

# Community Innovation Challenge

## Grant Program

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# Background

- The Acts of 2009, Chapter 60 established a Regionalization Advisory Commission
- The Commission, chaired by Lt. Governor Murray, issued its report and recommendations by April 30, 2010.
- The report recommended incentivizing regional thought through programs such as the Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant.

# Purpose

Our new fiscal reality demands that we invest in and incentivize innovation among local government.

Innovations at the local level will assist in finding new and more efficient ways to deliver core local services.

Funds may be used for regional collaborations or for internal efficiencies

# Use of Funds

## **Regionalization**

Shared services

Joint or regional facilities

Intergovernmental agreements

Consolidations

Mergers

Other types of collaborations

## **Internal Efficiencies**

For a single entity to plan and implement innovative internal efficiency initiatives to improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery in ways that achieve cost savings.

# FY12 Projects

- During the first year of the program, 27 projects received funding.
- Together, the projects involve 138 communities which represent over 2.7 million residents and 41% of the population of the Commonwealth.
- Projects involve a variety of municipal service areas including public safety, information technology, public works, education, and public health.

# Review of Applications

Proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation committee of state and independent members, with the final decisions made by the Secretary for Administration and Finance. The criteria will include, but are not limited to:

- Innovation
- Potential for greatest impact
- Cost savings and/or other tangible benefits such as service enhancements, service delivery efficiencies, or other benefits.
- Demonstrated feasibility of successful implementation
- Speed of project timeline for completion
- Potential applicability to other local governments

# Southeast Fire Dept Electronic Records and Permitting Collaborative

Seekonk, Lakeville, Dighton, North Attleboro,  
Swansea, Westport, Taunton, Somerset,  
Wareham, Fall River, Freetown

Ross Perry  
SRPEDD, Municipal Services

# Establishment of the project

- Per the request from a couple Fire Depts.
- Current permitting process requires repetitive manual completion of forms.
- Access to Fire Dept. personnel to complete a permit application not convenient for the public.
- Tracking of permits requires manual filing and retrieval.

# Goals and objectives

- Simplify 'administrative' work by Fire personnel
- Improve public access to permitting process
  - Local businesses and residents
- Minimize cost impact to the participating cities and towns

# Challenges

- Obtaining initial support from local fire chiefs.
- Implementation logistics
  - Change is not a natural occurrence
  - Concern about public release of “confidential” information
  - Potential budget impact for 2<sup>nd</sup> + year

# Results

- A few towns dropped out, but others were eager to take their place
- Towns are actively downloading assessor data, installing desk top software, updating their web pages, and fire dept personnel are taking the short training course.
- A Couple communities are considering expanding the e-permitting solution to include their Building and Health Departments.
- Quantifiable results in progress

# In your community

- e-Permitting / Online permitting will save municipal budgets a significant amount of time and money.
- These solutions will improve citizen access to departmental permitting process.
- There is a significant “green” benefit by reducing vehicle trips to the city/town hall and the amount of paper used.
- The Fire Department permitting system by GeoTMS in Franklin MA, can be adapted to other communities and other departments.
- SRPEDD will share our e-Permitting / e-Gov experience with other regional planning agencies and communities.

# Contact information

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# Regionalizing Technology Services

Craig Jurgensen, Superintendent of Schools

Cindy Landers, Business Manager

Kim Florek, Director of IT



# How did we get here?

- Each School/Town responsible for planning and managing technology
- Various staff supporting building based technology
- Independent purchasing of hardware and software
- Duplication of efforts and disbursed data systems
- Staff finding & utilizing technology tools on their own
- Silos of expertise – no sharing of knowledge
- Web presence, content and management - mixed bag



# Goals and Objectives

The goals of our initiatives focus on the **reduction of the duplication** of efforts, gains in **efficiencies** and **cost effective** solutions in the School District, as well as in the Towns in which the District serve.

## Initiative Components

- Reduction of duplication of data entry; increase data accuracy for better reporting and decision making
- Reduction of duplication of efforts; gain in community communication and outreach
  - Create cost effective bus routes
  - Migrate to free email and collaboration tools
  - Plan for sharing resources over high speed fiber connections
  - Help establish a sustainable organizational model



# Challenges Encountered

- B Buy-in
- Time
- Finding the right people to bring to the table
- Perceived loss of autonomyuy-in



# Progress To Date

installation - PowerSchool, VersaTrans, Alexandria, Google APPs

- ✓ Data cleaning
- ✓ Procurement and configuration of web content management system
- ✓ Established Town of Goshen web site committee
- ✓ Established new unified web template for all Schools
- ✓ Migration of web data (started)
- ✓ PD - classroom web site roll out for teachers (planning phase)
- ✓ Fiber installations for MBI
- ✓ Moved to hosted VersaTrans solution
- ✓ Presented MASBO Bus Study to school administrators
- ✓ Created Request for Proposal for in-depth bus study
- ✓ Contracted with Google APPs migration consultants
- ✓ Contracted with consultants to help establish buy-in and create a sustainable support model

# Suggestions

- ✓ Be sure to find the right people to talk to
- ✓ Build your implementation teams wisely
- ✓ Don't underestimate the amount of effort to ensure buy-in
- ✓ Have a well thought out communication plan
- ✓ Assign a project manager to stay within the scope of your initiative

# Hampshire Regional School District



## Contact Information:

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