

Health grants available to central Mass organizations

WORCESTER – The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts announced the opening of its 2025 Activation Fund grant opportunity, which provides capacity-building support for organizations working to address the community-identified health needs of central Massachusetts residents and workers.

With grants typically ranging between \$60,000 and \$125,000, the Activation Fund supports discrete, one-year projects in central Massachusetts aimed at helping organizations advance to their next level of capacity and effectiveness that can be sustained over time. The deadline for submission of a brief concept paper to express interest is Feb. 28.

Organizations invited to apply will be notified in April so that they can submit full applications; final funding decisions will be made in late June so that projects can launch in July.

“Through the Activation Fund, we seek to offer grants that enable organizations to seize strategic opportunities for growth, address emerging challenges, purchase equipment, or improve facilities, thereby facilitating activities and outcomes beyond the status quo” said Dr. Amie Shei, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Over the past 25 years, nearly \$12 million in Activation Fund grants has been awarded to 117 unique organizations with positive and lasting ripple effects on health throughout the region.”

Those interested in applying for an Activation Fund grant should visit the Foundation website at www.thfcm.org to access information on the application guidelines and register for a virtual information session to learn about the

geographic focus and other eligibility requirements, types of support considered, and examples of previous grants.

Examples of 2024 grant recipients include Growing Places, which received a \$110,000 grant for development of a customized IT solution to enhance efficiency and expand its capacity to serve local food consumers, buyers and small farmers in north central Massachusetts, and Quinsigamond Community College, which received a \$125,000 grant to replace outdated dental chairs and equipment stations at its Worcester-based dental clinic that prioritizes underserved patients.

For questions about the application process, please contact Vice President for Programs Jennie Blake at jblake@thfcm.org or 508-438-0009 extension 6.

About the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grantmaking, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity.

As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$59 million to more than 230 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit www.thfcm.org.

Oliveira sworn in for second term in State Senate

BOSTON – State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Ludlow, D) officially began his second term in the Massachusetts State Senate, taking the oath of office during a formal swearing-in ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Senator Oliveira reaffirmed his commitment to the residents of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District, vowing to continue his work to strengthen communities, advocate for regional equity, and build a brighter future for all in his district.

“It has been my sincere honor and an incredible privilege to serve the people of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District,” said Oliveira. “As we enter this new legislative session, I remain committed to fighting for regional equity for Western Mass and the priorities that matter most to our communities: ensuring access to quality education, addressing the housing crisis, creating pathways for economic opportunity, and safeguarding our environment for future generations.”

First elected in 2022, Oliveira has established himself as a tireless advocate for his district. He joined his colleagues in the Senate to champion key initiatives such as free community college through MassReconnect and Universal School Meals for All.

Oliveira also secured funding



Submitted Photo
State Sen. Jake Oliveira was sworn in for his second term in the State Senate on Jan. 1, representing the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District.

for investments in local infrastructure and critical support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. During his first term, he also worked to secure

increased funding for public education, strengthen healthcare accessibility, and support local workforce development programs.

Looking ahead, Oliveira plans to build on this momentum by advancing legislation that addresses the unique challenges faced by the district. He emphasized his commitment to working collaboratively with Legislators, community leaders, and constituents to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard on Beacon Hill.

“Over the last two years, we’ve worked collaboratively to secure more than 2 million dollars in additional funds that directly impacted the residents of the district, supporting our veterans, our seniors, and initiatives impacting workforce development, providing mental health services, and growing our region’s economy,” said Oliveira.

“The Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District is more than just a collection of communities. It’s my home. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent it in the Legislature and for the trust the residents of the district have placed in me by electing me to a second term,” he said.

About Senator Jake Oliveira

A lifelong resident of Ludlow, he is dedicated to advancing policies that promote equity, opportunity, and sustainability. Before serving in the Senate, Oliveira held leadership roles in local government and education, bringing a deep understanding of the challenges and strengths of his community to his work on Beacon Hill.

Families needed to host foreign exchange students

World Heritage International Student Exchange Program, a non-profit, public benefit organization, is seeking local families to host foreign exchange students this coming school year.

World Heritage students come from a variety of countries worldwide: Italy, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name just a few.

Students are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience.

Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance.

World Heritage students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from different backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

World Heritage also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

If interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, please call Debra at 1-800-888-9040, visit www.world-heritage.org or send an email to info@world-heritage.org to request more information or start the application process.

Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the relationship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Psychic medium night with Gary McKinstry is Feb. 27

STURBRIDGE—Join the Chamber of Central Mass South and guests at The Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge for an inspiring night with Gary McKinstry, the Psychic Medium Entertainer, on Feb. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Internationally known Psychic Medium Entertainer, McKinstry, will share his gift to connect with the spirit world and bring intuitive messages to guests of the Chamber’s Medium

Night. McKinstry’s work as a psychic medium for over 30 years not only includes clients in the USA, but also Brazil, France, Australia, Germany and Canada. Whether one on one or in a large arena, McKinstry is dedicated to helping people in all walks of life and death and will deliver messages with style.

In this gallery reading, Gary randomly selects individuals from the audience to deliv-

er messages, guided by spirits. Messages may be from the afterlife or pertain to the present. While not everyone gets a reading, all are encouraged to listen as the messages hold collective meaning. A psychic gallery reading elevates the group’s consciousness, offering deep and transformative experiences, providing hope and inspiration.

Tickets are \$60 for CMS Chamber members and

their employees, or \$65 for non-Members. Cash bar.

This intimate and enlightening evening with Gary is limited to 100 attendees, so get tickets now.

For Medium Night tickets and information give the Chamber a call at 508-347-2761 or email info@cmschamber.org.

public notices

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP



Town of Ware Town Hall Change in Business Hours Effective February 01, 2025

NEW PUBLIC HOURS:

Monday 8am – 4pm

Tuesday 8am – 4pm

Wednesday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 8am – 4pm

Thursday 8am – 4pm

Friday 8am – 4pm

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition.

Ware Town Hall

Questions? Call 413-967-9648 x100

Visit: townofware.com/town_directory

Taxes can be paid four ways (payable to Town of Ware):

By Mail: Department 3370, PO Box 986500, Boston, MA 02298-6500

Electronically: through your bank or online at

<https://townofwarema.munisselfservice.com/css>

Payment Drop Box: in secure drop box near the main entrance on

West Street, available 24/7/365

In Person: during new public business hours

or with a scheduled appointment

TOWN OF WARE

Public Forum –

Monday,

February 10, 2025

at 5:30pm

Public Hearing –

Monday, March 17, 2025

at 6:30pm

Ware Town Hall

126 Main St., Ware MA

FY 2025 Town of Ware

CDBG Application

The Town of Ware Community Development Authority, with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a Public Forum on Monday, February 10, at 5:30pm and a Public Hearing on March 17 at 6:30pm at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss the FY25 application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for up to \$850,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Community Development Authority, Planning Dept., Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware MA 01082, Attn: Paralee Smith.

The town is seeking input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. Construction of the Cottage Street Improvements project is currently being reviewed. The CDBG application will also include a request for funding up to five social services programs including, but not limited to, adult basic education and GED preparation, domestic violence prevention, elder services, and community health.

The Ware Town Hall is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special

accommodation for either public meeting should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. For further information contact Erica Johnson at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or erjohnson@pvpc.org, or Para Smith, Director of Planning & Community Development at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118 or psmith@townofware.com 01/16, 01/23/2025

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle

Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN’S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST., GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **January 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM** at: Regin’s Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 2008 Ford Escape Registration#State: 548WNW/MA Vin: IFMCU93118KA28749 Name and address of owner: Merryl Maleska Wilbur & Nathan L Wilbur 48 Rose St. Chicopee, MA 01020

By: James M. Regin Dated: 12/29/2024 01/16, 01/23, 1/30/2025

STORAGE AUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Dennis Craig will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren MA on February 8, 2025 at 9 a.m.**

The contents of Joshua Toomey will be auctioned off at **70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA on February 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

The contents of Cynthia Stalter, Stephen Pike, Christopher Flood and Bernadette Carberry will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA on February 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278. 01/23, 01/30/2025

Hardwick Planning Board Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30PM** at the **Hardwick Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick, Massachusetts.**

This hearing is regarding amendments to the Hardwick Zoning Bylaw: Sections 1.4 – Definitions; 3.2 - Schedule of Use Regulations; 4.0 – Special Permit Procedures; 5.0 – Site Plan Approval; 6.5 – Common Driveways; 6.8 – Home Occupation; 6.9.2 – Use of Trailers or Self-Contained Motor Home; 9.0 – Solar Energy Facilities and an addition of 11.0 – Battery Storage Systems. Copies of the listed amendments and addition can be found on the Hardwick Town Website www.Hardwick-MA.gov under the Planning Board Tab or at the Municipal Offices at 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA. Interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>

Hardwick Planning Board Jenna Garvey, Chair 01/23, 01/30/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2025.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural, and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid’s IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

National Grid may utilize any of the herbicides noted the MA Sensitive Materials list. Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Cambistat as a tree growth regulator. Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2025:

Treatment Periods	Treatments
February 1, 2025 – May 30, 2025	Ware CST Basal Dormant Stem
May 30, 2025 – Oct 15, 2025	Foliar CST Basal Cut Stubble
Oct 15, 2025 – Dec 31, 2025	CST Basal Dormant Stem

*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid,
939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
Telephone: (781) 290-8310
or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com
01/23/2025