

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue
P.O. Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06856

TO: MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: JOHN KYDES, CHAIRMAN
DATE: JANUARY 28, 2021
RE: MEETING NOTICE

The next scheduled meeting of the Planning Committee of the Common Council will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00pm. To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Maritza Alvarado at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2021
6:00PM**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

I. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Community Development Block Grant
 - 1. Review and Presentation of CDBG Applications.
- b. Overview of the Solar for All Program.

III. OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Tom Keegan, Tom Livingston, Lisa Shanahan, Barbara Smyth, George Tsiranidis, Darlene Young (7:21 p.m.)

OTHERS: Sabrina Church, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Community Development Planner; Jessica Casey, Norwalk Community and Economic Development Chief; Steven Kleppin, Planning and Zoning Director; Brian Bidolli, Norwalk Redevelopment Executive Director; Steve Ivan

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the roll. A quorum was present.

Public Hearing on the draft PY45 (FY19) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

There was no one who had signed up to speak.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one who wished to address the Committee at this time.

I. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approval of the Minutes of the December 3, 2020 Meeting.

**** MR. TSIRANIDIS MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2020 MEETING.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2020 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Zoning Regulations Update

1. Forward to the Common Council for its approval, the authorization of the

Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement with TPUDC to update the Zoning Regulations in an amount not to exceed \$190,040.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Kleppin explained that during the work on the City wide Plan, there were recommendations made that the Zoning Regulations be totally updated. Over the years, the Zoning Regulations have been updated piecemeal, but it is time for a comprehensive overhaul. He added that they will be working on linking the Regulations to the City's Mapping GIS database.

Mr. Kleppin said that TPUDC had been chosen because they had a strong community outreach and the references stated that the company had worked out well.

Mr. Kydes asked what role the Zoning Commission would have. Mr. Kleppin said that the Zoning Commission would be taking the lead on the project and would act as the "client" for TPUDC.

Mr. Livingston asked about how this would impact recent zoning changes Mr. Kleppin had worked on. Mr. Kleppin explained that TPUDC would not be working in a vacuum and they were aware of the recent changes. The recent changes were done within the existing regulations and any updates would be done would consider the overall consideration. There will be changes to the Zoning Map and the Planning Commission has to make a finding that the new changes will be consistent with the Master Plan. Mr. Kleppin said that he would update the Committee on significant changes.

Mr. Kydes said that he would like to have a red line copy when they are finished. Mr. Kleppin said that his goal was to reduce the overall regulations by 100 pages.

Ms. Shanahan said that she would like to be notified when there are changes to her District. Mr. Kleppin said that they would consider implementing that.

Mr. Kydes asked what kind of timeline would be used. Mr. Kleppin said that they were probably about six months away from first changes being submitted.

**** THE MOTION TO FORWARD TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ITS APPROVAL, THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TPUDC TO UPDATE THE ZONING REGULATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$190,040 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Community Development Block Grant

1. Advance the PY45 CAPER to the Common Council for its approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute all forwarding documentation required by HUD.

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Bidolli said that this was an administrative item and the CAPER is a type of report card that lists how many individuals were served and what projects were handled. Over 3,000 individuals were assisted. This request is for the authorization from the Committee and the Council before the CAPER is sent to HUD.

Mr. Livingston noted that this was the last year of the five year plan. Mr. Bidolli confirmed that it was.

Mr. Livingston asked if they had met their goals. Mr. Bidolli said that they had met all the goals they had listed.

Mr. Kydes said that he had seen the upcoming Council Agenda and this item was not included. Mr. Bidolli said that they would be submitting it for the second Council meeting of the month.

**** THE MOTION TO ADVANCE THE PY45 CAPER TO THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR ITS APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL FORWARDING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY HUD PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Young said for the record that she had another committee meeting right before Planning and this was why she had been late.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City Of Norwalk
Planning Committee of the Common Council
Regular Meeting
January 7, 2021

TO: MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: CARLY KRAMER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
DATE: JANUARY 28, 2021
RE: PY47 CDBG APPLICATIONS

ANTICIPATED FUNDING AVAILABLE AND REQUESTED FUNDING

The anticipated funds are based upon HUD's funding category caps and an estimate of what will be allocated to the City of Norwalk by HUD. It is subject to change based on future federal budget decisions. The following is a breakdown of what is anticipated to be available and what is actually requested by Program Year 47 (2021-2022) applicants.

Funding Category	Anticipated Funds	Funds Requested	# of Applications
Public Service activities	\$162,64	\$320,000	9
Public Facility & Housing activities	\$704,779	\$580,904	6
Planning & Administration activities	\$216,855	\$216,855	1
Totals	\$1,084,275	\$1,117,759	16

SUMMARY OF SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS

A total of 16 applications were submitted for the PY47 CDBG program. Applications were received from 13 organizations, 3 of which did not receive CDBG funding in PY46 or either round of CARES Act. Accompanying this memo is a summary spreadsheet of the applications.

AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

On January 28, 2021, submitted applications were posted on the City's website: <http://www.norwalkct.org/1412/Community-Development-Block-Grant>.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND THE REVIEW PROCESS

Agency staff will work with Corporation Counsel and HUD to secure waivers for the affected Council member and organization if there is indeed a conflict.

APPLICATION PRESENTATIONS

At the Planning Committee meeting on February 4, 2021, organizations submitting an application are invited to make a brief, three minute presentation to the Planning Committee during the public meeting portion of the Planning Committee meeting.

Organizations are asked to present in the following order.

Carver Center
Chosen Few Entertainment – LIFT Foundation
Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Homefront
Keystone House
Liberations Program
Malta House
Mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center
Open Door Shelter
Person to Person

Supportive Housing Works
YBI Inc
NRA CDBG Admin
NRA City Neighborhoods

KEY DATES

- March 4, 2021 – Planning Committee meeting – The Committee is asked to recommend PY47 CDBG applications for funding
- April 1, 2021 – Public Hearing – Planning Committee holds a Public Hearing on Draft Annual Action Plan
- May 6, 2021 – Planning Committee meeting – The Committee is asked to forward the draft PY47 Annual Action Plan to the Common Council for approval
- May 11, 2021 – Common Council meeting – The Council is asked to approve the draft PY47 Annual Action Plan for submission to HUD

NO ACTION IS REQUESTED AT THIS TIME.

Attachments

PY47 Applicant Summary Sheet

Links

<https://www.norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/21482/COMBINED-APPLICATIONS-PY47> is a direct link to the combined application package available online at the above listed web address.

PY47 CDBG Application Summaries (as submitted)

PUBLIC SERVICES

Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Bilingual Family Counselor	\$50,000
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Domestic Violence Crisis Center requests funding for a full-time, bilingual/bicultural family counselor to serve our spanish-speaking adult community clients, their children, and the residents of our Norwalk safe house. Language and cultural differences can impose barriers to domestic violence victims seeking help and connecting with victims services. The addition of a bilingual/bicultural family counselor would allow us to offer the same level of free, confidential services to our spanish-speaking clients as we currently offer to our English-speaking clients.

Liberation Programs	Childcare Coordinator for the Families in Recovery Program (FIRP)	\$27,500
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FIRP Recoverees spend at least 20 hours weekly in counseling, family therapy, group sessions, or other treatment settings. Without the Childcare Coordinator's services, mothers would have their children with them during these sessions leading to a split focus between children and recovery. The coordinator is responsible for creating engaging programming for FIRP's children in order to provide more enriching program hours for FIRP's kids, which allows mothers to focus more on treatment during their sessions.

L.I.F.T Foundation	Youth Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Program	\$20,000
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This is a STEAM Program to introduce youth to Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math, as it relates to music, art, coding, video production and podcasting. The LIFT Program focuses on inner-city, urban Norwalk Youth, addressing current issues our youth encounter and producing Public Service Announcements in relation to issues at hand. These impact the youth immediately, and countless others, and we will continue to assist high school students to prepare for college with applications, financial aid, essays and digital portfolios.

Malta House	Residential & Partnering Success Programs	\$50,000
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Pregnant mothers begin their journey with MH through our residential Program. While in the program, mothers receive supportive case management, food supplementation, baby supplies, job training and education, as well as access to on-site, no-cost childcare. As our mothers have received little to no prior mother mentoring, our programs model behaviors to help them raise their children. Our Partnering Success Program provides services to mothers post-residency through our Case Managers. Mothers receive ongoing support for the continuing issues that face low-income, single mothers which may include housing assistance for both moms and toddlers.

PY47 CDBG Application Summaries (as submitted)

Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center	Prospects Extended Day Treatment	\$20,000
Funds will be used to support our Extended Day Treatment program. EDT is the only extended day treatment for children in Norwalk and provides a structured, intensive, therapeutic milieu with integrated clinical treatment services to children who present with significant behavioral health needs due to psychological reactions to trauma, anxiety, etc. EDT uses multiple treatment modalities to help each child develop appropriate social/coping skills by teaching empathy, problem solving techniques and by providing a safe place to practice newly acquired skills. In addition to a strong family component, collaboration with a student's school is a necessary component of treatment.		
Open Door Shelter	Employment First Job Placement Program	\$35,000
Our Employment First Job Placement Program increases community-based, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities, including those that are homeless. This initiative is part of a national movement called Employment First, a 'best practices' framework for systems change that is centered on the premise that all citizens, including individuals with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in integrated employment and community life.		
Person to Person	Emergency Assistance Program	\$30,000
The grant request of \$30,000 will be dedicated to staff time interviewing Financial Assistance clients and administering payments to avoid eviction, prevent utility shut off, or allow clients to obtain more suitable housing. Payments are made directly to the utility or landlord on behalf of the client. P2P Caseworkers consulted with more than 1,000 unique Norwalk households in 2020, a substantial increase from the prior year due to COVID-19 dislocations.		
Supportive Housing Works	Rent Relief / Eviction Prevention Program-City of Norwalk (ODFC-EPPN)	\$37,500
The ODFC Rent Relief/Eviction Prevention Program will provide income constrained households with crisis intervention & short-term financial assistance to mitigate housing loss caused by the current economic downturn & related reduced household income. The focus of this project is to prevent individuals & families from falling farther behind in rent, obviating the housing loss which may lead to the unsafe conditions of multiple households sharing overcrowded housing units. If left unsupported, households who don't qualify for other RA programs will be unable to erase their debt, become evicted, homeless, & may ultimately reside in unfit locations or use their vehicles as temporary shelter.		

PY47 CDBG Application Summaries (as submitted)

YBI Inc.	Business Entrepreneurship Program	\$50,000
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Our program is a multi-step educational program in order to cultivate our students into young entrepreneurs and managers. First, we host a weekend workshop where we will go over the program's curriculum. Next, we run a six week session that includes course subjects ranging from the fundamentals of business to business etiquette. A final is scheduled at the end of the six week session. Those who pass the final graduate to our entrepreneurship program, and those who don't pass the final will have the opportunity to retake the exam or they will move to our business management program. In this program they will develop the skills to be effective leaders in management positions.

PUBLIC FACILITIES / HOUSING

Carver Center	Roof Replacement	\$87,500
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To replace the building roof of the Carver Center. We have made many repairs to the roof due to leaking. These repairs are not permanent and are intended to give us time before a full replacement can take place. Prior leaks have led to damage to the gymnasium floor. With the recent renovations to the gymnasium's ceiling and floor, it is essential to replace the roof before a leak reoccurs.

Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC)	Creating Additional Bedroom in Norwalk Safe House	\$25,500
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We are requesting funds to renovate a bedroom in our Norwalk safe house that currently serves as the staff offices. We will move the offices to the ground level (basement) of the safe house. This move will allow us to offer more living space to families and singles, reducing the need for families and singles to "double up". This is particularly important for social distancing during COVID-19, and it will reduce the need to house residents in hotels. The proposed work will include minor demolition and clearing of debris, replacing worn floors, repairing and repainting walls and ceilings, and replacing closet doors in the bedroom space.

HomeFront	Home Revitalization	\$17,000
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HomeFront seeks funding to perform critical home repairs, ensuring a healthy living environment and improving handicap accessibility for three (3) very low income homeowners in Norwalk.

Keystone House	Project Genoa Deck	\$12,900
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PY47 CDBG Application Summaries (as submitted)

This application is to replace the deck at our Genoa facility that provides affordable housing and services to adults with serious mental illness. Currently, the deck is covered with caution tape due to deteriorating footings. Rotting and structural damage are costly and create continued safety risks. Concerns of falls, splinters, and injuries are constant. We are continually making repairs to ensure safety. Keystone's priority is to ensure the safety of this living facility to individuals recovering from a mental illness. By continually upgrading the living environment, Keystone House is ensuring the availability/accessibility to individuals recovering from a mental illness.

Open Door Shelter	Exterior Door Replacements	\$36,280
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Open Doors needs to replace exterior doors in five of its supportive housing properties. This project increases security of residents and staff.

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency obo City of Norwalk	City Neighborhoods	\$401,724
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The City Neighborhoods (CN) Program Plans to Address two (2) of the City's ConPlan Priority needs: Increase High Quality and Affordable Housing opportunities and Modernize Public Facilities and Public Infrastructure. Housing assistance is anticipated to include continuing the Residential Façade Program, the Residential Rehabilitation Program, and Revolving Loan Fund. CN will also assist in Code Enforcement, Community clean-up, Parks and Recreation, and Economic Development.

CDBG ADMINISTRATION

Norwalk Redevelopment Agency obo City of Norwalk	CDBG Administration	\$216,855
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The Agency requests \$216,855 in PY47 CDBG funds to cover costs associated with the administration of the City's CDBG program for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Memorandum

February 4, 2021

To: Planning Committee, Common Council

From: Bryan Baker, Principal Planner



Re: Solar for All - Norwalk

The Solar for All program for Norwalk is approaching a kickoff date which we have tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2021. The campaign is expected to last four to five months so a start date in March will allow Posigen to potentially campaign at outdoor events during the warmer months.

So far we've held five meetings with the Connecticut Green Bank, Posigen Solar, a Sustainable CT equity coach, members of the Common Council and the public to shape our public outreach campaign. These meetings have been helpful to identify communities in Norwalk to focus our outreach on, educate those on the details of the program and collaborate on outreach best practices.

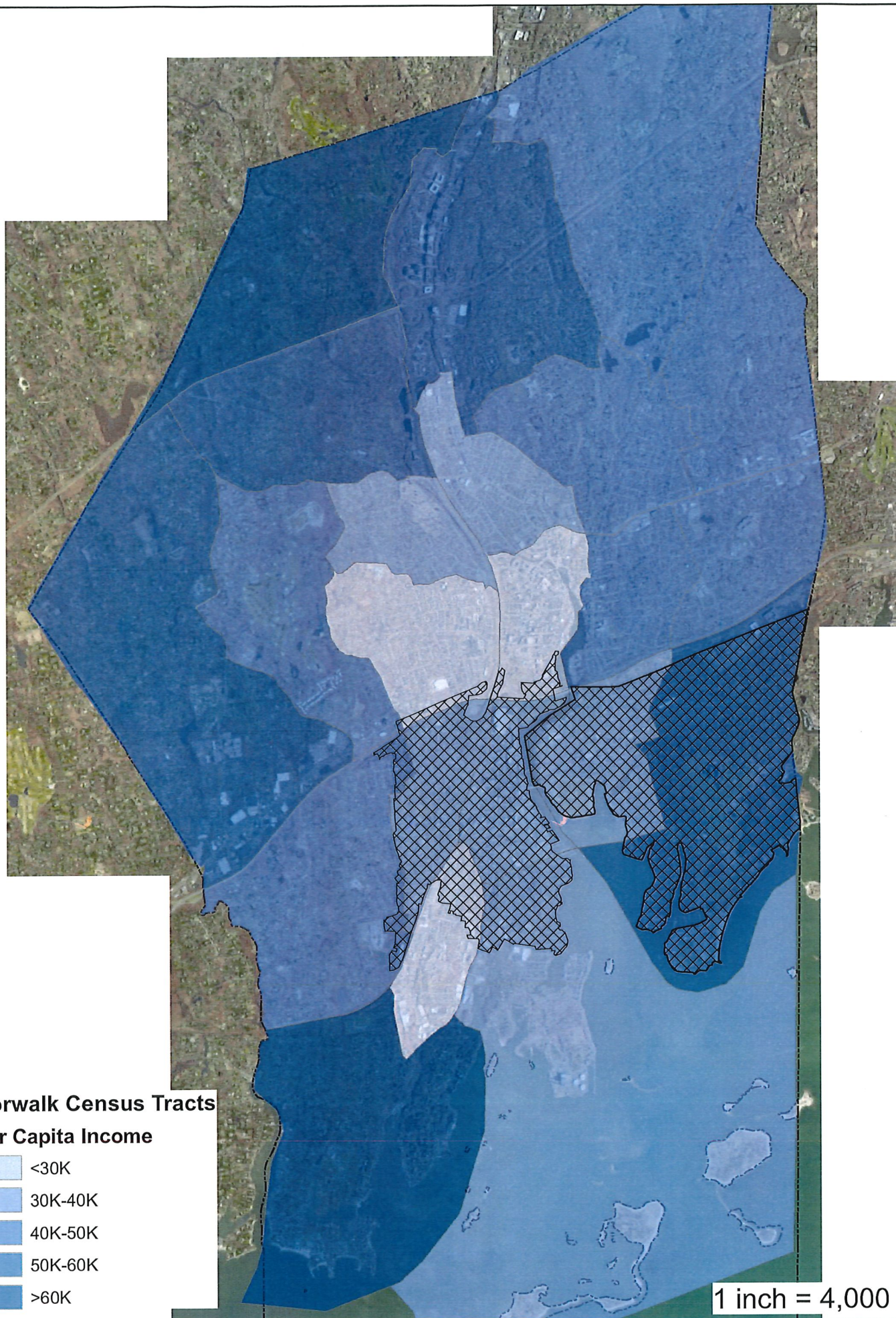
At this point we're starting to put together campaign materials for distribution to the public and establish a firm date for the kickoff event. Campaign materials will be in multiple languages and the kickoff event will be held via Zoom.

Included are the following documents:

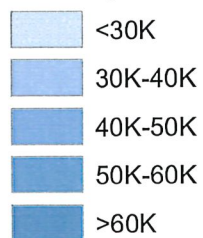
1. Maps showing areas in Norwalk that are eligible for the program.
2. Draft campaign materials



1 inch = 4,000 feet



**Norwalk Census Tracts
Per Capita Income**



1 inch = 4,000 feet

You're Invited to the Kickoff Event for

Solar For All Norwalk

with the

City of Norwalk and Sustainability Team

Wednesday, March , 2021, 12pm – 1:30pm

Location to be determine
Norwalk, CT

Please join us to learn about this community-led initiative to bring solar and energy efficiency to all homeowners, especially those who need to save on their energy bills the most. Solar for All is a nationally-recognized program supported by the Connecticut Green Bank and PosiGen and partnered with the City of TOWN. The campaign is looking for outreach partners and opportunities to spread the word about lowering energy bills and increasing home affordability.

Opening Remarks Feature:

- ❖ Mayor Harry Rilling
- ❖ Bryan Garcia, President & CEO, CT Green Bank
- ❖ Tom Neyhart, President, PosiGen Solar and Energy Efficiency

[Create link to SFA.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Solar For All **Norwalk**

Energy savings with solar and energy efficiency

Think you can't afford solar?

Think again.

- Reduce your energy costs through solar and energy efficiency
- No minimum credit requirement
- Fixed solar lease payments for 20 years
- Save more money with custom energy efficiency upgrades
- Maintenance and monitoring included

**Program
Ends DATE**

**Find us @ TOWN
Farmers Market**

Downtown: Centre Square

Location to be determined

Date/Time to be determined

**Free Virtual Solar
Assessments**

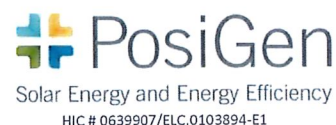
Safely connect with us for a contact-free assessment of your home. Open your camera phone and hover over the below QR code



844-787-6527

**www.SolarForAll
Connecticut.com**

Offices in Bridgeport and Hartford



Energía Solar Para Todos **NORWALK**

Comprometidos a aumentar el acceso a la eficiencia solar y energética

¿Crees que no puedes pagar la energía solar?

Piense otra vez.

- Reduzca sus costos de energía a través de energía solar y energía eficiente
- Sin requisito de crédito mínimo
- Pagos fijos de arrendamiento solar por 20 años
- Ahorre más dinero con actualizaciones personalizadas de eficiencia energética
- Incluye mantenimiento y monitoreo
- Soporte ofrecido a través del equipo Solar para todos

El programa
termina DATE

Encuétranos @ TOWN Farmers Market

Downtown: Centre Square

Location to be determined

Date/Time to be determined

Evaluación Solar Virtual Gratuita

Habla con nosotras sobre la energía solar
para su casa sin contacto. usa tu teléfono
con cámara para escanear el código



844-787-6527

[www.SolarForAll
Connecticut.com](http://www.SolarForAllConnecticut.com)

Oficinas en Bridgeport y Hartford





Dear Norwalk Residents,

We are excited to let you know about an opportunity to reduce your utility bills, make your home more comfortable, and help make a cleaner environment. The City of Norwalk, Connecticut Green Bank, and PosiGen have teamed up to offer you affordable rooftop **solar and energy efficiency** upgrades for your home through a program called *Solar for All*. **Solar for All Norwalk** is a city and community supported initiative to reduce the barriers to going solar.

What is the *Solar for All* initiative offering? This is a 20-year solar lease program that covers the full cost of installing, maintaining, and insuring the solar system. There is no money down, no credit score requirement and no equipment to buy. No money out-of-pocket until all energy efficiency improvements had been made and the solar system is installed and producing energy.

How is this program different? This opportunity means that you are financially approved for a rooftop solar system lease and efficiency upgrades regardless of your credit score. With solar and energy efficiency upgrades, you are guaranteed to save money in the first year of your lease. Your fixed monthly payment covers all costs of the solar system, the energy upgrades, monitoring, maintenance, and any needed repairs during the lease.

Learn more at an upcoming event listed below. Come hear more about the program and schedule a free home and utility bill assessment to see if this clean energy program is right for you and your home! If you're ready for direct assistance, please call 844-787-6527 or visit www.SolarForAllConnecticut.com

- Homeowner Workshops:
 -
 -
- Community Events:
 -
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Sincerely,

Mayor Rilling

