



Town of Sutton

Transparency & Data Standards Best Practice

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EOTSS | Executive Office of Technology Services & Security



Image: Lake Manchaug¹

Introduction

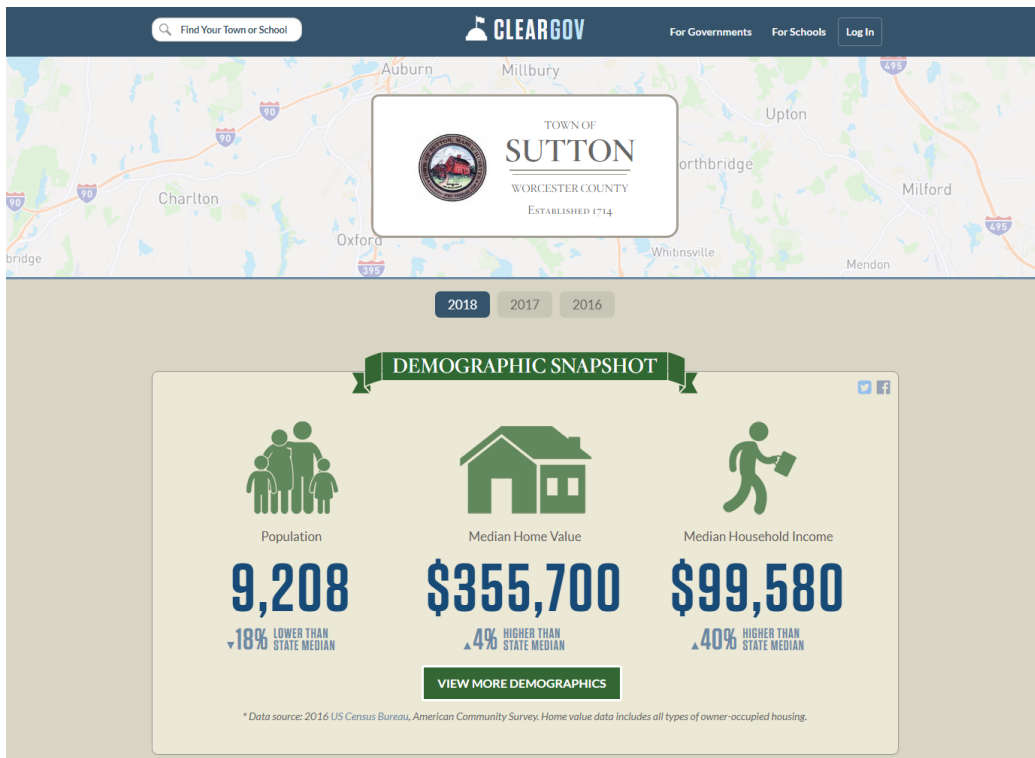
The Town of Sutton is a rural community located in Worcester County, just 15 minutes from the Rhode Island border. Sutton has a population of approximately 9,208 residents and a median household income of \$99,580². The Town's excellent school system and safe and rural atmosphere make it an ideal place to live and raise a family. In 2018, Town officials made it a priority to improve public information sharing. Sutton received Community Compact grant funds to implement a financial transparency solution so that residents could better understand the fiscal posture of the community. The Town implemented an Open Budget tool that that would give citizens access to the Town's budgetary information in an attractive and user-friendly format. This report serves as a summary of Sutton's process to complete this initiative for the Community Compact's Transparency and Data Standards best practice.

¹ Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism. "Lake Manchaug." Accessed on November 26, 2018. <https://bit.ly/2P15Sqp>.

² "Community Facts." United States Census Bureau. American FactFinder. Accessed on November 26, 2018. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

Project Overview

In 2018, Sutton received a Community Compact grant, which was used to implement an Open Budget solution. The Town wanted to provide more transparency and provide information to the public about the state of town government and fiscal health relative to similar communities. They believed that increasing transparency would build trust and help with the public's understanding of the budgeting process. Sutton's Open Budget site went live in the Fall of 2018. The Town's financial data can now be accessed through their website, and at the link below.



Source: <https://www.cleargov.com/massachusetts/worcester/town/sutton/2018>

Conclusion

The Town of Sutton implemented an Open Budget solution, providing insight into the Town's expenditures so that everyone, including staff and residents, can easily understand how tax dollars are being allocated. Sutton has demonstrated their dedication to government transparency and has completed the Community Compact Transparency and Data Standards best practice.