

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

VOTE

Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and to Expend Funds from a grant from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance to be administered by the City of Lowell Health Department.

The Greater Lowell Health Alliance Grant has available to the City of Lowell in the amount of Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$23,500.00) Dollars; and

The City of Lowell is desirous of accepting and expending said Grant from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance; and

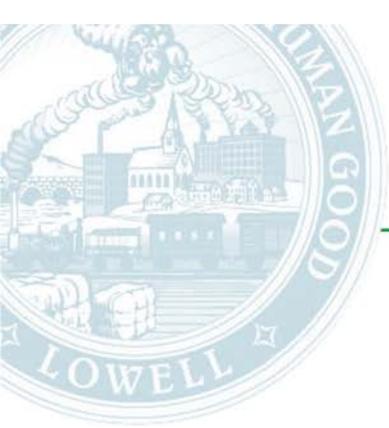
The Grant will make available to the City the sum of Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$23,500.00) Dollars to provide funding to support vision screenings and referrals for Lowell students ages 3-5. The award is for the "Lowell 2020 Vision Program".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT VOTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL:

That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to accept and expend funds from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Grant to be administered by the City of Lowell Health Department in the amount of Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 (\$23,500.00) Dollars, to provide funding to support vision screenings and referrals for Lowell students ages 3-5. The award is for the "Lowell 2020 Vision Program".

BE IT FURTHER VOTED:

That the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Lowell, be and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all documents necessary in connection with said grant from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, including the expenditure thereof.



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Director of Health & Human Services
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October 8, 2019, 2019

To: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager
From: Kerran Vigroux, HHS Director
CC: Conor Baldwin, CFO
Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor
RE: Grant Award to the Lowell Health Department

Manager Donoghue,

The Lowell Health Department has been awarded a grant from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance to support vision screenings and referrals for Lowell students ages 3-5. The award, in the amount of \$23,500, is for the "Lowell 2020 Vision Program".

Children and children with developmental disabilities can be a challenging group to test for vision. They often have a difficult time staying still long enough for the exam and may or may not understand the test instructions. For these reasons, 3-5 year old students may go untested. In the 2018-2019 school year, the Health Department participated in a pilot program from Prevent Blindness which allowed the Health Department's School Health Unit (SHU) to use an evidence-based screening tool, known as the SPOT Vision Screener. The SPOT is a hand-held, portable device designed to help users quickly and accurately detect vision issues, including myopia (nearsightedness); hyperopia (farsightedness); astigmatism (blurred vision); anisometropia (unequal refractive power); strabismus (eye misalignment); and anisocoria (unequal pupil size). This device is approved for use in 3, 4 and 5 year olds by the MA Department of Public Health, American Academy of Pediatrics and Prevent Blindness. The SPOT device is superior in measures of reliability, efficiency, usability and testability when compared to the traditional 'chart based' tools. In addition to accuracy, the device gives immediate on-screen results and a comprehensive result certificate, which can be printed and sent home to caregivers. During the pilot study, the SHU was able to share one SPOT Vision Screener with five other municipalities: Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Lawrence, and Lynn. The purchase of a SPOT Vision Screener for just the Lowell area will increase the ability for young students to receive vision testing, providing them with access to this vital preventative care service.