



For Immediate Release
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Towns Receive \$480,000 State Grant for Crumbling Foundation Testing

*Vernon, Ellington and Stafford Awarded Regional Grant by the Connecticut
Department of Housing to Assist Property Owners with Testing Foundations*

The Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) announced that Vernon, Ellington and Stafford were awarded a grant totaling \$480,000 to assist residents in testing crumbling foundations. These funds will provide eligible property owners up to \$5,000 to test their concrete foundations for the presence of pyrrhotite with no upfront or out of pocket costs.

“Congratulations to the Town of Vernon on receiving the 2018 Small Cities grant,” stated Connecticut Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno. “The use of the money to test crumbling foundations in the municipalities of Vernon, Ellington, and Stafford, often considered ground zero for crumbling foundations, is a welcome commitment. DOH intends to continue to work collaboratively with these municipalities in order to find a solution to an issue that affects one-third of our state.”

Vernon Mayor Daniel Champagne said, “We have partnered with Ellington and Stafford to jointly address the crumbling foundation crisis. This grant funding will help residents offset the cost of concrete foundation testing. Our communities will continue to work together at the local, state and federal levels to secure additional resources that benefit our residents.”

Ellington First Selectman, Lori Spielman said, “Many residents have told me about the devastating impact this crisis has had on their lives. I encourage eligible residents to access this program and I will continue to work on programs that offer needed relief.”

Stafford First Selectman, Mary Mitta said, “I am pleased that our communities were chosen to receive this funding. Our partnership with neighboring towns has strengthened our ability to respond to this crisis.”

Vernon, Ellington and Stafford are among the towns hardest hit by crumbling foundations. Town leaders held a joint public hearing on August 21, 2018 to gather input from the public that helped to form this grant application.

The program funded by this grant award will primarily benefit low-moderate income households. The Towns have contracted with a consultant to collect data and assist in the timely review of applications for eligibility.

Information on how to apply for the testing program is available at the Social Services Department of each awarded community.

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