

THE PROBLEM

Enacted with tremendous bipartisan support in 2005, the Community Investment Act (CIA) provides a dedicated and consistent source of funding for state preservation of open space, farmland, and historic sites. Funds can also be used to develop affordable housing and make important municipal improvements.

The CIA has leveraged millions in private and public dollars, all while preserving and reinvesting in Connecticut's rich character. Despite its success, the CIA fund is consistently targeted to close budget gaps. Due to years of cuts and diversions, agencies have been forced to work with reduced funds, resulting in a growing list of unfunded needs and projects across the state.

In 2015, the legislature passed a measure to divert 50% of recording fee revenue from CIA accounts. In 2016, the final budget agreement swept unallocated funds from CIA accounts to remedy general revenue shortfalls. In 2017, although full funding was restored July 1st, the CIA once again suffered a \$5 million cut as part of deficit mitigation adjustments. The good news is that the 2018 state budget adjustments did not include additional cuts.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Lawmakers must not raid the CIA accounts to plug budget shortfalls. Our communities rely on these funds to preserve their environmental heritage and enhance quality of life for all.

Advocates urge lawmakers to work with town leaders to highlight the investments made within their own communities.

Though the General Assembly must make difficult decisions to balance the state budget, the CIA has already paid a steep price these past several years.



Through a \$40 surcharge on local land recordings, the CIA has funded over 1,400 projects with \$152 million invested, benefiting every community in CT.



Continuous sweeps of the CIA fund undermine Connecticut's statutory goal of conserving 21% of our lands by 2023.



The CIA generates roughly \$25 million annually, with funds going to conserving orchards, building affordable housing, preserving historic buildings, and more.



A ROARING SUCCESS

The Community Investment Act is the only consistent source of funding for Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) – the state's matching grant program for land trusts, municipalities and water companies seeking to conserve open space. The CIA is the exclusive source of funding for the Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program under OSWA.

Investment in open space has been proven to add immeasurably to the quality of life of Connecticut residents.

If sweeps of the CIA account are allowed to continue, it will undermine the administration, function, and viability of the OSWA program, dealing a serious blow to the land conservation community's ability to protect open space.

MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning more about the Community Investment Act or seeing how the program has benefited your community, please contact:

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You can also visit the CIA website for more information, including a list of CIA projects in your community:
CommunityInvestmentAct.org.

CONTACT US

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