



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

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**GOVERNOR PATRICK AWARDS \$1.3 MILLION IN GATEWAY PLUS ACTION GRANTS
TO BOLSTER URBAN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION EFFORTS**

Funds from newly launched program awarded to 18 gateway cities

Governor Deval Patrick today awarded \$1.35 million to 18 cities to spark urban revitalization efforts through a new state program designed to support affordable housing and economic development opportunities for mixed-income communities across Massachusetts. Funding from the new Gateway Plus Action Grant (GPAG) program will help recipient cities identify their specific housing or mixed-use development needs to enhance their economic vitality and the quality of life for all residents.

“The Commonwealth’s gateway cities serve as regional economic centers that enhance the entire state’s competitiveness and prosperity,” said Governor Patrick. “These grants will fuel new plans to improve downtowns and residential neighborhoods, helping to make our gateway cities more attractive places to live, work and do business.”

The GPAG program is administered by the state Department of Housing and Community Development and the cities of Chelsea, Chicopee, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Methuen, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield and Worcester will each receive the maximum planning grant amount of \$75,000. (see attached sheet for specific award details).

Gateway Plus grants provide assistance for neighborhood or downtown planning activities that expand housing opportunities and that support the revitalization of neighborhoods, including efforts to:

- Identify appropriate sites and strategies for a broad range of housing opportunities, either rental or ownership, including affordable, market-rate, workforce, employer-assisted, elderly or special needs.
- Expedite housing construction or rehabilitation through regulatory mechanisms such as changes to zoning, streamlined permitting and use of comprehensive permits.
- Revitalize neighborhoods that support affordable and workforce housing.
- Minimize the impacts of foreclosures.
- Expand housing opportunities in downtowns or neighborhood commercial areas.

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Applications were competitively scored to determine how well the proposed planning project met grant program requirements and priorities in 10 different areas. Municipalities with populations of more than 35,000 and median and per capita income and educational attainment rates below the state average were eligible.

“The Patrick Administration recognizes that many factors affect the vitality and vibrancy of a neighborhood,” said DHCD Undersecretary Tina Brooks. “Our new Gateway Plus Action Grant program builds on our mission to strengthen cities, towns and neighborhoods by encouraging a broad range of housing and economic opportunities in safe, diverse and attractive urban neighborhoods.”

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Award sheets attached

Chelsea	\$75,000	Addison-Orange Neighborhood	Assist City to focus its resources and address affordable housing needs	Addison-Orange Neighborhood Study: Review foreclosure problem, look at infrastructure and open space needs, and determine benefits to neighborhood of planning efforts now underway in the adjacent Everett Avenue urban renewal area.
Chicopee	\$75,000	Section of Chicopee Center	Strategic plan to be implemented over 3-5 years; Support efforts to create 40R District	Brick and Mortar: Strategic plan to increase housing options downtown, including housing above storefronts, mixed uses in underutilized mills, rehabilitating an aged housing stock, and building on vacant land.
Fitchburg	\$75,000	Elm Street	Enable City and its partners to take timely and appropriate actions on specific properties	Elm Street Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative: Track critical property information for foreclosed and abandoned properties, recommend appropriate actions and assist in the implementation of these actions.
Haverhill	\$75,000	Route 97/Winter Street Corridor	Bring planning/reinvestment momentum of Downtown to adjacent neighborhood	Mount Washington/Lower Acre Renaissance Initiative: Bring stakeholders together to review area's current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
Holyoke	\$75,000	Four lower census tracts - Downtown neighborhoods of: the Flats, Churchill, So Holyoke, Prospect Heights, and Downtown	Pre-planning for Urban Renewal Plan; Support update to Master Plan	Holyoke Urban Renewal Planning: Comprehensive study, including data collection and analysis to identify key parcels for housing, commercial and industrial development.
Lawrence	\$75,000	Arlington Neighborhood	Recommendations of available options for the acquisition and reuse of foreclosed properties	Addressing Foreclosure Impact in Arlington Neighborhood: Develop a strategic approach to a broad range of issues, including an operational plan addressing the acquisition and reuse of foreclosed properties.
Leominster	\$75,000	Comb-Carriage Neighborhood	Create a plan addressing substandard housing, industrial sites and need for neighborhood services.	Comb & Carriage Revitalization Initiative: Investigate the foreclosure issue and its impact on the neighborhood, including opportunities for new and rehabilitated housing; maintain present diverse population while addressing needs of this lower income neighborhood.
Lowell	\$75,000	Neighborhoods of: Hamilton Canal District, Downtown, Jackson/Appleton/Middlesex, Lower Highlands, Acre, & Back Central	Frame goals & action steps to improve connectivity of City's inner city neighborhoods to Hamilton Canal district and Gallagher Terminal	Expanding the Hamilton Canal District Vision Session Process to Improve the Connectivity of Lowell's Inner Urban Neighborhoods: Examine the housing, physical and economic development connectivity of the Hamilton Canal District and the Gallagher Terminal to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Lynn	\$75,000	Market Street area of Downtown District	Master Plan for Market Street	Market Street Gateway Initiative: Develop strategy for the redevelopment of Market Street for housing, business development, green space, and infrastructure improvements to connect this area to ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown.
Methuen	\$75,000	Central Business District	Develop a mixed-use/residential plan to increase diversity of housing stock and percentage of affordable housing	Methuen Downtown – Affordable Housing Opportunities: Identify viable sites, housing types and appropriate densities for affordable housing; also look at impact of foreclosures.
New Bedford	\$75,000	Downtown	Design a Vision and Implementation Plan to link housing, business development and educational opportunities	Live, Work, Play and Learn: A Revitalization Strategy for Downtown New Bedford: Develop a revitalization action strategy that includes documenting existing conditions; developing a preliminary land use assessment for residential, mixed-use and capital projects; preparing a market assessment for business development; creating a vision for 4 priority sites; and developing an implementation plan.
Pittsfield	\$75,000	Westside and Morningside Neighborhoods	Develop an Urban Housing Action Plan that encourages a broad range of housing opportunities and identifies supporting actions	Urban Center Housing Plan: A comprehensive assessment of housing needs and an action plan for addressing those needs.
Revere	\$75,000	Shirley Avenue Neighborhood	Neighborhood improvement strategy to position lower-income and minority neighborhood residents to benefit from nearby major mixed-use TOD	Shirley Avenue Gateway Initiative: A multifaceted strategic plan concentrating on affordable housing creation, rehabilitation and preservation measures, including foreclosures and abandoned housing units; creating physical and programmatic links between the neighborhood and new TOD development.
Salem	\$75,000	Bridge Street/Rt 1A corridor	Identify City and private actions that can encourage village type economic and housing development in a pedestrian-oriented environment	Bridge Street Neck Revitalization Plan: Analysis of existing conditions, development of a vision for the neighborhood and strategies to stabilize and revitalize this mixed-use neighborhood.
Springfield	\$75,000	South End Neighborhood	Urban Renewal Plan	South End Urban Renewal Plan Replacement: Development of a new urban renewal plan, including land use and a permitting structure to allow redevelopment as proposed in the South End Revitalization Initiative.
Taunton	\$75,000	Downtown	Complete feasibility studies of up to 3 key sites	Downtown Development Study: Downtown development study to identify and assess the feasibility of mixed-use development, including architectural and financial analyses of up to three key sites.
Westfield	\$75,000	Downtown	Two products: A Comprehensive Downtown Housing Needs Assessment and A Downtown District Plan and Action Steps	Comprehensive Downtown Housing and Development Needs Assessment, District Plan and Action Steps: A comprehensive planning process to prioritize strategies and actions, including expansion of housing opportunities and creating a mixed-use downtown.
Worcester	\$75,000	Beacon/Federal Neighborhood	Provide justification for creating new housing in area that is a largely untested market	Beacon/Federal Neighborhood Housing Initiative: A market analysis of existing housing and building stock and potential housing opportunities, including creation of a housing plan/strategy with potential financing packages and available subsidies for developers.
AWARD TOTAL	\$1.35M			

