

# District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

1599-0026



We respectfully request an increase to **\$4 million** for DLTA within 1599-0026.

**District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) directly funds much-needed technical assistance for cities and towns.** DLTA planning dollars help cities and towns take on necessary projects that they don't have the staff capacity to address on their own, and to partner with neighboring communities to tackle shared projects with reduced administrative burden.

**DLTA is uniquely flexible.** Funds can be spent on a wide variety of planning and implementation projects: zoning, housing production, economic development, conservation planning, and much more. The FY26 budget even allowed for future DLTA dollars to be used to help municipalities apply for state and federal grants.

Equally important: DLTA also helps cities and towns improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local services, and to work with their neighbors on planning, research, and services. Unfortunately, funding for DLTA has not been increased since 2019, and due to inflation, it has lost almost 20% of its value. This forces RPAs to try and do more with less and reduces the number of communities we can assist.

## DLTA helps municipalities unlock funding opportunities

With DLTA funding, cities and towns can plan for the long term and have the details of shovel-ready, shovel-worthy projects ready when federal competitive funding is available.

Communities can also use DLTA to unlock state funding opportunities and respond to state programs. DLTA has helped municipalities:

- Work toward Roadmap Law emissions targets with climate action plans, electric vehicle strategies, and municipal aggregation plans
- Build local public health capacity in alignment with the SAPHE Act
- Develop a toolkit to support remote and hybrid meeting engagement
- Help municipalities implement economic development recommendations from Local Rapid Recovery Plans
- Revise zoning codes to comply with the Legislature's MBTA Multifamily Zoning provision and respond to priorities in the Housing Choice Law

## Statewide Impact

DLTA dollars are distributed to Massachusetts' 13 regional planning agencies (RPAs). Nearly half of Massachusetts communities, including both cities and towns, don't have professional planners to help shape their future economic development, transportation, housing, green spaces, and town facilities.

RPAs help Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns with these essential tasks, providing technical assistance on everything from updating stormwater guidelines to preparing economic development plans.

**The technical assistance work of most of these RPAs is funded almost entirely by DLTA.**

## State funds go even further with DLTA

## Questions? Contact:

Georgia Barlow  
gbarlow@mapc.org

Norman Abbott  
nabbott@mapc.org



For every DLTA project a regional planning agency works on, it provides a 10 percent funding match—meaning that funding DLTA at \$4 million will support at least \$4.4 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.** In 2025, non-DLTA funds leveraged through TAP projects was \$921,300 — a significant increase over the required 10% match.