

New Bedford nonprofit receives \$25,000 from Boston's Latino Equity Fund

Eight local nonprofits to receive COVID-19 recovery funds to promote economic development, health equity and wellbeing in Latino communities.

The Latino Equity Fund (LEF) today announced \$200,000 in grants to eight Latino-focused organizations as part of the LEF's COVID-19 Response Fund partnership with The Boston Foundation. The funds will be distributed to the grantee partners as they continue to provide enhanced services to help Latino communities recover from the strains caused by COVID-19 and the longer-term economic challenges the pandemic unleashed.

The grant announcement comes as the new report, ¡Avancemos Ya!: Persistent Economic Challenges and Opportunities Facing Latinos in Massachusetts was published by The Latino Equity Fund in partnership with Boston Indicators and the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy at UMass Boston.

The report seeks to highlight opportunities to improve economic conditions among Massachusetts' Latino communities. The report traces the historical and demographic roots of the state's unique Latino communities, and outlines six trends that have shaped the current situation for the state's Latinos and that can serve as pathways for future opportunities.

The pandemic exacerbated long-standing challenges facing Latinos. Today, for example, a quarter or more of the 800,000 Latinos in Massachusetts struggle with food insecurity, and data show Massachusetts Latinos have low rates of intergenerational economic mobility. Yet the report also sheds

light on how the economic rebound from the 2020 recession provides opportunities to improve socioeconomic conditions.

“LEF’s mobilization of funds is a true testament to our commitment to action in response to data and advancing recovery for many of our community leaders still balancing the effects of COVID on their operations,” said Evelyn Barahona, Director of Latino Equity Fund. “We selected organizations whose leadership and position in the community is mission critical to promoting economic prosperity, health equity and wellbeing for Latinos in Massachusetts.”

Eight nonprofits will each receive \$25,000 to aid in the continued development of resources for accelerating and promoting sustainable pathways for recovery. The funds support organizations working in areas such as job training, economic and income supports for businesses and families, affordable housing and homebuying programs, increased access to early education and care to allow caregivers greater ability to work, and support for entrepreneurs and others targeting areas of opportunity in the Gateway Cities.

The organizations include:

1. Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy (Boston)
2. Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) (East Boston)
3. Mujeres Unidas Avanzando (MUA) (Dorchester)
4. La Alianza Hispana, Inc. (Boston)
5. Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (New Bedford)
6. Latinx Health Collaborative (Boston/Regional)
7. The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc. (Framingham)
8. Sociedad Latina (Roxbury)

“These grants address a number of the issue areas highlighted in ¡Avancemos Ya!, as part of the LEF’s larger strategy to work with our nonprofit partners to provide greater equity for Latinos,” said Juan Fernando Lopera, Co-Chair of the Latino

Equity Fund. “At a time when Massachusetts faces an outstanding need for workers, empowering our talented, entrepreneurial and fast-growing Latino communities to fill that need is a crucial step that provides benefits for everyone in the state.”

“LEF is committed to deepening our community investments to provide culturally sensitive and timely grantmaking,” said Aixa Beauchamp, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Latino Equity Fund. “Through responsive and innovative initiatives, we can create a community and philanthropic network for diverse donors to connect and learn. We will continue to aid Latino and BIPOC communities through this public health and economic crisis to see a brighter future.”

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: “How to plant a bumblebee-friendly garden”

The loss of bumblebees and other native pollinators can have devastating consequences on the biodiversity of Massachusetts. Learn how to plant your garden to help pollinators.

Spring is here, and that means many people are starting to plan and plant gardens and flowerbeds around their homes. Many native bumblebee species are in decline and can benefit from thoughtful gardening choices. Before you start planting, review the tips below to ensure your yard is a welcoming place for native bumblebees and other pollinators.

The decline of bumblebees

The number of bumblebee species in Massachusetts has dropped from 11 to 7, with 3 of the 7 (*B. fervidus*, *B. terricola* and *B. vagans*) in danger of disappearing from the state in the next decade if current trends continue. These losses can have devastating consequences for native biodiversity with cascading impacts across the ecosystem. The diversity of bumblebees impacts the diversity of native plants. In turn, these native plants provide food and homes to an array of insects and animals.

Multiple threats are contributing to the decline of bumblebees. Some threats, like introduced parasites, are very difficult to combat directly. Luckily, the effects of these threats may be offset by measures such as providing more habitat by planting a bumblebee-friendly garden.

Planting tips

- Avoid pesticide use, particularly those containing neonicotinoids.
- Avoid cultivars of native plants which don't produce floral nectar. In most plants, you can check for nectar by removing the flower from the base and squeezing it—a bubble of clear liquid means it has nectar. For species with a nectar spur, you can check for nectar by placing a light source behind the flower.
- Avoid exotic plants—they can have dramatic negative effects on bumblebee-native plant relationships and can contribute to bumblebee decline.
- Design plantings to ensure nectar and pollen are available for bumblebees throughout the entire growing season.
- Create nesting and overwintering sites. A dry, protected cavity containing straw, small clumps of moss, and/or dried grass located on or below the ground is ideal.
- Diversity matters! Bee abundance is not the same as bee diversity. Observe visiting bumblebees and notice if there are different species of bees.

Recommended native plants* for bumblebees

All bumblebees need adequate sources of floral nectar and pollen throughout their life cycle to keep populations humming. A truly bumblebee-friendly garden needs a variety of native plants that flower throughout the growing season.

- Aster (Eurybia macrophylla, Symphyotrichum laeve, Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)
- Bee balm (Monarda fistulosa)
- Blue flag iris (Iris versicolor)
- Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)
- Carolina rose (Rosa carolina)
- Common buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)
- Dogbane (Apocynum androsaemifolium, Apocynum cannabinum)
- Goldenrod (Solidago flexicaulis, Solidago odora, Solidago rugosa)
- Joe-pye weed (Eutrochium maculatum)
- Meadowsweet (Spiraea alba, Spiraea tomentosa)
- Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata, Asclepias syriaca, Asclepias tuberosa)
- Old field toadflax (Nuttallanthus canadensis)
- Spiked lobelia (Lobelia spicata)
- St. John's Wort (Hypericum canadense, Hypericum punctatum)
- Spotted touch-me-not (Impatiens capensis)
- Swamp thistle (Cirsium muticum)
- Pasture thistle (Cirsium pumilum)
- Turtlehead (Chelone glabra)
- Virginia rose (Rosa virginiana)
- Wild yellow indigo (Baptisia tinctoria)
- Wild raspberry (Rubus occidentalis)

** Please note: Common plant names are provided in this list for easy reference, but always double check the species you purchase is native! Use the GoBotany tool to look up if a species is native.*

More ways to help bumblebees

Share what you're seeing in your garden and help scientists

learn about the food source and habitat requirements of different species of bumblebee. The “Bee-cology” Project is a citizen science initiative that is crowdsourcing information about Massachusetts bumblebees. Learn more about the project and how to submit your observations.

Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, an eye in the sky for local fire departments during recent wildfires

“Over the last couple of weeks the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing has assisted Fire Departments throughout the state with multiple large wildfires.

Using both their aircrafts’ fire mapping technology, as well as their FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) cameras, MSP flight crews have been able to identify the size and shape of the fires and the areas of greatest concern. The Air Wing can provide fireground incident commanders with real-time video and still images of the scene, allowing firefighting assets to be placed where they are needed most.

This video was taken by an MSP Air Wing crew during a support mission over a May 1 wildfire at the Blue Hills State Reservation in Milton. The crew in Air 3, responding from the unit’s Plymouth Airbase, was in communication with both the Quincy and Milton Fire Departments. The fireground command post in the Blue Hills was monitoring live video downlinked from the helicopter to assist commanders in making tactical fire suppression decisions.

#policeaviation
#wildfireseason
#firefighting” -Massachusetts State Police.

Massachusetts State Police honor police officers killed in the line of duty at memorial service

“On Wednesday, May 11, Massachusetts State Police Troop B personnel, commanded by Major Brendhan S. Shugrue, attended the 34th Annual Western Massachusetts Police Memorial Day Service at the Western Massachusetts Police Academy in Springfield.

The service honored police officers from Western Massachusetts who were killed in the line of duty. The Troopers were in attendance to honor the fallen police officers and provide comfort and support to their respective family members.

#ultimatesacrifice
#lawenforcementmemorial
#lineofdutydeaths.” -Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

UPDATED: Family seeks public's help in locating missing New Bedford woman with medical condition

UPDATE: *"Hello! Good morning my family and I want to thank everyone who helped us by sharing the post and trying to keep an eye out for my mother-in-law. Wanda Figueroa Has been found! Thank you for everyone's prayers and may God bless you guys!" -Orvil Sanchez.*

"Hello, I am sending this message because my mother-in-law has been gone for about 6 days and my family and I have not heard from her yet. Her name is Wanda Figueroa she's about 5'2 and weighs about 140lbs. She is Hispanic and speaks very little English.

She left the house the day before Mother's Day. We are really worried because she has a heart condition. We have filled out a missing person report.

I have attached a picture of her and those who see this and know her and has seen her in the New Bedford area please reach out to us. Please call or text 508-965-6852. Thank you so much! "-Orvil Sanchez.



Orvil Sanchez photo.

**“Operation Clean Sweep” seeks
volunteers for upcoming South**

End of New Bedford clean-up

When: Saturday, May 21st, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Meet at the Orpheum Theatre parking lot, 1005 S. Water St. New Bedford, MA

Volunteers will be cleaning up the Southend Neighborhoods. You can pre-register online.

- Free t-shirts to all volunteers
- Gloves and tools provided
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- If unvaccinated, wear a mask
- Review the safety notes [here](#)
- Walk-ins welcome

Upcoming Cleanups:

- June 18th – Purchase Street area, set up at Servpro
- July 16th – West End, Southcoast Hospitals Group
- August 27th or about that date will be Palmer Island
- September 17th – World Cleanup Day, to be determined

Massachusetts State Police Trooper play “Taps” for Maine police officers killed in the

line of duty

"Massachusetts State Police Sgt. Michael Crowley had the honor of playing Taps yesterday for the annual service at the state of Maine's monument to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

The memorial is located in Augusta. In addition to his regular duties as a patrol supervisor, Sgt. Crowley is the Massachusetts State Police's ceremonial bugler. He is seen in these photos with the Maine State Police Honor Guard, who invited him to play at the service." -Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Concerned New Bedford mom seeks public's help locating missing teenage son

"Worried Mother!!! I am trying to locate my son Mitchel Thompson.

Last seen this morning was supposed headed to school at New Bedford High. He never made it to school. Not answering his phone straight to voicemail, called the girlfriend, he isn't with her. Called the cops.

Not quite sure what is his state of mind. If anyone around town (New Bedford/Fairhaven) has seen him. Or his friends heard from him today. PLEASE let me know.

Last seen black pant, white NASA sweatshirt. Has a blue cast on right hand. About 5'11 170lbs.

The girlfriend has mentioned he hangs around the cemetery near high school or in Fairhaven if he has ditched school. I already checked with no luck." -Martha R. Thompson.

Dartmouth Police Department seeks public's help in locating missing 55-year old man

"The Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC), in cooperation with the Dartmouth Police Department, are asking for the public's help in locating a 55-year-old Dartmouth man who has been missing since this morning.

Anthony "Tony" Medeiros was reported missing today, May 9, and has not been seen or heard from since approximately 9 a.m. Medeiros is approximately 5'10, 148 pounds, with brown eyes, a shaved head, and a salt and pepper goatee. He was last seen wearing a black North Face hooded jacket, a light blue t-shirt

underneath, black sweatpants (possibly Under Armor or Boston Bruins), and brown Columbia hiking boots.

Anyone with any information regarding this individual is asked to contact the Dartmouth Police Department at 508-910-1735."



Dartmouth Police Department

MISSING PERSON



Anthony "Tony" Medeiros

Age: 55 Years Old

Sex: Male Race: White Height: 5'10 Build: Average/Medium

Hair: Bald Eye Color: Brown Facial Hair: Goatee

Anthony Medeiros was reported missing from Dartmouth on May 9th and was last heard from at approximately 9:00am. His last known location was on foot in the area of Beverly Street.

Medeiros was last seen wearing a black North Face hooded jacket (similar to the above photo), a light blue t-shirt underneath, black sweatpants (possibly Under Armor or Boston Bruins) and brown Columbia hiking boots.

Anyone with information regarding this individual's whereabouts is asked to please contact:

Dartmouth Police Department at 508-910-1735

or

Submit an anonymous tip using tip411 by any of the 3 methods below:

1. Text DartmouthPD and a tip to 847411.
2. Download the Dartmouth PD app in the iTunes or Google Play Store. **tip 411**
3. Submit online via the Department's website at:
<https://www.dartmouthpd.org/resources/tip411-submit-a-tip/>



You can also send a message on Facebook by following us at:
Dartmouth Police Department

This bulletin was produced by the Dartmouth Police Department
1390 Tucker Road | Dartmouth, MA 02748

Phone: 508-910-1700 | Fax: 508-910-1719 | www.dartmouthpd.org

Dartmouth Police Department photo.

Educational, employment aspirations get boost in New Bedford: \$97,000 awarded to non-profits

6,000 students (pre-K through college-age) are receiving customized backpacks and grade-level school supplies during the 2021-2022 school year through the Schools on Wheels program, Pathways to Success. And thanks to Discovery Language Academy, adult non-native English speakers are improving their English language fluency, so they can self-advocate in the workplace and engage in civic events.

These two programs are made possible, in part, by a Polaroid Fund grant from the SouthCoast Community Foundation. Twelve New Bedford nonprofits are receiving a total of \$97,000 from the Fund dedicated to enhancing the skills and education of New Bedford youth and its workforce.

The award recipients include:

- Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores – \$10,000
- Community Economic Development Center of SE MA -\$12,000
- Immigrants' Assistance Center – \$12,000
- Junior Achievement of Southern Mass, Inc. – \$10,000
- New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! – \$9,000
- New Bedford Children – \$4,000
- PACE, Inc. – \$8,000
- Portuguese United for Education d/b/a Discovery Language Academy – \$7,500
- School on Wheels – \$8,000
- United Way of Greater New Bedford – \$5,000
- Women's Fund SouthCoast – \$3,500
- YWCA of Southeastern MA – \$8,000

“Fueling economic opportunities within New Bedford through the Polaroid Fund is central to the work of the Community Foundation,” said SouthCoast Community Foundation President and CEO Leonard M. Lee. “It is inspiring to see people from throughout our city realize their educational and employment aspirations thanks to the exceptional programming these grantees bring to the community.”

The award School on Wheels receives will help give vulnerable students impacted by poverty and the pandemic the skills, confidence, and opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive. “Thanks to the generosity of the Polaroid Fund of the SouthCoast Community Foundation, School on Wheels can provide Pathways to Success for our students and help them overcome the challenges of experiencing homelessness,” stated Steve Telesmanick, School on Wheels CEO.

Discovery Language Academy will use the grant to help expand their Adult English Language Program, recruiting new participants, providing more intensive classroom instruction, and offering transportation and childcare to offset the burden many adult students face with multiple jobs and dependent children. “Discovery Language Academy provides skill development and training opportunities in the areas of language acquisition, cultural understanding, and career education to achieve personal, professional, and vocation goals. With support from the Polaroid Fund at the Southcoast Community Foundation, we can expand a turnkey program and help many more immigrants with English fluency,” stated Executive Director Leslie Ribeiro Vicente, Ph.D.

For more than a decade, the SouthCoast Community Foundation has managed the New Bedford-based grant program of the Polaroid Fund. The SouthCoast Community Foundation is a nonprofit serving the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts through philanthropy. The Community Foundation mission is to mobilize philanthropy by matching donors and resources with community needs for the benefit of our region.

Since 1995, the organization has distributed over \$50 million from more than 200 funds to humanitarian, educational, and cultural organizations in the region. For more information, visit www.southcoastcf.org.