

New Bedford awarded \$78,725 as part of \$1 million in Community Compact Grants

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced a total of \$1 million in grants covering 48 communities and 4 school districts through the Community Compact Cabinet (CCC) Efficiency and Regionalization (E&R) grant program. Including today's announcement, the Administration has awarded over \$5.5 million in E&R grants to support over 300 municipalities and school districts across Massachusetts.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan made the announcement today during a virtual award ceremony attended by recipients, local and state officials, and community leaders.

"Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Polito, the Community Compact Cabinet continues to empower local cities, towns, and school districts and ensures they are able to provide high-quality, efficient, and reliable services to Massachusetts residents," said Governor Charlie Baker. "By leveraging the collective capacity of local communities, this grant program helps maximize local funding and achieve important efficiencies."

"We are proud to work closely with our local partners and support their efforts to improve the delivery of local services which are important to the people of Massachusetts," said Lt. Governor Polito, Chair of the Community Compact Cabinet. "The efficiency and regionalization program provides important resources for local communities and school districts and we look forward to seeing the benefits of these grants."

The Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program was started in Fiscal Year 2017 by the Administration to assist

municipalities and school districts interested in providing services to their constituents in a more efficient and cost-effective way. The grants provide funds for one-time or transition costs for municipalities, regional planning agencies, and councils of government interested in such projects.

“The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to announce this latest round of grant funding and continue assisting local cities and towns in implementing creative and financially responsible reforms,” said Administration and Finance Secretary Heffernan. “We continue to collaborate with our state and local partners and focus on increasing long-term sustainability through common-sense regionalization and efficiency initiatives.”

The award recipients are as follows:

\$178,000 for shared DPW equipment for Berlin and Clinton

\$160,000 for a regional Net Zero Plan for Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop

\$133,275 for shared police services for Leverett and Wendell

\$100,000 for regional IT services for Danvers, Essex, Hamilton, Manchester-By-The-Sea, Middleton, Topsfield, and Wenham

\$78,725 for regional climate resiliency efforts for the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District which serves numerous municipalities (Acushnet, Attleboro, Berkley, Carver, Dartmouth, Dighton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Lakeville, Mansfield, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, New Bedford, North Attleborough, Norton, Plainville, Raynham, Rehoboth, Rochester, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Taunton, and Wareham)

\$75,000 for regional human resources services for Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, and West Stockbridge

\$75,000 for regional planning services for Mendon, Millville, and Uxbridge

\$100,000 to explore forming a regional school district for Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield

\$98,200 for regional full-day Pre-K for Manchester-Essex RSD

Formed in January 2015, the Community Compact Cabinet is chaired by Lt. Governor Polito and is composed of the Secretaries of Housing and Economic Development, Education, Transportation, Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Technology Services and Security, along with the Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services and the Assistant Secretary of Operational Services.

The Community Compact Cabinet elevates the Administration's partnerships with cities and towns and allows the Governor's Office to work more closely with leaders from all municipalities. The Cabinet champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and develops, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities. The creation of Community Compacts creates clear standards, expectations, and accountability for both partners.