



**David Lehman**  
Commissioner

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND  
BONDING COMMITTEE***

*March 11, 2022*

*David Lehman, Commissioner  
Department of Economic and Community Development*

*Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Adjustments*

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Good afternoon, Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is David Lehman, and I am commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you concerning Governor Lamont's proposed FY 2023 budget adjustments for economic and community development.

Our mission at DECD is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting Connecticut's arts, cultural, and tourism assets.

Over the past year, our department has been busy implementing the various new and existing programs funding through the FY 22-23 budget. This includes **legacy programs**, such as our Brownfield Remediation and Revitalization program, the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation fund, and our various arts, culture, and tourism programs and grants, as well as **new programs**, such as the Innovation Corridor and CT Communities Challenge programs, the new and improved Small Business Express program, standing up the Social Equity Council as well as the Community Investment Fund 2030, and various Covid-related grant programs.

The Governor's FY 2023 budget adjustments maintain funding levels for our core programs that are funded through bonding. We are confident that the Governor's proposed budget adjustments will provide DECD with the necessary and sufficient funds to carry out our mission, and to fund some of DECD's most important programs.

I respectfully request the committee's support and thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.