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Dear Municipal Executive:

The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased to announce that Year 2 of the Community Compact Cabinet (CCC) program is set to begin on September 15. This year, in addition to the Best Practice program and IT Grant program, we are fortunate to have available \$2M for a new Efficiency and Regionalization program that is open to all municipalities, regional school districts, school districts considering forming a regional school district or regionalizing services, regional planning agencies, and councils of governments. Information on all three of these CCC programs is provided below.

Fostering a strong partnership with our municipalities continues to be a top priority for the Baker-Polito Administration, and the Community Compact Cabinet is a prime example of how the state remains responsive to the needs of municipalities.

The first year of the program was incredibly successful, with more than two-thirds of the cities and towns signing up for the Best Practice program and more than half of eligible municipalities applying for the IT Grant program.

Fiscal Year 17 CCC Municipal Grant Programs

Best Practices Program – Year 2

Beginning September 15, applications for Year 2 of the CCC Best Practice program can be submitted by those municipalities *who did not apply in FY16* at www.mass.gov/ccc. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed within one month of submission. Eligible applicants can choose up to three best practices and enter into a FY17 Compact. The Compact spells out the commitments of the state and gives the municipal leader the flexibility to choose a best practice (or practices) that make the most sense for your community.

For Year 2, a revamped and enhanced set of best practices have been developed and are available on the Community Compact Cabinet website (www.mass.gov/CCC). The website also includes a helpful Question and Answer section.

You may access the application page, however to begin the application you will need a password. The password for your community is [REDACTED]. Applications cannot be saved once they are started and should be completed all at once. Your community can only submit one application in FY17.

Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program – NEW!

The purpose of the new Efficiency and Regionalization *competitive* grant program is to provide financial support for governmental entities interested in implementing regionalization and other efficiency initiatives that allow for long-term sustainability. These grants will provide funds for one-time or transition costs for municipalities, regional school districts, school districts considering forming a regional school district or regionalizing services, regional planning agencies and councils of governments interested in such projects.

There will be two competitive application rounds for this new grant program:

- On October 15, first-round applications for this new competitive grant program will be accepted. All applications must be received by November 15.
- On January 1, 2017 a second round will open and close on February 1, 2017. Any new applicant or any eligible entity that was not awarded a grant in Round 1 can apply for a grant in Round 2.

Bonus points will be awarded to any municipality that has chosen to participate in the CCC Best Practice program. Additional bonus points will be awarded if the subject matter of the application falls within any of the FY17 Best Practices, all of which can be located at www.mass.gov/CCC. Lastly, if the application is associated with a municipality's FY16 chosen best practice, bonus points will be awarded.

For any application that involves multiple communities, all involved must have signed up for the CCC Best Practice program in order to qualify for the bonus points. In the case of a regional school district, all member municipalities must have entered into a Compact in order to qualify for the bonus points. For an application submitted by a regional planning agency or council of government, all municipalities associated with the application must have entered into a Compact in order to qualify for the bonus points.

You may access the application page, however to begin the application you will need a password. The password for your community is [REDACTED]. Applications cannot be saved once they are started and should be completed all at once.

IT Grant Program – Year 2

On March 1, 2017 the application for the Community Compact IT Grant Program will open. Municipalities that applied for a Community Compact under the CCC Best Practice program on or before February 15, 2017 will be eligible. *However, cities and towns that were awarded an IT Grant Program grant in FY16 will not be eligible in FY17.*

This is a *competitive* grant program focused on driving innovation and transformation at the local level via investments in technology. Using the transformative powers of IT, we can drive innovation, make government more efficient, save taxpayer money, and make it easier for residents to interact and transact with their local government.

Grants of up to \$200,000 will support the implementation of innovative IT projects by funding related one-time capital needs such as technology infrastructure, upgrades and/or purchases of equipment or software. Incidental or one-time costs related to the capital purchase such as planning, design, installation, implementation and initial training are eligible.

You may access the application page, however to begin the application you will need a password. The password for your community is [REDACTED]. Applications cannot be saved once they are started and should be completed all at once.

It is exciting to have these three programs available for our partners in local government. Together they offer you an opportunity to position your community for long-term success, including bonus points on various statewide grants if you enter into a Best Practice compact. As the Chair of the Community Compact Cabinet, I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months. If you have any questions, contact Sean Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services, at croninse@dor.state.ma.us.



Lieutenant Governor