



January 21st, 2021

Announcing the Launch of the Community One Stop for Growth

Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito



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You will remember back in 2019, our Administration embarked on a year-long Economic Development Planning Process that included nine engagement sessions bringing us to every corner of the Commonwealth. Throughout this process, we heard from communities like yours about the challenges of securing state funding leading to an internal review and exploration of ways to improve access to various programs and streamline grant processes.

As a result of this work, I was thrilled to announce today our Administration's **Community One Stop for Growth**—a new unified grant application meant to streamline access to ten of our integrated grant programs offered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, Department of Housing and Community Development, and MassDevelopment.

The programs that will be included in the One Stop are: MassWorks, Urban Agenda, 43D Expedited Permitting, Community Planning Grants (new), Rural Development Fund (new), Housing Choice Capital Grants, MA Downtown Initiative, Brownfields, Site Readiness, Underutilized Properties (new).

This new process will start with an optional, but highly recommended, **Expression of Interest**, which

Important Dates & Information

Final 2020 Equalized Valuations (EQVs)

The Bureau of Local Assessment issued the final 2020 Equalized Valuations (EQVs), representing the full and fair cash value of all taxable property for each municipality as of January 1, 2020 to the DLS Gateway website at <https://dlsgateway.dor.state.ma.us/gateway/Login>.

Access can be made directly from the Gateway landing page, by clicking on [LA19 Equalized Valuation Report](#).

Proposed FY22 State Owned Land Valuation

The Division of Local Services has posted on its website proposed FY2022 state owned land values based on the fair cash value of certain state owned lands (SOL) pursuant to [MGL Ch. 58, §§ 13-17](#). These lands are reimbursed for loss of local tax revenue on the Cherry Sheet's State-Owned Land line.

Click [here](#) to display the proposed municipal state-owned land values and their share of the total state-owned land. For additional information, please view the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about this program.

CvRF-MP Reconciliation Period Extension

DLS has posted on its [Covid-19 Resources and Guidance page](#), "Guidance for Massachusetts municipalities on the Reconciliation Round of the Coronavirus Relief Fund

is now open. It gives applicants the opportunity from now until the beginning of April to submit brief summaries for up to five project ideas they might be contemplating. Full applications will be due the first week in June.

On **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am** Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy will host a briefing on the **Community One Stop for Growth**. Please be on the lookout for an invitation from the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and share the invitation with your Economic Development and Community Development Directors. You can also register for the session [here](#).

For more information on the **Community One Stop for Growth** visit www.mass.gov/onestop, where you will find materials for your communities to review as well as registration for three staff level webinars. Video recordings of the webinars will be posted online for those unable to attend.

The **Community One Stop for Growth** represents a major shift in how the State and its partner agencies do business, not in the way you do business. I hope that you are as excited as we are and we look forward to continuing to work with your communities to achieve your economic development goals.

Introducing the Municipal Finance Snapshot Dashboard DLS Data Analytics & Resources Bureau

Municipal Program (CvRF-MP)." The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act") includes funds for Massachusetts governments to use to pay costs incurred in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. This memo describes the Reconciliation Round (updated 1/19/21). [Please click here](#) to view the memo.

Cybersecurity: FY21 Muni and School Grants and Free Health-check Programs

The Office of Municipal and School Technology has announced the following programs available to Massachusetts municipalities and schools. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine.Marques@mass.gov

[Cybersecurity Awareness Training Program](#)

The 2021 Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is a competitive grant program that will help local government to improve overall cybersecurity posture through end-user training, evaluation and threat simulation.

The application period for the FY21 Cybersecurity Awareness Grant program opens on January 4th, 2021 and closes on January 29th, 2021.

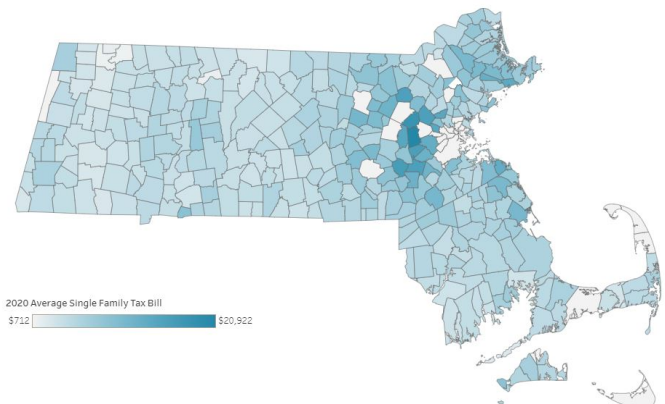
[Cybersecurity Health Check](#)

The Cybersecurity Health Check Program provides opportunities for local government to access basic cyber security services at no cost.

These services can be a good first step in discovering, assessing and identifying cybersecurity gaps that could impact IT

Snapshot Dashboard

2020 Average Single Family Tax Bill



Earlier this week, the Data Analytics & Resources Bureau (DARB) announced the release of a new tool on our website. The [Municipal Finance Snapshot Dashboard](#) uses Tableau Visualizations to display data from 14 financial categories including Average Single Family Tax Bill, Local Receipts, New Growth and much more. This dashboard was developed by DARB Data Visualization Lead Developer Gail Simms.

The dashboard was developed by incorporating annual financial data onto maps of the Commonwealth. Selecting a financial category from the main dashboard screen will open a map of the Commonwealth. Accessing data from the map can be done by hovering over a community or by using the map tools built into Tableau. See graphic below.



This information can provide local officials a quick look at key financial and demographic data for all 351 cities and towns, aid in local decision making, gives the ability to move between maps and live data reports on our website, and makes viewing data for neighboring communities and downloading maps for inclusion in local presentations simple.

Displaying community specific data in all 14 categories can be achieved by either hovering over the community or

systems that support essential business functions. This is a rolling application.

[IT Health Check](#)

An IT Health Check is a high-level assessment of current IT assets. A Health Check can be a good first step in discovering, assessing and identifying gaps that could impact IT systems that support essential business functions.

The discovery will results in a completed score card that will identify the current state of critical IT systems, and platform and vendor agnostic suggestions. This is a rolling application

Latest Issue of *Buy the Way Now* Available

Don't miss the December 2020-January 2021 edition of [Buy the Way](#), the bi-monthly magazine of the Operational Services Division (OSD).

[Click here](#) to get news and updates from OSD delivered to your inbox.

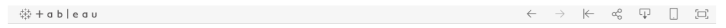
DPH Town Meeting Guidance

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued the following Town Meeting Guidance. To view the document, please [click here](#).

Free 2020 "What's New in Municipal Law" Seminar Available Online

Developed by our Bureau of Municipal Finance Law, the Division of Local Services is pleased to announce its annual "What's New in Municipal Law" presentation on recent legislation and

clicking on a location on the map. In some cases, you can click on the 351-file folder to display a report for all communities using the specific category. Users can return to the main dashboard screen by clicking the blue home icon. Views of the entire map by category can be downloaded as an image, pdf or PowerPoint slide using the Tableau tools at the bottom of the screen.

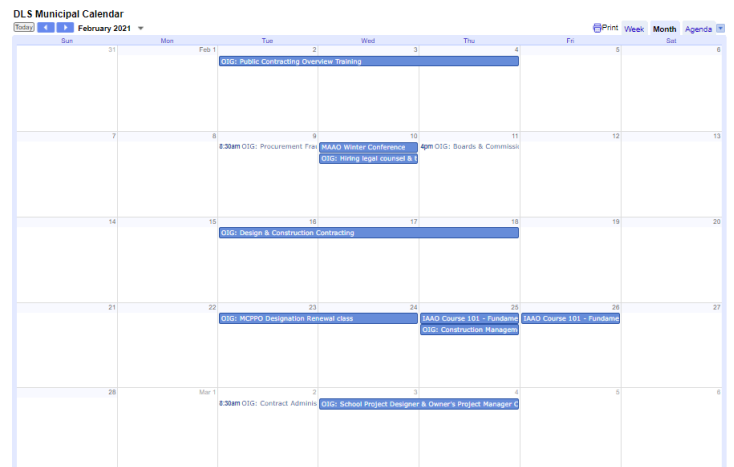


At the bottom of the page you will find toolbar, hovering over each tool will describe the action it takes.

We hope you enjoy and engage with this helpful new DLS resource. Should you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at databank@dor.state.ma.us.

Updating the Municipal Calendar Division of Local Services

In December, we announced the publication of our [Municipal Training Calendar](#), an online we developed to serve as a central resource for local officials interested in staying informed of upcoming professional development and training opportunities.



As we begin the new year, we are happy to share some updates on the calendar. In addition to collaborating with local professional organizations, we've also begun partnering with other state agencies who also offer training opportunities to municipal staff. In recent weeks we've

court decisions is currently available online and at no cost for the first time in our organization's history.

The presentation consists of five narrated videos discussing recent laws and cases related to municipal finance and municipal law. You can view the videos individually or together as a group on our YouTube channel listed under [What's New in Municipal Law 2020](#).

The estimated viewing time and link for each segment is included below. We hope you find this resource helpful and informative!

[Part 1 – New Legislation \(19:34\)](#)

[Part 2A – Property Tax Decisions \(21:15\)](#)

[Part 2B – Tax Collection and Public Employment \(14:43\)](#)

[Part 2C – Finance and Land Use \(10:27\)](#)

[Part 2D – Other Municipal Decisions \(16:04\)](#)

DHCH Eviction Diversion Initiative Launches New Awareness Campaign

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development is raising awareness of its Eviction Diversion Initiative with a new video. To view and share it, [click here](#). More information is available at mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp.

added events hosted by the State Ethics Commission and the Office of the Inspector General, and we are hoping to add others from different agencies soon. If you haven't visited the calendar yet, we encourage you to do so – and please send any feedback you might have to

DARB@dor.state.ma.us.

New Online Resources Provide General Info on MVE Assessment, Abatements and Exemptions **Frank Gervasio - DLS Director of Special Initiatives**

Content from DLS assessing modules are now available on YouTube in a new way. While new assessors are still required to complete Course 101 in Gateway, we have modified and published topic specific videos related to motor vehicle excise [assessment](#), [abatements](#), and [exemptions](#). We hope these will serve as a helpful resource for local officials and taxpayers alike as bills are sent out in the coming weeks!

For other assessing related resources, please visit the [property taxes and Proposition 2 ½ section](#) of our training page.

Be sure to bookmark the [Municipal Finance Training and Resource Center](#) page and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to stay updated on new items added. Something you'd like to see added? We'd love to hear from you! Please email DLS's Data Analytics & Resources Bureau at DARB@dor.state.ma.us.

DLS Offers New Access to Technical Assistance Projects and Services **Technical Assistance Bureau**

The Division of Local Services has released a new Gateway module to help local officials connect with the Technical Assistance Bureau (TAB). TAB provides no-cost consulting services to help communities improve their financial management practices and operational efficiency. This new Gateway module will make it easy for cities and towns to request TAB services and to track the progress of each

DLS Links:

[COVID-19 Resources and Guidance for Municipal Officials](#)

[Events & Training Calendar](#)

[Municipal Finance Training and Resource Center](#)

[Local Officials Directory](#)

[Municipal Databank](#)

[Informational Guideline Releases \(IGRs\)](#)

[Bulletins](#)

[Publications & Training Center](#)

[Tools and Financial Calculators](#)

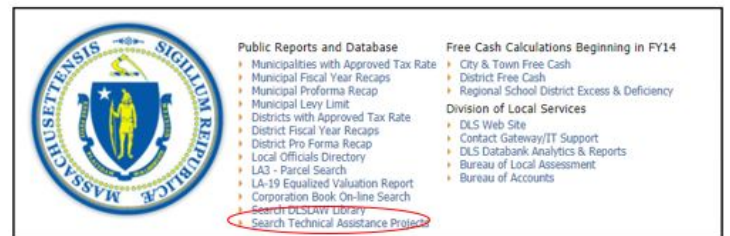
project. Local officials will need to log into [Gateway](#) and click on the TAB folder at the top of the page to access the online request form and to track projects that are in progress. Specific instructions on how to complete a new service request are available on the TAB landing page, so please refer to them before submitting a request.



Select Boards, Mayors, Town/City Councils, Town/City Managers, Finance Directors, Accountants, Assessors, Treasurers, and Collectors will have immediate access to the new TAB feature in Gateway. Next time you login to Gateway, DLS encourages you to take a look at the TAB folder and click on the link for “search requests” to see the latest reports completed for your community.

A “Technical Assistance Projects” public search link is featured on the [Gateway login screen](#). This tool does not require Gateway access and makes hundreds of TAB’s consulting reports available, providing a wealth of guidance and best practice advice on demand.

To access the TAB module’s project search, click the “Search Technical Assistance Projects” link on the Gateway landing page.



From the “Technical Assistance Bureau, Search Service Requests” page, select “City/Town” from the “Jurisdiction Type” and choose your community from the “Jurisdiction” drop-down menu. Once selected, it will display all TAB projects that have been completed. Click “Open” for a link to the project specifics and the option to download the report for offline viewing.

Jurisdiction Type City/Town Jurisdiction Ashfield - 013

This new module offers a seamless way for local officials to benefit from all the services TAB has to offer. Most local officials are already comfortable using Gateway for transacting business with DLS. Adding an easy way to communicate with TAB establishes an important lifeline for communities struggling with today's challenges.

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Contact *City & Town* with questions, comments and feedback by emailing us at cityandtown@dor.state.ma.us.

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