

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **‘STEAP’ Funding for Bridgewater Approved**



Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that \$75,000 in new state funding will soon be available to Bridgewater to renovate the former Hilltop Farm at 132 Hut Hill Road into a permanent Senior Center. 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.

“Bridgewater has waited long enough for a Senior Center,” Governor Rell said. “We are happy to partner with the town in increasing services and facilities for local seniors.

“The town is also growing in a smart way. Not only is Bridgewater going to provide the first permanent adequate location for seniors, but it is also providing an effective reuse for a locally-historic building. This is a great example of how a town can thoughtfully preserve its character and enhance its quality of life.”

Bridgewater’s approximately 360 seniors represent 19 percent of the town’s population. Bridgewater seniors currently only have the part-time use of the local Grange Hall which has no dedicated parking available and cannot provide or accommodate any permanent use for senior programs or services.

“This project has widespread support in the community and I was pleased to work with Governor Rell to attain these funds,” State Senator Louis DeLuca said. “We can now move forward quickly on behalf of our seniors to complete the project.”

“We are grateful to Governor Rell for this support,” said State Representative Arthur O’Neill. “This Center will provide a permanent facility for a population that is often unable to travel to programs and services in neighboring communities. This was a priority for Bridgewater, and Governor Rell has heard us loud and clear.”

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 October 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.