

BERKSHIRE Funding Focus

WELCOME TO BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS: YOUR PATH TO PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUNDING

SERVING CITIES AND TOWNS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, AND SMALL BUSINESSES



OBJECTIVE OF BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS AND WHO WE WILL HELP

Our Objective

- To provide information, coordination and capacity-building support to Berkshire County municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and businesses seeking federal stimulus funds to aid with their pandemic-related recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Who We Will Help

- Cities and Towns
- Non-Profit Organizations
- School Districts and Colleges
- Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs



STRUCTURE OF BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS

Countywide Community Partners

- Hosted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
 - Karen Pelto, Recovery Grant Specialist
- Supported by community partners
 - I Berkshire
 - Berkshire Bank
 - Berkshire Black Economic Council
 - Berkshire Education Resources K-12
 - Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
 - Berkshire United Way
 - Health Resources in Action
 - Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires
 - Volunteers in Medicine

Partners Providing Technical Assistance

- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission – Cities and Towns
- Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires with support from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Berkshire United Way – Nonprofit Organizations
- Berkshire Educational Resources K12 (BERK K-12) – School Districts
- I Berkshire – Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs



APPROACH OF BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS

Our Approach

- Curate – we scour state and federal funding announcements, posting high-value opportunities to our website and sending ones of likely interest to your inbox.
- Build Capacity – we offer regular training programs to help potential applicants develop grant writing and grant management skills.
- Convene – we bring together potential partners to explore collaborative proposals and offer guidance on how to make them more competitive.
- Consult – we are here to help answer your questions and help you navigate government grant solicitations, contracts, and compliance and reporting requirements.



LET'S TAKE A TOUR OF THE BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS WEBSITE: BERKSHIREFUNDINGFOCUS.ORG

Home Page

- Berkshire Funding Focus Overview
- Berkshire Benchmarks
 - Your source for Berkshire County data
- Banner provides a menu and links to Opportunities, Resources, Calendar, About Us and Contact Us
 - Let's visit these pages next

Opportunities and Resources Content

- Opportunities – Berkshire Funding Focus
 - State and Federal Grant Opportunities
 - Sort by Category, Topic, Audience, and Due Date to find the one that best fits your project
- Resources – Berkshire Funding Focus
 - Guides to grant solicitations and proposal writing
 - Glossary of grantmaking terms
 - Key State and Federal Policies
 - Regional, State, and Federal Plans that provide data and information to support your proposal



BFF WEBSITE: CALENDAR, ABOUT US AND CONTACT US

Calendar and About Us Content

Upcoming Events – Berkshire Funding Focus

- The Berkshire Funding Focus Calendar is your go-to for online and in-person training sessions and events

About Us – Berkshire Funding Focus

- The About Us page provides more detail about our structure and services
- The Operating Principles of Berkshire Funding Focus are also featured here:

Equity, Inclusion, Transparency, Neutrality, Collaboration, Supportive Service, and Long-Term Impact

Contact Us Content

Contact Us – Berkshire Funding Focus

The Berkshire Funding Focus Contact Us page offers several ways to contact us - and we want to hear from you!

- Subscribe to our e-Newsletter
- Contact Karen Pelto by email or phone
- Send us a message through an online form



BFF HIGHLIGHTS: SMALL BUSINESS

- MA Executive Office of Housing and Urban Development has engaged MGCC, MassVentures, and MassDevelopment to administer ARPA funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSCBI) (\$168 million).
- BFF is meeting with all three to explore technical assistance that BFF can provide to small businesses in advance of funding announcements so that we can ensure that they will be in a competitive position to respond to upcoming solicitations.



BFF HIGHLIGHTS: NON-PROFITS

- BFF partner Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires is hosting the “Level Up Series for Nonprofits.”
- BFF attends all webinars and workshops focused on grant writing and offers technical support
 - Cheshire Community Association, Kripalu, and The Brien Center have requested follow-up technical assistance



BFF HIGHLIGHTS: EDUCATION

- Berkshire Regional Arts Integration Network (BRAINworks) provides professional development in arts integration for Berkshire County educators across PreK-12 classrooms, leveraging the region's existing cultural assets.
- BFF is meeting with Lisa Donovan, BRAINworks Co-Director to explore regional proposals



BFF HIGHLIGHTS: CITIES AND TOWNS

- MA Community One Stop for Growth and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, beginning with Municipal Diversity Equity Planning Program
 - BFF reaching out to Chambers of Commerce and City/Town officials to share information
 - BFF to arrange Berkshire specific Q and A sessions



BERKSHIRE FUNDING FOCUS: THE OPPORTUNITY

- Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and other COVID-19 relief funding, Berkshire County has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to tap into millions of federal and state COVID-19 recovery dollars.
- Berkshire Funding Focus is here to help.
- Whether you are a small business or entrepreneur, city or town, school district or college, small or large non-profit, we are here to share information and insight into state and federal grantmaking with you.
- Contact Karen Pelto at kpelto@berkshireplanning.org or at 413.442.1521 x43

