



Housing Choice Community Grants FY 2019

The Baker-Polito Administration is announcing \$4,000,000 in Housing Choice Community Grants to 19 communities. These grants were exclusively available to the 69 Housing Choice Communities that were designated in May 2018 due to their substantial housing production and best practices that are promoting housing. Information about the Housing Choice Initiative can be found at: www.mass.gov/housingchoice

Grant Awardees

Acton, \$165,000

This award will fund design and construction of improvements for 45 units of affordable housing owned by the Acton Housing Authority. Sidewalks, roads, and parking area are 30 years old and in need of replacement, extension of sidewalk areas and ADA/MAAB compliant features such as ramps and tactile landings.

Amherst, \$190,000

The town will install 360 feet of 5-foot-wide sidewalk along East Pleasant Street between Village Park Road and Olympia Drive. The new sidewalk will replace an established foot path with an accessible walk that connects to local bus stops and the town center sidewalk system. The project will construct two road crossings with accessible curb cuts and crosswalks, dedicated bus pull offs with shelter and bike racks.

Barnstable, \$250,000

This capital project will supplement a planned and funded upgrade to sewer infrastructure within Downtown Hyannis' Growth Incentive Zone. Together, comprehensive improvements to the infrastructure will substantially increase the system's capacity, safety and function. The Pleasant Street Sewer project will upgrade the existing sewer infrastructure located under Pleasant Street in Hyannis to accommodate current and future growth within the sewer service area.

Beverly, \$150,000

The grant will enable the city to conduct feasibility, design, and engineering work to transform the Beverly Depot Train Station area into a Multi-Modal Mobility Hub to consolidate and enhance transportation options for residents.

Chelmsford, \$225,000

The project will fund survey, design and wetlands permitting for the construction of 3,400-feet of granite curbing, new sidewalk and associated minor roadway widening and drainage improvements along a portion of Turnpike Road from Warren Ave. to Billerica Road. The improvements will connect an existing sidewalk network for the nearby school, the town center and the regional bike trail, to a recently approved 168 unit multi-family development, an existing densely developed residential neighborhood and several potential future housing projects.

Easthampton, \$225,000

Funding will enable the expansion of a recently implemented bike share program in five nearby municipalities. The project includes design and construction of five bike share locations within the city and deploy approximately 36 new electric assist bike share bicycles. The funding will allow the city to become a member of the existing five town consortium and the regional Valley Bike Share Program. The grant covers the full cost of all construction, docking equipment, bicycles, and wayfinding.

Easton, \$225,000

Funding covers design and engineering plans for Phase II of the Five Corners Sewer project which will extend the sewer further into Easton, serving commercial and residential properties, and benefit ongoing and planned housing growth.

Framingham, \$250,000

Grant funds will evaluate, design, and implement the replacement and/or upgrade of the stormwater drainage system in the vicinity of Kendall Street, Freeman Street, Frederick Street, and Howard Street. The city's Stormwater Master Plan identifies this area as being at high risk, and the new design will increase capacity. The project is in the vicinity of the first Transit-Oriented Development housing project in the downtown, and will benefit this project and other planned growth.

Lawrence, \$206,500

The grant fills a funding gap for the Phase II O'Connell Park Renovation project. The park currently benefits residents in this densely populated neighborhood and improvements will provide users of all ages and abilities with green space and a safe space for healthy activity, socialization and community events. This will provide a diverse range of park amenities that will increase healthy and active living behaviors among residents. Park improvements include: path realignment and reconstruction to meet ADA compliance and correct safety hazards, construction of multi-purpose courts and volleyball courts, and replacement of outdated playground equipment with an all-abilities playground.

Littleton, \$250,000

This award will enable the complete replacement of the Littleton Fire Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for all seated positions within their fleet of fire apparatus. The SCBA cylinders for the Littleton Fire Department will be 15 years old in 2019. During our last test in April 2018, the testing service confirmed that they have reached their useful life.

Melrose, \$168,000

The City of Melrose will use the grant to make safety and accessibility improvements, including ADA accessibility upgrades to Cherry Street, an important east-west thoroughfare in Melrose. Cherry Street provides a major connection between the Main Street downtown and business area and points west, especially for the elderly population living in and around the new assisted living facility on Essex Street.

Northampton, \$225,300

Grant funds will repave Pleasant Street, nearby downtown streets and repair sidewalks, as part of the city's Complete Streets/Vision Zero efforts. The city redeveloped Pleasant Street as a complete street in 2017, adding sidewalks, curb extensions, cycle tracks, and a raised intersection. This was done to make the street more pedestrian and bicycle friendly and in line with the Vision Zero goal, where no pedestrian or bicycle fatalities are acceptable.

Provincetown, \$250,000

The grant will create two new ADA accessible units at Harbor Hill in Provincetown. The Town of Provincetown acquired the property, a 26 unit condominium development formerly operated as a timeshare development. The town appropriated \$10 million towards the acquisition and renovation of this development to provide quality affordable year-round rental housing to middle income households in Provincetown.

Quincy, \$250,000

Grant funds will create three fully-accessible housing units in an existing public housing development owned by the Quincy Housing Authority through the Sawyer Tower Accessible Units Conversion project. The project will bring the total number of units in the development from 150 to 153. Funds from the Housing Choice Capital Grant Program will cover construction and development costs associated with the project.

Reading, \$50,000

Funding will allow Reading to undertake a community visioning process for a priority redevelopment area known as the New Crossing Road Redevelopment District. The area's potential has been identified by the town, and a consultant will be hired to evaluate the district including in regards to infrastructure needs, market trends, existing property, potential necessary zoning changes, wetlands issues, development potential, and more to best leverage the existing asset.

Salisbury, \$225,000

The town will use grant funding to finish renovations at Partridge Brook Park, including a concession stand, irrigation, playground, and security cameras, to benefit new residents and the town's increased housing stock. This high priority project was identified in the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan 2013-2016, the Board of Selectmen Prioritization Plan for 2018 and the DPW Capital Improvement Plan.

Somerville, \$200,000

Grant funds will advance the city's existing preliminary design studies and prepare full construction documents for the Gilman Square Streetscape & Intersection Reconstruction Project. The project will slow automobile traffic through Gilman Square, help to connect the new Green Line light-rail station with the Square, allow development of new civic green spaces in to support, and produce two new development sites in Gilman Square. This project will further the city's goals of adding 125 acres of new green space city-wide by 2030 and of developing new affordable housing adjacent to the new Green Line station.

Taunton, \$245,200

Grant funding will create new amenities at the Liberty & Union Plaza Park in downtown Taunton dedicated to Richard DeWert, a Korean War hero from Taunton who was Killed in Action. This project implements recommendations in the Downtown Taunton District Master Plan, funded by MassDevelopment, which provided concepts for park renovations. The park rehabilitation will reactivate the space in the most efficient, safe, and maintainable way possible.

Williamstown, \$250,000

The grant will pay for necessary dispatch equipment and installation at a new, \$5 million police facility, funded by the town. New dispatch equipment will include antenna systems at the new site and relay improvements back to additional controls that will remain at Williamstown's Town Hall.