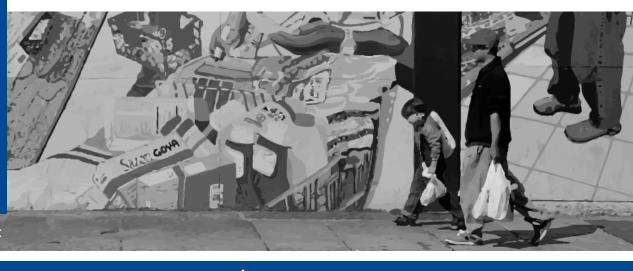
# District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

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

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

**Questions? Contact:** 

Leah Robins 617.933.0710 Irobins@mapc.org



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

#### **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

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#### **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