

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

1599-0026



We respectfully request an increase to **\$3.4 million** for DLTA within 1599-0026.
Co-sponsor Amendment #102, filed by Representative Donato

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) directly funds much-needed technical assistance for cities and towns. DLTA planning dollars help cities and towns take on necessary projects that they don't have the staff capacity to address on their own, and to partner with neighboring communities to tackle shared projects with reduced administrative burden.

DLTA is uniquely flexible. Funds can be spent on a wide variety of planning and implementation projects: zoning, housing production, economic development, conservation planning, and much more.

Equally important: DLTA also helps cities and towns improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local services, and to work with their neighbors on planning, procurement, and services.

DLTA helps municipalities unlock funding opportunities

With DLTA funding, cities and towns can plan for the long term and have the details of shovel-ready, shovel-worthy projects ready when federal competitive funding is available.

Communities can also use DLTA to unlock state funding opportunities and respond to state programs. This year, DLTA has helped municipalities:

- Work toward Roadmap Law emissions targets with climate action plans, electric vehicle strategies, and municipal aggregation plans
- Build local public health capacity in alignment with the SAPHE Act
- Develop a toolkit to support remote and hybrid meeting engagement
- Help municipalities implement economic development recommendations from Local Rapid Recovery Plans
- Revise zoning codes to comply with the Legislature's MBTA Multifamily Zoning provision and respond to priorities in the Housing Choice Law

Statewide Impact

DLTA dollars are distributed to Massachusetts' 13 regional planning agencies (RPAs). Nearly half of Massachusetts communities, including both cities and towns, don't have professional planners to help shape their future economic development, transportation, housing, green spaces, and town facilities.

RPAs help Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns with these essential tasks, providing technical assistance on everything from updating stormwater guidelines to managing data to preparing economic development plans.

The technical assistance work of most of these RPAs is funded almost entirely by DLTA.

State funds go even further with DLTA

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For every DLTA project a regional planning agency works on, it provides a 10 percent funding match — meaning that funding DLTA at \$3.4 million will support at least \$3.7 million of technical assistance work.

Many of the 13 regional planning agencies leverage this funding even more with outside funding and grant assistance, **as much as doubling the amount of money the state provides.** In FY22, MAPC secured more than five times the required match for DLTA-funded projects.

Grant Application Assistance (GAP)

1599-0026



We respectfully ask that you fund GAP at **\$2 million** within 1599-0026.

Co-sponsor Amendment #102, filed by Representative Donato

GAP funds are crucial support for municipalities as well as MAPC and other RPAs. These funds help municipalities pursue state grants and once in a generation federal funding and state opportunities. These modest planning dollars have an outsized impact as RPAs work together to ensure that Massachusetts cities and towns are prepared to apply for competitive federal funds and make best use of federal funds arriving based on formulas. Previously, GAP funding was made available over an 18-month period. We ask that this provision remain in FY25.

In the MAPC region alone, GAP funds enabled the submission of a Climate Pollution Reduction grant application that spans multiple states, convened communities to explore innovative housing production solutions through a HUD grant, and help pursue grants that could allow us to proliferate EV charging infrastructure and help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Why:

One of the biggest hurdles that municipalities face when applying for federal and state funding is lack of capacity—especially for rural and smaller communities. GAP funding allows these communities to seek assistance from knowledgeable RPA staff, which can also lead to more competitive regional and multi-municipal applications, increasing the likelihood of receiving funding.

How much:

\$2 million dollars over 18 months will provide over \$150,000 on average to each RPA.

Outcomes

Approximately \$45,000 in GAP funds supported MAPC, SRPEDD and CMRPC's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program applications, which could result in as much as \$10 – \$200 million to implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond.

\$20,000 in GAP funds supported MAPC, Boston, Newton, Everett, and Cambridge in applying for \$6 million PRO Housing grant from HUD to explore construction technologies to increase housing production in Greater Boston.

\$7,000 in GAP funding enabled MAPC to partner with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and 55 allied organizations to pursue a \$1.8 million NOAA grant to support coastal resiliency planning capacity, particularly in Justice 40/environmental justice communities. If awarded, five coastal RPAs in Massachusetts will receive funding to implement grant activities.

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