



David Lehman
Commissioner

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

April 13, 2021

*David Lehman, Commissioner and Governor’s Senior Economic Advisor
Department of Economic and Community Development*

Fiscal Year 2021 Deficiency Appropriations

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and members of the Appropriations 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 2021 deficiency bill 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.

AGENCY SUMMARY

Department of Economic and Community Development	FY 20 Actual	FY 21 Estimated	FY 21 Recommended Deficiency Appropriations
Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA)	\$6,249,121	\$16,749,121	\$10,500,000

The Governor’s FY 2021 deficiency budget includes \$10.5 million to cover a COVID-related shortfall in the Capital Region Development Authority’s (CRDA) operating budget. The pandemic shut down many of the revenue generating activities that CRDA relies upon, necessitating this supplemental appropriation. We are confident that the Governor’s proposed deficiency budget will provide CRDA with the necessary funds to carry out their mission, and we respectfully request the committee’s support.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.