a pathway to a two-year degree or, via agreement, transfer to the four-year degree programs at SCSU. The program emerged from the landmark "Together, we Grow" community benefits included with the 101 College Street Development Agreement. This Agreement includes a new scholarship program specifically geared to residents in the neighborhoods surrounding the new building as well as construction workforce and small business opportunities intended to restore a community deeply impacted by urban renewal-era displacement. The developer of 101 College Street, Winstanley Enterprises, as well as an anchor tenant, BioLabs are key partners for the BioCity Academy. BioLabs will host the classroom and provide access to cutting-edge technology. Students will have access to the incubator's common

spaces wet labs, providing opportunities to engage industry professionals in both formal and informal settings.

Amount requested and the total project cost. The initial application in 2023 requested \$1.5 million to support the first two academic years of the program and a minimum match of \$500,000. The application will be updated to reflect sources, uses and non-federal contribution at time of technical application.