



CMRPC Newsletter

January 2024

Upcoming Meetings & Events

CMRPC's Quarterly Meeting - Reducing Climate Pollution in Southern Worcester County: January 11, 2024, 7:00 pm with remote and in-person participation available. Register in advance for the [Quarterly Meeting](#).

Cottage Community Housing Development Virtual Webinar: CMRPC planners will present on cottage community bylaw considerations at 2:00 p.m. on January 17, 2024. Register in advance for the [Cottage Housing Webinar](#).

Short-Term Rental Bylaw Virtual Webinar: CMRPC planners will be presenting on the state requirements for short-term rentals and considerations for a zoning bylaw versus a general bylaw to regulate them. 2:00 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Register in advance for the [Short-Term Rental Webinar](#).

CMRPC Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Public Workshops: CMRPC is hosting public workshops to discuss air pollution reduction strategies. View the [full list of Air Pollution Reduction workshops](#) in our region.

The Impact of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

Little by little, a little becomes a lot.

A zoning bylaw. A mapping project. A gateway mockup. Support to an Economic Development Corporation. These projects may seem minor, but great places are built brick by brick. **Such is the legacy of District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) in Central Massachusetts.**

Since 2006, the Massachusetts General Assembly (Legislature) has provided RPAs with DLTA funding. This resource allows CMRPC and its sister agencies to provide direct technical assistance to member communities. For 18 years, CMRPC has used DLTA funds to undertake small but catalytic community-driven projects that lack other funding sources. In 2023, CMRPC undertook more than 20 such projects, most on behalf of multiple communities. These bite-sized projects have a compound impact.

DLTA has been used to organize farmers. Launch nonprofits. Pilot cutting-edge zoning. Engage youth. Meet grant match requirements. Kickstart planning processes. Design downtowns. Guide committees. Reach inter-municipal agreements. The list goes on and on, and the impact is cumulative: development projects build upon, add to, and amplify each other. As Vincent van Gogh once said, “Little by little, a little becomes a lot.”

CMRPC is accepting 2024 DLTA applications in January and March. [Submission details](#) can be found on [CMRPC's website](#). The upcoming rounds follow a robust 2023 cycle that included an array of projects, including:

- Holden Zoning Diagnostic
- Rutland Communication Pilot Project
- Charlton and Sutton Low-Impact Development
- Regional Waste Action Plan
- Worcester Land Use Audit
- Arts Culture Asset Inventory
- Brownfields
- Green Communities Support
- Grafton Park Redesign
- West Brookfield Permitting Review and Guidebook
- Heat Resiliency Plan
- EDC Support (5 communities)
- Grafton OSRP Parcel Assessment
- Worcester IZ assistance
- Short-term Rental Bylaw (5 communities)
- Cottage Housing Bylaw (6 communities)
- Youth Trail Mapping
- LiDAR Feasibility
- Brookfield Community Engagement

- Imagine 2050: Regional Plan
- MBTA Community Assistance
- Regional Services

CMRPC would like to thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration and state representatives who supported DLTA in this 18th consecutive year of funding. In addition to “traditional” DLTA projects, the legislature has authorized the use of 2024 DLTA funds for support with federal grant applications. We look forward to supporting our member communities with DLTA projects again this year. For more information, contact tsettles@cmrpc.org

Community Planning

Youth Trail Stewardship Program in Partnership with MassAudubon



CMRPC has just wrapped up its final report on its youth trail stewardship project. In Spring 2023, **CMRPC staff received District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funding to establish a youth trail stewardship group as part of the [MassTrails-funded CMRPC Trail Accessibility & Inclusion Toolkit](#)**. The Toolkit, which is being finalized this month, allows landowners to assess trails for accessibility and inclusion standards that go beyond the standards laid out in ADA regulations. The toolkit uses a rubric focusing on accessibility and inclusion attributes for underserved populations (youth, elderly, BIPOC, low-income residents, etc.), looking at what kinds of trail features promote

comfortability on trails, promote knowledge that trails exist to these populations, and promote accessibility based on location/transportation, among other attributes.

CMRPC staff sought to ensure they could incorporate youth voices into the development of the report, understanding that youth are an underserved population with regards to trail accessibility for several reasons, including limited options for transportation, a lack of financial resources, and a lack of awareness about safely accessible trails in their community. They decided to establish a youth group to provide input on the report and inform the auditing process. The project would also provide an opportunity to educate the youth about trails and accessibility.

After acquiring funding, CMRPC conducted a round of outreach to youth education organizations in the region to see if there was any interest in helping to form a group. [MassAudubon](#) staff at the [Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Worcester agreed to schedule some time with a group of around ten teenagers from a program they were conducting in partnership with the Regional Environmental Council urban agriculture nonprofit.

Throughout July and into early August, CMRPC met with the youth group to introduce trail accessibility and inclusion concepts and practices and discuss the unique challenges facing youth. Input from these discussions was used to develop new attributes for the Toolkit's trail grading rubric, with assigned point

values also weighed in on by the youth group. The MassAudubon supervisors also took the group on a hike of an accessible trail at Broadmeadow Brook to give the group a firsthand understanding of trail accessibility features. For the last meeting, the group was allowed to use the full CMRPC rubric to audit a less accessible trail in Worcester. The experience was positive overall and served as an important contribution to the larger report. For more information, contact Sam Carter at scarter@cmrpc.org

Exploring Opportunities for Urban Agriculture and Food Forests in Worcester

CMRPC recently completed a **District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) project** to begin research and an initial assessment of tax-title properties in the city of Worcester for their potential to be used for urban agriculture, particularly food forests. The choice to focus on food forests came about through discussions with representatives from the [Regional Environmental Council \(REC\)](#) an urban agriculture non-profit in Worcester. Urban food forests are permaculture gardens that consist of various edible perennial plants and fruit trees, mimicking the basic structure and ecosystem functions of natural forests to increase crop yield and resiliency. Urban food forests are also relatively less expensive to create. Over time, they become increasingly self-sufficient and will require fewer resources to sustain.



The initial assessment of foreclosed properties took the form of an audit, wherein properties were screened for food forest suitability based on environmental conditions, socioeconomic factors, and parcel characteristics.

The resulting preliminary report draft also includes strategies and recommendations for food forest production in Worcester. Part of the analysis included generating maps that depicted the potential suitability of the properties, considering different conditions and factors.

The team also acquired [Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs \(EEA\)](#) grant funding to continue the development of the analysis into a full report, which should be completed later this year. For more information, contact Sam Carter at scarter@cmrpc.org

Economic Development

MassHire Central Region Career & Support Services Summit



Join the [MassHire Central Region Workforce Board \(MCRWB\)](#) and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) for an in-person event to discuss career opportunities and support programs that can benefit your municipality and our collective region. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the MassDOT District 3 Administration Building, 499 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA 01605.

We all understand that a thriving and diverse workforce benefits our communities in countless ways. This summit is a chance to network with workforce partners, fellow municipal officials, and stakeholders to exchange

ideas to grow workforce readiness and employment pipelines for a variety of industries and sectors.

Kerrie Salwa, CMRPC's Director of Economic Development will be providing the welcoming message at the event.

This in-person event is free, advanced registration is encouraged. [Register online and view the agenda for the Summit.](#)

Digital Equity Initiatives for Central Massachusetts



The Town of Charlton, in partnership with CMRPC staff, has recently completed its Digital Equity Charette. Beginning in the summer of 2023, CMRPC began collaborating with the Town of Charlton on its Digital Equity Charette. The Charette was made possible in collaboration with the [Massachusetts Broadband Institute \(MBI\)](#). MBI's goal is to ensure digital equity for all Massachusetts residents. Digital Equity is the condition in which all individuals and communities have the technological capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy.

Utilizing community engagement, community meetings, data collection, and an analysis of current conditions,

CMRPC partnered in the creation of the [Digital Equity Report](#) for the Town of Charlton. The report will aid in securing future funding to implement the recommendations and goals set in the final plan document.

Additionally, CMRPC is currently working with the City of Worcester on its Digital Equity Charette and is currently in its community engagement phase.

This is a no-cost program for municipalities, and all communities in the Commonwealth are eligible. Smaller towns are encouraged to apply, and regional applications will also be considered. If your community is interested in the program, contact Ethan Melad at emelad@cmrpc.org

Regional Services

Driving Change: Unveiling the Quabbin Rural Transit Study for Enhanced Health Equity in North Central Massachusetts



CMRPC is thrilled to share our recent [Quabbin Rural Transit Study Report](#) for the Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass (CHNA9). This comprehensive study offers an in-depth analysis of the current rural transit landscape within the Towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree,

and Oakham, identifying critical gaps and proposing innovative solutions to enhance transportation equity.

It emphasizes the importance of accessible and reliable transportation in fostering community health and well-being. The report also outlines strategic recommendations to improve transit services, which are vital for ensuring that all community members, regardless of location, have equitable access to essential services and opportunities. This study marks a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to address transportation challenges and promote health equity across North Central Massachusetts. For more information, contact Connor Robichaud at crobichaud@cmrpc.org

Solid Waste Strategies Legislative Affairs Forum



On December 13, 2023, CMRPC held the biannual Legislative Affairs Forum and Breakfast at Clark University. The purpose of the CMRPC Legislative Affairs Forum is to give legislators the ability to speak directly with municipal partners and community advocates on important issues facing the region.

Attendees heard from a panel that spoke about product stewardship, waste management, and the current legislative landscape in Massachusetts. Thank you to our panelists and legislators who were able to participate, including MA Senator Michael Moore; MA Representative Brian Murray; Waneta Trabert, Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council; Peg Hall Product Stewardship Consultant, Dan McGowan, Northeast Mattress Recycling Council; Josie Ahlberg, Massachusetts Municipal Association; and Ian McElwee, CMRPC.

Transportation

2025 - 2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

The [Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#) is a federally mandated requirement applicable to all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). It serves as a prioritized inventory of federal-aid transportation investments within an MPO's planning area for the upcoming five federal fiscal years.



The TIP development process for the 2025 – 2029 CMMPO TIP is now underway. Communities with potential candidate projects in Rutland, West Brookfield, Westborough, and Worcester have been invited to the January CMMPO meeting to present their project to the board members. During the TIP development, staff will evaluate new projects using the Performance Management criteria. These criteria aim to assess the anticipated outcomes of TIP investments in the transportation network, aligning with the goals outlined in the US DOT's Transportation Planning Factors. These goals include reducing congestion, improving pavement conditions, and enhancing safety. Additionally, projects that promote public transit, bicycling, and walking are actively sought for inclusion in the Central Massachusetts TIP.

Throughout the TIP development, the CMMPO ensures an extensive outreach effort, adhering to the established Public Participation Program (PPP). This program offers numerous opportunities for stakeholders and public involvement. The current [TIP development schedule](#) is available on the CMRPC website, featuring upcoming CMMPO and CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting dates, as well as any other public meetings related to the TIP.

The TIP is anticipated to be endorsed by the CMMPO in May 2024. Subsequently, it will be forwarded to the [MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning \(OTP\)](#), where it will be combined with the TIP listings from each of the state's 13 planning regions. The resulting document, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), will then undergo review and approval by the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#), the [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\)](#) and the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). This process aims to ensure that the new TIP can become effective on October 1, 2024.

For any inquiries related to the TIP, please contact Kevin Krasnecky at, kkrasnecky@cmrpc.org.

CMRPC Secures \$600,000 Safe Streets Grant for Vital Community Initiatives

CMRPC's transportation team has successfully secured \$600,000 in state and federal funding for their Central Mass Safe Streets for All Action Plan and Worcester Main South Demonstration Project through the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program.

These funds are earmarked for the development of an Action Plan and the execution of crucial planning and demonstration activities. In the coming weeks, representatives from the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#) will be in contact with CMRPC to initiate and finalize the SS4A grant agreement.

For the latest updates, refer to the official announcements made by USDOT awards on December 13th, 2023. The press release and the list of award recipients can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, a summary of the proposal is now available on the Safe Streets and Roads for All website.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to advancing community safety initiatives with these resources.

For more information, please reach out to Eric Gemperline at egemperline@cmrpc.org

CMRPC's & MassBike's Lights Brigade Upcoming Events

CMRPC and [MassBike](#) are excited to continue our collaborative efforts to promote bicycle safety and education throughout the [Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization \(CMMPO\)](#) region. We have some fantastic events lined up to engage with the community and enhance awareness:

Upcoming Events:

- Date:** January 18th, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Event: WPI Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Workshop
Location: 79 Park Ave, Worcester MA, 01605
- Date:** February 14th, 2024
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Event: Worcester State University Wellness Expo
Location: 486 Chandler St, Worcester, MA, 01602

Upcoming Workshop on Basic Bike Education:

1. Date: February 15th, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Event: Basic Bike Education Workshop

Location: Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St, Southbridge, MA, 01550

Our tabling events provide an excellent opportunity for community members to learn more about bicycle safety and receive information about MassBike initiatives. Join us at these engaging events, and let's work together to create a safer and more bike-friendly environment. Additionally, mark your calendar for our Basic Bike Education Workshop at the Jacob Edwards Library. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just starting, this workshop will cover essential bike safety tips, rules of the road, and maintenance basics.

For any inquiries or further information, feel free to reach out to Nathan Lewis at: nlewis@cmrpc.org

Successful 2023 Traffic Counting Season

As December rolls in and the temperatures drop, roads become harder, and counting tubes become stiffer. This is the time when the traffic counting season comes to an end. Our transportation staff has successfully navigated through December's chill, pulling up their last nail, rolling up their tubes, and collecting the last bits of crucial data.



With a total of 130 counters placed throughout various locations, our team has meticulously gathered data ready to be analyzed. The information from traffic counting offers insights into the volume and flow of traffic at specific locations. This data serves as a foundation for making informed decisions regarding transportation planning, infrastructure improvements, and traffic management strategies. The goal is to use this information to enhance the efficiency, safety, and overall functionality of our transportation network.

Thank you to our dedicated transportation staff for their hard work throughout the counting season. As we bid farewell to this year's traffic counting season, we eagerly anticipate the warmer months when the season will start up again.

If you have any questions regarding traffic counting, please contact Adam Wriggins at awriggins@cmrpc.org

Community Development

CDBG Assistance Program Accomplishments in 2023

Construction work on public facilities and infrastructure projects funded through the Commonwealth's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has wrapped up for the winter season after making significant headway in 2023.

CMRPC's Community Development team spent the last several months overseeing CDBG-funded infrastructure and facilities projects in the towns of Brookfield, Dudley, Leicester, Millbury, North Brookfield, and Warren that were identified through local community engagement and planning processes which prioritize improvements in targeted, underserved residential areas.

Project assistance has ranged from oversight of the engineering/architectural design process to assistance with bidding to review of prevailing wage submittals. For more information on CMRPC's CDBG assistance program, please contact Andrew Loew at aloew@cmrpc.org

Brookfield Green Street Improvements Project

This project includes the installation of a new 8-inch water main to replace the existing undersized and deteriorated line, along with a new 12-inch drain line and asphalt berms to channel stormwater runoff into catch basins. Final improvements to the road surface including reclamation and paving will occur in 2024.





Dudley First Avenue

This project involves the design and construction of a new water main, sewer repairs, improvements to and extension of sidewalks, and patching of roadway surfaces on First Avenue. This work was completed in 2023. A second grant will fund the full pavement of the roadway in 2024.

Leicester Housing Authority

This project involves design engineering and construction services for the rehabilitation of road and sidewalk surfaces, drainage improvements, fence installation, wall repair, and general site work at the Leicester Housing Authority



Millbury Pearl Street Project

This project involves the construction of improved water, sewer, drainage, sidewalk, and limited roadway surfaces on Pearl Street, adjacent to the Millbury Housing Authority's Linden Apartments. This work was substantially completed in 2023. Final paving will take place in 2024, to be funded by other locally controlled grant funds.

North Brookfield Senior Center

This project involves rehabilitation of the roof at the North Brookfield Senior Center to address deteriorating conditions.



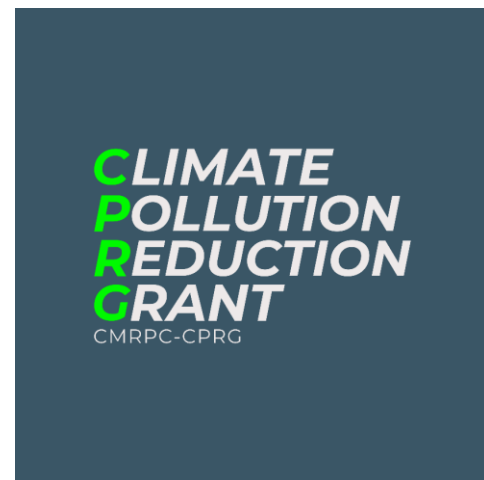
Warren School Street Project

This project includes installing a new water main and associated improvements to the retaining wall and fence that supports parts of the roadway and sidewalk along School Street.

Environmental & Resiliency Planning

Upcoming Workshops Addressing Air Pollution in our Region

CMRPC's Environmental and Resiliency team at CMRPC is the lead partner in the creation of the Priority Climate Action Plan for the Greater Worcester Region as part of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. CMRPC received a \$1 Million planning grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a set of climate action plans for the Greater Worcester Region, spanning communities in northern Worcester County down to communities in Northeast Connecticut.



The first plan, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), will focus on developing short-term, implementable projects that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in six key sectors: Transportation, Electricity, Commercial and Residential Buildings, Industry, Waste, and Natural/Working Lands. The PCAP is currently in development and will be anticipated to be complete by March 2024.

For planning purposes, CMRPC is leading the outreach and working closely with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission for outreach in their region and the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments for outreach in our Northeast Connecticut towns.

To date, CMRPC has held three public engagement workshops, in West Brookfield, Shrewsbury, and Webster. The workshops were open to the public and were a great place to engage with residents and public officials to discuss goals, projects, and other ideas to reduce emissions and create cleaner air.

CMRPC has three upcoming workshops, [advanced registration is available online](#).

- Wednesday, January 10, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA
- Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hybrid Meeting with Virtual Participation or In-Person at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Rubin Campus Center Building (3rd Floor) 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA

To learn more about the program and to register for future events, please visit cmrpc-cprq.com, or you can send an email to cprq@cmrpc.org.

[View Climate Pollution Reduction Plan Website](#)

Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (CRHSAC)

Call for FFY2024 Project Proposals

The Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (CRHSAC) is calling on the Region for FFY2024 project proposals. The Subcommittees will pre-approve eligible Proposals during the February 2024 meetings. The Planning Committee will select eligible projects creating the A and B List. Eligible projects will be selected for the “A” list based on the FFY2024 allocated budget. Eligible Projects that do not make the A-List will be placed on the “B-List.” The Council will vote on the final A and B list proposals during the February and March 2024 meetings. Funding for FFY2024 will not become available until January 2025.



View the [proposal form online](#), for more information contact speters@cmrpc.org

Upcoming Law Enforcement Trainings

Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center at Texas State University based curriculum for Active Attacker Integrated Response (AAIR)

The ALERRT AAIR Training (Flyer Attached) is a 16-hour performance-level course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunicators, and emergency medical services (EMS) in active attack/shooter events.

The training will occur at the McCloskey School 62 Capron St., Uxbridge, MA 01569. Learn more by viewing the [training flier](#). For more information contact speters@cmrpc.org

Resources & Grants Central

Contact CMRPC to discuss your potential applications or projects. Assistance is subject to capacity, municipal need, and competitiveness.

State and Local Opportunities

[Mass Broadband Institute's Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#) (rolling):

This program enables municipalities to engage in planning activities related to digital equity and bridging the digital divide. Digital equity includes things such as access to devices, digital literacy, lack of service providers, or insufficient internet speeds. Contact Kerrie Salwa at ksalwa@cmrpc.org.

[Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program](#) (due Jan. 10, 2024): This program teaches cybersecurity through four training paths. This training helps employees know the latest techniques to protect themselves and the organization from cyber-attacks. The program is available to local government agencies within Massachusetts. For more information, contact Seth Peters at speters@cmrpc.org.

[Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant](#) (due Jan. 11, 2024): This program will fund a portion of the project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and conservation areas. For more information contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@cmrpc.org.

[MassTrails](#) (due Feb. 1, 2024): MassTrails provides project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of recreational trails,

shared-use pathways, and the amenities that support trails. Contact Sam Carter at scarter@cmrpc.org.

The Gaming Mitigation Fund (due Feb. 1, 2024): The Gaming Mitigation Fund provides grants to Massachusetts nonprofit and municipal performing arts centers to spend on touring shows or touring artist fees. Applicants must satisfy the following criteria: be a performing arts center; be a nonprofit organization or owned by a municipality; and present touring shows or artists. For more information contact Ethan Melad at emelad@cmrpc.org

Housing Choice Designation (due Feb. 2024): Rewards municipalities for housing production and adoption of housing best practices. Designated communities get exclusive access to a Housing Choice Capital Grant program under the Community One Stop for Growth and preferential treatment for other state grant and capital funding programs. The Housing Choice Designation lasts 5 years. Contact Emily Glaubitz at eglaubitz@cmrpc.org for more information.

604(b) Grant Program: Water Quality Management Planning Grant (anticipated Dec. 2023 – Feb. 2024): This competitive grant program funds watershed or sub-watershed-based nonpoint source assessment and planning projects. Regional projects are encouraged. To learn more contact Sarah Plutnicki at splutnicki@cmrpc.org.

Community Compact Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program (due Feb. 9, 2024): The Efficiency and Regionalization (E&R) competitive grant program provides financial support for implementing regionalization and other efficiency initiatives that allow for long-term sustainability. Contact Dominique DuTremble at ddutremble@cmrpc.org.

MicroProjects (due Feb. 21, 2024): The MicroProjects Program is the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization funding program for first and last-mile solutions, workforce transportation, and other capital purchases like bicycle racks, bicycle storage, and bike sharing capital expenses (not operations), and wayfinding for bicyclists and pedestrians. Contact Yahaira Graxirena ygraxirena@cmrpc.org for more information.

Community Development Fund (CDF) (due Mar. 4, 2024): CDF is the state's Community Development Block Grant program for non-entitlement communities. These competitive grants for mostly smaller cities and towns can be used to benefit low- and moderate-income residents or to mitigate blighted physical conditions through infrastructure and facility improvements, planning, and other projects. Recipient communities typically have large populations of low and moderate-income residents. Contact Andrew Loew, aloew@cmrpc.org or Joseph Ferguson, jferguson@cmrpc.org for more information.

Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant Program (due Apr. 12, 2024) Helps municipalities improve their municipal fiber networks to connect municipal facilities, enhance cybersecurity, handle complex IT infrastructure, enable remote collaboration for employees, provide adequate internet bandwidth, and centralize IT management. For more information, please contact Connor Robichaud at crobichaud@cmrpc.org.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Program (anticipated May 2024): Funding to address climate change impacts resulting from extreme

weather, sea level rise, inland and coastal flooding and extreme heat, et al. Applicants must have completed the Community Resilience Building (CRB) process (or another EEA-certified process) and “MVP Community” designation via the MVP 1.0 planning process. There is a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement. Please contact Sarah Plutnicki at splutnicki@cmrpc.org for more information.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 Grant Program (anticipated May 2024): Additional support to build resilience to climate change. Builds on MVP 1.0 to support communities with new processes, tools, and resources. The planning process will revisit MVP 1.0 priorities with enhanced involvement of the wider community to carry out equitable climate resilience work. It includes guaranteed funding to implement a seed project. No match requirement, joint municipal applications encouraged. Contact Sarah Plutnicki at splutnicki@cmrpc.org for more information.

EEA Planning Assistance Grants (anticipated May 2024): Support efforts to plan, zone, develop, and conserve land in ways consistent with the Massachusetts Sustainable Development Principles. Priorities include zoning for sustainable housing production, mitigation of climate change through zoning and other regulations, and zoning that advances permanent land conservation. A minimum non-state match of 25% is required. For more information, contact Dominique DuTremble at ddutremble@cmrpc.org.

Community One Stop for Growth (anticipated May - June 2024): The "One Stop" allows communities to apply to multiple economic development and housing programs through a streamlined process. Programs include MassWorks; Urban Agenda; Massachusetts Downtown Initiative; Rural and Small Town Development Fund; Housing Choice; Community Planning; Brownfields; Site Readiness; Underutilized Properties; Collaborative Workspace; Real Estate Services Technical Assistance; and Commonwealth Places. Contact Dominique DuTremble ddutremble@cmrpc.org for more information.

Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program (anticipated Jul. 2024): Reimburses municipalities for the purchase of land to be used for conservation and recreation purposes. Municipalities with up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plans can apply. The maximum award is \$500,000 with a reimbursement rate of 52-70%. Contact Will Talbot at wtalbot@cmrpc.org for more information.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLPP) Grant
Reimburses municipalities for providing new or improved recreation opportunities in urban, disadvantaged communities (consistent with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and Manual). Cities or towns with a population of 30,000 or more, and Census tracts determined to be disadvantaged according to the Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool are eligible to apply. The maximum award is \$15,000,000, and the minimum award is \$300,000, with a reimbursement rate of up to 50%. Contact Sarah Plutnicki at splutnicki@cmrpc.org for more information.

Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program (anticipated Jul. 2024): Reimburses municipalities for purchasing, developing, and renovating parkland and outdoor recreation lands. Municipalities must have up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plans. The maximum award is \$500,000 with a

reimbursement rate of 52-70%. Contact Kerrie Salwa at ksalwa@cmrpc.org for more information.

Federal/Other Opportunities

Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office: This is a new resource that is currently offering federal funding opportunities to qualifying local and tribal governments. This recently introduced Federal Funding initiative presents as an invaluable resource for local leaders, aiding them to optimize federal funding prospects for the benefit of Massachusetts communities

2023 EPA Clean School Bus Rebates: (due Jan. 31, 2024): The clean school bus (CSB) rebate program offers rebates to public school districts and third-party transportation providers to replace existing buses with clean, zero emission alternatives. Each rebate application may include up to 25 buses for replacement. For more information, contact Yahaira Graxirena at ygraxirena@cmrpc.org

FY2024 FTA Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants (ICAM) Pilot Program: (due Feb. 13, 2024): The ICAM Pilot Program awards funds competitively to finance innovative capital projects for the transportation disadvantaged that improve the coordination of non-emergency medical transportation services. For more information, contact Yahaira Graxirena at ygraxirena@cmrpc.org

Climate Ready Workforce Grant (due Feb. 13, 2023): NOAA presents this program as a way of collaborating with coastal and Great Lakes communities to create a climate-resilient workforce to support partnerships fostering skill development and job placement. Contact Dominique DuTremble at ddutremble@cmrpc.org

Grants for Arts Projects (GAP) (due Feb. 15, 2024): The National Endowment for the Arts' Grants for Arts Projects (GAP) provides funding to strengthen the nation's arts and cultural ecosystem. Grants are available for arts projects in a wide variety of artistic disciplines. Applicants may request \$10,000 to \$100,000. A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount is required. For more information, contact Ethan Melad at emelad@cmrpc.org.

2024 DOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program: (due Feb. 28, 2024): RAISE grants offer funding for planning or constructing a wide variety of surface transportation infrastructure, such as highway, bridge, rail, and culvert projects. \$1.5 billion in RAISE grant funding was appropriated for FY2024, and units of local government are among the entities eligible to apply for RAISE grants. For more information, contact Yahaira Graxirena at ygraxirena@cmrpc.org

Challenge America (due Apr. 25, 2024): Offered by the National Endowment for the Arts to support small organizations, including municipalities, for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved groups/communities. For more information, contact Ethan Melad at emelad@cmrpc.org

[2024 AARP Community Challenge Q&A Webinar](#) (due Mar. 6, 2024): Offered by the American Association of Retired Persons to help jump-start long-term changes in their communities. The application period is open now. Sign up for a free webinar and Q&A session on January 31, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jane Wyrick at jwyrick@cmrpc.org

[HUD Green and Resilient Retrofit Program \(GRRP\) for Multifamily Housing](#): GRRP provides loans and grants to support projects that improve energy or water efficiency; enhance indoor air quality or sustainability; implement the use of zero-emission electricity generation, low-emission building materials or processes, energy storage, or building electrification strategies; or improve the climate resilience of eligible HUD-assisted multifamily properties. **The deadline to apply for the next wave of funding for the respective cohorts is: “Elements” – 3/28/2024; “Leading Edge” – 4/30/2024; and “Comprehensive” – 5/30/2024.** Contact Emily Glaubitz at eglaubitz@cmrpc.org



Please visit the [CMRPC](http://cmrpc.org) website!

