



Kevin J. Murphy
City Manager
Michael McGovern
Assistant City Manager

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 1, 2016

LOWELL WINS \$475,000 WORKING CITIES GRANT FROM FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

Lowell, MA (June 1, 2016) -- Lowell City Manager Kevin J. Murphy announced today the successful bid by the City of Lowell, and its partners, in attaining a \$475,000 Implementation Grant through the Working Cities program sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Lowell successfully competed against 10 other cities in Massachusetts.

The City, collaborating as part of a core group of 13 community partners, began its work on this initiative in October 2015 when they successfully attained an initial Planning Grant totaling \$15,000. The core leadership group then engaged in 6 formal months of structured meetings with the Boston FED simultaneously undertaking significant outreach and data collection in the Acre, the area of the City with the highest poverty rate and historic "first stop" of many diverse immigrants. "We are especially pleased that we engaged this important neighborhood in a collaborative manner," said City Manager Kevin Murphy. "We need to improve access and provide a better way to serve residents living in the Acre," Murphy stated. Mayor Edward Kennedy added, "The entire Lowell City Council is thrilled with this announcement. This grant award of \$475,000 will have a significant and positive impact on the Acre neighborhood. The collaborative effort of municipal government, the business community, Lowell's educational institutions, and private non-profit groups is what made this happen. It is a fine example of the type of teamwork that the City Council has been promoting for the past several years and it is just one reason why City Manager Kevin Murphy and his administration has been good for Lowell."

The Working Cities program was initially the focus of a City of Lowell grant application 3 years ago but they were unsuccessful, at that time, in Round 1 of this program. "We now have built a significant amount of trust and cohesion among our core leadership group and in turn gained trust in the Acre neighborhood," said Murphy. The successful core partners joining with the City in this initiative are:

Coalition for a Better Acre
Community Teamwork
Middlesex Community College
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Lowell Housing Authority
Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Jeanne D 'Arc Credit Union
Career Center of Greater Lowell
Acre Coalition to Improve our Neighborhood
Lowell Community Health Center

It is expected that the work under this grant will begin immediately and continue over the next three years. The grant initiatives will focus on three high level factors that will work to alleviate socio-economic patterns of multi-generations of families residing in the Acre. The areas included: Early Childhood School Readiness, Economic Development, and Language and Cultural Inclusion. Residents of the Acre will be encouraged and recruited to actively participate in the ongoing work of this Working Cities initiative.