

## Q&A

**Ann Burke** - Would communities be best to start with the local Regional planning organization when applying to the EDA for specific projects ?

**Ann Burke** - will communities that have participated in the LRRP process get any preferential treatment when it comes to One Stop funding for COVID recovery

**Ann Burke** - Can a business improvement district apply for Urban Agenda funding?

**Sean Nelsen** - Will there be an application window prior to January 2022 for RRP communities? If not, what should we do with our projects until then?

**Sean Nelsen** - What do we do if our project gets rejected for funding from Community One Stop for Growth?

**Kathy McCabe** - In late July 2021, EDA sent a letter of invite to each state for the state travel and tourism ARPA assistance grant. How much did MA receive? What is the plan to distribute this funding to local projects in MA?

**Kathy McCabe** - Could Juan please expand about Urban Agenda grants. Do applicants need to be cities? Is there a minimum population threshold?

**Ann Burke** - if the state sees a trend with LRRP projects in specific " buckets" ..... will there be additional funding placed in those areas ?

**Sean Nelsen** - For Commonwealth Places, will MassDevelopment waive the MHHI requirement for RRP communities?

**Anonymous** - Does Belchertown qualify for the placemaking seed grant?

**Katie Kemen** - Can Laura please describe again how grant recipients can "regrant?" I'm specifically interested in a privately owned alley between two businesses but that is used by the public as a pedestrian shortcut from a public parking lot to Main Street.

**Lori Tanner** - Could Laura clarify again what is allowed now vs. what was allowed last year.

**Peg Barringer** - Can Commonwealth Places funds only be used in low-to-moderate income communities?

**Dion Kenney** – A lot of these funding sources are focus on the built environment. Are there any funds for facilitating building “digital downtown” solutions?

**Pardis Saffari** – Adding on to the previous question, can grants be used for activating storefronts that are not owned by a public entity? My question is for all grants, not just Mass Development grants

**April Jasak-Bangs** – Will MHHI be waived for this?

**Jennifer Turner** - Will the MHHI requirements change? We have extreme difficulty with this requirement and have a GREAT NEED for these types of placemaking grants

**Sean Nelsen** - How many RRP projects should communities be implementing?

**Anonymous** - Will MHHI be waived for these grant programs because of Covid?

**Sean Nelsen** - Is there going to be any funding coming that will be specifically earmarked to RRP projects? Or will we basically have MassDevelopment, EDA, and ARPA to leverage for implementation funding?

**Sean Nelsen** - For "crowdfunding" how do you balance the awkwardness of municipal employees "asking" taxpayers for money for capital projects? Especially coming out of COVID, I'd imagine it's going to be difficult for a government employee going around asking community members for money

**Peg Barringer** - I see on the Chat, a few people asked about the potential waiving of MHHI requirement for CommonWeath places — I would like to add that question here.

**Kathy McCabe** - Does a proposed project under EDA's travel/ tourism ARPA NOFA have to be listed in the local CEDs?

**Susan Briggs** - Can a community submit more than one project (apply for more than one) "one stop" grant?

**Peg Barringer** - Can a municipality apply to EDA directly for funding? (especially interested in Competitive Tourism Grant)

**Anonymous** - Almost all arts and cultural grants are to institutions only. Are there funding sources for municipalities directly for community arts and cultural activities?

**Sean Nelsen** - When will we have answers to questions about how RRP projects are treated by EOHEP programs?

**Sean Nelsen** – What do we do if our project gets rejected for funding from Community One Stop for Growth?

**Aishwarya Kulkarni** – What about funding to increase administrative capacity and constructing public facilities?

**Cynthia Stewart** - Where do we find the rubric/measure for the state's MHHI to determine whether our community is equal to or below the MHHI and therefore eligible for Commonwealth Places?

**Ann Burke** - im not hearing much about how the state is going to support LRRP projects... the communities are going to wonder why they have put into all these efforts.

**Kathy McCabe** - Since EOHED oversees Mass Office of Travel & Tourism, what is the plan for distributing and making sub-grants for the \$18 million of EDA-ARPA funds for travel and tourism?

**Anonymous** - The placemaking grant qualifications is 120% of MHHI?

## Chat

00:31:40 Sean Nelsen: Will there be an application window prior to January 2022 for RRP communities? If not, what should we do with our projects until then?

00:31:47 Sean Nelsen: What do we do if our project gets rejected for funding from Community One Stop for Growth?

00:38:35 Sean Nelsen: For Commonwealth Places, will MassDevelopment waive the MHHI requirement for RRP communities?

00:43:40 Dion Kenney: A lot of these funding sources are focused on the built environment. Are there any funds for facilitating building "digital downtown" solutions?

00:45:22 Pardis Saffari: Adding on to the previous question, can grants be used for activating storefronts that are not owned by a public entity?

00:45:53 Pardis Saffari: My questions is for all grants, not just Mass Development grant

00:47:02 Streetsense Producing: Hi everyone, please submit your questions through the Q&A section - we will leave time for Q&A at the end of the webinar.

00:47:10 April Jasak-Bangs: Will MHHI be waived for this?

00:58:39 Sean Nelsen: We need to know how the EOHED programs will treat RRP project

00:59:58 Aishwarya Kulkarni: What about funding to increase administrative capacity and constructing public facilities?

01:02:59 Ann Burke: are there going to be additional arpa or other funds put into these programs to expand the resources available for LRRP projects.

01:03:51 Sean Nelsen: I am very worried on how I will fund LRRP projects in my community

01:09:32 Ann Burke: the administrative capacity /organizational development needs important but will require some resources to get them off the ground for many communities.

01:10:24 Ann Burke: how can communities help educate the legislature about the LRRP process and making ARPA funds available?

01:12:38 Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe: It would be great if LRRP communities could receive priority (extra points) in EOHE and other state grants for programs and projects contained in the LRRP plan.

01:13:47 Sean Nelsen: When will we know how LRRP projects will be prioritized?

01:17:02 Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe: Thank you for this update and panel on funding. The Q&A was very helpful.