

**FEDERAL FUNDS: SUCCESSES,  
OPPORTUNITIES & WHAT THE NEW  
LAW MEANS  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
IN ACCESSING FEDERAL DOLLARS**

**MARPA / DLS CONFERENCE  
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**Jennifer M. Raitt, Executive Director  
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments**

**[jraitt@nmcog.org](mailto:jraitt@nmcog.org) | 978-454-8021 x 120**

**[www.nmcog.org](http://www.nmcog.org)**

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Many sources: Federal, State, Regional, Public/Private
- Many current funding sources emerged in part from the pandemic and in answer to the question ‘*What is infrastructure?*’ CARES/ ARPA and now the IRA and BIL are providing significant funding for a range of municipal functions, programs, services
- How do you position your community to access, secure, administer these funding opportunities?
- Who pursues these opportunities?
- Why secure additional resources for your community?
- What are the administrative requirements?

# IS YOUR COMMUNITY ELIGIBLE?

- Having a strong planning foundation
- Demonstrating need – data resources
- Understanding impact and outcomes
- Demonstrating ability to administer/ spend funds
- Showing ability to provide (or exceed) required match (in-kind or direct)
- Showing local leadership/ talent or consultant who can manage project details, reporting, invoicing, and other requirements
- Meeting prerequisites
- Fulfilling other goals of the Commonwealth

# BUILD A STRONG PLANNING FOUNDATION

- Comprehensive Plan/ Master Plan
- Community/ Select Board Strategic Plan
- Studies/ Analyses/ Reports
- Community input/ engagement
- Community buy-in/ agreement
- Understanding Commonwealth plans/ goals
- Identifying partnerships
- Connecting with regional planning agency
- Connecting with grant officer/ coordinator/ ask questions!

# DEMONSTRATE NEED

- Planning reports/ studies
- Metrics that align with the project/ program
- Demographics/ trends
- Categories of potential need for funding:
  - Capacity building (technical support/ expertise/ studies/ analyses)
  - Program development/ program support
  - Supplies/ materials/ equipment
  - Personnel to deliver programs/ services
  - Design/ engineering
  - Capital/ construction
  - Match/ leverage

# TRACK IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Outcomes demonstrate what change/ benefits will happen as a result of the funding received.

Project	Input	Ouput	Outcome
Art Sculpture	Material for sculpture/ hours creating/ installing art	Number of sculptures created/ installed	Increased park use
Senior Day Care services	Volunteer hours/ materials used/ provided	Number of older adults contacted, engaged, current in program	Improved health outcomes/ participation in COA activities
Park restoration	Resources expended for designs, permitting, materials	Number of acres restored	Increased open space/ passive or active recreation use/ activities, “Friends” group

# RECEIVE, SPEND, PERFORM

- Past performance/ track record
- Management – fiscal oversight, leadership
- Experts on team or in community
- Capacity to procure services/ materials
- Realistic timeline, integration with other funding sources, activities (phases)
- Permits in queue or in hand to proceed
- Community engagement/ input plan

# MATCH FUNDS (IN-KIND OR DIRECT)

- Municipal funding sources (operating, department budget, special revenue, or another grant source)
- In-kind hours (tracking time) – staff and volunteer



# MANAGE AND TRACK THE DETAILS

- Project management
  - Organizing/ tracking details (hours, outputs, outcomes)
  - Regular communications
  - Monthly, quarterly, annual reports
  - Invoice generation or drawdowns/ requests for funding
  - Tracking metrics
  - Coordinate with funding source/ request changes/ extensions
  - Communications strategy

# MEET FUNDING PRE-REQUISITES

- Grant program eligibility and criteria varies
  - Specific grant area goals or program areas
  - Plans or studies that must be in place prior to accessing funding source
  - Permits, designations, votes, other funding in place
  - Compliance with state laws and executive orders
  - Fiscal good standing
  - For discretionary grants, community's grant may be scored based on other municipal actions

# FULFILL OTHER GOALS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

- Big themes: climate resiliency/ carbon reduction; housing/ economy; equity/ engagement; environmental justice communities; action oriented; local/ regional collaboration/ partnerships
  - Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030
    - Massachusetts Priority Climate Action Plan
  - State Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2031
  - Beyond Mobility, the Massachusetts 2050 Transportation Plan
  - State Housing Plan (in progress)
  - Your Regional Plan(s) Here

# GRANTS AND SUPPORT

- Commonwealth Community Grant Finder:  
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/community-grant-finder>
- MassDOT Grant Central -  
<https://madothway.my.site.com/GrantCentral/s/>  
(Chapter 90, Complete Streets, Local Bottleneck Reduction, Municipal Pavement, Small Bridge Program, Shared Streets and Spaces, Rail and Transit, MassTrails, Safe Routes to School)
- Community Compact Cabinet (IT, Efficiency, Regionalization)
- (DESE) Elementary and Secondary Education Grants (All FY25 opportunities here: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/current.html>)
- MA Cultural Council – (Local Cultural Councils, Cultural Facilities, Gaming Mitigation)

# GRANTS AND SUPPORT

Planning ahead for FY25 spring rounds and FY26:

- Community One Stop for Growth – multiple grants
- Fish and Wildlife - Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations (PARC)
- Energy and Environmental Affairs – Community Planning Assistance; MVP Planning and Action Grants; Green Communities
- Office of Coastal Zone Management - Coastal Resilience
- MA Historical Commission – MA Preservation Projects Fund
- Environmental Protection - Sustainable Materials Recovery Program
- Transportation – Safe Routes to School (Signs/ Line, Infrastructure); Community Transit Grant Program (vehicles, FY25, operating and mobility management FY26); Complete Streets; Massachusetts Rural Transit Assistance Program - Helping Hand Mini Grants

# GRANTS AND SUPPORT

## Sample of Upcoming Federal Opportunities

- **Environmental Protection Agency** (November deadlines)
  - Healthy Communities Grant Program
  - Brownfields Assessment Grants
  - Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants
  - Clean Bus Planning Awards (rolling deadline)
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency**
  - Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (annual program)
- **Economic Development Administration** (rolling)
  - Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program
  - Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance

# GRANTS AND SUPPORT

- National League of Cities offering bootcamps over the next two years for one or more municipalities (if pursuing together)
  - Broadband, Water, Roads, Bridges, Rail, Resilience, Safety, Electric Vehicles, Buses, Ferries, Environmental Remediation, Public Transportation, Clean Energy, Power, and more.
- Philanthropy Massachusetts <https://philanthropyma.org/>
- Regional Planning Agencies <https://massmarpa.org/>
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
  - <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/federal-funding-center/>
- Berkshire Funding Focus
  - <https://berkshirefundingfocus.org/>

**THANK YOU!**

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