



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

TO: Somerville City Council Finance Committee
FROM: Garrett Anderson, Residential Decarbonization Program Manager
Date: May 6, 2024
REGARDING: Mayor's Request 24-0575: \$243,094 MassCEC Grant

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for taking up this matter for consideration. File #24-0575 is a request to accept and expend a \$243,094 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, awarded to the City through the Empower Mass Implementation Grant (Empower) program. This competitively awarded Empower grant is intended to support activities that provide access to the benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations. The awarded \$243,094 grant for Somerville was based on a budget for several activities proposed by the City to support clean energy access for Environmental Justice populations and implement programs aligned with its Climate Forward Agenda.

If approved, the Empower grant would support a two-year grant funded full-time Energy Advisor position who would provide outreach to the community along with support and education on a one-and-one basis to residents on their building retrofit and clean energy projects. The Energy Advisor position also aligns with a Climate Forward action item to decrease emissions from existing buildings. The Empower grant would also support \$50,000 in micro-grants that would be targeted to Environmental Justice communities to financially support retrofit projects in previously underserved communities. The Energy Advisor position and micro-grant programs would be publicized through grant-supported advertising materials, social media, and cooperation with community organizations such as the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) and Mothers Out Front. The Empower Grant program also includes collaboration with a cohort of other Massachusetts municipalities and community organizations to learn from each other about best practices to support clean energy projects in underserved communities.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact my office for any additional information that would be helpful on this matter.

Sincerely,

Garrett Anderson
Residential Decarbonization Program Manager
Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Environment



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