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**Municipal Leaders Urged to Apply for CT Port Authority
Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program Grants**

**OLD SAYBROOK** – Applications for grant funding to improve waterfront facilities and public access to the shoreline will be accepted by the Connecticut Port Authority beginning March 1.

This is the fourth round of the Port Authority’s Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP), which originated in 2017 to assist towns and cities in strengthening the maritime commerce and economic viability of harbors and marinas along Connecticut’s coastline and rivers.

Funding may be used for the preparation of plans, studies, and construction of or improvements to sea walls, piers, docks, navigation aids, and bridges, as well as berthing areas and channels to berthing areas.

“The SHIPP grants are an important part of the CPA’s mission to enhance Connecticut’s maritime economy and to continue providing increased public access to our coastline,” said CPA interim Executive Director Ulysses Hammond. “The state’s small harbors provide our marine business community significant opportunities to thrive and they provide families a wide variety of recreational activities.”

All projects must be in alignment with a municipality’s Harbor Improvement Plan. Applications must include a description of the current site conditions and how the proposed project will improve the site and support economic development in the area. A description of how the proposal will support the state’s maritime policies and encourage commerce also is required.

Some projects qualify for total funding and others qualify for partial funding depending on the type of activities proposed.

For an application and to learn more about SHIPP grants, go to [CT Port Authority](https://ctportauthority.com/shipp/).

Applications must be returned to the CT Port Authority by July 1, and project selections will be completed by August 1. The CPA then submits funding requests to the State Bond Commission.

A total of $12,011,706 has been awarded for 33 projects in 16 municipalities through the three previous rounds of SHIPP funding to improve marine facilities and public access to the water.