We respectfully request dedicated funding of $3 million for DLTA within 1599-0026.

DLTA funding helps cities and towns throughout the state expand what they can do, enabling them to take on projects they don’t have the capacity to complete on their own.

At least half of Massachusetts communities don’t have professional planners to help shape their future economic development, transportation, housing, green spaces, and town facilities.

Thirteen regional planning agencies (RPAs) in Massachusetts help the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns with these essential tasks, providing technical assistance on everything from updating stormwater guidelines to managing data to preparing economic development plans. The technical assistance work of most of these RPAs is funded almost entirely by DLTA.

DLTA funding is incredibly in demand - every year, RPAs have to turn away worthy project proposals.

A Little Goes a Long Way

For every DLTA project a regional planning agency works on, it provides a 10 percent funding match - meaning that funding DLTA at $3.4 million will support at least $3.74 million of technical assistance work.

Many of the 13 regional planning agencies leverage this funding even more with outside funding and grant assistance, as much as doubling the amount of money the state provides.

Questions? Contact:
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DLTA helps cities and towns plan and take action:

Project Examples:
- Housing production plans
- Rewrite zoning codes
- Expedite permitting
- Establish development or conservation districts
- Develop design guidelines
- Regional service delivery
- Regional procurement of goods and services
- Data collection and analysis
- Economic development plans
- Public health planning
- Public safety and emergency response
- Energy & climate resiliency plans
- Stormwater planning and guidelines
- Open space and recreation plans

DLTA is unique in that it directly funds much-needed technical assistance for cities and towns. While it's often used in conjunction with other state programs like Community Compact and Regionalization & Efficiency grants, we're asking for dedicated funding for DLTA to ensure that these services are able to continue.
Regional Planning Agencies and COVID-19

As COVID-19 cases arrived and multiplied in our communities, RPAs pivoted quickly to provide integral support to cities and towns. DLTA funding is critical to these response efforts. Projects include:

**Public Health**
- Convening local boards of public health to provide technical assistance
- Providing public nursing assistance, hiring and training new nurses and support staff
- Mapping positive COVID-19 cases
- Distributing emergency funding to local boards of health

**Convening and Coordination**
- Convening municipal leaders for discussions and collective action
- Facilitating local information sharing
- Sharing best practices around remote meetings
- Disseminating timely and pertinent information about the COVID-19 response and recovery

**PPE**
- Distributing PPE to hospitals, health care providers, and first responders
- Processing PPE requests

**Food Security**
- Coordinating meal access for families and first responders
- Helping farms sell directly to food relief programs in the absence of farmers markets
- Establishing weekend food drop program for youth

**Economic Recovery**
- Developing surveys to assess small business and regional economic recovery needs
- Creating rapid response plans to address unemployment
- Gathering and sharing the stories of immigrant business owners and their resilience in the face of COVID-19
- Creating small business support plans

**Housing**
- Establishing, staffing, and equipping recovery centers for people ill with COVID-19
- Studying how COVID-19 will impact households and the housing market

**Transportation**
- Accelerating the release of funds to support the transportation needs of vulnerable populations
- Assisting RTAs with changes related to COVID-19, communicating changes to communities

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