

Community Investment Act

What is the Community Investment Act and why is it important?

Enacted with tremendous bipartisan support in 2005, the Community Investment Act (CIA) was established to provide a dedicated and consistent source of funding for state programs for open space conservation, farmland preservation/dairy production, historic preservation and the development of affordable housing, as well as for important municipal capital improvement initiatives.

Through a \$40 surcharge on local land recordings the CIA has funded over 1,400 projects with \$152 million invested, benefiting every community in the state. A proven economic driver, this investment has leveraged millions more in private and public dollars, all while preserving and reinvesting in Connecticut's rich character.

Why is the fund at risk?

Despite the success of the program, the CIA fund is annually targeted for raiding to close budget gaps. Most recently, in 2016, the \$25 million a year generated by the CIA was targeted for diversion to the General Fund, resulting in a 50% cut to the fund for the following two fiscal years. While that cut ended at the end of the fiscal year, the recently passed 2017-2018 budget included a \$5-million sweep of the CIA account over a two-year period.

How does the CIA support for land conservation?

The CIA is the only consistent source of funding for the state'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 continuous sweeps of the CIA account will undermine the administration, function and viability of the OSWA program, dealing a serious blow to the land conservation community's ability to protect land and help the state meet its statutory goal of conserving 21% of Connecticut's lands by 2023.

What can you do to help?

Please share your community's CIA success stories with your legislators and ask that they continue to fully fund the CIA as a dedicated and protected fund to preserve our natural and historic resources, create jobs, boost our economy, and protect our quality of life.

Visit the CIA website for more information, including a list of CIA projects in your community: <http://communityinvestmentact.org/>

For more information, please contact:

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