

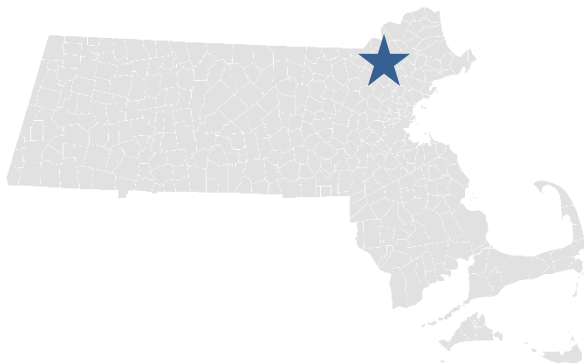
TRANSPARENCY BEST PRACTICE | OCTOBER 2017



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Andover adopted the Transparency best practice as part of a Community Compact agreement signed with the Baker-Polito Administration in January of 2016. The Town is working with Tyler Technologies to deploy “Andover Citizen Transparency”, a tool that makes Town financial transactions available for constituents to review. The portal lists Andover’s expenditures broken down in a variety of categories, in a visual and machine-readable format. Users can click and drill down into the details of the financial data and better understand how funds are being spent.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Town of Andover is located in northeastern Massachusetts in Essex County. Historically, Andover has been the home of powder, paper, and woolen mills. Contemporary Andover, however, is best known as the home of Phillips Academy, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the United States.

Population is 32,396 residents*
Annual Budget is \$165.5M (FY 2017)*
Median Household Income is \$129,082**

**Source: Andover 2016 Town Report*

***Source: US Census Bureau*

In partnership with:



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons – John Phelan in downtown Andover, Massachusetts



THE CHALLENGE

Citizens are routinely expecting more accountability and transparency into how their tax dollars are being spent. They also want this information at their fingertips. To fulfill this expectation, the Town of Andover relaunched their website in 2016, while concurrently planning for financial transparency. Andover took action to make its municipal spending and budget information more easily accessible, utilizing online tools and the Town website.

DISCOVER

Andover Citizen Transparency is expected to launch on Andover's website later this year.

<https://www.andoverma.gov>

An overview of the tool can be found in "The Results" section on the next page.

THE SOLUTION

In 2017, Andover will launch "Andover Citizen Transparency", a financial transparency tool that provides municipal financial information such as expenditures, revenues, budget, and payroll details in an interactive, graphical format.

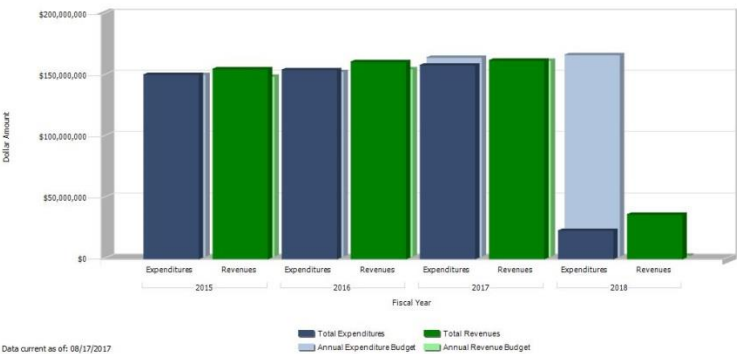
This solution integrates directly with the Town's municipal finance system, which minimizes staff time required to maintain the solution and ensures that data is current.

While the majority of the information displayed is on a transactional or "checkbook" level, the solution does also display select yearly overviews of Andover's spending including expenditures and revenues by fiscal year (back to 2015) along with an archive of Andover's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports from 2014 back to 2004.

THE RESULTS

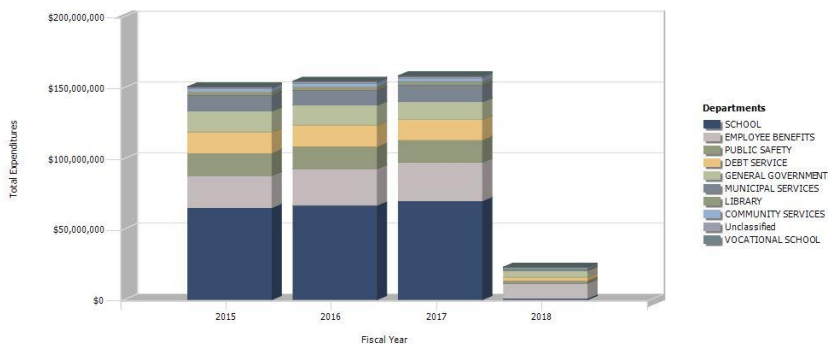
Town of Andover Citizen Transparency

Andover's Citizen Transparency site provides financial transparency to the public with easy access to the Town of Andover's expenditure, revenue, budget and payroll information for the current fiscal year, as well as a historical view of previous years. This interactive website can be used to search details of municipal expenses and revenues by category, department, fund, government area and vendor. The data within this site covers every level of municipal finances, from fiscal year totals to individual vendor payments.

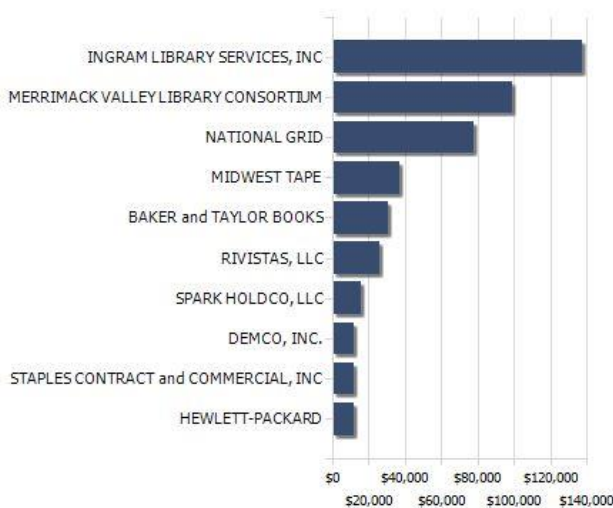


Data current as of: 06/17/2017

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Top Vendors for LIBRARY



This interactive chart – taken from Andover's Citizen Transparency site – provides an overview of the Town's annual budget ranging from Fiscal Years 2014 – 2018. Users can click into each of the columns to find out what transactions make up the Town's expenses and revenues.

This interactive chart is a high-level screenshot of the Town's total expenditures for fiscal years 2014 – 2018, categorized by municipal department. FY2018 is still in progress, so as transactions are added the bar graph grows accordingly. Users can click on a department to "drill down" and see a breakdown of spending by that department.

This chart shows a breakdown of spending by vendor at Andover's public library for Fiscal Year 2017.

This chart can be seen by drilling down from the municipal department level category (see above screenshot and description). It allows for very valuable insight into what each department in Andover is spending their budget on and for comparison of spending across fiscal years.

Similar charts are available for all spending by Andover's municipal and public school departments.