



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## MEETING NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
of the  
BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
Thursday, November 2, 2023 at **4:00 p.m.**

This will be a virtual meeting as allowed by Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20 until March 31, 2025.

To participate virtually join the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3926128831>  
Meeting id: 392 612 8831, Phone: 646.558.8656, 646 931 3860, 312.626.6799, 301 715 8592

**Meeting materials are on BRPC's website:** [www.berkshireplanning.org](http://www.berkshireplanning.org). Click the calendar of events, then the meeting name, and follow the link to materials.

### AGENDA

(all times approximate)

- I. Call to Order & Open Meeting Law Statement (4:00)
- II. Roll Call of Executive Committee Members Attending the Meeting
- III. Vote to Approve Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of October 5, 2023\* (4:05)
- IV. Financial Reports (4:10)
  - A. Vote to Approve the September 30, 2023, to October 18, 2023, Expenditures Report\*
  - B. Report on the Accounts Receivable/ Assessments – October 26, 2023
  - C. Report on the Line of Credit
- V. Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternate Delegates (4:15)
- VI. Items Requiring Action\* (4:20)
  - A. Vote to Approve (After the Fact) a Grant Application to the National Environmental Health Association (NEHE) and US Food & Drug Administration (FDA)\*
  - B. Vote to Approve a Grant Application to the University of Baltimore Center for Drug Policy and Prevention's Combating Overdose through Community-level Intervention (COCLI) Subaward\*
  - C. Vote to Submit 2 Grant Applications to MassCEC's EMPower Innovation and Capacity Building Program\*

***City and Town Clerks: Please post this notice pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A, §§ 18-25.***

#### Please Note:

For information regarding postponements or cancellations on the day of a scheduled meeting, please call Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at (413) 442-1521, x5

- D. Approval of Surplus Equipment\*
  - E. Vote to Approve a New Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Statement\*
  - F. Vote to Approve a New Pregnancy Anti-Discrimination & Accommodations Policy\*
- VII. Committee Reports and Discussion (4:40)
- A. Regional Issues Committee
- VIII. Executive Director's Report (4:45)
- A. Report on New Contracts / Agreements
  - B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (BTI) Update
  - C. Staff Updates
  - D. Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC) Update
  - E. Passenger Rail
  - F. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) Western Mass Conference
  - G. Housing Bond Bill
  - H. ResilientMass Plan
  - I. Starter Home Zoning – Chapter 40Y
  - J. Public Health Performance Standards
  - K. Community One Stop for Growth Awards
  - L. Recommendations of the Climate Chief
- IX. Old Business (4:55)
- No old business
- X. New Business (4:55)
- A. November Commission Meeting
- XI. Adjournment (5:00)

Attachments:

- Unapproved Minutes of the October 3, 2023, BRPC Executive Committee Meeting
- September 30, 2023, to October 18, 2023, Expenditures Report
- Accounts Receivable Report – October 2023
- Line of Credit Report
- Executive Director's Memorandum
- Surplus and Disposable Equipment List 2023.10
- Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Statement
- Pregnancy Anti-Discrimination & Accommodation Policy
- Samantha Eliot Resume
- Western MA CPTC Conference Registration Form
- Affordable Homes Act Overview
- Copy of Press Release ResilientMass 2023
- Starter Homes / 40Y Overview
- Copy of Press Release – Public Health Standards
- FY 24 Community One Stop for Growth Awards
- September Technical Assistance Memo

\* Items Requiring Action



## **DRAFT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Virtual meeting as allowed by Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20 until March 31, 2025.

### **I. Call to Order & Open Meeting Law Statement**

Chair Malcolm Fick called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. as a virtual meeting as allowed by Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20 until March 31, 2025. He stated that BRPC was recording the meeting, and anyone else who wanted to record it needed to inform him.

### **II. Roll Call:**

Read by Office Administrator Kate Hill Tapia:  
Malcolm Fick, Chair, Gt Barrington Alternate  
Sheila Irvin, Clerk, Pittsfield Delegate  
Buck Donovan, Treasurer, Lee Delegate  
Roger Bolton, Environmental Review Committee Chair, Williamstown Alternate  
Kyle Hanlon, At-large, North Adams Delegate

Staff Present: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director; Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager; Kate Hill Tapia, Office Administrator; Laura Brennan, Assistant Director and Economic Development Program Manager; Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert, Environmental & Energy Planner

### **III. Approval of September 7, 2023 Minutes**

Sheila Irvin moved to approve the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kyle Hanlon and approved by a roll call vote from Malcolm Fick, Sheila Irvin, Buck Donovan, Kyle Hanlon, and Roger Bolton.

### **IV. Financial Reports**

#### **A. September 1 to September 30, 2023 Expenditures Report**

Roger Bolton moved to accept the report as presented, and Sheila Irvin seconded the motion. A roll vote approved it from Malcolm Fick, Sheila Irvin, Buck Donovan, Roger Bolton, and Kyle Hanlon.

It was confirmed that insurance companies reimburse the large vaccine purchases.

#### **B. Accounts Receivable Report/Assessments September 30, 2023**

The over-90-day Dalton CDGB invoice is the standard time frame for CDGB funding. Payments have been received, and progress has been made on other outstanding invoices.

**C. Line of Credit Report**

It has not been used.

**V. Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternates**

None

**VI. Items Requiring Action**

**A. Vote to Approve (after the fact) a Grant Application to the New England Rural Health Association (Root Causes Solutions)\***

The Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director (after the fact) to submit a grant application and sign any resulting contracts and agreements to the New England Rural Health Association (Rural Causes Solutions) program. The Equity in Heat Emergencies Project is in response to the increasing frequency and duration of heat emergencies for which Berkshire County has no unified structure to address. This \$30,000 grant would research and identify best practices for heat emergencies for the marginalized, underserved living on lower incomes, in rural/remote or inadequate housing, without transportation, with a disability, or living alone. Partners include Emergency Management Directors, Regional Emergency Planning Committees, Councils on Aging and at-risk individuals. No match is required. Senior Public Health Planner [Matthew Bryan](#) is the BRPC contact.

Roger Bolton motioned to approve (after the fact) submitting a grant application and signing any contracts and agreements to the New England Rural Health Association (Rural Causes Solutions) program for an Equity in Heat Emergencies Project. Kyle Hanlon seconded it. A roll call vote approved it from Malcolm Fick, Sheila Irvin, Buck Donovan, Roger Bolton, and Kyle Hanlon.

**B. Vote to Approve Comments to the Department of Public Utilities on their Proposed Draft Guidelines and Template for Municipal Aggregation**

The Executive Committee was requested to approve the submission of comments to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on their proposed draft Guidelines and Template for Municipal Aggregation. As stated by the DPU, the template is to guide prospective and existing municipal aggregations, establish a uniform set of rules and requirements for municipal aggregation plans consolidated into two documents, and help expedite Department review of municipal aggregation plans. Municipalities would be eligible for expedited review of proposed municipal aggregation plans by DPU when they comply with all elements of the Template Plan, including the specific requirements for expedited review. A copy of the comments was in the meeting materials. The staff lead on the project is Planner [Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert](#).

Despite the purpose of streamlining guidelines, there is agreement that the proposed Guidelines and Template are unnecessary and burden small municipalities. Commenting on these types of documents is seen as an important role for BRPC. The MMA is also strongly against this document. The committee noted that the letter, drafted by Sherdyl, is well written.

Kyle Hanlon motioned to approve the recommended submission of comments to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on their proposed draft Guidelines and Template for Municipal Aggregation. Buck Donovan seconded it. A roll call vote approved it from Malcolm Fick, Sheila Irvin, Buck Donovan, Kyle Hanlon, Roger Bolton, and Kyle Hanlon.

## **VII. Committee Reports and Discussion**

### **A. Berkshire Brownfields**

The Brownfields Committee met on September 14 and approved environmental site assessments for Hide Mound (a pile of partially tanned hides), North Adams, and Carpenter's Variety, Great Barrington. Minutes were not yet available.

### **B. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The CEDS met on September 27 and heard updates on the Economic Development District funding and Berkshire Innovation Center's EDA ARPA grant to develop a "Manufacturing Academy." Year 1 reporting to EDA was discussed, including summary data, goals progress, and priority projects. A proposal is in the works to EDA for developing and launching a Small Business Resiliency Assessment Tool. The next meeting will be November 8 or 15. Minutes were not yet available.

### **C. Regional Issues Committee**

The RIC met on September 27. Colonial Power presented the draft municipal aggregation guidelines from the Department of Public Utilities. Comments to DPU were approved. Christine Rasmussen was elected Vice Chair and will be presented to the full Commission meeting in November for approval as the new RIC Chair. The next meeting is October 25. Minutes were not yet available.

## **VIII. Executive Director's Report**

### **A. Report on New Contracts/Agreements**

Received or initiated from 8/31/2023 to 9/28/2023.

- New England AIDS Education and Training Center – Hepatitis C Initiative - \$25,000
- Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness - \$215,143
- Environmental Protection Agency - Air Quality - \$465,589
- Monterey – Open Space and Recreation Plan - \$15,000
- Berkshires Tomorrow – Berkshire Benchmarks - \$25,000
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Asset Mapping - \$14,485
- Berkshire Public Health Alliance – Inspection Services FY24:
  - o Peru - \$9,240

- Berkshire Public Health Alliance – Public Health Nursing Services FY24:
  - o Peru - \$2,310
  - o Hancock - \$2,205
- Berkshire County Sheriff's Office – Opioid Abuse Prevention - \$50,000
- Economic Development Administration - Partnership Planning - \$210,000
- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs – Greylock Glen Outdoor Center Exhibit - \$75,000
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services – Southern Berkshire County - \$96,632.57

Grants and Contracts not received.

BRPC did not receive the \$1,875,000 five-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) application to develop and implement community-driven, evidence-based interventions to reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems while promoting mental health services and community resiliency.

**B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (BTI)**

There has been no recent activity of Berkshires Tomorrow.

**C. Staff Update**

Accepted Positions

- Daniel Hassett - Public Health Housing Specialist Berkshire County, 9/18
- Alison Dixson, Environmental & Energy Project Specialist (part-time offsite), 10/2
- Jazu Stine, Public Health Food Specialist (offsite), 10/2

Open Positions:

- Community Engagement Specialist – Digital Equity (full time, offsite, temporary, one year)

Award Nominations:

- Laura Kittross – Berkshire 25 recognition from Berkshire Magazine (TBD fall of 2023)
- HEALing Communities/Andy Ottoson – 1Berkshire "Celebrate the Berkshires" Trendsetter award nomination (event 9/14)

**D. Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC) Update**

The Rural Policy Advisory Commission met on September 8, 2023. Anne Gobi reported on settling into her role as Director of Rural Affairs. Senator Mark and Representative Blais gave House and Senate updates. Amie Shei from RCAP Solutions spoke about An Act to Promote Safe Drinking Water. Also discussed were rural priorities for the upcoming Housing Bond Bill and the state economic development plan. Steve Ellis discussed the \$25m of additional Chapter 90 to be allocated using a rural formula.

## **E. Passenger Rail**

- West-East Rail - The Special Commission to address West-East Passenger Rail governance and operations was supposed to complete its work by June 30, 2023. That deadline was missed, and the Commission Co-Chairs announced no new time frame.
- Berkshire Flyer - The Berkshire Flyer is about to finish its season (through October 9th). Plans will have to start soon for next year.
- Northern Tier Passenger Rail – There has been limited recent activity.

## **F. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Fall Webinar Series**

The schedule for the Fall CPTC webinar has not been finalized.

## **G. Division of Local Services / Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies Regionalization Conference**

The Division of Local Services(DLS) / Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) Regionalization Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Breakout sessions include:

- Climate Resiliency and Climate Action Plans;
- Building Livable Communities;
- Post-Pandemic Public Health; and
- Rural Empowerment
- Federal Funding Opportunities

Register [HERE](#).

## **H. Dalton CDGB Grant**

In 2020, with Dalton as the lead municipality, including Becket, Stockbridge, and Sheffield, an application was made and received for a Community Development Block Grant primarily for housing rehabilitation. BRPC administers the program on behalf of Dalton. A target number of rehabilitation projects in each community was initially established. Due to several factors, those targets were not met in Stockbridge and Sheffield, who have expressed dissatisfaction. Tom is working to understand more fully what occurred and address the concerns in Stockbridge and Sheffield.

## **I. Mass Department of Agricultural Resources - Richmond Farm Acquisition Reduction of Notice Period**

Tom received a "consent to reduction of notice period" from 120 to 60 days for a proposed land acquisition next to an existing large agricultural preservation restriction (APR) farm on Dublin Road in Richmond. Tom takes the lead from the

municipality in these cases to support their preference and will approve the waiver.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. November 16 Commission Meeting**

The next Full Commission meeting is November 16.

Potential topics include:

- Kristen Elechko, Governor Healey's Western Massachusetts Director
- DLTA new solicitation; A. funding for help with grant applications
- Solar
  - Where is it going, technically?
  - Advances to reduce costs
  - Parking lots and rooftops vs. green space; preventing ecosystem destruction
  - Subsidies for elevated solar fields vs. using green space to equalize the investment and create incentive

#### **X. Adjournment**

Sheila Irvin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 p.m., seconded by Buck Donovan, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote:

Malcolm Fick, Sheila Irvin, Buck Donovan, Roger Bolton, and Kyle Hanlon.

Attachments:

- Unapproved Minutes of the September 7, 2023, BRPC Executive Committee Meeting
- September 1 to September 30, 2023 Expenditures Report
- Accounts Receivable Report – September 2023
- Line of Credit Report
- Executive Director's Memorandum
- Alison Dixon, Resume
- Daniel Hassett, Resume
- Jazu Stine, Resume
- August Technical Assistance Memo



**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Check Register

For the Period From Sept 30, 2023 to Oct 18, 2023

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Department Description</b>	<b>Expense</b>
17405	9/30/23	FESTIVAL LATINO OF THE BERKSHIRES	120.00	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Subcontractor
17406	9/30/23	R3SET ENTERPRISES INC	1,866.00	725.00 MassTech/DE-PTS	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Pittsfield	Subcontractor
17407	10/3/23	TD CARD SERVICES	15,716.76	040 ADMIN	Admin	<i>September 2023 Credit Card Payment</i>
17408	10/4/23	STEFFON ASHLEY	320.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17409	10/4/23	VALERIE BIRD	460.47	650 DPH/SS	Public Health Excellence for Shared Services	Expense Form
17410	10/4/23	COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INC	17,721.90	684 MON/DEP319	Monterey - DEP 319 (Hupi Road Drainage Improvements)	Subcontractor
17411	10/4/23	SOURCEPASS COMPUWORKS LLC	1,048.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Maintenance
17412	10/4/23	COUNTRY CLUB OF PITTSFIELD	5,760.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	MOUD Event
17413	10/4/23	GABRIELLE DIMASSIMO	320.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17414	10/4/23	LESLIE DRAGER	77.98	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Expense Form
17415	10/4/23	EDWARD FAHEY	318.55	283 BPHA/INSP	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Pub	Expense Form
17416	10/4/23	KAMARA FLASCHER	320.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17417	10/4/23	SIOGA CLUB OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY INC	15.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17418	10/4/23	WYLIE GOODMAN	50.82	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Expense Form
17419	10/4/23	CORNELIUS HOSS	70.48	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17420	10/4/23	SETH JENKINS	61.57	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17421	10/4/23	JESSICA KEMP	250.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17422	10/4/23	LAURA KITROSS	96.32	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17423	10/4/23	MASS STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT	11,418.16	---	---	Retirement
17424	10/4/23	ANDREW MCKEEVER	76.24	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17425	10/4/23	KELLIE MEISL	480.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17426	10/4/23	MIIA HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST	2,334.22	040 ADMIN	Admin	Dental Insurance

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17427	10/4/23	MIIA HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST	59,393.44	040 ADMIN	Admin	Health Insurance
17428	10/4/23	MAEGAN MOYNAHAN	406.25	610 HRIA/G2G	Health Resources in Action - Grey to Green	Subcontractor
17429	10/4/23	MUTZ, ANN MARIE	2,000.00	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention Grant Program	Subcontractor
17430	10/4/23	ANDREW OTTOSON	438.26	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Expense Form
17431	10/4/23	CITY OF PITTSFIELD	425.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Parking
17432	10/4/23	PFIZER INC	33,810.00	653 BRPC/INSREB	BRPC Insurance Reimbursement - Covid-19	2023/2024 Covid-19 Vaccines
17433	10/4/23	RAINBOW DISTRIBUTING CO	85.41	040 ADMIN	Admin	Water
17434	10/4/23	THE COOPER CENTER, LLC	8,636.10	040 ADMIN	Admin	Rent
17435	10/4/23	KENDALL, SAMANTHA	457.50	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17436	10/4/23	SAMELS DELI & CATERING	719.00	609 HRIA/CHIP	Health Resources in Action County Health Initiative - Community Health Improvement Planning	Meals - CHIP Meeting
17437	10/4/23	SAVIDA HEALTH	737.07	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17438	10/4/23	SHAMIA SHEPHERD	2,000.00	646 DPH/MASSCALL3	Department of Public Health MASS CALL 3B - Substance Misuse Prevention Grant Program - Implementation	Subcontractor
17439	10/4/23	NANCY SLATTERY	212.37	650 DPH/SS	Public Health Excellence for Shared Services	Expense Form
17440	10/4/23	SPECTRUM HEALTH SYSTEMS	1,195.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17441	10/4/23	ELIZABETH STRICKLER	2,866.67	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17442	10/4/23	WEBSTER ELECTRIC LLC	1,604.66	040 ADMIN	Admin	TV Installation in Conference Room
17443	10/4/23	COURTENY MOREHOUSE	333.26	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17444	10/4/23	KJ NOSH CATERING CO	650.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Meals - Photovoice Event
17445	10/4/23	BLUE 20/20	182.53	040 ADMIN	Admin	Vision Insurance
17446	10/4/23	MONASIA CEASAR	666.79	650 DPH/SS	Public Health Excellence for Shared Services	Expense Form
17447	10/4/23	LAMAR COMPANIES	375.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Communications
17448	10/4/23	LYDIA SHULMAN	87.12	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17449	10/4/23	COLIN SYKES	332.96	650 DPH/SS	Public Health Excellence for Shared Services	Expense Form
17450	10/11/23	AAIM TRAINING AND CONSULTING LLC	70.90	040 ADMIN	Admin	Background Check - Hassett, Dan

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17451	10/11/23	MARIA ARIAS	67.47	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17452	10/11/23	BARRINGTON STAGE CO INC	200.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Space Fee - Photovoice Event
17453	10/11/23	BRITNEY DANIALS	331.63	---	Varied Projects	Expense Form
17454	10/11/23	AINA DE LAPPARENT	376.00	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Translation Services
17455	10/11/23	WYLIE GOODMAN	45.16	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Supplies Reimbursement
17456	10/11/23	ICMA	200.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	2024 Membership Renewal
17457	10/11/23	MCKESSON MEDICAL - SURGICAL	1,024.66	653 BRPC/INSREB	BRPC Insurance Reimbursement - Covid-19	2023/2024 Vaccination Supplies
17458	10/11/23	JIMINY PEAK MOUNTAIN RESORT LLC	100.00	724 HAN/MVP	Hancock - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Space Deposit
17459	10/12/23	TD CARD SERVICES	150.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Annual Fee
17460	10/12/23	TOWN OF WASHINGTON	45,000.00	694 EOAF/SS/E&R	Administration and Finance Shared Services - Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Program	E&R Subgrant
17461	10/18/23	413SHIRTS.COM LLC	2,295.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Recovery Month Supplies
17462	10/18/23	BERKSHIRE BOUNTY	14,886.94	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Subcontractor
17463	10/18/23	BERKSHIRE GROWN	24,911.30	715 USDA/RFSP	USDA - Regional Food System Partnerships Program	Subcontractor
17464	10/18/23	BCBOHA	135.00	350 BCBOHA/SUP	Berkshire County Boards of Health Association - Support Services	Reimbursement - Member Payment for Fall Dinner
17465	10/18/23	MATTHEW BRYAN	1,500.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Relocation Reimbursement
17466	10/18/23	FULL CIRCLE TECHNOLOGIES INC	6,400.00	722 EOAF/OP	Executive Office for Administration & Finance - Online Permitting Upgrade	Subcontractor
17467	10/18/23	GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHARMACEUTICALS	13,294.80	653 BRPC/INSREB	BRPC Insurance Reimbursement - Covid-19	2023/2024 Flu Vaccines
17468	10/18/23	GVH STUDIO INC	540.00	737 COMM/ARTBERK23	Communities/Organizations - Cultural Districts - ArtWeek	Communications
17469	10/18/23	KATHRYN HEEDER HOCKER	1,105.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
17470	10/18/23	LAMAR COMPANIES	4,450.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Communications
17471	10/18/23	MASS STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT	11,923.99	---	---	Retirement

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17472	10/18/23	MCKESSON MEDICAL - SURGICAL	1,247.29	653 BRPC/INSREB	BRPC Insurance Reimbursement - Covid-19	2023/2024 Vaccination Supplies
17473	10/18/23	MIIA PROPERTY & CASUALTY GROUP, INC	4,633.00	---	---	Audit Adjustment
17474	10/18/23	MIRICK O'CONNELL	1,565.00	545 DHCD/DLTA23	District Local Technical Assistance 2023	Legal Services
17475	10/18/23	PFIZER INC	45,080.00	653 BRPC/INSREB	BRPC Insurance Reimbursement - Covid-19	2023/2024 Covid-19 Vaccines
17476	10/18/23	LINDSEY ROSA	2,430.00	720 NEA/MCLA	National Endowment for the Arts - Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Subcontractor
17477	10/18/23	ROUX ASSOCIATES INC	7,800.00	702 EPA/ASSESS	Environmental Protection Agency Assessment	Subcontractor
17478	10/18/23	SOURCEPASS COMPUWORKS LLC	552.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Maintenance
17479	10/18/23	TPX COMMUNICATIONS	1,349.70	040 ADMIN	Admin	Telephone
17480	10/18/23	TRC ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION	6,923.66	319 ROR	Rest of River	Subcontractor
17481	10/18/23	THE COOPER CENTER, LLC	1,668.17	040 ADMIN	Admin	Utilities
17482	10/18/23	VALLEY GREEN SHREDDING, LLC	91.50	040 ADMIN	Admin	Recycling
17483	10/18/23	WB MASON COMPANY INC	450.68	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
17484	10/18/23	STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN	1,100.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Subcontractor
1169	10/10/23	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	105.00	522 CHSNMB/CDBG	Cheshire New Marlborough - Community Development Block Grant	Mortgage Lien
1274	10/10/23	TOWN OF SHEFFIELD	5,000.00	631 DAL/CDBG	Dalton - Community Development Block Grant	Match Contribution Refund

**Total** 385,520.71

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Department Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>
CCARD	8/30/23	AMAZON.COM	949.99	010 GEN	General	MIIA Grant - Massage Chair
CCARD	8/30/23	ADOBE ACROBAT	166.75	040 ADMIN	Admin	Software License
CCARD	8/31/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	5.75	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	8/31/23	AMAZON.COM	379.90	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Supplies
CCARD	8/31/23	AMAZON.COM	375.56	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Supplies
CCARD	8/31/23	AMAZON.COM	72.62	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/1/23	AMAZON.COM	1,008.51	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Supplies

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Check Register

For the Period From Sept 30, 2023 to Oct 18, 2023

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Department Description</b>	<b>Expense</b>
CCARD	9/1/23	HOT HARRYS	90.95	748 MassTech/DE-FG	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Focus Group	Meals - Focus Group Event
CCARD	9/3/23	AMAZON.COM	0.28	040 ADMIN	Admin	Backup to Archive
CCARD	9/4/23	AMAZON.COM	33.90	664 CLK/MVP	Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Supplies
CCARD	9/4/23	AMAZON.COM	61.61	664 CLK/MVP	Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Supplies
CCARD	9/4/23	AMAZON.COM	699.76	664 CLK/MVP	Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Supplies
CCARD	9/4/23	AMAZON.COM	49.95	664 CLK/MVP	Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Supplies
CCARD	9/5/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	5.40	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/5/23	UMASS TRANSPORTATION CENTER	75.00	440 MassDOT/TPL23	MassDOT - Transportation Planning	Training Module - Russo, N
CCARD	9/5/23	AMAZON.COM	21.99	664 CLK/MVP	Clarksburg - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness	Event Supplies
CCARD	9/7/23	AMAZON.COM	22.22	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/7/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	8.50	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/7/23	AMAZON.COM	867.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/7/23	AMAZON.COM	38.01	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/9/23	MEDIUMCUBE INC	1,150.35	632 NHD/COSSAP	Northampton Health Department - Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program	BOAPC Web Software
CCARD	9/9/23	CODE42	9.99	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Software
CCARD	9/9/23	AMAZON.COM	60.27	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/10/23	AMAZON.COM	90.24	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/11/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	6.15	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/11/23	AMAZON.COM	867.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/11/23	GRAINGER	155.13	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Supplies
CCARD	9/12/23	STRAIGHT TALK WIRELESS	37.65	040 ADMIN	Admin	Telephone
CCARD	9/12/23	ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	40.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Software
CCARD	9/12/23	PADDLE.NET	9.60	734 NCOA/VAC	National Council on Aging - Vaccine Initiative	Subscription
CCARD	9/12/23	META PLATFORMS INC	44.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Communications
CCARD	9/14/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	23.15	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Check Register

For the Period From Sept 30, 2023 to Oct 18, 2023

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<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Department Description</b>	<b>Expense</b>
CCARD	9/14/23	EMPIRE PIZZA	121.80	350 BCBOHA/SUP	Berkshire County Boards of Health Association - Support Services	Meals - BCBOHA Meeting
CCARD	9/15/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	3.61	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/15/23	FIVE BELOW	101.15	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Outreach Event Supplies
CCARD	9/16/23	AMAZON.COM	127.99	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Supplies
CCARD	9/17/23	AMAZON.COM	199.27	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Healing Communities Supplies
CCARD	9/18/23	GRAINGER	-48.05	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Supplies Credit
CCARD	9/18/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	10.07	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/19/23	AMAZON.COM	54.80	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/19/23	AMAZON.COM	134.62	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/19/23	AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION	99.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Membership - McKeever, A
CCARD	9/19/23	BJS WHOLESALE CLUB	28.75	010 GEN	General	MIIA Grant - Healthy Snacks
CCARD	9/20/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	5.40	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/20/23	AMAZON.COM	967.08	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/20/23	STAPLES	59.86	632 NHD/COSSAP	Northampton Health Department - Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program	Supplies
CCARD	9/20/23	AMAZON.COM	39.96	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/21/23	MARKETPLACE CAFE	129.07	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Meals - BPHA Meeting
CCARD	9/21/23	AMAZON.COM	15.16	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/21/23	YOUR LOCAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST	50.00	284 BPHA/PHN	Berkshire Public Health Alliance - Regional Public Health Nursing Program	Newsletter Subscription
CCARD	9/21/23	AMAZON.COM	864.66	716 EPA/RLF2	Environmental Protection Agency Revolving Loan Fund 2022	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/21/23	AIRBNB	683.03	545 DHCD/DLTA23	District Local Technical Assistance 2023	Lodging for APA Conference - Hoss, Jenkins, McKeever
CCARD	9/21/23	CCAPA SPECIAL EVENTS	973.53	545 DHCD/DLTA23	District Local Technical Assistance 2023	APA Conference - Hoss, Jenkins, McKeever

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Check Register

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<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Department Description</b>	<b>Expense</b>
CCARD	9/22/23	BIG Y SUPERMARKET	14.49	725.02 MassTech/DE-SBC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services - Southern Berkshire County	Outreach Event Supplies
CCARD	9/23/23	META PLATFORMS INC	33.39	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Communications
CCARD	9/24/23	CONSTANT CONTACT, INC	81.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Newsletter Subscription
CCARD	9/24/23	AMAZON.COM	926.98	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/25/23	ADOBE ACROBAT	152.22	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Software
CCARD	9/25/23	HOT HARRYS	88.00	748 MassTech/DE-FG	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Digital Equity - Focus Group	Meals - Focus Group Event
CCARD	9/25/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	57.00	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/27/23	BITWARDEN INC	56.16	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Software
CCARD	9/27/23	AMAZON.COM	130.67	040 ADMIN	Admin	Supplies
CCARD	9/27/23	BJS WHOLESALE CLUB	92.92	010 GEN	General	MIIA Grant - Healthy Snacks
CCARD	9/27/23	NEW ENGLAND RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION	275.00	678 NERHA/RVE	New England Rural Health Association - Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative	Conference - Bryan, M
CCARD	9/27/23	UMASS TRANSPORTATION CENTER	50.00	440 MassDOT/TPL23	MassDOT - Transportation Planning	Conference - Griffis, R
CCARD	9/28/23	AMAZON.COM	30.89	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Equipment
CCARD	9/28/23	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	16.10	606 BMC/PTSFA	Boston Medical Center - Pittsfield Fiscal Agent HEALING Communities	Naloxone Kit Postage
CCARD	9/28/23	GRAMMARLY	1,595.00	040 ADMIN	Admin	Computer Software
CCARD	9/28/23	LULUS TINY GROCERY	69.00	350 BCBOHA/SUP	Berkshire County Boards of Health Association - Support Services	Meals - BCBOHA Exec Meeting

**Total** 15,716.76

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Aged Receivables

As of Oct 31, 2023

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Includes Drop Shipments. Report order is by ID. Report is pri

<u>Customer ID</u>	<u>Customer</u>	<u>Over 90 days</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>	<u>Notes</u>
283 BPHA/INSP/BKT	TOWN OF BECKET		7,796.50	
283 BPHA/INSP/PTS	CITY OF PITTSFIELD		750.00	
283 BPHA/INSP/RCH	TOWN OF RICHMOND		4,633.25	
283 BPHA/INSP/WSH	TOWN OF WASHINGTON	<b>1,125.00</b>	1,125.00	Alecia H to follow up
284 BPHA/PHN/ADM	TOWN OF ADAMS		1,091.75	
284 BPHA/PHN/BKT	TOWN OF BECKET		964.69	
284 BPHA/PHN/CHS	TOWN OF CHESHIRE	<b>1,154.00</b>	2,308.00	Alecia H to follow up
284 BPHA/PHN/CLK	TOWN OF CLARKSBURG		767.62	
284 BPHA/PHN/FLA	TOWN OF FLORIDA		577.50	
284 BPHA/PHN/HAN	TOWN OF HANCOCK		1,102.50	
284 BPHA/PHN/HIN	TOWN OF HINSDALE		785.40	
284 BPHA/PHN/NAD	CITY OF NORTH ADAMS		2,531.04	
284 BPHA/PHN/RCH	TOWN OF RICHMOND	<b>1,125.00</b>	1,125.00	Alecia H to follow up
284 BPHA/PHN/RIV	RIVER RUN APARTMENTS		200.00	
284 BPHA/PHN/WMS	TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN		1,711.73	
350/BCBOHA	BERKSHIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOC	<b>2,791.07</b>	9,216.44	Payment in process
440/TPL	MASSDOT#75425 - TPL		115,751.31	
446 GTB/EP	TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON		5,362.50	
466 LAN/SW	TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH		2,792.21	
493 RCH/EP	TOWN OF RICHMOND	<b>280.00</b>	280.00	Laura B to follow up
514 ADM/EP	TOWN OF ADAMS		2,362.50	
524 DAL/SW	TOWN OF DALTON		1,567.15	
526 BCSO/OPIOID	BERKSHIRE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE		12,500.00	
560 COMMVENPUR	COMMUNITY VENDOR PURCHASING	<b>3,500.00</b>	3,500.00	Christie L following up with CLK, DAL, GTB, LEN, & PTS
560 NORTHEAST PAVING	NORTHEAST PAVING	<b>10.81</b>	10.81	
560 SEALCOATING	SEALCOATING INC	<b>523.25</b>	523.25	Rebecca R followed up
561 LEN/EDP	TOWN OF LENOX		4,200.00	
606 BMC/PTSFA	BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER		35,535.10	
631 DAL/CDBG	TOWN OF DALTON	<b>42,596.80</b>	42,596.80	A claim has been initiated
637 EDA/COVIDRRP	637 EDA/COVIDRRP		16,202.67	
647 GTB/CLNUP	TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON	<b>573.91</b>	1,175.78	Melissa P to follow up
657 EPA/HC	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY		2,389.41	
658 CHS/MVP	TOWN OF CHESHIRE		1,722.39	
663 HVA/MCRC	HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION	<b>213.67</b>	213.67	Payment in process
664 CLK/MVP	TOWN OF CLARKSBURG		8,368.73	
669 CHS/SW	TOWN OF CHESHIRE		990.30	
671 ADM/ZH	TOWN OF ADAMS		2,351.35	



**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Aged Receivables

As of Oct 31, 2023

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Includes Drop Shipments. Report order is by ID. Report is pri

<u>Customer ID</u>	<u>Customer</u>	<u>Over 90 days</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>	<u>Notes</u>
679 BG/MASSSAVE/CFP	BERKSHIRE GAS		7,291.66	
679 EV/MASSSAVE/CFP	EVERSOURCE	<b>4,166.66</b>	8,333.34	Sherdyl F is in contact
679 NG/MASSSAVE/CFP	NATIONAL GRID		7,291.66	
680 CHS/ZH	TOWN OF CHESHIRE	<b>1,475.21</b>	1,475.21	CJ followed up - No Response
685 HVA/BCCCP	HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION	<b>4,247.73</b>	8,282.36	Payment in process
691 CHS/GC	TOWN OF CHESHIRE		883.88	
703 WST/GC	TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE		220.51	
711 CLK/GW	TOWN OF CLARKSBURG		653.11	
713 MON/MVPA	TOWN OF MONTEREY		6,691.68	
714 LEE/HMMVP	TOWN OF LEE		12,049.81	
718 LEE/SRPP	TOWN OF LEE		3,603.65	
720 NEA/MCLA	NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS/MCLA		4,893.99	
723 MASS AUDUBON	MASS AUDUBON CONSERVATION SCIENCE DEPT		156.07	
724 HAN/MVP	TOWN OF HANCOCK		3,047.39	
728 MAPC/MCSP	METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL	<b>9,110.40</b>	13,740.05	Payment in process
731 SND/GC	TOWN OF SANDISFIELD		1,408.01	
735 MASSCEC/EMPOWER	MA CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER		45,000.00	
742 MON/OSRP	TOWN OF MONTEREY		1,992.65	
744 LAN/MP	TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH		674.62	
746 AGE SPAN	AGESPAN		25,000.00	
BERKS SELECTMENS	BERKSHIRE COUNTY SELECTMENS ASSOCIATION		300.00	
TOWN OF MT WASHINGTO	TOWN OF MT WASHINGTON	<b>136.21</b>	136.21	Called/Sent email to Town Administrator 9/28/23
TOWN OF SAVOY	TOWN OF SAVOY	<b>549.11</b>	549.11	Left voicemail at Town Hall 9/28/23

Report Total

**73,578.83**    450,757.32

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America's Most Convenient Bank®

Accounts

Current Balance

\$0.00

Available Credit

Amount Due

Payment Due Date



**It appears you don't have any recent activity.**

When available, this is where your account activity will display.

All available activity has been retrieved. More may be available via date-range search.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Committee, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission  
FROM: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director  
DATE: October 24, 2023  
SUBJ: Agenda Items – November 2, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting

### VI. **Items Requiring Action**

**A. Vote to Approve (After the Fact) a Grant Application to the National Environmental Health Association (NEHE) and U.S. Food & Drug Administration (F.D.A.).**

The Executive Committee is requested to authorize the Executive Director (after the fact) to submit a grant application and sign any resulting contracts and agreements to the National Environmental Health Association (NEHE) and U.S. Food & Drug Administration (F.D.A.) program. The \$5,000 grant application would be for food related training expenses for BRPC Public Health Inspectors and staff. There is not match. Senior Public Health Planner Sandra Martin, [smartin@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:smartin@berkshireplanning.org), is the BRPC contact.

**B. Vote to Approve a Grant Application to the University of Baltimore Center for Drug Policy and Prevention's Combating Overdose through Community-level Intervention (COCLI) Subaward\***

The Executive Committee is requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the University of Baltimore Center for Drug Policy and Prevention's Combating Overdose through Community-level Intervention (COCLI) Subaward and sign any resulting contracts and agreements. BRPC's Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC) will use this to supplement and enhance initial implementation of the [Berkshire Post Overdose Program](#) (BPOP), a new initiative that provides EMS and Behavioral Health co-response to those who have recently experienced an overdose or are otherwise at higher risk for overdose. This \$150,000 one-year grant will be a collaborative project between BRPC, the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (NEHIDTA) program - Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), Berkshire Harm Reduction, Northern Berkshire EMS, County Ambulance, Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad, The Brien Center, and other community partners involved in BOAPC. There is no match required. Staff lead on this project will be Andy Ottoson, [aottoson@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:aottoson@berkshireplanning.org), ex. 37

**C. Vote to Submit 2 Grant Applications to MassCEC's EMPower Innovation and Capacity Building Program\***

The Executive Committee is requested to authorize the Executive Director to submit two grant applications to the MassCEC EmPower Innovation and Capacity Building Program and to sign any resulting contracts and agreements.

Application 1: Working with West Side Legends and Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), members of BRPC's Environmental and Energy team are applying for a \$50,000 to fund the development of a road map for a sustainable solar power program pilot for the West Side and Morning Side communities. The funding will be used to build the capacity of the project partners to develop and support community-based solar programs. The result will be a road map for rolling out a community-based solar program developed through community outreach and support.

Application 2: BRPC's Environmental and Energy team are applying for a \$50,000 to fund the development of a road map for deploying housing resources effectively county wide. The goal is to connect different Housing Authorities and Affordable Housing Trusts to provide technical assistance for effectively spending federal and state money to have the biggest impact on housing energy efficiency upgrades. As a part of this capacity building grant BRPC staff will explore the need and viability of creating a revolving loan fund in partnership with other housing organizations.

MassCEC's expectation is that Innovation and Capacity Building Grants will serve as "seed" funding for the planning of innovative program models or projects. Grant recipients will then apply in a subsequent funding round to implement the project under an Implementation Grant of up to \$150,000 (\$300,000 if the project meets certain priority goals). (Application 2 falls into one of Mass CEC's Priority funding categories making a future implementation grant application eligible for up to \$300,000.)

These applications have no BRPC match requirement. Primary staff contact for these grant submissions is Sherdyl Fernandez-Aubert [Sfernandez-aubert@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:Sfernandez-aubert@berkshireplanning.org)

**D. Approval of Surplus Equipment\***

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the list of surplus equipment shown in the attached document, Surplus Equipment. According to our Policy, depending on the value and condition of equipment, it is offered to the municipalities, non-profits and then either advertised for sale or offered to staff. Finally, if there is no interest, it is responsibly destroyed.

**E. Vote to Approve a New Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Statement**

The Executive Committee is requested to approve the Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Statement. The ADA Policy Statement is a new BRPC

policy statement to inform employees and applicants that BRPC is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This policy is part of our ongoing efforts to improve our personnel policies to better inform employees.

#### **F. Vote to Approve a New Pregnancy Anti-Discrimination & Accommodations Policy**

Approval is requested to approve the Pregnancy Anti-Discrimination & Accommodations Policy. The new policy states that BRPC will comply with all federal and state laws concerning the employment of pregnant persons or persons with pregnancy-related conditions and nursing mothers. This policy is part of our ongoing efforts to improve our personnel policies to better inform employees.

### **VII. Committee Reports and Discussion**

#### **A. Regional Issues Committee**

The Regional Issues Committee met on October 25, 2023. This meeting continued the discussion initiated several years ago about commercial scale solar, as the current administration is assertively pursuing renewable energy. Earlier concerns were raised that attempts to incentivize solar in the Commonwealth typically has involved pushes for greenfield development vs. grey field / parking lot / rooftop development, and with the potential for disproportionate impact to the Berkshires given our relatively low population densities, availability of large tracts of undeveloped / agricultural land, and generally lower property values compared to the balance of the state.

### **VIII. Executive Director's Report**

#### **A. Report on New Contracts/Agreements**

New Grants and Contracts received/initiated from 9/29/2023 to 10/24/2023.

- BTI – National Endowment for the Arts - \$45,440
- MassDOT – Transportation Planning - \$758,322
- Department of Justice – Berkshire Post Overdose Program - \$1,300,000
- Baystate Medical Center – Digital Equity Partnership - \$91,640
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Planning Services – Dalton - \$32,992.32
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative - Municipal Digital Equity Focus Group - \$14,221

Grants and Contracts not received.

- Community One Stop for Growth Application, “Emergency Services Planning in Rural Massachusetts” (\$100,000.) This project would have assessed rural and small-town fire departments and EMS services leading to recommendations about what is needed personnel, equipment, and training, and how both needed and sustainable improvements could be accomplished.

## **B. Berkshires Tomorrow Inc. (B.T.I.) Update**

- Berkshires Tomorrow was awarded \$5,400 from the Health New England mini-grant program for Public Health Community Outreach.
- Berkshires Tomorrow board approved an application to Mill Town Foundation for Berkshire Funding Focus. The grant application is for \$10,000. The grant will support the continued hosting of the Berkshire Funding Focus initiative.

## **C. Staff Update**

- Patrica Mullins Celebrates 15 Years of Service at BRPC.
- Accepted Positions:
  - Samantha Elliot – Public Health Intern(resume)
- Open Positions:
  - Community Engagement Specialist – Digital Equity (full-time, offsite, temporary (one year)
  - Public Health Senior Planner Substance Use Disorders (SUD) (full-time onsite)

## **D. Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC) Update**

The Rural Policy Advisory Commission did not meet in October 2023. The November meeting date has not been set yet.

## **E. Passenger Rail**

- West-East Rail - The Co-Chairs of the Special Commission to address West-East Passenger Rail governance and operations provide a draft report to Commission members for review. The final report may be released soon.
- Berkshire Flyer - The Berkshire Flyer finished its season (through October 9<sup>th</sup>). The oversight group will have a de-brief meeting in December to discuss what worked well or didn't and then start preparing for next year.
- Northern Tier Passenger Rail – There was a virtual public meeting on the Northern Tier Rail Study on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., <https://www.mass.gov/northern-tier-passenger-rail-study>. The primary focus of this meeting was a review of additional alternatives (so-called Phase 2), developed based on earlier public comment.

## **F. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Fall Webinar Series**

Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) will hold its first time Western Mass in-person half-day conference on Saturday, December 2, 2023 in Greenfield, MA from 8:30 – 12:30.

Attendees will be able to choose two sessions:

- Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals
- Creating Master Plans
- Drafting Zoning Amendments
- Special Permits & Variances

Preregistration is required at <https://bit.ly/west-conf-2023>

### **G. Housing Bond Bill**

On October 18, 2023, the Healey Administration filed the Affordable Homes Act, a comprehensive bill related to many aspects of housing development. While this still must be approved by the legislature, which may take several months, it contains many strong elements to support housing development. More information at [Housing Bond Bill | Mass.gov](#)

### **H. ResilientMass Plan**

The Healey Administration recently released the ResilientMass Plan. This State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) integrates a hazard mitigation plan and a climate change adaptation plan. It identifies strategies and specific, measurable actions state agencies can take—individually or through interagency partnerships—to address risks to the human health and safety, communities, critical assets and infrastructure, natural resources, governance, and economy of the Commonwealth. More information can be found at [MA Climate Change Clearinghouse \(mass.gov\)](#)

### **I. Starter Home Zoning – Chapter 40Y**

In late 2022, amendments were made to MGL 40R. Along with other changes, the amendments uncoupled the Starter Home provisions from 40R and created a new chapter, MGL 40Y. “Starter Homes” are statutorily defined as “a single-family home not exceeding 1,850 square feet in heated living area.” The Starter Home Program is a voluntary incentive program to encourage municipalities to adopt zoning that allows as of right development of housing of at least 4 units / acre. The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is seeking input as it develops new regulations to comply with the changes. Contact Bill Reyelt at [william.reyelt@mass.gov](mailto:william.reyelt@mass.gov).

### **J. Public Health Performance Standards**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) established for the first time a set of performance standards, credentials, and workforce training requirements for local public health departments. These standards, created in close collaboration with local public health partners, are an important step toward providing consistent, high-quality public health services for all Commonwealth residents. For more information go to [Performance Standards for Local Public Health | Mass.gov](#).

### **K. Community One Stop for Growth Awards**

On October 25, 2023 the Healey administration announced the Community One Stop for Growth awards, including the MassWorks awards. The Berkshires received 19 awards in 10 municipalities, including 10 municipal awards, totaling \$8.2 million of the \$164 million to 338 projects in 161 Massachusetts awarded statewide.

## **L. Recommendations of the Climate Chief**

The Healey administration created the Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience and appointed Melissa Hoffer as the nation's first cabinet-level Climate Chief. This office has reviewed the present organization, staffing, and policy-making practices of the Commonwealth's executive department agencies and offices and has prepared a report and recommendations, [Recommendations of the Climate Chief | Mass.gov](#). The report presents 39 recommendations focused on concrete strategies around funding, protecting environmental justice communities, advancing workforce, and economic development.

## **IX. Old Business**

## **X. New Business**

### **A. November Commission Meeting**

The next Full Commission meeting is scheduled for November 16.

Potential items required or previously mentioned include:

- Kristen Elechko, Governor Healey's Western Massachusetts Director
- Description of DLTA and DLTA-A
- Population Projections
- Approval of Regional Issues Committee Chair
- Presentation of ResilientMass Plan
- Presentation on Recommendation of the Climate Chief





# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
T: (413) 442-1521 · F: (413) 442-1523  
TTY: 771 or (800) 439-2370  
berkshireplanning.org

October 18, 2023

Per IT Program Manager Mark Maloy, BRPC staff seek approval by the Executive Committee for the disposal or offering to towns of the following equipment:

To be surplusd and offered to towns:

- #1388: HP ProDesk 600 G4. Purchased 7/22/2019, 1TB Hard Drive, 8GB RAM
- #1389: HP ProDesk 600 G4. Purchased 7/22/2019, 1TB Hard Drive, 8GB RAM
- #1390: HP ProDesk 600 G4. Purchased 7/22/2019, 1TB Hard Drive, 8GB RAM
- #1402: HP ProDesk 600 Gb. Purchased 3/18/2020, 1 TB Hard drive, 8GB RAM

To be disposed of – do not work, or poor condition:

- #1167: HP 1730 Monitor. Unknown purchase date. – failure of screen
- #1285: HP Z440 Workstation. Purchased 8/1/2016. 1 TB hard drive, 16GB RAM
- #1405: HP ProBook 650 G4, Purchased 3/26/2020, 1 TB Hard drive, 16GB RAM
- #1593: Samsung 65" QLED Q80B, purchased 6/30/23 – broke, out of warranty

Two wooden chairs with cloth seats, no padding

# Americans With Disabilities Act Policy Statement

BRPC intends to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA). It is BRPC's policy not to discriminate against any qualified employee or applicant regarding any terms or conditions of employment because of such individual's disability or perceived disability so long as the employee can perform the job's essential functions. Consistent with this nondiscrimination policy, BRPC will provide reasonable accommodations to a qualified individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, who has made BRPC aware of their disability, provided that such accommodation does not constitute undue hardship on BRPC.

## **Reasonable Accommodations**

Employees with a disability who believe they need reasonable accommodation to perform the essential functions of their job should contact their supervisor or the ADA Coordinator. BRPC encourages individuals with disabilities to come forward to request reasonable accommodations.

## **Questions or Complaints**

Employees who have questions regarding this policy or believe they have been discriminated against based on a disability should notify the ADA Coordinator. All such inquiries or complaints will be treated as confidential to the extent the law permits.

## Pregnancy Anti-Discrimination & Accommodation Policy

BRPC intends to comply with all federal and state laws concerning the employment of pregnant persons or persons with pregnancy-related conditions. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act [MGL 151B §4 as amended] prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, such as lactation or the need to express breast milk for a nursing child. The law requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations. The PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act [29 USC §201 et seq.], requires reasonable break time for nursing mothers and a place other than a bathroom shielded from view and free from intrusion to express breast milk.

### **Anti-Discrimination**

BRPC policy does not discriminate against applicants or employees who are pregnant or affected by pregnancy-related conditions. BRPC will not discriminate against these applicants or employees regarding application procedures, hiring, advancement, discharge, compensation, training, or other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

Pregnant applicants or applicants with pregnancy-related conditions who can perform the essential functions of a job, with or without reasonable accommodations, will be given the same consideration for that position as any other applicant.

### **Reasonable Accommodations**

BRPC will make efforts to accommodate employees who are pregnant or affected by pregnancy-related conditions, provided the request does not constitute undue hardship as defined by law. BRPC will engage in an interactive process to determine accommodations that allow the individual to perform the job's essential functions without causing significant difficulty or expense.

Reasonable accommodations may include but are not limited to the following:

- The acquisition or modification of equipment or seating,
- More frequent or more prolonged breaks (paid or unpaid),
- Time off to attend to pregnancy-related conditions or for recovery following childbirth,
- A modified work schedule,
- Light duty/ job restructuring,
- A private non-bathroom space for expressing breast milk.

Employees should speak with their supervisor and the Office Manager if they require accommodation due to pregnancy or a pregnancy-related condition.

There is a Nursing Mother's Room to express breast milk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor adjacent to the elevator and another room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of BRPC's Fenn St. building.

# Samantha Elliott

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## EDUCATION

**Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Boston, MA**  
*Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, anticipated December 2024*  
Honors: Dean's List (2022)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Miss Hall's School, Pittsfield MA** May 2022-Present  
*Creator and facilitator*

- Create and teach high school seniors about transitioning out of high school to college.
- Create educational material and assignments that integrated and reinforced the lessons being taught.
- Cover topics about emotional intelligence, safety, Title IX, consent, healthy/unhealthy relationships and more.
- Coordinate and bring in outside speakers to further the information being taught and reviewed.
- Research and find tools that are easily digestible for high school students.
- Create games and other activities that focus on communication, reflective listening, and other skills needed for relationship building and boundary setting.

**Kutsher's Sports Academy, Monterey MA** June 2021-August 2022  
*Office Assistant to the Nurse*

- Helped organize camper/patient medicine for morning/afternoon/evening medicine.
- Completed intake before campers saw the nurse.
- Cleaned and dressed small cuts and abrasions.

## VOLUNTEERING

**Elizabeth Freeman Center, Pittsfield, MA** 2018-2019  
*Student Aid*

- Assisted and attended monthly meetings.
- Organized files and projects that the center provided to the community.
- Take lessons learned from this site and create a final project at my school.

## SKILLS

- Computers: Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Drive



CITIZEN PLANNER  
TRAINING COLLABORATIVE

# First Western MA CPTC Conference

## for Planning & Zoning Board members, professional planners

Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Greenfield Community College

- CPTC is coming to western MA for the first time for an in-person half-day conference. If you serve on a Planning Board, Zoning Board, or are a citizen or professional planner, join us on Saturday, December 2, 2023 in Greenfield, MA!
- Every year on the third Saturday in March, CPTC holds an Annual Conference in Worcester to provide training opportunities for Board members. This Annual Conference draws more than 300 planning and zoning board members, professional planners, and consultants.
- Working with your western MA Regional Planning Agencies (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission), CPTC is bringing a smaller version of this conference to western MA to provide a more convenient option for training for western MA board members.

We are excited to have you join CPTC and your Regional Planning Agencies on Saturday, December 2, 2023, to make this first western MA conference a success!!! Registration required. Fee \$40.

Conference Schedule		Saturday, December 2, 2023 - Greenfield Community College	
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast		
9:00-9:30 AM	General Opening/Welcome and Keynote Speaker: Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs, MA Executive Office of Economic Development		
9:45 – 11:00 AM	Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals	Creating Master Plans	
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	Drafting Zoning Amendments	Special Permits & Variances	

To Register, please go to:  
<https://bit.ly/west-conf-2023>





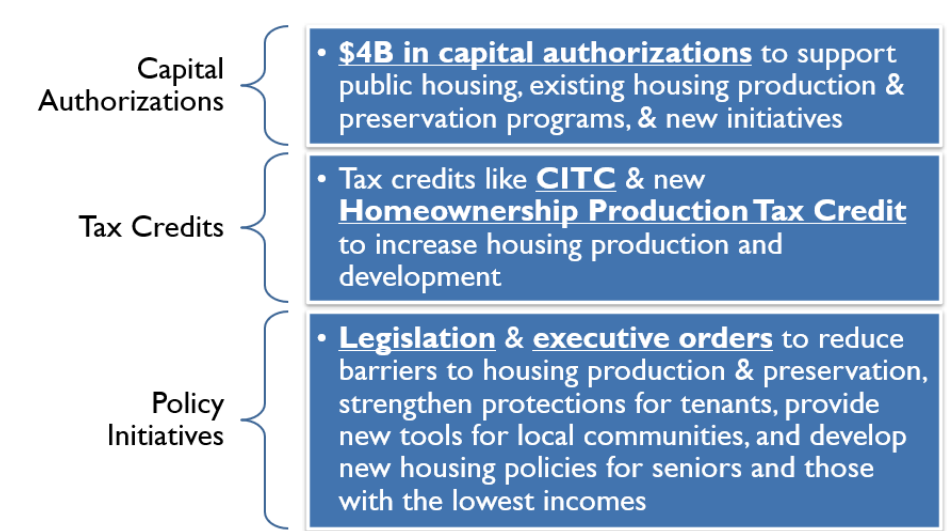
# Affordable Homes Act – Overview

## Healey-Driscoll Administration

### Introduction

The Affordable Homes Bill is the largest housing investment of its kind in Massachusetts history, designed to meet the moment and meaningfully impact the supply of housing in the state. Today, too many Massachusetts families are struggling under the burden of rising housing costs and limited housing availability. Across the state, the supply of housing has failed to keep up with demand. Between 2020 and 2030, the state needs at least 200,000 new homes to accommodate growth and achieve a healthy vacancy rate; currently only 1.6% of housing units are available for sale or rent. The state’s high housing costs are disproportionately burdening low-income households. Sixty-four percent of renters earning less than \$35,000 – the equivalent of 200,000 households – spend half their income on housing. At the same time, homeownership is increasingly out of reach for many, especially Black and Latinx communities, for which homeownership rates are *half* those of White communities.

Meeting this moment requires bold initiatives that support the Healey-Driscoll Administration’s goals of affordable and abundant housing– that is exactly what the Affordable Homes Act does. This more than \$4 billion bill is a comprehensive package of spending, policy, and programmatic actions and is more than two times as large as the next largest housing bond bill.



Taken together, the bill supports the creation of more than 40,000 homes that otherwise would not have been built. The bill will also preserve, rehab, improve, or support more than 27,000 existing units, including improvements to over 7,000 public housing units and the decarbonization of 3,000 public housing units. These proposed investments are designed to impact those who need support the most. More than 80% of the bond authorizations in the bill

## ***Affordable Homes Act – Overview***

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will benefit low-income households, with up to 50% of proposed authorizations benefiting Extremely Low-Income (ELI) households or residents with disabilities.

### **Historic Investments in Public Housing**

The Affordable Homes Act includes ground-breaking investments in public housing, which plays a vital role in housing vulnerable populations, with more than half of the units occupied by extremely low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. Specifically, the bill includes **\$1.6B to make long overdue investments in maintenance, accessibility, and resilience for one-quarter of the state’s public housing portfolio**. This funding includes **\$1.5B for the Public Housing Capital Fund** to support the repair, rehabilitation, and modernization of public housing units across the state, with **\$150M dedicated to the decarbonization of public housing units** through the installation of heat pumps and electric utilities. The bill also includes **\$100M for the Public Housing Mixed Income Demonstration Program**, which supports Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) who partner with developers to add mixed-income developments on LHA land, leveraging funds to maintain and preserve public housing while increasing the overall housing supply.

### **Driving Development**

The Affordable Homes Act also includes **\$1.83 billion** in funding to help drive housing production and preservation in Massachusetts. Among the many investments and policy proposals included in the bill are:

- **\$425M for the Housing Stabilization and Investment Fund** to support preservation, new construction, and rehabilitation projects.
- **\$175M for the HousingWorks Infrastructure Program** to fund municipal infrastructure projects to encourage denser housing development.
- **\$100M for the Public Housing Mixed-Income Housing Demonstration Program** to support Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) who partner with developers to add mixed-income developments on LHA land.
- **\$100M for Commonwealth Builder** to spur construction of affordable homeownership opportunities in Gateway Cities and other similar markets.
- **\$50M for the Momentum Fund**, a pioneering initiative designed to leverage state resources to support large scale, mixed-income multifamily development.

## ***Affordable Homes Act – Overview***

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- **Making the Community Investment Tax Credit Program permanent and increasing it from \$12M to \$15M** per year to support the critical work of Community Development Corporations.
- **Creating a new Homeownership Tax Credit** designed to produce homes affordable to first-time homebuyers earning not more than 120% area median income (AMI).

### **Supporting our Most Vulnerable Residents and Increasing Housing Opportunities**

The Affordable Homes Act includes investments that **will directly fund the creation of approximately 22,000 new affordable housing units**, more than 4,000 of which will be reserved for ELI households. The bill will also **support roughly 12,000 additional units of middle-income housing**. Additionally, the bill authorizes several hundreds of millions of dollars estimated to **create up to 1,900 new home ownership opportunities**. Significant investments include:

- **\$800M for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund**, which will provide flexible resources to create or preserve affordable housing for households whose incomes are not more than 110% of AMI.
- **\$200M for the Housing Innovations Fund** to support innovative and alternative forms of rental housing for people experiencing homelessness, housing for seniors and veterans, and transitional units for persons recovering from substance abuse.
- **\$100M for Middle-Income Housing** to support housing development for households earning up to 120% AMI and improve home ownership opportunities.
- **\$70M for the Facilities Consolidation Fund (FCF)**, which supports the development of appropriate community-based housing for Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) clients.
- **\$55M for Community Based Housing (CBH)**, which supports appropriate housing for people with disabilities who are not clients of DMH or DDS.
- **Establishes a Supportive Housing Pool Fund** to provide critical assistance for supportive housing by funding staffing, case management, service coordination and other tenancy-related services not funded through other sources.



## ***Affordable Homes Act – Overview***

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### **Climate-Focused Investments**

The Clean Energy and Climate Plan calls for a 35% reduction in residential building energy use by 2030. To support that goal, the bill includes **\$275M for Sustainable and Green Housing Initiatives**, which supports the creation and preservation of transit-oriented housing and sustainable and climate-resilient affordable multifamily housing. The authorization also creates a new, innovative program to accelerate and unlock new housing through, for example, office conversions and development of modular homes. This investment is **on top of the \$150M** included within the public housing capital program for decarbonization efforts. The bill also supports the Administration’s “whole of government” approach to meeting state climate goals by directing that all state housing investments prioritize and incorporate the state’s climate and decarbonization goals to the maximum extent feasible.

### **Continuing the Healey-Driscoll Commitment to Confronting the Housing Crisis**

Since its first day in office, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has signaled its commitment to confronting the Commonwealth’s housing crisis. The Affordable Homes Act builds on the previous actions and investments the Administration has taken to drive more abundant and affordable housing across the state.

This year alone, Governor Healey, alongside the newly created Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, has awarded over \$300 million in state and federal resources to accelerate projects that seek to build and preserve over 2,000 affordable housing units. The Administration’s FY24-FY28 Capital Investment Plan also represented an historic investment in housing, increasing the annual investment in housing by approximately 18% to help finance the construction of hundreds of new affordable housing opportunities per year. The Administration is further committed to more efficiently leveraging state volume cap as a tool to increase housing; it is currently working on implementing volume cap strategies that further Administration goals in 2024.

The fiscal year 2024 state budget also makes historic investments in housing, with **\$1.07 billion** in funding for key programs that **combat homelessness** and **support housing affordability**, including:

- **\$190M for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition** to help households avoid eviction and possibly homelessness.
- **\$110M for Homeless Individual Shelters**, which will preserve over 2,600 shelter beds for individuals experiencing homelessness.

## ***Affordable Homes Act – Overview***

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- **\$107M for Subsidies for Public Housing Authorities**, critical funding to maintain the operations of our state-funded public housing.
- **\$16.5M for the Rental Subsidy Program for DMH Clients**, which will help expand access to safe, affordable housing for clients at DMH.
- **\$8.9M for Sponsor-Based Permanent Supportive Housing** to help reduce chronic homelessness.
- **Creates 750 new rental vouchers through the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)**, including project-based vouchers which are instrumental to the development of affordable housing.
- **Increases the benefit level at HomeBASE to \$30,000 over 24-months** to help EA-eligible families exiting family shelter.
- **Authorizes the creation of project-based vouchers through the Alternative Housing Voucher Program** to help the development of accessible housing for non-elderly disabled individuals.

And the **tax reform package** recently signed into law included numerous provisions designed to drive housing production and address the high cost of housing, including:

- **Raising the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit** annual authorization from \$40M to \$60M to spur the creation of at least 3,300 new units of affordable housing annually.
- **Increasing the statewide cap on the Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP)** to create an estimated 12,500 new homes in Gateway cities.
- **Creating a local option property tax exemption for affordable housing.**
- **Increasing the rental deduction cap** from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

## Menu



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(/ ) > [EEA \(/orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs\)](#)

### PRESS RELEASE

# Healey-Driscoll Administration Releases Readiness Plan to Protect Against Extreme Weather

'ResilientMass' plan establishes an Office of Climate Science and identifies key actions state government can make to promote resiliency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

10/11/2023

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

### MEDIA CONTACT

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**BOSTON** — The Healey-Driscoll Administration today released its Statewide Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, known as [ResilientMass Plan \(/info-details/2023-resilientmass-plan\)](#). In total, the ResilientMass plan details 142 actions across state agencies that are tracked publicly at [resilient.mass.gov](#). Key actions include establishing an Office of Climate Science, making the state building code more resilient, and updating MBTA design standards.

“With ResilientMass, our administration is leading by example in preparing for mounting extreme weather events,” said **Governor Maura Healey**. “This summer brought dangerous weather impacts to our communities, and the impacts have been devastating. ResilientMass ensures that Massachusetts is well positioned for federal funds, while continuing our nation-leading work on climate.”

“This is an important example of why our whole-of-government approach is critical to protecting communities from the harshest impacts of extreme weather,” said **Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll**. “More inland flooding, sea level rise, and extreme heat are on the horizon. Massachusetts is ready to meet that challenge. We have a strategy in place and make fiscally responsible investments now to prepare the state and our municipalities for the growing impacts of the climate crisis.”

“Massachusetts is tackling the climate crisis on two key fronts: we’re investing in innovative technologies and industries that will bring down emissions and foster tremendous economic development across the state. We’re also taking steps to prepare for extreme weather as global emissions rise,” said **EEA Secretary Tepper**. “That means taking a fresh look at our building codes, having sound emergency plans in place, and following the science to inform our decision making. I’m grateful to our partners at MEMA and other secretariats for joining us in the effort to combat the climate crisis.”

“This plan represents a collaborative, forward-leaning approach to help ensure the Commonwealth is prepared to withstand, rapidly recover from, adapt to, and mitigate natural hazard events,” said **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Director Dawn Brantley**. “ResilientMass empowers emergency managers at every level of government with the data and information they need to develop plans and build resilience with a focus on lessening disproportionate impacts to environmental justice populations.”

“This is the year that changed everything. We saw frosts, floods, extreme heat, and fires devastate our communities,” said **Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer**. “These weather events are only expected to increase. ResilientMass represents a whole-of-government approach to ensure that every agency is working toward a more resilient, healthy future. With this plan, we see the power of collaboration in preparing for natural disasters.”

ResilientMass is based on the findings, science, and stakeholder engagement of the [Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment](/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment). Among the most significant hazards to Massachusetts are flooding from precipitation, coastal flooding and erosion due to sea level rise, and high heat. Actions that respond to these impacts will each be advanced by a designated lead agency, in collaboration with other state and community partners. ResilientMass is implemented by the inter-agency ResilientMass Action Team, and a new Office of Climate Science will support agencies and municipalities in integrating climate change information into their plans and projects.

## **Flooding from Precipitation**

This summer has brought heavy rainfall and significant flood damages across Massachusetts. The farming sector have been hit especially hard. These impacts are only expected to increase with climate change. ResilientMass identified inland flooding as the most significant climate hazard in Massachusetts. By 2070, Massachusetts is expected to receive 12 to 42 percent more winter precipitation, and the frequency and intensity of precipitation events is also increasing. Environmental justice and priority populations live near

commercial and industrial buildings that have a 57 percent higher risk of flood damage than the rest of the state.

ResilientMass identified several priority actions to address this increased risk in flooding, including:

- EEA, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will develop a statewide floodplain management plan to coordinate agencies and partners across the Commonwealth.
- The Executive Office of Economic Development will lead efforts to evaluate flood resilient construction standards in the state building code and develop a guide for municipalities to take impactful zoning actions to strengthen resilience to flooding.
- The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities will conduct feasibility studies and implement resilience improvements to reduce flooding and heat risks at climate vulnerable state-aided public housing developments.
- The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources will continue to expand its ClimateSmart Agriculture Program to support agricultural operations to proactively assess risks from climate change and implement practices to build economic and environmental resilience.

## **High Heat**

According to ResilientMass analysis, the average summertime temperatures in Massachusetts will feel like those in Maryland in 2050, North Carolina in 2070, and Georgia in 2090. Environmental justice communities will experience acute impacts. Forests and other natural ecosystems will also experience significant strains.

ResilientMass will guide key initiatives to mitigate extreme heat equitably:

- The Executive Office of Health and Human Services will coordinate a multiagency effort to develop and implement a new Heat Flag system to effectively communicate heat risk to the public.
- DCR will work to improve more shaded areas and cooling structures on its properties, with priority given to properties in environmental justice communities.
- EEA and DCR will also expand their successful Greening the Gateway Cities program in Barnstable, Malden, Taunton and Worcester. The team will be working towards planting 800 trees per year in these four priority environmental justice communities experiencing significant urban heat island effects and other climate impacts.

## **Coastal Flooding & Erosion**

Massachusetts is planning for sea level rise of up to 2.5 feet by 2050 and 4.3 feet by 2070 (compared to 2008 mean sea level) if global emissions are not significantly reduced.

ResilientMass prioritizes the following actions to address coastal climate impacts:

- The Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) in partnership with many agencies will develop a coastal resilience strategy that considers climate-resilient development and standards in vulnerable areas and develops best practices for coastal adaptation.

- CZM will develop best practices for the redesign of seawalls and revetments considering climate change.
- MBTA will update its engineering design standards and emergency response plans to incorporate climate resilience and develop a GIS viewer for real-time storm response.

## Key Initiatives

### *Office of Climate Science*

EEA has launched an Office of Climate Science to increase state agency, municipal, and public access and understanding of statewide climate change projections and trends and to provide technical assistance and guidance. The Office of Climate Science will convene a climate science advisory group of academics and researchers to share latest climate research findings, identify research gaps, and inform best practices.

### *Financing*

EEA, in partnership with the MEMA, awarded \$6.3 million in funding to agencies to implement key plan actions, building on the \$13 million awarded thus far. These include resilience improvements at state-aided public housing authorities, expanding the climate smart agriculture program, and updating environmental regulations to consider climate change impacts. EEA has also brought on a new Deputy Director of Climate Resilience and Finance to identify of new funding and finance streams for state and local resilience projects.

### *FEMA Federal Support*

FEMA recently announced that three Massachusetts resilience projects will be reviewed for over \$60 million in funding from the nationally competitive Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program. These include the Chelsea and Everett's Island End River Coastal Flood Resilience Project, MBTA's Blue Line Tunnel Airport Portal Flood Protection Project, and Avon's Emergency Interconnection Pump Station Project.

###

## Media Contact

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## Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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## Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ensures the state is prepared to withstand, respond to and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters.



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## **Starter Homes / 40Y – Basic Program Description/Overview**

- Like Smart Growth / 40R Districts, the Starter Home Program is a voluntary incentive program to encourage municipalities to adopt zoning that allows as of right development of housing at densities that exceed typical residential densities.
- Starter Home Zoning Districts (SHZDs) specifically aim to incentivize development of presumably lower-cost, modest-sized “Starter Homes” which are statutorily defined as “a single-family home not exceeding 1,850 square feet in heated living area”
- Municipalities can also choose to allow an Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) of up to 600 sf provided the ADU is on the same lot as the primary use Starter Home
- With reduced density requirements as compared to 40R, Starter Home Zoning Districts (SHZDs) must allow an as of right density of at least 4 units/acre.
- 10% of the Starter Homes in projects exceeding 12 units must be affordable to households earning 110% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Projects cannot be age-restricted and 50% of the units must be 3+ bedrooms
- The main incentives are two types of payments: 1) a scaled Zoning Incentive Payment based on an estimate of the units developable as of right under the proposed district, and 2) a \$3K Production Bonus Payment for each new unit to receive a building permit. Municipalities are also eligible for annual reimbursement under c. 40S to the extent that projects result in a net increase in local school costs.

## **Starter Homes / 40Y – some initial issues that have come up**

- Can measures such as use restrictions be incorporated to mitigate the extent to which Starter Homes can be used for short-term/seasonal rentals and second homes that undermine 40Y's goal of creating modest year-round housing?
- To what extent, if any, does the statutory definition of a Starter Home as a “single-family home” present issues with condominium forms of ownership which may be more compatible with requirements for shared septic systems? Does a Starter Home have to be on a separate lot?
- While locational requirements have generally been eliminated, are there ways HLC can nonetheless incentivize better located SHZDs? Regardless, are there other state programs that Starter Homes could be linked in order to provide additional incentives?
- Any needed clarification of “Sustainable Development Standards,” site plan review, open space, any other terms in the statute?
- Will municipalities primarily use on a project-driven basis as has often been the case with 40R, and if so, how can the program be designed to encourage broader, more pro-active use (i.e., in advance of a developer submitting a proposal)? What are the associated roadblocks to more pro-active use and how can they be eliminated or minimized?

## Menu



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[\(1\) > Executive Office of Health and Human Services \(/orgs/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services\)](#) > [Department of Public Health \(/orgs/department-of-public-+\)](#)

### PRESS RELEASE

# Massachusetts public health officials announce performance standards for local public health

New standards created with local and regional public health to ensure equitable high-quality level of services statewide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

10/11/2023

Department of Public Health

### MEDIA CONTACT

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**BOSTON** — Working to strengthen the delivery of public health services, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced the establishment for the first time of a set of performance standards, credentials, and workforce training requirements for local public health departments.

These standards, created in close collaboration with local public health partners, are an important step toward providing consistent, high-quality public health services for all Commonwealth residents.

“Standardizing local public health performance requirements will mean that people in all cities and towns in Massachusetts can expect the same level of equitable and high-quality services,” **said Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD.** “DPH is already using the new standards to target resources and

solutions, providing local public health with necessary data to recruit additional staff, deliver training, and strengthen services.” [\(\)](#)

DPH's Office of Local and Regional Health, in collaboration with local public health, developed the inaugural performance standards pursuant to legislation enacted in 2020, [An Act Relative to Strengthening the Local and Regional Public Health System](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2020/Chapter72) (<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2020/Chapter72>), and in alignment with the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health's [Blueprint for Public Excellence Report](#) ([/doc/blueprint-for-public-health-excellence-recommendations-for-improved-effectiveness-and/download](#)). With these measurable standards and workforce credentials, DPH seeks to establish a baseline for all local public health professionals to have the knowledge and necessary training to carry out their duties.

“The state and local public health departments are absolutely committed to providing the same high-quality services for all residents, no matter where they live,” said **Sam Wong, Director of the Office of Local and Regional Health**. “The immense challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of strengthening local public health infrastructure, boosting training, and expanding services—and that’s what we’ve been doing.”

As part of this effort, DPH is updating and developing new educational courses on public health topics related to the performance standards, including creating an online training portal so that local public health professionals can easily access required trainings. Additionally, in partnership with local public health, DPH is supporting the creation of 10 field training hubs across the state, an approximate \$5.5 million investment, to provide hands-on proficiency training on regulatory compliance. The aim is to ensure, for example, that all restaurant, housing, pool, and camp inspectors can easily access training on the sanitary code and food safety requirements, and that those trainings are standardized statewide.

“Despite the dedication of our local public workforce, our local public health system is consistently challenged in addressing everyday public health risks, from housing code and food safety inspections to infectious disease control and beach closures,” said **Cheryl Sbarra, member of the Coalition for Local Public Health and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards**. “Our state’s historically decentralized approach to public health delivery has led to extreme variability across cities and towns. The performance standards will bring the consistency and equity to public health delivery across the state that are necessary to ensure that we are ready to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.”

These standards will continue to evolve over time with the goal of aligning closely with the Foundational Public Health Services, a nationally recognized minimum set of skills, programs, and activities a health department must have to function well.

“Developing professional workforce standards will promote the capacity for all public health nurses to use their specialized clinical skill set to work toward efficiently delivering equitable public health services,” said **Gail Johnson, President of the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses**. “Ultimately, this will lead to better health outcomes throughout the Commonwealth.”

In collaboration with the Office of Local and Regional Health, 305 municipalities participated in a widespread capacity assessment last year to help DPH and local public health leaders identify areas that would benefit from additional resources to meet the performance standards. As part of efforts to support the implementation of these standards, DPH allocated \$13.8 million in grants in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) to more

than 300 municipalities toward expanding inter-municipal [shared service](#) (</info-details/public-health-shared-services>) arrangements. These arrangements involve groups of cities and towns committed to pooling resources, functions, and expertise to offer more comprehensive public health services to their populations.

“We applaud the new standards, created hand in hand with local public health professionals who know what they need for their residents,” **said Northampton Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra**. “The Performance Standards and this continued strong collaboration will help cities and towns to enhance and expand the local health services they provide.”

Visit [here](/resource/performance-standards-for-local-public-health) (</resource/performance-standards-for-local-public-health>) to learn more about the new performance standards.

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## Department of Public Health

DPH keeps people healthy and communities strong. We promote the health and well-being of all residents by ensuring access to high-quality public health and health care services, focusing on prevention and wellness, and health equity for all.



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# FY24 Community One Stop for Growth Awards - Berkshire County

Project Location	Organization	Program	Award Amount	Project Description
Pittsfield	Berkshire Innovation Center	Collaborative Workspace Program	\$50,000	Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC) will use this grant to fit out BIC Works @MOCA, a "node" at Mass MoCA in North Adams in partnership with BIC members, academic institutions, and economic development partners. The partnership will leverage the energy of the MoCA community, giving the BIC a physical presence and ease-of-access to serve students and organizations in northern Berkshire County.
Pittsfield	Downtown Pittsfield Inc.	Commonwealth Places Program	\$50,000	Downtown Pittsfield Cultural Association, Inc. will use this grant to activate community spaces with lighting. Specifically, the organization will add a large-scale outdoor light show to Festive Frolic and 10x10 Upstreet Arts Festivals; install lighting in underutilized alleys that connect to the district's parking garage; create permanent seating and add lighting to critical locations for night events; and illuminate three historic properties as part of the ongoing Berkshire Landscapes project.
Pittsfield	City of Pittsfield	Community Planning Grant Program	\$50,000	Pittsfield will conduct a Downtown Housing Plan that focuses on housing.
Pittsfield	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Community Planning Grant Program	\$90,000	The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will coordinate a planning effort to develop a pipeline for municipal employees in Berkshire County.
North Adams	Wheel Estates Tenants Association	HousingWorks Infrastructure Program (HWIP)	\$30,000	North Adams, in partnership with Wheel Estates will complete a comprehensive Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Report (PER/ER) to consider several infrastructure upgrades that are vital to the health and safety of this small community and the environment composed of roughly 198 manufactured homes.
Williamstown	Town of Williamstown	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative	\$25,000	Technical assistance to create a wayfinding and branding to guide residents, college students and visitors to local businesses and cultural attractions in the center.
Cheshire	Town of Cheshire	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	\$890,000	This project is a full depth reclamation of Ingalls Road approximately 1.6 miles. Ingalls Road is a detour when Route 8 closed due to traffic incidents. The project will include raising/lowering 30 structures, ledge removal, curbing, drainage, driveway apron work and tree and canopy removal. Ingalls Road is also the access road to the Hutchinson Housing Development with 5 local businesses (Whitney's farm Stand, HD Reynolds, Green Acres, Superior Springs and Gigliotti Electric Inc) in the area.
Dalton	Town of Dalton	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	\$1,000,000	This grant supports the reconstruction of Orchard Road. This project includes some drainage repairs, as well as full-depth reclamation of the road. This area is prone to flooding private property in major events due to the towns stormwater system being undersized.
Great Barrington	Town of Great Barrington	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	\$1,000,000	As part of a public/private partnership to improve the southerly gateway portion of downtown Main Street, this project will create a pedestrian link from Main Street to Bridge Street to provide safe access to amenities and recreation at Memorial Field and the Housatonic River including the Riverfront Trail. This link will provide access to public parking shared with the private development project at 343 Main Street, a historic downtown property being converted to housing and retail.
North Adams	City of North Adams	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	\$1,970,000	This award supports Phase 2 of infrastructure improvements in the Blackinton neighborhood. Phase 1, funded in 2020, addressed failed stormwater infrastructure. Phase 2 reclaims a city-owned former tannery site as landscaped greenspace and as a new parking area for the Blackinton Mill and public recreation amenities. This public work is critical to enabling the transformative and catalytic private redevelopment of the Mill as part of the TOURISTS resort.
Savoy	Town of Savoy	MassWorks Infrastructure Program	\$1,000,000	This project supports the replacement of Chapel Road over Chickley River 72" diameter corrugated steel pipe culvert with a precast concrete box culvert, including cast-in-place concrete headwalls and wingwalls at both upstream and downstream sides.
Cheshire	Town of Cheshire	Rural and Small Town Development Fund	\$472,600	North State Road (Route 8) Water Project - This project is a replacement of 3,000 feet of undersized and compromised waterline for the towns public water distribution system. The waterline to be replaced runs along North State Road (Route 8) between Arnold Court and Eastview Drive.
Lee	Town of Lee	Rural and Small Town Development Fund	\$250,800	Main Street LED Decorative Lights - The Town of Lee currently has 120 decorative "acorn" style light fixtures that were installed approximately 30 years ago. The condition of the light fixtures have deteriorated over time and are in need of restoration as well as upgraded energy efficient fixtures with smart technology.
Monterey	Town of Monterey	Rural and Small Town Development Fund	\$446,000	Sandisfield Road Culvert - This project will focus on replacing an undersized and aging culvert constructed of mismatched material, increasing capacity for storm water and potential beaver dam failures upstream. The funds will be used to excavate and install a new culvert, blacktop the construction area and improve safety features.
New Marlborough	Town of New Marlborough	Rural and Small Town Development Fund	\$500,000	Cassilis, a well preserved, roughly 11,000 square foot house built in 1890 in the Town of New Marlborough, will be converted into eleven units of affordable housing. The main house and connecting annex will be divided into three, two story units and eight flats, ranging from one to three bedrooms. Funding will be used for the installation of a sprinkler system, window replacement, and HVAC installation.
Great Barrington	Alander Group	Underutilized Properties Program	\$450,000	Alander Group will use this grant to renovate and convert a historic 22,504-square-foot building in Great Barrington into two retail spaces and 13 units of mixed-income housing; 11 units will be market rate and two units will be affordable. Funds will be used for Phase Two work, which includes exterior shell and stabilization, interior core and shell fit-out, ADA compliance, interior corridor doors, interior fit-out and finishes, drywall, tile, carpet, and paint.
North Adams	Eagle Street Holdings LLC	Underutilized Properties Program	\$250,000	Eagle Street Holdings LLC will use this grant to redevelop the vacant, historic Tower and Porter Block in North Adams into nine units of market-rate housing and two commercial units. Funds will be used for the engineering, purchase, and installation of HVAC systems throughout the entire building.
Pittsfield	AM Management, LLC	Underutilized Properties Program	\$200,000	AM Management, LLC will use this grant to convert a distressed 20,000-square-foot office building in Pittsfield into 28 units of mixed-income housing; 22 units will be market-rate and eight units will be affordable. Funds will be used for building code compliance, fire/life safety code compliance, accessibility improvements, HVAC, and interior building rehabilitation.
Pittsfield	Blackshires Community Empowerment Foundation Corp	Urban Agenda Grant Program	\$100,000	Blackshires Leadership Program Accelerator is a curated and cohort-based leadership program for Black Community members in the Berkshire Region to prepare them for community-based leadership and advocacy to serve as a training and education pipeline to municipal and local service on planning boards, committees, advisory boards, and more.

\$8,824,400



# BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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Executive Director

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Delegates and Alternates,  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

**FROM:** Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

**DATE:** October 24, 2023

**RE:** **September 2023 Assistance Activities**

This report highlights technical assistance provided by BRPC staff for September 2023. This assistance was in response to requests identified in the Board/Organization column. If available and permitted by the funding agencies, responses were supported by local assessment or grant funds. This report aims to inform municipal officials about how local assessment funds are used and indicate the types of local and technical assistance BRPC can provide. If assistance may be useful to your community, please feel free to contact us for details.

<b>Town/City/State</b>	<b>Municipal Technical Assistance</b>	<b>Board/Organization</b>
Egremont	Open Space & Recreation Plan	Conservation Commission
Lanesborough	Safe Streets 4 All RFP	Town Administrator
Otis	Master Plan	Planning Board
Pittsfield	Community Preservation Act	Community Development Department
Berkshire County Municipalities	Community Compact Review	
Berkshire County Municipalities	Transportation project funding information	