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MassHire Metro North Workforce Board awarded \$225K Cummings grant

Metro North nonprofit receives 3 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

Somerville, May 24, 2023 – The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board is one of 150 local nonprofits that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation’s major annual grants program. The Somerville-based organization was selected from a total of 630 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$225,000 over three years.

The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB), in partnership with Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Massachusetts Chapter, Gould Construction Institute, and Medford Vocational High School will implement a 220-hour pre-apprenticeship construction training program over 3 summer cohorts that will prepare youth with occupational skills training to gain a driver’s license, two industry recognized credentials, paid work experience, and job placement in a registered apprenticeship. The training will take place at the construction shop space at Medford Vocational Technical High School.

“We are very excited to be able to launch this new program thanks to Cummings Foundation’s investment,” said MNWB’s President and CEO, Chris Albrizio-Lee. “With these funds we will be able to further our commitment to the youth of the Metro North region by providing a pathway into a high-demand industry that provides good quality job opportunities.”

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and 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.

“The way the local nonprofit sector perseveres, steps up, and pivots to meet the shifting needs of the community is most impressive,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are incredibly grateful for these tireless efforts to support people in the community and to increase equity and access to opportunities.”

The majority of the grant decisions were made by about 90 volunteers. They worked across a variety of committees to review and discuss the proposals and then, together, determine which requests would be funded. Among these community volunteers were business and nonprofit leaders, mayors, college presidents, and experts in areas such as finance and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

The Foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year grants of up to \$225,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected by a volunteer panel to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 46 different cities and towns.

About the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board

The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB), incorporated in 1995 as the Metro North Regional Employment Board (REB), is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as the Workforce Development Board (WDB) for the Metro North region of Massachusetts. As one of sixteen local Workforce Development Boards established in Massachusetts by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, MNWB was formed to set local workforce policy, determine how state and federal funds are best used for workforce development, align the needs of employers to the needs of area residents, leverage partnerships to meet the region's workforce needs, and oversee the MassHire Metro North Career Centers (MNCC) where both job search and employer services are provided. Additional information is available at www.masshiremetronorth.org.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA 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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