



FY2024 Community Planning Grant Program Notice of Additional Funds Available and Application Guidelines

Introduction:

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is pleased to announce the availability of additional funding for municipalities across the Commonwealth to support community planning and engagement efforts geared towards increasing the production of housing. Approximately \$1.5M in community compact funds will be distributed competitively to eligible projects through the Community Planning Grant Program in the 2023 Community One Stop for Growth process.

The Department of Revenue's (DOR's) Division of Local Services (DLS) in collaboration with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will evaluate applications submitted in the Community One Stop's Community Planning category to select projects that will be funded through this source.

Eligible Applicants:

All Massachusetts municipalities are eligible for consideration of this grant opportunity.

Maximum Award Amount:

Grants made by these additional funds will likely range between \$25,000-\$100,000. The maximum grant award will be \$100,000. *Funding is subject to appropriations in the DOR operating and capital budgets.*

Use of Funds:

Grant funds may be expended on professional services and related costs for the completion of a housing planning project. A planning project must be related to housing production. The following is a list of projects that will be eligible to be funded by these additional funds:

- Housing Production Plan
- Feasibility Study for municipally owned property for future housing use
- Housing focused Neighborhood Plan
- Housing focused Downtown Plan
- Housing focused Mixed Use Corridor Plan
- Zoning Review & Revision to encourage additional housing
- Zoning to Comply with Section 3A of MGL c.40A
- Inclusionary Zoning to add affordability requirements
- Simple Majority zoning amendment
- Implement a Housing Choice Best Practice
- Economic Feasibility Analysis for compliance with Section 3A of MGL c.40A
- Establish or expand a 40R Smart Growth Overlay District
- Outreach and Education about housing needs

Timeline:

Grants made by these additional funds are expected to be awarded in early June. **Successful applicants must execute a contract with DOR no later than June 30, 2023.** Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2025. These funds are available on a reimbursement basis.

How to Apply:

Complete a Full Application through the Community One Stop for Growth, which is open from May 1, 2023, through June 2, 2023. Access the Community One Stop application at www.mass.gov/onestop.

Applicants are encouraged to note in the “Short Project Description/Abstract” of their full application that they wish to be considered for these additional housing planning funds and also confirm that they can execute a contract by June 30, 2023. Applicants that have already applied for a Planning and Zoning housing related project in the Community One Stop prior to the announcement of these additional funds will be evaluated by program reviewers without having to make modifications to their application.

As noted, this funding opportunity will be available for projects that are focused on a planning project related to housing. In the Full Application through the IGX platform, the applicant must choose the Planning and Zoning Category and then indicate the Project Type – Community Plan or Zoning Revision. For the Project Focus, applicants should select from the following options:

Community Plan

- Neighborhood Plan (must have a housing component)
- Downtown Plan (must have a housing component)
- Housing Production Plan
- Other Planning Document (*Applicant will need to specify in the space provided*)

Other eligible housing planning projects are:

- Feasibility Study for municipally owned property for future housing use
- Outreach and Education about housing needs
- Mixed Use Corridor Plan
- Economic Feasibility Analysis for compliance with Section 3A of MGL c.40A
- Implementation of a Housing Choice Best Practice

Zoning Revision

- Zoning to comply with Section 3A (MBTA Communities)
- Zoning Review & Update
- Other Zoning Update (*Applicant will need to specify in the space provided*)

Other eligible Zoning Update projects related to housing are as follows:

- Establish or expand a 40R Smart Growth Overlay District
- Inclusionary Zoning to add affordability requirements
- Simple Majority zoning amendment
- Implementation of a Housing Choice Best Practice

Questions and Contact Information:

If an interested municipality has questions or would like more information about these additional funds made available through the Community Planning Grant Program, please reach out to Chris Kluchman, Deputy Director, Community Services Division, DHCD, at chris.kluchman@mass.gov, and Filipe Zamborlini, Community Grants Coordinator, Community Services Division, DHCD, at filipe.zamborlini@mass.gov.