



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

Events and Opportunities

This Week!

Statewide Housing Plan Listening Session on April 11th in Lynn

Join Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Augustus and Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson for the first of many regional listening sessions from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Thursday, April 11, at North Shore Community College in Lynn.

This is one of nearly a dozen listening sessions scheduled across the state where participants can provide input for the Healey-Driscoll administration's first five-year strategic Statewide Housing Plan. [Click here to register.](#)

NORTH SHORE REGIONAL LISTENING SESSION

PLEASE JOIN HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES SECRETARY ED AUGUSTUS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A

REGIONAL LISTENING SESSION

TO PROVIDE INPUT FOR THE HEALEY-DRISCOLL ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC STATEWIDE HOUSING PLAN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
300 BROAD ST, LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/G/BCZYAHTJAW](https://forms.office.com/G/BCZYAHTJAW)

Opportunities to Comment on Forthcoming Draft Mass Save Plan

On Monday, April 1, the Mass Save Program Administrators submitted **draft 2025-2027 Mass Save Three-Year Plans**. The Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), which oversees this planning process, including the development, implementation, and evaluation of utilities' energy efficiency programs, is hosting three public listening sessions while it reviews the draft plan. Learn more and share your comments by attending one of the sessions below:

- **April 17, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm - [Register](#)**
- **May 13, 2024: 2 - 4 pm - [Register](#)**
- **June 3, 2024, 6 - 7:30 pm - [Register](#)**

MassCEC Releases Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Notices of Intent

MassCEC's Clean Transportation Team announced the release of two (2) Notices of Intent ("NOIs") to issue two distinct program opportunities related to electric vehicle charging infrastructure: \$12.5 million in funding for On-Street Charging Solutions and \$8 million in funding for Ride-For-Hire ("RFH") Vehicle Electrification Charging Solutions.

The purpose of these NOIs is to solicit feedback from key stakeholders to inform the development of the Requests for Proposals ("RFP") for each program. MassCEC anticipates releasing an RFP for each program in May 2024 and is **not accepting applications at this time**.

The On-Street Charging Solutions and Ride-For-Hire Vehicle Electrification Charging Solutions NOIs are now available to view and respond on the MassCEC [website](#). Responses will be accepted **until April 26, 2024** though early submissions are welcome and appreciated.

MassDEP Extends Public Comment Period for Wetlands, Water Quality, and Waterways Regulations

MassDEP has extended the public comment period for proposed regulatory revisions for Wetlands (310 CMR 10.00), 401 Water Quality Certification (310 CMR 9.00), and Waterways (310 CMR 9.00). The revisions are designed to address the Commonwealth's pressing resilience challenges. Formal written comments on the draft regulations will now be accepted until **5:00 PM on April 30, 2024**. Email submissions are recommended; submit comments to dep.wetlands@mass.gov, including "Wetlands-401 Resilience Comments" in the subject line.

Additional information is available on the [MassDEP website](#), or by visiting the links below to review the three different MassDEP regulations being revised.

- [MassDEP Wetlands Regulations](#)
- [MassDEP 401 Water Quality Certification Regulations](#)
- [MassDEP Waterways Regulations](#)

Grant Opportunities

It's grant season! From schools, housing, and economic development to infrastructure, energy, there are a host of state and federal funding opportunities accepting applications now. The grants below are grouped by state funding opportunities, followed by federal funding opportunities, and listed in chronological order by application deadlines. NMCOG is available to assist municipalities in determining eligibility, coordinating and writing grant applications, and grant administration. Reach out to Kelly Lynema, Deputy Director at klynema@nmcog.org with questions or to request assistance.

STATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

MassEVIP Multi-Unit Dwelling & Educational Campus Charging Incentives

A rolling grant program aimed at making electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations more widely available across Massachusetts, the MassEVIP Multi-Unit Dwelling & Educational Campus Charging Program provides incentives for property owners or managers to acquire and install Level 1 and Level 2 EV charging stations. Multi-unit dwellings with five or more residential units and educational campuses with at least 15 students on-site are eligible. MassDEP funds up to 60 percent of the hardware and installation costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per street address.

- MassDEP accepts applications on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funding is spent. Learn more and apply online at [MasseVIP MUD & Educational Campus Charging Incentives](#).
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Municipalities Invited to Apply for FY25 MVP Action Grant Funding

The MA Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) is accepting applications through **2:00 PM on April 24, 2024** for financial assistance for communities implementing priority adaptation actions identified through the MVP Planning or MVP Planning 2.0 process. The MVP Action Grant offers financial resources to communities that are seeking to advance priority climate adaptation actions to address climate change impacts resulting from extreme weather, sea level rise, inland and coastal flooding, severe heat, and other climate impacts.

Action Grants are open to municipalities who have completed the Community Resilience Building (CRB) process through MVP Planning 1.0 (or another process deemed comparable by EEA) and received “MVP Community” designation from EEA. Applications from regional partnerships of multiple municipalities are eligible provided that the lead municipal applicant is MVP-designated.

[Visit the EOEEA website](#) to learn more about the MVP Action Grant requirements and watch the FY25 MVP Funding Round Webinar or [download the FY25 MVP Action Grant RFR from COMMBUYS](#).

Pre-Development and Capital Improvement Funding for Underutilized Properties Available through MassDevelopment

Available through the Community One Stop for Growth application portal, the MassDevelopment Underutilized Properties Program funds projects that will improve, rehabilitate or redevelop blighted, abandoned, vacant or underutilized properties to achieve the public purposes of eliminating blight, increasing housing production, supporting economic development projects, increasing the number of commercial buildings accessible to persons with disabilities. The program focuses on funding capital improvements and code compliance projects, along with the design of these improvements. Funding is available for predevelopment studies as well as capital improvements essential to the occupancy or increased occupancy (residential or commercial) of existing structures.

Learn more about the program at [MassDevelopment’s program webpage](#). Expression of Interest applications are recommended and due by **April 30, 2024**, with full applications due by June 6, 2024 through the [Community One Stop for Growth application portal](#).

Division of Conservation Services Opens Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) and Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Programs

Offered by the MA Division of Conservation Services, the PARC and LAND Programs was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation and conservation and passive recreation purposes, respectively. The programs provide grant awards of up to \$500,000 to municipalities to acquire parkland and conservation land, build new parks, renovate existing parks, or develop conservation restrictions.

Municipalities interested in either the PARC or LAND Programs are strongly encouraged to attend

one of the upcoming grant workshops to learn more and understand eligibility.

- May 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM: In person at DFW Field Headquarters, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough.
- May 9, 2024 at 2:00 PM: virtual workshop.

To attend, RSVP to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov.

Applications are due by 3:00 PM on July 11, 2024. Learn more and download the grant application on the [PARC Grant Program](#) and [LAND Grant Program websites](#).

FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Apply for Assistance in Adopting the Latest and Net Zero Building Energy Codes

The Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) is accepting applications from local governments for assistance with the adoption of the latest and zero building energy codes. This funding opportunity is designed to assist eligible entities in further decarbonizing their buildings through the adoption of the latest national model building energy codes, zero energy codes, other codes that deliver equivalent or greater energy savings, including innovative approaches to decarbonize existing buildings through certain measurable and enforceable requirements. Applications are due by **5:00 PM on April 30, 2024**. Additional information and the application is available on the federal [Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Exchange](#) (FOA Number DE-RD2-0003056), or by contacting the Secretary of the Department of Energy at IRACodes@hq.doe.gov.

2024 Renew America's School Prize Provides Federal Funding for K-12 School Infrastructure Improvements

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the \$500 million Renew America's Schools Program to promote the implementation of clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools across the country. This first-of-its-kind investment, funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), aims to help school communities make energy upgrades that will decrease energy use and cost, improve indoor air quality, and foster healthier learning environments.

The program supports the implementation of infrastructure improvements in schools, with a focus on local educational agencies (LEAs) that qualify as rural and/or high poverty. Through Renew America's Schools, DOE will help create healthier learning environments, lower utility costs, and redirect funds to support students and teachers. The 2024 Renew America's School Prize will provide up to \$6.9M in cash prize awards of \$300,000 each, followed by grant awards between \$7.5M and \$15M.

Applications are due by **5:00 PM on June 13, 2024**. Find additional information and webinar recordings and register to apply on the [Renew America's Schools website](#) online application portal, HeroX.

Department of Transportation Announces Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

Through the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration will distribute up to \$44,550,000 to local governments for Planning and Design Grants and Construction Grants.

ATIIP grants will allow communities to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling. Eligible organizations will be able to create plans or implement active transportation networks that connect destinations within or between communities or create plans or implement an active transportation spine connecting two or more communities, metropolitan regions, or States. The ATIIP also provides an opportunity for eligible organizations to enhance their overall transportation network by integrating active transportation facilities with transit services, where available, to improve access to public transportation.

Applications are due by **June 17, 2024**. To learn more and apply, visit the [ATIIP Program application webpage](#) on grants.gov.

NMCOG News



NMCOG was proud to join Representative Paul Donato, Senator Jamie Eldridge, and our sister regional planning agencies to advocate for District Local Technical Assistance and Grant Assistance Program funding at the State House in March. To learn more about these programs, please visit <https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/FY25-DLTA-Flyer-1.pdf>. DLTA supports NMCOG's technical assistance program and ensures that we can help our communities meet their goals and build capacity.



Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt joined the NMCOG Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting to discuss regional transportation planning. We were proud to host the Secretary and members of her team at our office.



NMCOG welcomed neighbors, long-time friends, and partners to our Open House in March. The crowd enjoyed perusing the new office space, discussions about NMCOG's local and regional planning efforts, and meeting new people across the community and region. Thank you for attending!

Weights & Measures Program Expands

NMCOG's Weights and Measures program has expanded once again. In the second half of FY23 Westford joined the Weights and Measures program and has signed a full-year contract for 2024. Since then the Towns of Tyngsborough and Pepperell have joined, and we now service the communities of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Littleton, Lowell, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough and Westford. NMCOG is also in the process of updating and enhancing the way we record and invoice inspections, which when approved, may provide additional savings to our communities.

Please contact Mark Normandin, Sealer of Weights and Measures, at mnormandin@nmcog.org or 978-454-8021 x125 with any questions about the program.

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