

Dear Municipal Partners:

Maintaining the security of our Commonwealth amid evolving threats mandates that each of our municipalities has access to the appropriate resources and support. More and more, the safety of our communities relies on our cybersecurity defenses. No single agency or municipality can take on these challenges alone. Our state and local partnerships are vital to ensuring the wellbeing of our Commonwealth and its communities.

To that end, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has secured more than \$15 million in federal grant funds to strengthen cybersecurity across state and local governments. These federal funds will be distributed over a period of four years; more than \$3.1 million of the grant funds will be made available in the Fall of 2023. The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is made available through the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The funds will be administered in Massachusetts by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR). This program is made possible as the result of a collaboration between OGR, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) and the MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Through this partnership, the agencies formed the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Planning Committee as required by the SLCGP's federal guidance. This Committee is tasked with preparing a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce cybersecurity risk and increase the capabilities of the Commonwealth and municipal governments. The Committee was established in October 2022 to meet federal grant requirements and is comprised of required stakeholders from state government and municipal representatives from urban, suburban, and rural communities.

The Committee seeks to establish a baseline assessment of municipal cybersecurity capabilities and needs across the Commonwealth to meet the grant's requirements and guide planning and funding priorities. To achieve this, the Committee has developed the Municipal Cybersecurity Assessment Survey, which was sent this week to municipal leaders across the Commonwealth. The deadline for municipalities to complete the survey is **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**. For purposes of privacy, the survey is anonymous. This survey will help shape the state's strategic cybersecurity plan and set priorities for the use of this federal grant funding. This plan is expected to be completed no later than September 2023. After the plan is submitted and approved by DHS, the FFY22 grant funds will be made available through a competitive application process managed by OGR at www.mass.gov/ogr.

On behalf of EOTSS, EOPSS, and the MassCyberCenter, we strongly encourage each municipality to review and complete this survey to better understand and accurately determine your cyber security needs. As a result, the SLCGP will be able to address and fund the challenges identified in the survey. This collaborative effort is driven by one mission, to improve the cyber security posture of the Commonwealth and better defend against rapidly emerging cybersecurity risks.

Sincerely,



Jason Snyder
Secretary
Executive Office of Technology Services and Security



Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe
Undersecretary of Homeland Security
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



Kevin Stanton
Executive Director
Office of Grants and Research



Ben Linville-Engler
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