



CRPA FALL QUARTERLY

Thursday, October 22, 2026



SCHEDULE:

LOCATION:

9:30 - 10:00 am:	Registration
10:00 am - 12:00 pm:	CT Department of Children & Families: An Overview - 0.2 CEU's
12:00 - 1:00 pm:	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 pm:	Funding the Future - 0.2 CEU's

Pitkin Community Center
 30 Greenfield Street
 Wethersfield, CT 06109

COFFEE BREAK SPONSORED BY:

EVENT GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:

THANK YOU TO OUR COFFEE BREAK SPONSOR



Proud Representative of **Burke**



REGISTRATION

Payments must be received by 10/8/26. No refunds for cancellations after 10/8/26. Registrants that do not show & have not paid without cancelling prior to 10/8/26 will be billed the full amount.

Town/Org: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ | Title: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member \$50 |
| 2. _____ | Title: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member \$50 |
| 3. _____ | Title: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Member \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member \$50 |

**if more than 3 registrants, please use additional forms*

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total: \$ _____ Invoice Check Credit Card (CRPA will email you an invoice which is payable online)

CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, AND LIABILITY

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS: No refunds will be issued for cancellations made after 10/8/26. Cancellations must be received in writing via email to info@crpa.com or val@crpa.com. Should CRPA cancel the event or the event be canceled due to a government shutdown (force majeure) your choice of either a refund or a credit for the 2026 event will be issued. Please note, all refunds will be issued via check, regardless of initial method of payment.

LIABILITY: CRPA, Inc. and the Town of Wethersfield and their employees and volunteers will not be responsible for any injury, illness, exposure to illness, loss or damage that may occur to the attendee, nor to the attendee's employees from any cause whatsoever, prior, during, or subsequent to the period outlined on this registration. The attendee, on submitting this registration to CRPA, expressly releases and agrees to hold harmless the above-mentioned CRPA, Inc. and the Town of Wethersfield and their employees and volunteers from any and all claims for such loss, damage, injury, illness, or exposure to illness. Attendee(s) are personally responsible for observing health and safety guidelines and/or laws outlined by the federal, state, and local authorities including but not limited to: wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance, and/or sanitization standards.

Return to: CRPA, 135 Day St., 2nd Floor, 2H, Newington, CT 06111 | Phone: 860.721.0384 | Email: info@crpa.com

10:00 am - 12:00 pm: CT Department of Children & Families: An Overview *Christopher Cobb, Esq.*

Join Attorney Chris Cobb as he provides an overview of the Connecticut Department of Children & Families (DCF) **background check process** and the **process of initiating an initial neglect or abuse complaint call**. Gain a better understanding of the basic terms utilized by DCF such as **defining Neglect & Abuse**, what is the **Central Registry**; what occurs both externally and internally at DCF when an investigation is initiated, such as the process including but not limited to the initial call to the DCF Careline, the notice of investigation, Administrative Review, and the Administrative Hearing process. Finally, we will understand the rights of the person being investigated by DCF and document requests to DCF and **what is and can be reported to potential and current employers**.

Note: This is not a mandated reporter training and cannot be used in lieu of this training

About the Speaker:



Christopher Cobb, Esq. has been practicing law for over 30 years. Attorney Cobb is licensed to practice law in Connecticut and New York. He has practiced in both state and federal court. Attorney Cobb has extensive experience in litigation, handling civil, criminal and family matters. He is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts and received his undergraduate degree at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. Attorney Cobb is an expert in all areas involving the Connecticut Department of Children and Families. He has represented parents, children, school employees and foster parents. He worked as a Staff Attorney with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for 18 years. Attorney Cobb has participated in administrative hearings concerning every possible area handled by the DCF Administrative Hearings Unit. He was the lead attorney for a parent in the case of *In re: Lindsey P.*, 49 Conn. Supp. 132 (2004), which resulted in DCF changing the way in which Orders of Temporary Custody are presented to Courts. Attorney Cobb is a leading educator/lecturer concerning the legal process as it applies to DCF and has presented to groups of attorneys including Greater Hartford Legal Aid and the Milford Bar Association and has been a frequent guest lecturer to social work students at Central Connecticut State University. For the past two years, Attorney Cobb has assisted in the

training of all attorneys who are contracted to represent parents and children at Superior Court, Juvenile Matters by the Connecticut Office of the Public Defender. Attorney Cobb represents a number of persons at Connecticut's probate courts, including matters such as those involving child custody, conservatorships and Guardian of the Intellectually Disabled. Prior to practicing law, Attorney Cobb worked with the intellectually disabled at Oak Hill School in Hartford.

1:00 - 3:00 pm: Funding the Future: Vlada Ragonese, Dawn Leger, Ph.D., & Grace Tiezzi

Securing grant funding can be a game-changer for parks and recreation departments - but knowing where to find opportunities and how to craft a compelling proposal is key. This panel brings together experienced municipal grant writers from Connecticut communities to share practical insight, proven strategies, and lessons learned.

This session will explore **how to identify relevant funding sources**, **align projects with grant priorities**, and tell a **strong, community-centered story** that stands out to funders. Panelists will also discuss common pitfalls, timelines, partnerships, and **how to manage grants post-award**.

Whether you're new to grant writing or looking to strengthen your success rate, attendees will **leave with actionable tools**, real-world examples, and a clearer roadmap to securing funding for parks, programs, and community initiatives.

About the Speakers:

Vlada Ragonese The Director of Capital & Strategic Initiatives Town of Weathersfield where she supports grant development, capital planning, and strategic project implementation for community-focused initiatives. With experience securing and managing funding from local, state, and federal sources, Vlada works across departments and community partners to advance projects related to parks and recreation, community development, accessibility, historic preservation, public facilities, and quality-of-life improvements. Her work includes developing competitive grant applications, aligning municipal priorities with funding opportunities, contract compliance, procurement, and managing complex, multi-stakeholder projects from concept through implementation.

Dawn Leger, Ph.D., Grants Administrator Economic & Community Development City of Bristol is a grant writer with a doctorate in urban planning from Columbia University, and vast experience writing and editing in the field of ergonomics and biomechanics. Prior to her 13 years as the Grants Administrator for the City of Bristol, Dr. Leger spent 15 years at New York University, Langone Hospital and Medical School, writing grant applications and contracts, and shepherding doctoral students and faculty through the creation of dissertations, peer-reviewed journal articles, and textbooks. Having experience on both sides of the grants table, as a reviewer and an applicant, Dr. Leger emphasizes the importance of a clear presentation with relevant data to back up arguments and an overarching story about what "success" will mean to the applicant. Not surprisingly, she is also the author of six novels, part of her mission as a storyteller.

Grace Tiezzi The Assistant Town Manager of Avon. Grace brings over 12 years of municipal government experience, including a decade as Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Avon, Connecticut. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Connecticut's School of Public Policy. During her career, she has led and supported a wide range of capital and community initiatives, with a strong focus on securing and managing state and federal grant funding. Her work has contributed to key projects including road and bridge improvements, municipal facility upgrades, and ongoing investments in parks and recreation infrastructure, helping to advance the Town's long-term priorities.