

# WestCOG & Economic Development

A Presentation to the CT Commission for Economic Competitiveness

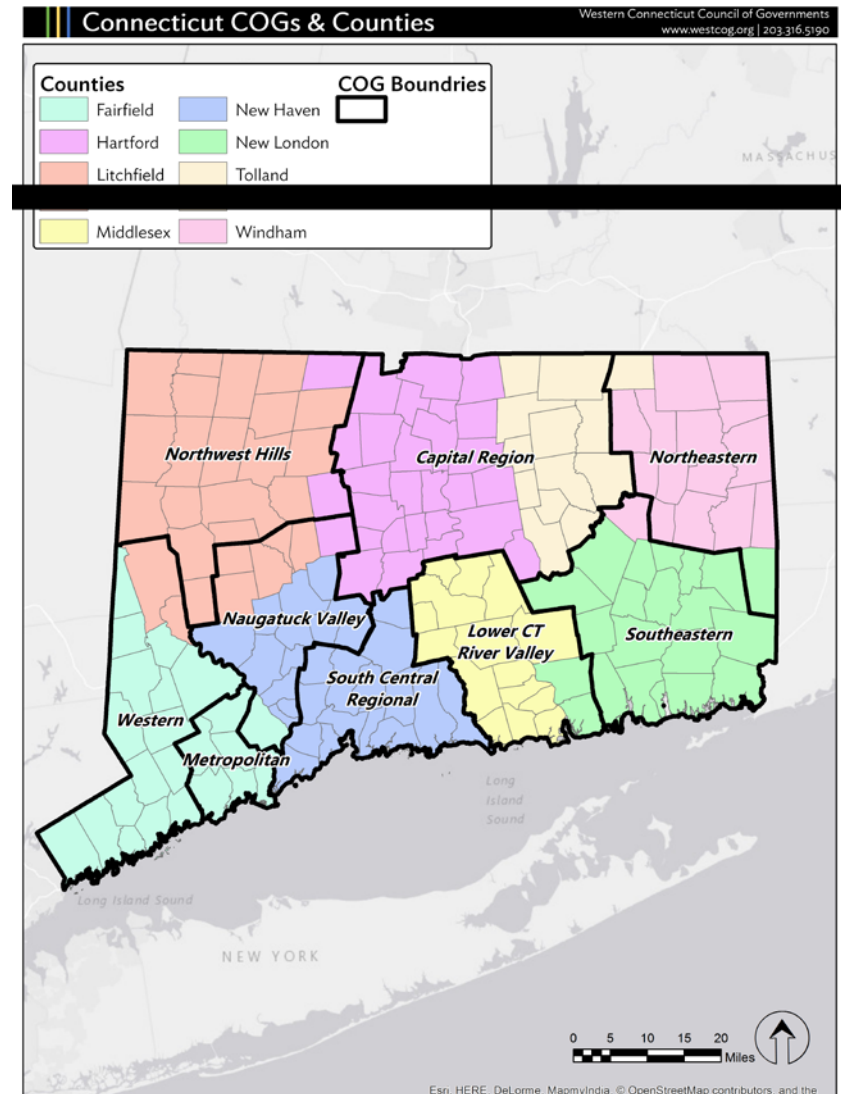
Francis Pickering & Elizabeth Esposito

September 27, 2016



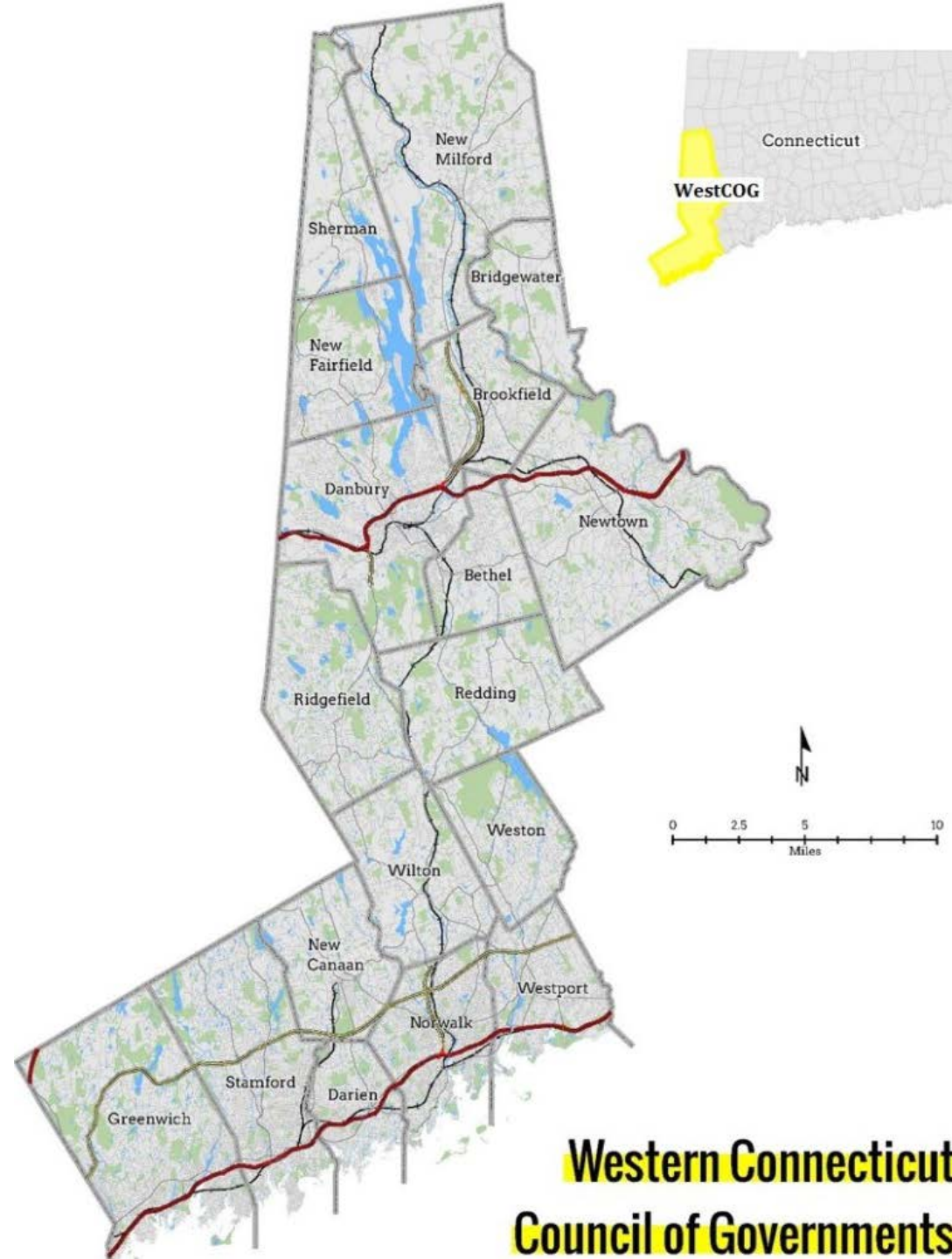
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# WestCOG

- Formed in Jan. 2015
- Merger of South Western Regional Planning Agency & Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
- 18 municipalities in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties
- Population: 600,080
- No active CEDS



Bethel  
Bridgewater  
Brookfield  
Danbury  
Darien  
Greenwich  
New Canaan  
New Fairfield  
New Milford  
Newtown  
Redding  
Ridgefield  
Sherman  
Stamford  
Weston  
Westport  
Wilton

**Western Connecticut  
Council of Governments**



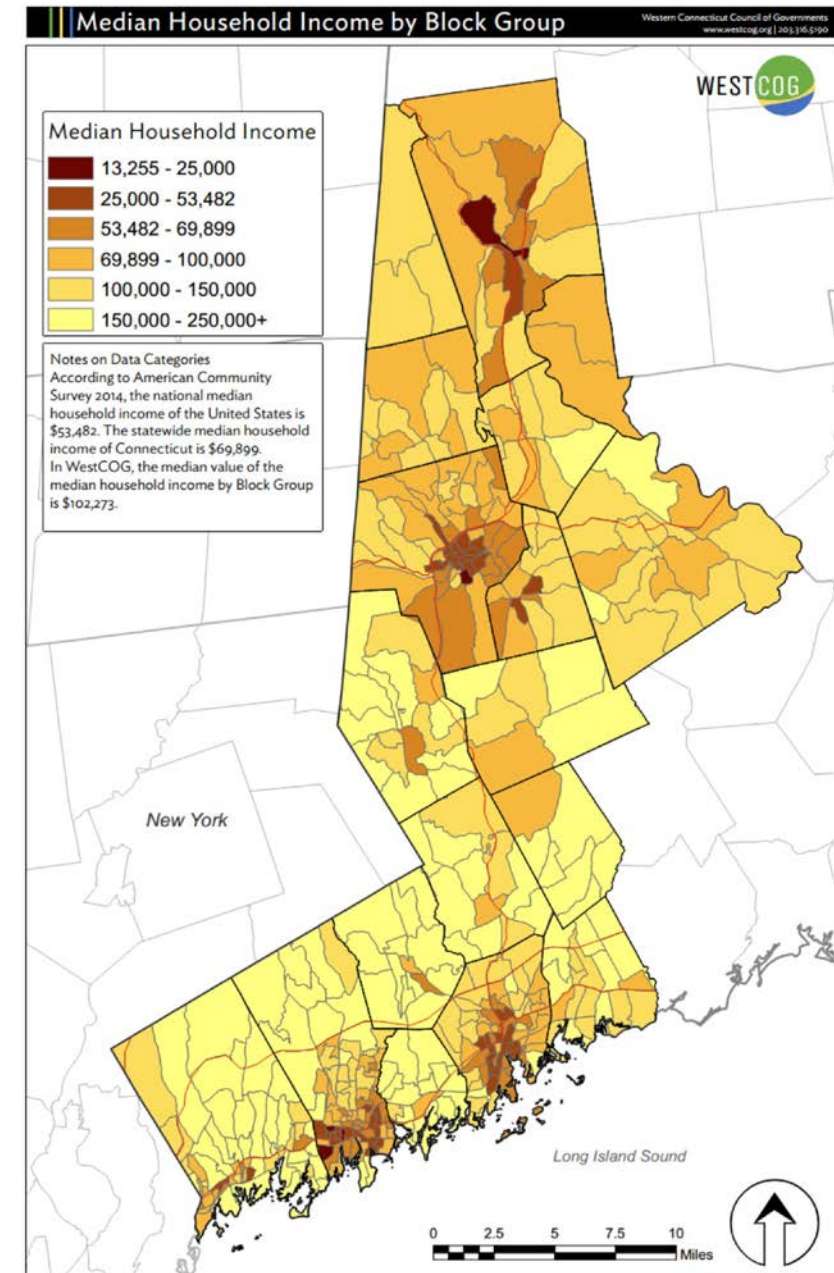
# Leader in Population Growth

## Comparative Population Growth by Region

Region	2010	2014	Absolute Change	Percent Change
WestCOG	589,135	600,080	10,945	1.9%
Fairfield County	916,829	934,215	17,386	1.9%
Litchfield County	189,927	187,542	-2,385	-1.3%
New Haven County	862,477	863,148	671	0.1%
New York County	1,585,873	1,618,398	32,525	2.1%
Westchester County	949,113	962,319	13,206	1.4%
Connecticut	3,574,097	3,592,053	17,956	0.5%

# High Income

Municipality	Median Household Income
Danbury	\$65,981
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>\$69,899</b>
Norwalk	\$76,051
Stamford	\$77,221
New Milford	\$79,028
<b>Fairfield County</b>	<b>\$83,163</b>
Bethel	\$85,377
Bridgewater	\$93,750
New Fairfield	\$101,750
Brookfield	\$106,920
Newtown	\$108,667
Sherman	\$115,442
Redding	\$121,667
Greenwich	\$135,258
Ridgefield	\$147,936
Westport	\$151,771
Wilton	\$175,019
New Canaan	\$179,810
Darien	\$199,444
Weston	\$208,078

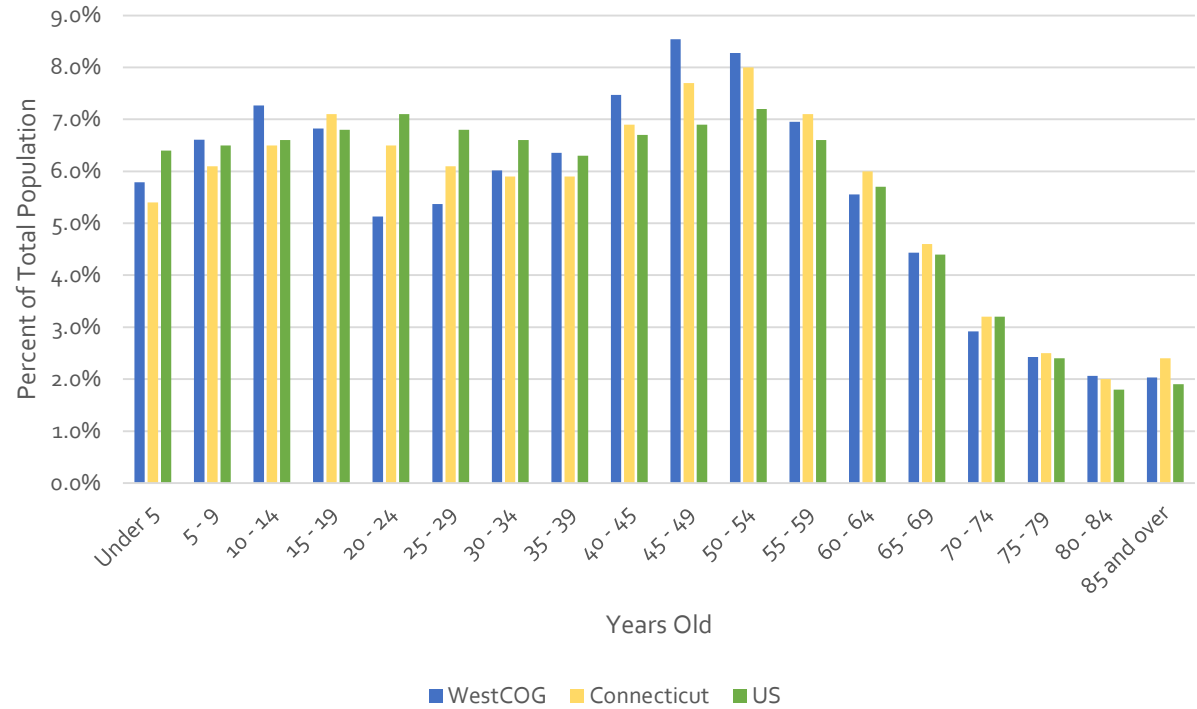


# High Home Values

Municipality	Value in 2000**	Value in 2014	Change 2000 to 2014	% Change 2000 to 2014
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$164,422</b>	<b>\$175,700</b>	<b>\$11,278</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>\$229,449</b>	<b>\$274,500</b>	<b>\$45,051</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
Danbury	\$256,395	\$295,600	\$39,205	15.3%
New Milford	\$254,195	\$302,000	\$47,805	18.8%
Bethel	\$301,350	\$337,000	\$35,650	11.8%
New Fairfield	\$315,235	\$358,600	\$43,365	13.8%
Brookfield	\$341,906	\$365,700	\$23,794	7.0%
Norwalk	\$371,326	\$406,600	\$35,274	9.5%
Newtown	\$358,678	\$417,100	\$58,422	16.3%
Sherman	\$356,753	\$488,400	\$131,647	36.9%
Bridgewater	\$385,349	\$498,800	\$113,451	29.4%
Stamford	\$498,080	\$506,000	\$7,920	1.6%
Redding	\$541,248	\$618,900	\$77,652	14.3%
Ridgefield	\$603,525	\$681,700	\$78,175	13.0%
Wilton	\$771,385	\$809,500	\$38,115	4.9%
Weston	\$871,468	\$863,200	-\$8,268	-0.9%
Westport*	\$860,333	>\$1 million	NA	
Darien*	\$977,463	>\$1 million	NA	
Greenwich*	\$1,074,385	>\$1 million	NA	
New Canaan*	\$1,142,436	>\$1 million	NA	

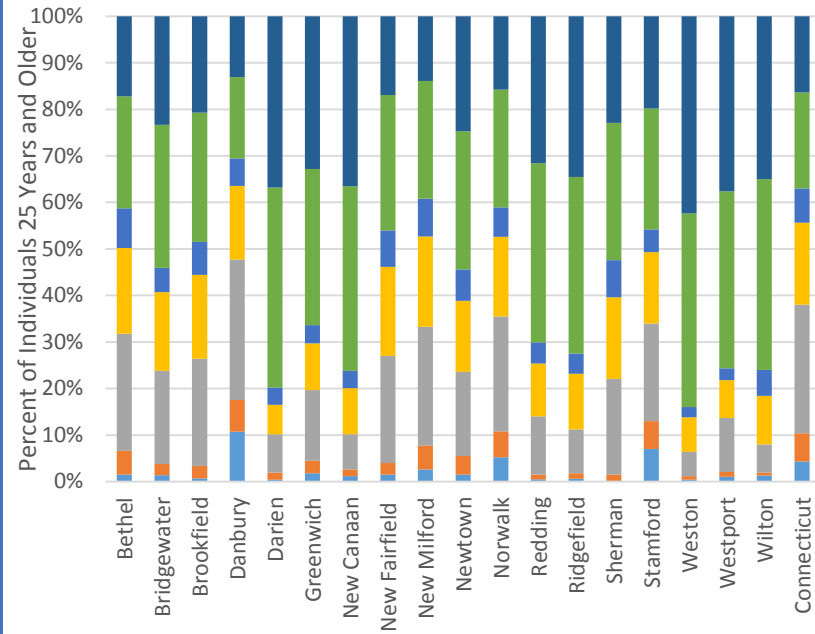
# Age Distribution

Municipality/ State	Median Age (Years)
Stamford	36.0
Danbury	36.8
Darien	39.1
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>40.3</b>
Norwalk	40.8
New Milford	42.0
Greenwich	42.1
Wilton	42.2
Bethel	42.3
New Canaan	42.7
Weston	43.3
Ridgefield	43.4
Newtown	43.8
New Fairfield	43.9
Brookfield	44.6
Westport	45.3
Sherman	48.2
Redding	48.8
Bridgewater	52.3

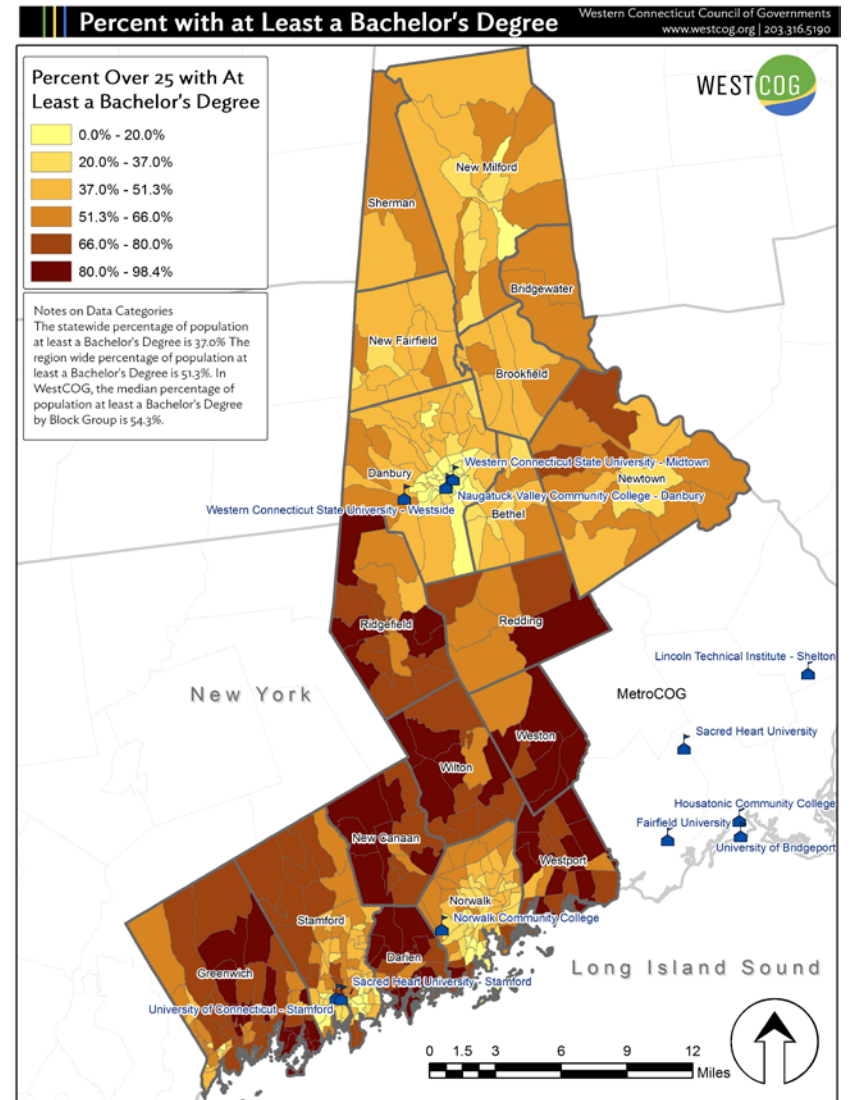




# Highly Educated



- Graduate or professional degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Some college, no degree
- High school graduate (includes equivalency)
- 9th to 12th grade, no diploma
- Less than 9th grade



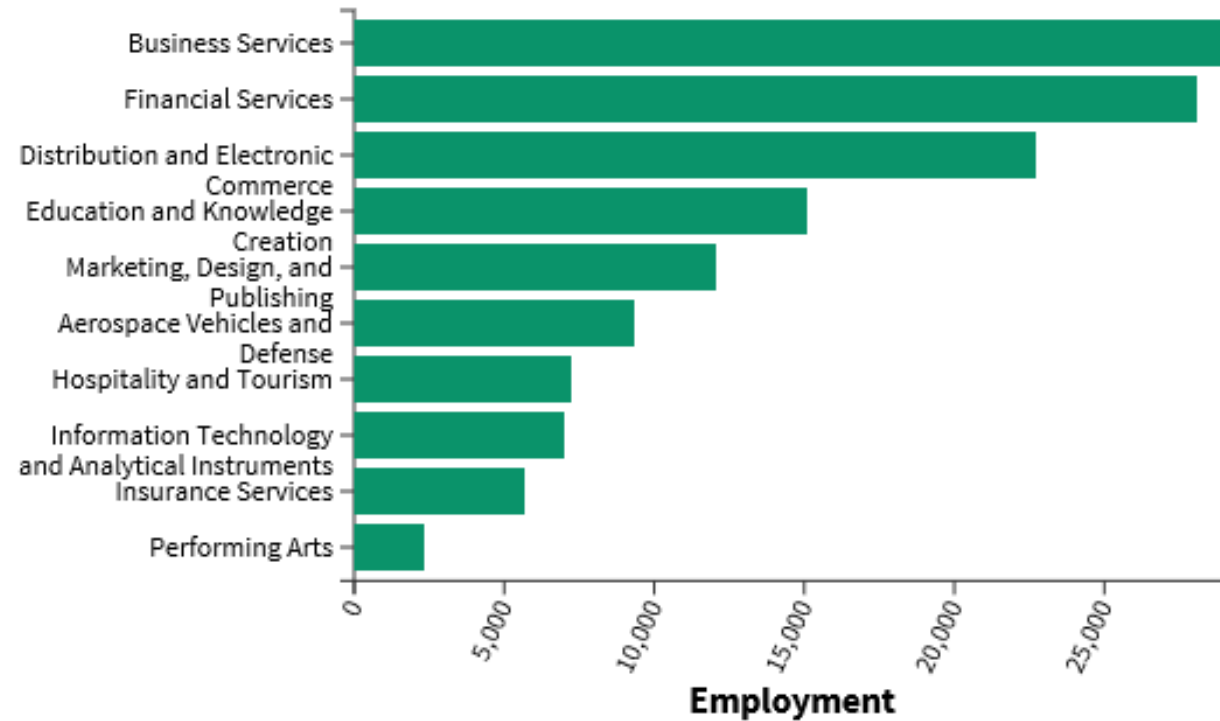


# Fairfield County's Top 5 Industries

Rank	Number of Jobs	Number of Establishments	Annual Payroll
1.	Health care and social assistance	Professional, scientific, and technical services	Finance and insurance
2.	Retail trade	Retail trade	Professional, scientific, and technical services
3.	Finance and insurance	Health care and social assistance	Health care and social assistance
4.	Professional, scientific, and technical services	Other services	Wholesale trade
5.	Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	Finance and insurance	Manufacturing

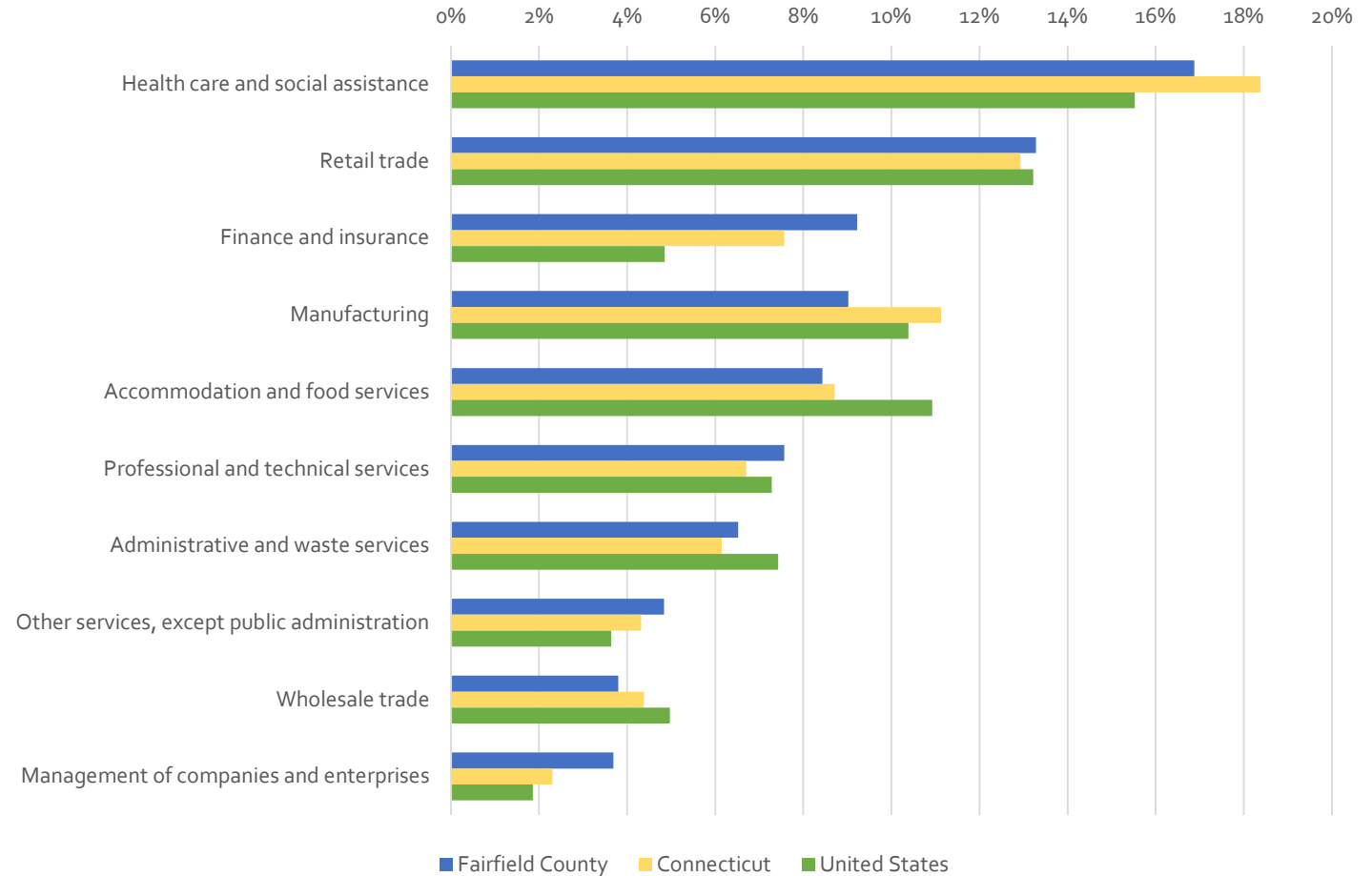
# Top Industry Clusters in Fairfield County

by Employment



# Top 10 Largest Employment Industry Sectors

In Fairfield County, by Share



# Top Industry Clusters in Fairfield County

Cluster	National Rank	Employment (2014)	Percent of County Employment (Total = 408,854 jobs)
Financial Services	8	28,113	6.9%
Aerospace Vehicles and Defense	10	9,320	2.3%
Video Production and Distribution	15	924	0.2%
Marketing Design and Publishing	18	12,050	3%
Performing Arts	33	2,350	0.6%
Education and Knowledge Creation	44	15,102	3.7%
Medical Devices	49	1,138	0.3%
Total of these clusters	NA	67,859	16.6%

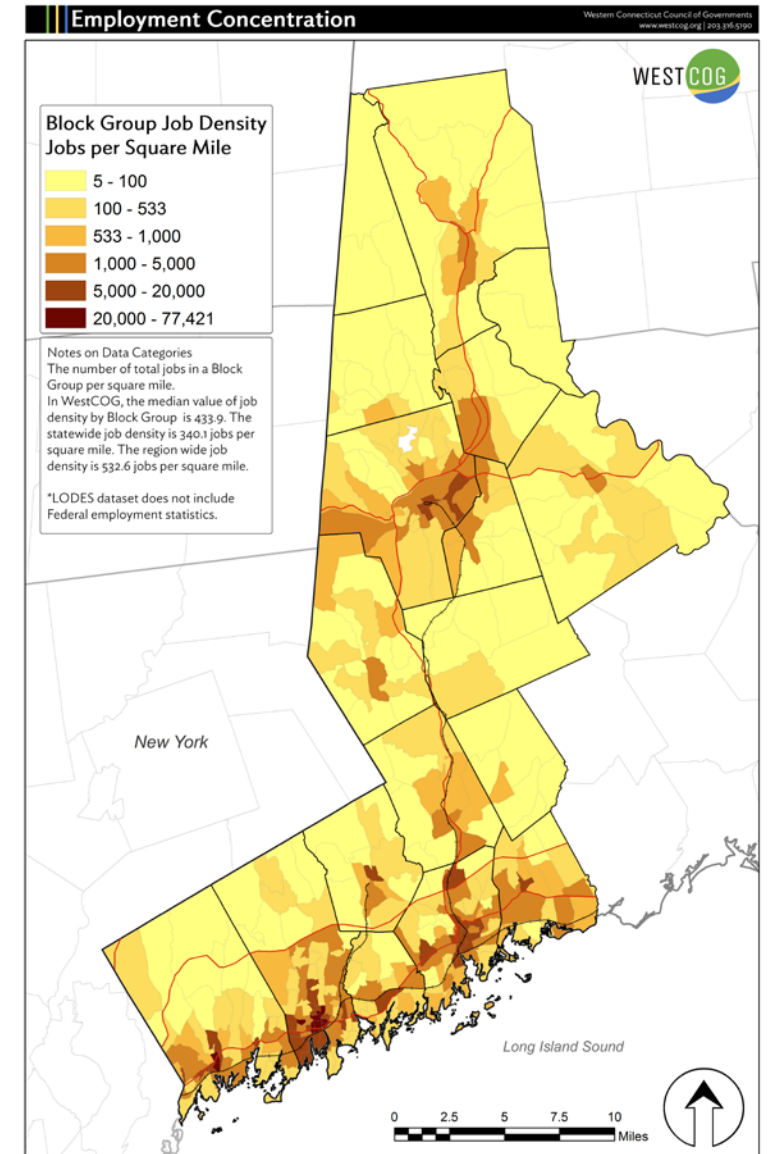
# Transportation & Economic Development

## Where Residents Work

Area	Count	Share
Stamford	37,861	15.6%
New York City	24,404	10.0%
Danbury	22,874	9.4%
Norwalk	20,758	8.5%
Greenwich	8,253	3.4%
Westport	5,977	2.5%
Darien	4,613	1.9%
Bridgeport	4,187	1.7%
Ridgefield	3,243	1.3%
Hartford	2,711	1.1%
All Other Locations	108,216	44.5%
All Workers	243,097	100.0%

## Where Employees Live

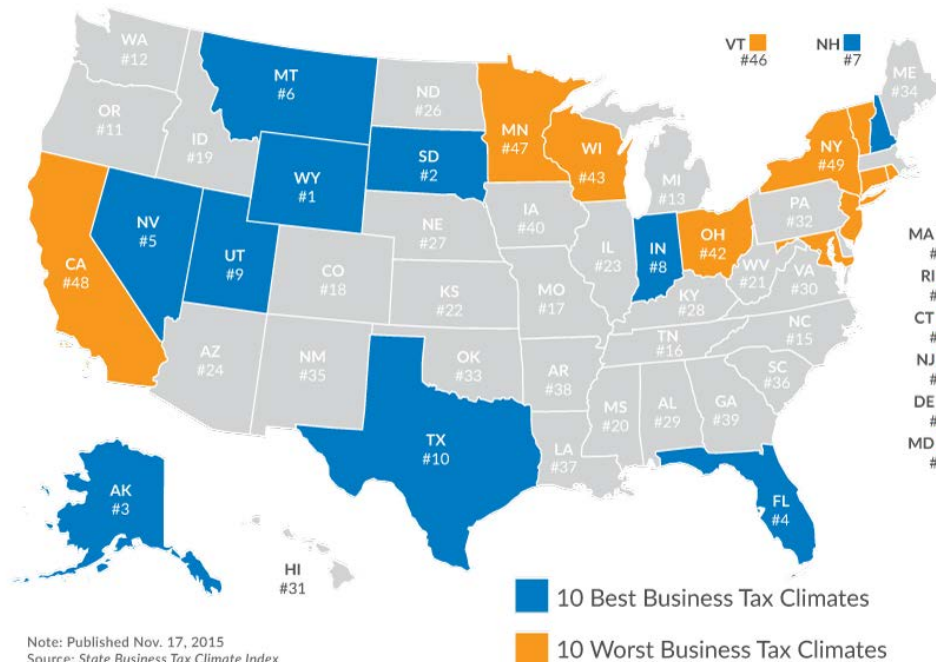
Area	Count	Share
Stamford	33,652	12.6%
Norwalk	24,787	9.3%
Danbury	21,032	7.9%
Bridgeport	10,018	3.8%
New York City	9,526	3.6%
Stratford	5,037	1.9%
Trumbull	4,639	1.7%
Westport	4,298	1.6%
Darien	3,563	1.3%
Shelton	3,359	1.3%
All Other Locations	147,031	55.1%
Total Primary Jobs	266,942	100.0%



# Regional & State Advantages & Disadvantages

- Location within the New York/ New England Metro Area
- Less Red Tape on Large Projects (Less Government)
  - Faster
  - Lower Cost
- Home Rule Creates Engaged Citizenry & Responsive Government
  - Can experiment with best practices
  - Opportunity to be agile & innovative

2016 State Business Tax Climate Index



CT is...

- #44 Business Tax Climate
- #33 Corporate Taxes
- #36 Income Tax
- #29 Sales Tax
- #50 Unemployment Insurance Tax
- #20 Unemployment Insurance Tax
- #49 Property Tax

Note: Published Nov. 17, 2015  
Source: State Business Tax Climate Index

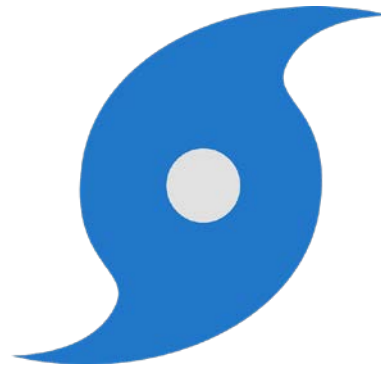


# Anticipated Goals of the CEDS

- Improve Transportation Network
  - Main & Branch Rail Lines
  - Airport Connections
  - Complete Streets
- Improve Small Business Climate
- Improve Perception of CT and the Region
- Improve Digital Infrastructure
- Diversify Economy
- Reduce Cost of Living & Diversify Housing Market
- Grow Research Institutions & Start-up Culture
- Advocate for Municipal Revenue Other Than Property Tax

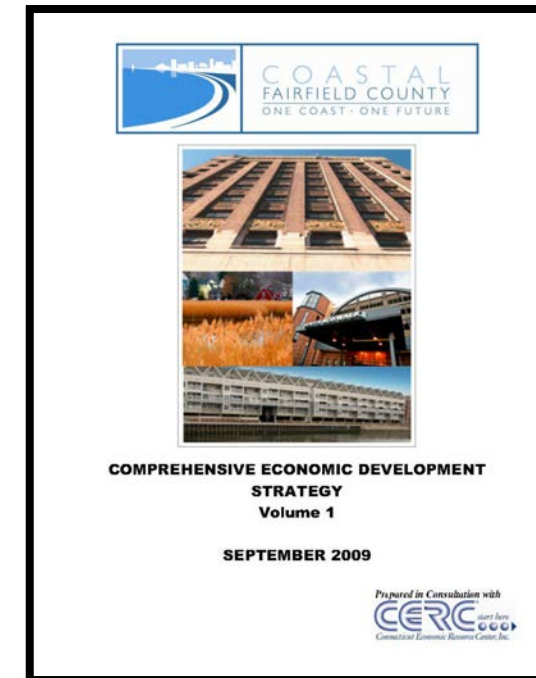
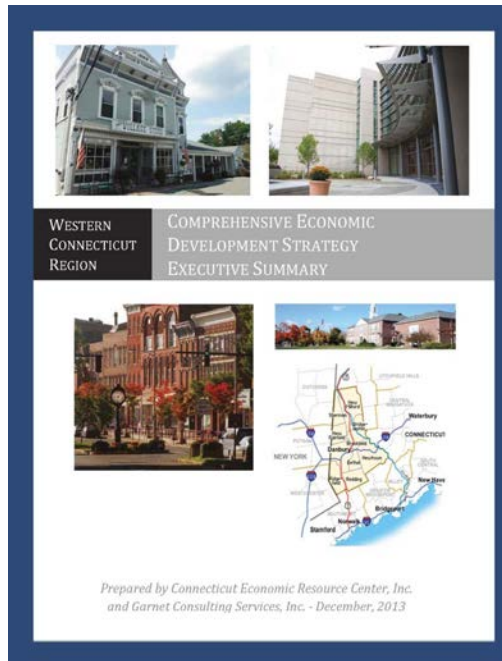
# WestCOG's Role in CEDS

- Taking on role of preceding agencies
- WestCOG's work is the confluence of many disciplines which impact economic development
  - Transportation
  - Hazard Mitigation
  - Regional Services
  - Land Use & Mapping



# CEDS Background

- Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials wrote a CEDS in 2013 just before mandated merger.
  - Never approved or denied by the EDA because of changed boundaries
- The Stamford and Bridgeport Chambers of Commerce wrote a CEDS with former RPAs for that area in 2009.
  - Never updated and has expired
  - Resulted in a State designated EDD in 2011 but it never met



# CEDS Status

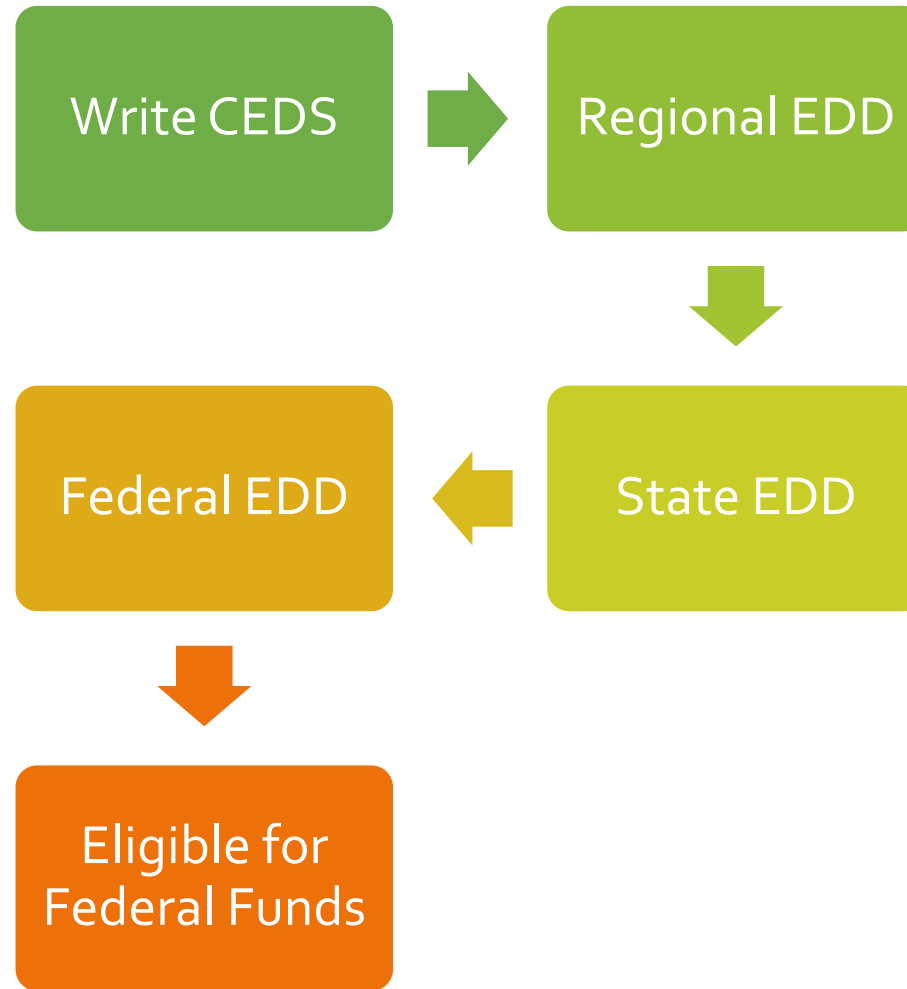
- WestCOG applied for EDA funding in August 2015 to complete a CEDS
- No decision on the application was made as a result of HB 6259 & inactive EDD
- WestCOG began the CEDS process in May 2016 without funding assistance
- Regional Analysis is pending review
- Strength and Weakness Assessment is eminent

# What is HB 6259?

- Mandates that EDD Boundaries must match COG Boundaries
- WestCOG supports the bill but no pathway was provided to achieve this
- EDD process has now become unnecessarily long
- Blocks the region from applying for federal funding for several years

# Result of HB 6259

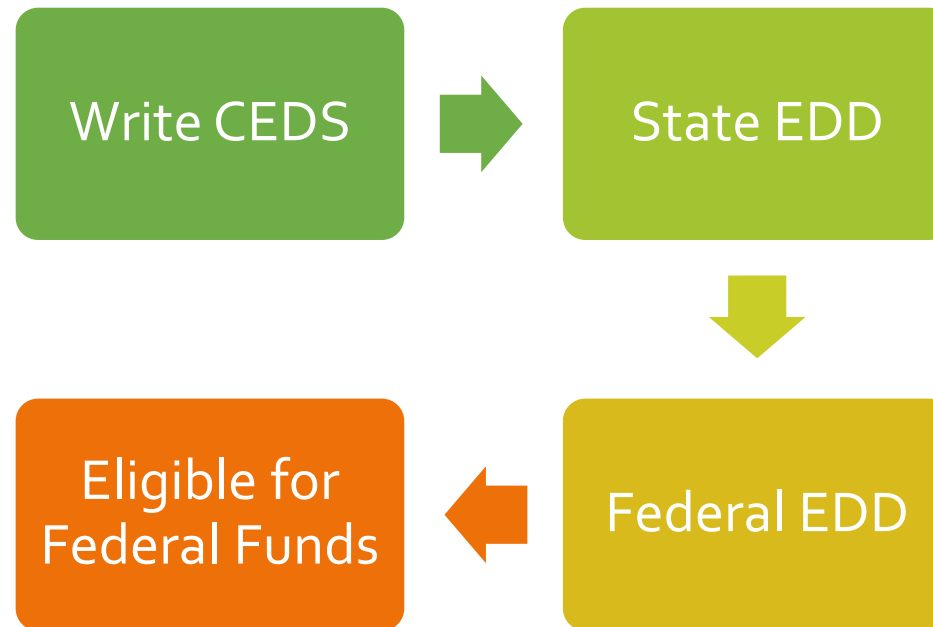
WestCOG is years  
away from being  
eligible for federal  
funds





# Possible Revisions to HB6259

- Legislative Fixes:
  - Special Act designating the COGs as automatic EDDs
  - Eliminating Regional EDDs from the requirements for State designation



# Thank you

Francis Pickering

Executive Director

[fpickering@westcog.org](mailto:fpickering@westcog.org)

Elizabeth Esposito

Associate Planner

[eesposito@westcog.org](mailto:eesposito@westcog.org)

