



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 6/12/18 BY COUNCILOR ELLIOTT
REQUEST CITY MANAGER HAVE DPD APPLY FOR MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS GRANT
FROM THE STATE

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP) provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to plan for resiliency and implement key climate change adaptation actions for resiliency. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. The program helps communities to:

- Define extreme weather and natural and climate related hazards
- Understand how their community may be impacted by climate change with a Massachusetts specific climate change clearinghouse with the latest science and data: link to <http://www.resilientma.org/>
- Identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths
- Develop and prioritize actions for the community
- Identify opportunities to take action to reduce risk and build resilience
- Implement key actions identified through the planning process

Municipalities who have already completed vulnerability assessment work related to a subset of sectors or climate change hazards (such as a FEMA Approved Hazard Mitigation Plan) are encouraged to apply to expand their planning efforts and complete a more comprehensive climate change adaptation plan, thereby achieving MVP designation.

The City of Lowell has a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region, 2015 was prepared by the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), and adopted by the City Council on September 22, 2015. With this plan in place, the City is eligible to apply for MVP grants. This plan will need to be revised as appropriate, and resubmitted to FEMA by September 16, 2020 in order to maintain eligibility for future mitigation grant funding.

MVP certified providers are trained in workshops across the state to provide technical assistance to communities in completing the assessment and resiliency plan. NMCOG staff has been trained and are certified to complete the update, and apply for MVP grants.

Announcement of grant availability through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is generally made in April and applications are due in May. Grant awards range from \$10,000-\$400,000 and the City would be required to provide at least 25% of the total project cost. DPD and the LPD would partner with NMCOG to determine a scope of work and submit an application for MVP funding in May of 2019.

DNT/ns
7/5/18

cc: Beverly Woods, Executive Director - NMCOG
Jonathan Webb, Acting Superintendent - LPD