

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

1599-0026

Photo by Chris Lovett



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.**

DLTA helps cities and towns plan and take action:

Project Examples:

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

Questions? Contact:

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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

PPE

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

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

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

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

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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