

## **Project Overview**

**Goals and Objectives:** This proposed CSPP grant project will: 1) perform cost-effective weatherization measures in income-eligible mobile home dwelling units in a forty-five (45) unit mobile home park located at 151 Hartford Turnpike in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. In addition, this project will serve underserved clients residing in a municipal utility service territory while also achieving the goals of the Justice40 initiative. The main goals are to reduce the energy costs (energy burden) for these income-eligible clients who reside in a mobile home park community.

In Massachusetts, there are forty-one (41) municipal light plants (MLPs) that provide electricity to citizens in all or part of fifty (50) municipalities. Unlike the investor-owned utilities in Massachusetts, the MLPs face limited regulations as they are regulated by municipal officials as opposed to the investor-owned utilities that are regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Thus, citizens who live in an MLP service territory do not typically receive equal assistance for energy efficiency measure installation that citizens receive who live in an investor-owned service territory. DHCD classifies these MLP service territories as an underserved population in relation to energy efficiency measure installation.

This project will address income-eligible clients who reside in mobile home dwellings within a specific MLP service territory (Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations). Dwellings that heat with heating oil or propane generally receive no energy efficiency assistance in MLP service territories. Heating oil and propane are currently the most expensive delivered heating fuels in the Commonwealth. Thus, for low-income clients, this represents an added financial energy burden. In addition, most propane tanks are “dealer owned”, so consumers cannot shop around with other dealers for better prices.

### **Needs Assessment:**

A needs assessment of each dwelling unit’s household members will be conducted. This assessment will determine the total number of dwelling units that may be served through WAP CSPP. There have been some weatherization services provided in this park in the past, but the majority has been more than fifteen (15) years ago. SMOC will work with SELCO and the mobile home park’s management company to spread the word about the project and get all households that may qualify for Home Energy Services (formerly referred to as “Fuel Assistance”) certified as eligible.

Each dwelling unit will receive a complete mobile home Priority List evaluation or a complete MHEA energy audit for all cost-effective weatherization measures as outlined in the Program Year 2023 WAP State Plan. Each dwelling unit will receive comprehensive insulation, air-sealing, and weather-stripping if meeting the audit /priority list requirements. To make such an investment in these dwellings, reducing air leakage is especially important in the overall goal to achieve maximum energy savings. It is also critical to prepare these dwelling units for potential

conversion to air-source heat pumps if awarded a companion SERC grant for which DHCD is in the process of applying.

### **Project Location:**

The mobile home park is situated on well-travelled Route 20 (Hartford Turnpike) in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Shrewsbury is a town located adjacent to the east of Worcester, the second largest city in Massachusetts. The location is also on the east shore of Lake Quinsigamond which makes it more susceptible to adverse weather and cold brought forth with the westerly winds. This mobile home park is the only mobile home park in SELCO's service territory.

### **Household Demographics:**

There are approximately forty-five (45) stand-alone units in the mobile home park. All of the units are mobile homes. SMOC is able to tell from past LIHEAP applications, that there is a diversity of racial ethnicities in the park. Exact demographics will be obtained as part of the community needs assessment.

### **Project Team:**

- Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
  - CSPP development, oversight, monitoring, and reporting.
  - Eric Beaton, WAP Program Manager, [eric.beaton@mass.gov](mailto:eric.beaton@mass.gov)
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC)
  - Project oversight, client eligibility, client education, auditing / quality control inspections
  - Greg Tutuny, Chief Business Officer, [gtutuny@smoc.org](mailto:gtutuny@smoc.org)
- Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO)
  - Patrick Collins, Integrated Resource Analyst, [pcollins@shrewsburyma.gov](mailto:pcollins@shrewsburyma.gov)
  - Liaison with mobile home park's management and households. Assistance with any available leveraged funds through SELCO
- Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)
  - Bill Bullock, Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager, [bbullock@mmwec.org](mailto:bbullock@mmwec.org)
  - General support for energy efficiency in municipal utility service territories. Project review and insight.
- Private sector weatherization, heating, and electrical contractors.