

# **Deadline quickly approaching: \$300,000 offered to Greater New Bedford community organizations**

Funds will promote independence and enhance quality of life for elderly, low-income women in the Greater New Bedford community through the financial support of qualified individuals and programs.

The November 13th Community Partner Grant application deadline for funding from the Association for the Relief of Aged Women (ARAW) is quickly approaching. ARAW will contribute up to \$300,000 in support of community organizations and programs which best support ARAW's mission and vision that elderly women will live well and with dignity. The ARAW welcomes new initiatives and meaningful ways already in existence to address the needs and challenges faced by aging women today.

The ARAW's Community Partner Grant offers nonprofits and public entities in Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, New Bedford and Westport funding to continue, maintain or expand their programs through support of activities which align with the ARAW's prioritized funding areas and targeted population. Potential use of this grant funding includes support of staff salaries, program supplies and materials and other direct costs deemed reasonable for the success of the program/project. A total of up to \$300,000 will be offered and grant awards will range from \$1,000 – \$50,000.

“For over 150 years the ARAW has quietly furnished financial assistance, provided friendship and promoted the welfare and relief of elderly women in the Greater New Bedford community. As we honor these past accomplishments, we feel now is the

time to build upon that strong foundation. Although our mission has been steadfast, the world around us is forever changing and how we fulfill our mission must reflect that," said ARAW's Executive Director, Clare Healy Foley. "It is becoming more and more critical for organizations to combine efforts. The ARAW is excited to form new partnerships which will enable us to identify and, in turn, support those low income, elderly women who may feel they have nowhere else to turn. ARAW's Community Partner Grant is a wonderful opportunity for the ARAW to expand our direct financial support of aging women in our community and to fund innovative programs which address the challenges they face today."

The ARAW has identified four key target areas in which it will invest. First and foremost, it is looking to grow the number of trusted sources in the community who will identify and connect the ARAW to qualified women in need. Community collaboration will help to promote the direct financial support the ARAW provides. Ultimately, the ARAW looks to increase the amount of support and the number of women it assists.

The other three targeted funding areas promote Financial Stability/Life Strategies, Social Engagement and Safety/Stability for low-income, elderly women in the Greater New Bedford community. Through a focus on these key areas, the ARAW hopes to offer outreach and programs which will allow women to maintain their dignity and independence in the community.

Proposals must directly align with these priority areas as they relate to the population the ARAW looks to support. Successful proposals will demonstrate not only the necessary expertise but also the ability to track activities and a commitment to measurable outcomes through regular reports.

The deadline for submission of grant proposals is November 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm EST. The full Request for Proposal is

available at [www.arawofnb.org/about/grants](http://www.arawofnb.org/about/grants).

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## **New Bedford Council on Aging to fight hunger among seniors**

The New Bedford Council on Aging in partnership with the National Council on Aging (NCOA), has joined a nationwide effort to fight senior hunger by dramatically increasing participation by eligible seniors in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 9.8 million older adults experienced food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to adequate, nutritious food. Today, those numbers are quickly rising. SNAP is the nation's most effective and widest-reaching anti-hunger program. Research by Center for Budget and Policy Priorities shows that participation in SNAP reduces food insecurity overall by 30%, yet the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that only 48% of eligible older adults aged 60+ participate in the program.

The New Bedford Council on Aging is one of 40 organizations around the country that is stepping up its efforts to assist older adults in applying for SNAP. The organizations will use NCOA's free online BenefitsCheckUp® tool at [www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org) to screen older adults with limited income for SNAP eligibility. The initiative aims to help at least 40,000 older adults enroll.

"We're proud to be part of a Senior SNAP Enrollment Initiative that has the potential to help tens of thousands of low-income older adults improve their health and financial security," said Debra Lee, the Director of the New Bedford Council on

Aging. “Our organization has a strong history of helping older adults in need. We’re confident that increasing SNAP enrollment with BenefitsCheckUp and other proven outreach methods will have a profound effect on lives of older adults in the City of New Bedford.”

“We’ve heard from older adults and our local partners that accessing and paying for food is a critical need right now,” said Josh Hodges, NCOA Chief Customer Officer. “Food, on average, is the second-highest household expenditure for people aged 60+, and too often they have to stretch their food budget in order to make ends meet. That’s where SNAP can help.”

For more information, visit [www.ncoa.org/SeniorHunger](http://www.ncoa.org/SeniorHunger).

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## **Baker announces stay at home advisory, targeted measures to curb rising COVID-19 hospitalizations**

Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Governor Charlie Baker announced these changes at a time where public health data has indicated that cases are rising, with cases up by 278% and hospitalizations up by 145% since Labor Day. These measures are meant to disrupt rising trends now, so the Commonwealth can keep the economy and schools open for residents and to prevent the need to roll back to Phase I or Phase II of the reopening plan.

All orders and advisories will be effective Friday, November 6th at 12:01 AM.

### **New Orders & Advisories:**

**Stay At Home Advisory:** The Administration issued a revised Stay At Home Advisory to ensure residents avoid unnecessary activities that can lead to increased COVID-19 transmission. The revised Stay At Home Advisory instructs residents to stay home between 10 PM and 5 AM. The Advisory allows for activities such as going to work, running critical errands to get groceries and address health needs, and taking a walk.

Click here to read the revised Stay At Home Advisory: [www.mass.gov/stayhome](http://www.mass.gov/stayhome).

**Early Closure of Businesses and Activities:** Governor Baker issued a new executive order that requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 PM. The 9:30 PM closure requirement is aligned with the Stay At Home Advisory and together the two new initiatives are designed to further limit activities that could lead to COVID-19 transmission.

Effective November 6, the following businesses and activities must close to the public each day between the hours of 9:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

- Restaurants (in-person dining must cease at 9:30 PM, although takeout and delivery may continue for food and non-alcoholic beverages, but not alcohol)
- Liquor stores and other retail establishments that sell alcohol must cease alcohol sales at 9:30 PM (but may continue to sell other products)
- Adult-use marijuana sales must cease at 9:30 PM (not including medical marijuana)
- Indoor & outdoor events
- Theaters/movie theaters (including drive-in movie theaters),

and performance venues (indoor and outdoor)

- Youth and adult amateur sports activities
- Golf facilities
- Recreational boating and boating businesses
- Outdoor recreational experiences
- Casinos and horse tracks/simulcast facilities
- Driving and flight schools
- Zoos, botanical gardens, wildlife reserves, nature centers
- Close contact personal services (such as hair and nail salons)
- Gyms, Fitness Centers and Health Clubs
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Museums/cultural & historical facilities/guided tours

Click **here** to read the new executive order (including full list of businesses required to close at 9:30 PM).

**Face Covering Order:** Governor Baker also signed an updated order related to face-coverings. The revised order requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

**Gatherings Order:** Governor Baker also signed an updated order restricting gatherings. The new gatherings order reduces the gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g. wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30

PM.

The new gatherings order also requires that organizers of gatherings report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department in that community and requires organizers to cooperate with contact tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be \$500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering.

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## **Boston Police Department confront and subdue man allegedly swinging blade at passers-by downtown**

At about 1:39am on Sunday, November 1, 2020, a Boston Police Sergeant assigned to District A-1 (Downtown) was approached in the Downtown Crossing area by a group of people who reported that there was a man with a knife running down Winter Street towards Washington Street. A member of the group stated that the man approached them and began swinging the knife erratically in their direction.

Moments later, officers observed a male matching the description of the suspect pacing back and forth in the intersection of Winter and Washington Streets with an unknown object in his hand. As the officers approached the male, they confirmed that he was holding a knife. The officers ordered the suspect to drop the knife and get down on the ground. The suspect ignored the officer's commands to drop the knife and

fled on foot up Washington Street towards Franklin Street.

Throughout a lengthy foot pursuit through the streets of Downtown Boston, the suspect repeatedly stated that he did nothing wrong and told the officers to shoot him. In an attempt to de-escalate the situation, the officers deployed their department issued Oleoresin Capsicum spray towards the suspect, with minimal effect on him.

After the suspect ignored multiple commands by the officers to drop the knife, the Sergeant on scene deployed multiple shots from a “less-lethal” bean bag shotgun, striking the suspect, and causing him to fall to the ground and drop the knife. Officers were then able to take the suspect into custody without further incident or injury.

The suspect was then transported by EMS to a local hospital for treatment and evaluation. Upon his release, the suspect, Kenneth Kelley, 42 years old, of Londonderry NH, was subsequently charged with four counts of Assault by Means of a Dangerous Weapon, Disturbing the Peace, and Resisting Arrest.

This incident is currently under investigation by the Boston Police Department’s Firearm Discharge Investigation Team.

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**Majority of Massachusetts  
COVID-19 cases linked to  
cluster outbreaks occurred at**



# home

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

The overwhelming majority of COVID-19 cases that state public health officials linked to cluster outbreaks occurred at home rather than in schools, child care, or restaurants, according to data published Thursday.

Between Sept. 27 and Oct. 24, the Department of Public Health identified 2,945 new clusters – where two or more infections stemmed from a common outbreak – representing 8,208 confirmed cases of the highly infectious coronavirus. More than 83 percent of those were deemed to be household exposure, meaning the transmission likely occurred between people who live at the same address and were not linked to a different type of cluster. Another roughly 7 percent of cluster cases were in long-term care facilities.

None of the other 21 setting categories – including K-12 schools, restaurants and food courts, and retail and services – represented even 2 percent of the total confirmed cluster infections over the roughly one-month span, though their shares could increase if close contacts to those who contracted the virus in turn fall ill.

With cases on the rise in Massachusetts and more than a third of cities and towns now in the highest risk category, Gov. Charlie Baker has not embraced calls to reimpose statewide restrictions on many businesses or shift more schools to remote learning, arguing that the new infections have come far more from unsafe individual behaviors than from public activity. The trend in Thursday's data, the first week that officials published information on outbreak clusters, also held when counting clusters that started before Sept. 27 but might still be experiencing transmission.

Counting that broader field, which includes 9,391 total cases, about 79 percent are linked to households and 8.6 percent to long-term care. While the cluster data appear to support Baker's assertion that schools, restaurants and other public settings are not primary drivers of viral spread, they capture only a slice of the statewide outlook. The cluster cases between Sept. 27 and Oct. 24 represent slightly more than a third of total new infections the DPH recorded in that span, with the causes behind the remaining two-thirds less clear.

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## **New Bedford woman arrested again for Fentanyl trafficking**

New Bedford police detectives seized 50 grams of fentanyl and \$5,908 at 18 Viall Street, Fl. #1 on Oct. 29, 2020. Fentanyl is responsible for 93% of all overdose deaths in Massachusetts.

As a result of a search warrant, 36-year-old Yolania Ruiz of 18 Viall St. Fl. #1 was charged with trafficking fentanyl. Ruiz was previously the target of a search warrant at this same address last year. At that time, she was arrested for possession of fentanyl with intent to distribute. Charges are pending that incident. Detective Timothy Soares investigated the Oct. 29 case.

The New Bedford police department remains highly committed in its struggle against the nationwide opioid epidemic. It continues to meet the challenges on multiple fronts. If you have any information on criminal activity in your neighborhood, the New Bedford Police Dept. wants to hear from

you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1.

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## **K9 “Kyber” helps Massachusetts State Police capture two suspects in separate incidents**

While most of us were sleeping, Massachusetts State Police K9 Unit Trooper Greg Valentine and his partner, Kyber (pictured), with the assistance of road Troopers from the Springfield and Northampton Barracks, were working a busy overnight shift.

At 12:55 a.m., Trooper Valentine attempted to stop a blue Dodge Dakota pickup as it exited Route 391 north onto Main Street in Holyoke. The Trooper had determined that the license plates attached to the truck were not those that were registered to the vehicle. The Dakota operator did not stop, and headed onto Cabot Street and south over the Willimansett Bridge.





*Massachusetts State Police photo.*

Trooper Valentine turned off his emergency lights and did not pursue the suspect vehicle, but followed in the same direction. He crossed the bridge into Chicopee, as did Trooper Joshua Wingler from the State Police-Northampton Barracks. The

Troopers located the pickup truck, which had crashed at the intersection of Prospect and Erline streets. The operator was not with the truck.

A short time later, a witness reported seeing a man, who was bleeding from his head, previously sitting on a porch at a home on Erline Street. Troopers began searching for that man, believed to be the suspect who was driving the pickup. At about 1:30 a.m., Trooper Patrick Harper from the State Police-Springfield Barracks located the man on Meadow Street and took him into custody.

The man, a 33-year-old Chicopee resident, was charged with a license plate violation and other motor vehicle offenses, as well as two outstanding warrants for prior motor vehicle violations.

While completing their response to that incident, at 2:20 a.m. Trooper Valentine received a radio transmission about another crash, also with no driver present at the scene, on Route 391 southbound in the area of Exit 4. Trooper Valentine arrived on scene where the Ford Focus was found to have crashed and deployed Kyber on a track.

Kyber located a scene and acquired a track heading east, over the Route 391 overpass on the north side of the highway. Accompanied by Trooper Benjamin Siok from State Police-Springfield, Trooper Valentine and Kyber crossed the on-ramp to 391 from Grattan Street, where Kyber pulled over the guardrail and into a small wooded area.

Kyber continued to pull eastbound, back out and across Grattan Street, behind several houses, and into a backyard on Olea St., and then out to Mary Street.

Kyber approached the driveway of a home on Mary Street and showed a proximity alert. Trooper Valentine issued commands that anyone hiding in the area should surrender or the K9 would be deployed, and the suspect came out from behind a bush

in the yard.

The suspect, a 30-year-old man who lives on that street, was taken into custody and charged with reckless operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, and leaving the scene of a crash that caused property damage.

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## **New Bedford High School's Takeru Nagayoshi receives 2020 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence**

Takeru Nagayoshi, a New Bedford High School English teacher, has been awarded the prestigious 2020 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence, the NEA Foundation announced this week. The NEA Foundation noted the award "recognizes educators for their diligence and dedication to students, colleagues, community, and their profession."

The Massachusetts Teachers Association nominated Mr. Nagayoshi for the award. He is also the recipient of the 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

In congratulating Mr. Nagayoshi, Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, "It's always wonderful to see a member of our faculty being recognized for the great work they do every day. In these most challenging of times for students and teachers, a component of teaching excellence is the creative determination and critical thinking required every day to bridge gaps and remove obstacles to learning. Mr. Nagayoshi embodies this and is truly preparing our students to be the



best version of themselves in becoming deep thinkers, changers of the world.”

Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School said, “Mr. Nagayoshi guides his students through their work in a way that stimulates thoughtful discussion and deeper understanding. He exemplifies the talent and dedication of our New Bedford High faculty and we sincerely congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.”

Mr. Nagayoshi is only one of five teachers nationally to be recognized for the award in 2020. Horace Mann Awardees receive \$10,000 and special recognition at the NEA Foundation’s Salute to Excellence in Education Gala, which is planned to be presented virtually on February 21, 2021. Each honoree will be featured in a mini-documentary video that will premiere at the gala. The NEA Awards Panel will also select one of the finalists to receive the NEA Member Benefits award and \$25,000 at the gala.

“These educators represent the best in public education through their passion for making a difference,” said Sara A. Sneed, President and CEO of the NEA Foundation. “Their schools and stories may be unique, but their dedication to educational excellence fulfills a shared commitment to keep the promise of public education. In ordinary times and amid the challenging circumstances we face today, educators are an enduring force for serving the whole child and building vibrant communities.”

“Today’s educators are facing challenges they never could have envisioned,” said Marita Zuraitis, president and CEO of Horace Mann, a financial services company that has served educators for 75 years. “We value the investment all educators make to teach their students, especially during these difficult times. They are the heart of their communities and we are proud to recognize the exceptional contributions and achievements of the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence recipients.”

### **About the NEA Foundation**

The NEA Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that works to promote the absolute best in public education. The Foundation invests in educators' leadership, shared learning and collaboration; supports partnerships and initiatives that strengthen public education; and promotes improvements in public education policy and practice.

### **About Horace Mann**

Horace Mann Educators Corporation is the largest financial services company focused on providing America's educators and school employees with insurance and retirement solutions. Founded by Educators for Educators® in 1945, the company is based in Springfield, Illinois.

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## **Once in a lifetime Halloween blue moon to delight SouthCoast sky gazers**

For those skywatchers who have been enjoying the celestial events of 2020, you may recall that we've been treated to a number of shows this year: we had a Wolf's Moon in January, a rare Pink Supermoon at the beginning of April, Mars reached its opposition on October 13th making it appear much larger and brighter in the sky, and the first full moon for October was a Harvest moon.

We've all heard the saying "once in a blue moon." Well, that "once" has arrived in the form of a Blue Moon which will also qualify as a Hunter's Moon since it has landed in October. A Hunter's Moon is called so because its brightness will assist hunters in finding game that have plumped up for the coming



winter.

While there are times when a moon will have a blue haze to it, this blue moon itself will not. This blue moon simply refers to any month that has a second full moon – something happens about once every 3 years.

What makes this blue moon special and rare is that not only is it the second full moon in one month, but it is a “micromoon” (when a full moon coincides with apogee, the point in the Moon’s orbit farthest away from Earth) and it lands on Halloween. The last time a blue moon landed on a Halloween was in 1944. If you miss this one you will have to wait until 2039.

There is something special about celestial events that remind us to have perspective – we are a “small” being on a planet compared to a vast and immense universe. Sometimes we inflate our problems to be bigger than they are and watching the skies is a way to remember that some things are bigger. If anything, it provides a few moments of time when we can gaze in wonder and forget the woes of the world if only for a short time.

And with the way 2020 has unfolded – a worldwide pandemic, California and Australia’s wildfires, murder hornets, a chemical explosion in Beirut, the death of George Floyd and Gigi and Kobe Bryant, and many other depressing news – we could all use a respite even if it’s just a momentary distraction and appreciation of a tiny, passing lunar show.

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# Massachusetts State Police,

# **U.S. Marshalls, Brockton Police capture “Most Wanted” homicide suspect in the Dominican Republic**

A cooperative effort by the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, the State Police Detective Unit for Plymouth County, the United States Marshals Service, and Brockton Police has led to the capture of a homicide suspect on the MSP’s Most Wanted list.

US Marshals assigned to the Dominican Republic on Oct. 21 apprehended WITCHAEI NORMIL, 30, wanted for a December 2019 shooting homicide in Brockton. The joint Massachusetts State Police-Brockton Police-USMS team, after an extensive investigation, recently determined that NORMIL was likely in the Dominican Republic and helped direct Marshals there to his location.

The MSP Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section added NORMIL to its Most Wanted list in July. NORMIL is the subject of an arrest warrant charging him with the Dec. 13, 2019 murder of Marshawn A. Potts, 26, of Brockton. On that date, Brockton Police responded to Shaw Road for a reported shooting discovered Potts lying in a driveway with fatal wounds. The resulting investigation identified NORMIL as the alleged shooter.

The day after his capture, NORMIL was deported to New York, where he was arraigned as a fugitive from justice. The suspect waived his opposition to rendition to Massachusetts, and yesterday State Police detectives assigned to the Plymouth District Attorney’s Office transported him back to Brockton, where he is expected to be arraigned in District Court today.