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Project Hope Boston awarded \$500,000 Cummings grant

Boston nonprofit receives 10 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

Boston, JUNE 09, 2022 – Project Hope Boston is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s \$25 Million Grant Program. The Boston-based organization was chosen from a total of 580 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$500,000 over 10 years.

Project Hope Boston works in partnership with women and families in the Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods of Boston to help them move up and out of poverty. We do this by being a catalyst for change in the lives of families, developing and providing programs and family support solutions to alleviate poverty and homelessness and lead to improved economic, social, and health outcomes for the community.

“We are thrilled! The news of this funding comes at such a critical time for families in this community that Project Hope Boston has the privilege to work with.” – Rosa Almanzar, Family Shelter Director

Since 1981, Project Hope's Family Shelter has been home to hundreds of women and children. The housing insecurity crisis present when the Family Shelter first opened remains a significant challenge for many Boston families. Trauma and poverty contribute to the persistent plight of the families we serve-many remaining unemployed or in low-wage jobs while grappling with Boston's high cost of living.

Finding housing or available shelter is even more challenging for those with physical challenges or for large families. Desperate for a roof over their heads, larger families must apply for shelter with the uncertainty that all family members can stay together. Without a greater number of large, accessible units, these families are often forced to split up; they frequently must also leave their communities and support systems. With this grant funding, Project Hope Boston can respond to this challenge and will allow us to renovate and expand our Family Shelter, transforming underused space to accommodate larger families, and those with special needs, and create accessible common areas to build community.

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We are so fortunate in greater Boston to have such effective nonprofits, plus a wealth of talented, dedicated professionals and volunteers to run them,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are indebted to them for the work they do each day to provide for basic needs, break down barriers to education and health resources, and work toward a more equitable society.”

With the help of about 90 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“Our volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives, which is so critical to our grant selection process,” said Vyriotes. “Through this democratized approach to philanthropy, they decide more than half the grants every year.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including food insecurity, immigrant and refugee services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 45 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 900 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$375 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

About Project Hope Boston

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About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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