

House Republican Press Release

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Governor Rell Announces 'STEAP' Funding To Renovate Hampton's Grange Hall, Upgrade Transfer Station



Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that \$350,000 in new state funding will soon be available to Hampton to renovate Grange Hall for a community center, and to make upgrades and improvements to the town's Transfer Station. The funding comes from the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) that is to be approved at the next meeting of the State Bond

Commission.

"Connecticut's small towns contribute to our rich New England heritage and Hampton's community showcases many of the charming characteristics that we value in our state," said Governor Rell. Hampton's rural flavor is a treasured aspect of the town and what better way to bring services to its residents than to transform its historic Grange Hall into a community center. Once built, this new facility will serve the town's residents for years to come."

Grange Hall, located on Main Street, was donated to the town by the Little River Grange members when the group ceased operation in 2003. Renovations to the 100-year-old structure will include making safety improvements and ensuring the building meets public code compliance guidelines. A total of \$299,000 has been designated for Grange Hall renovations and \$51,000 for the transfer station upgrades.

Funding designated for the transfer station will be used to purchase a compactor and dumpsters that are currently being rented and to install concrete pads for the equipment. The pads will extend the life of the dumpsters by protecting the undercarriage of the equipment, and will facilitate more efficient movement of the units.

"The residents of Hampton take pride in a town that promotes a true sense of community," Governor Rell noted. "Renovating Grange Hall will return this historic building to its original glory and townspeople will be able to hold the same types of activities that were offered when the Grange operated it. Fairs, films, lectures, dances, art exhibits, scout activities, craft shows and community dinners -- these are just some of the cultural and recreational events that can be offered once renovations are complete."

“This is wonderful news for Hampton,” said State Senator Anthony Guglielmo. “While the upgrades to the Grange Hall and the transfer station are both very different projects, each will serve to improve the quality of life for the residents. I applaud Governor Rell’s vision in looking at ways to promote the quality of life in our communities and her dedication to our small towns.”

“Governor Rell recognizes the important role these improvements will play in the town of Hampton,” said State Representative Michael Alberts. “Community services will be enhanced and a historic structure will be given a new lease on life. We appreciate the Governor’s support of Hampton and its 1,800 residents.”

A total of \$20 million has been authorized for more than 100 small towns under the STEAP program this fiscal year. The Bond Commission will meet Friday, October 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.