

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE - ARPA COMMUNITY PROJECT IDEAS

Item #	Submitter Information	PROJECT IDEA	Funding Request
1	Roy Russell	Broadband - Build a Citywide fiber infrastructure that will enable fiber to the home internet service for every home and business in the City. Prioritize those most impacted by the pandemic.	
2	Michelle Holcomb Chief Development Officer Food for Free	The COVID pandemic has had a terrible impact on food security for Cambridge families. The Greater Boston Food Bank estimates that an astounding 30% of Massachusetts residents have experienced food insecurity in the last year. Currently, one in five children in Greater Boston is experiencing hunger. That number has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic—the biggest increase in child hunger of any state in the U.S. Food programs are struggling to meet this increased need. In May, WBUR reported that food pantries in Eastern Massachusetts were seeing four times the number of clients as they had before the pandemic. We request funding for the purchase and transportation of food to Cambridge pantries, schools, and low-income housing sites. This use of funds will improve nutrition for our community by helping families to access healthy foods in the places they live, work, and study.	
3	Catherine Zusy Magazine Beach Partners	Fund Phase II-2 improvements at Magazine Beach Park. Turn an unusable part of the park into a useable grassy beach.	\$ 1,800,000.00
4	Matthew Boyes-Watson Flagg Street Studio	Cambridge is a world-class city in desperate need of a world-class civic space. With ARPA funds, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create one. We propose that Municipal Lot #5 be developed into a permanent civic center modeled on the Starlight Square initiative and Poppportunity. Starlight's temporary installation has proven that public space can be a catalyst for cultural activity and economic equity. It demonstrates the power of placekeeping during unprecedented loss and displacement—of both residents and businesses. We believe a permanent civic center framed by affordable retail opportunities and flexible community space can be the center of our recovery and future success. Our team, myself, Mark Boyes-Watson, Michael Monestime, and Nina Berg, have designed, built, and operated Starlight Square and Poppportunity as a response to and throughout the challenge of the pandemic. We have a record of exceptional design and thoughtful stewardship.	
5	Rev. Lydia Shiu Director of Social Justice and Action	Soccer Nights program. Looking to provide this week long soccer program in the Spring and the Fall. Soccer Nights spring and fall programs will seek to provide a space that brings the neighborhood together, teach and engage the elementary kids in physical athletic skills, partner and work with the youth (middle and High School alumni of Soccer Nights) to volunteer and serve the community, and engage the greater community in a fun uniting program.	
6	Rabbi Yoni Shtiebel	"Build a city owned fiber to the premises network (commonly known as municipal broadband) for Inclusionary Housing Program rental tenants of the Cambridge Development Department Start with Central Square and move out in a radius from there. Prioritize connecting very low income households to the internet with a subsidized service of \$9.95 per month (including tax). The City of Cambridge already has digital fiber in the Police substation in Central Square, and the CDD had jurisdiction in the residential building that surrounds it. Provide a static IP address to each residential apartment"	

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7	Laura Jasinski Executive Director Charles River Conservancy	<p>The Charles River Floating Wetland, a 700-sf artificial island installed near the mouth of the broad canal in June 2020, aims to improve water quality and restore connections to the lower Charles River, where communities have effectively been walled off from the river. ARPA funds would be used to expand complementary aspects of this initiative that support educators and learners by providing hands-on, experiential outdoor learning, thereby addressing increased “screen time” and decreased “green time” that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Environmental education tools: Working with Cambridge Public Schools and MIT Sea Grant, we piloted a floating wetland “activity kit” and curriculum booklet in 2021 that allowed students to model the research occurring at the full-sized wetland. This year we plan to expand distribution from one classroom to nearly 500 students across CPS 6th grade classrooms in connection with the “River to the Sea” unit. We will support classroom teachers with training and troubleshooting, and connect satellite learning with opportunities to engage with the full-size wetland in person.</p> <p>Community-Driven Expansion Design: Over the summer of 2021, the CRC worked with a team of students from the Cambridge Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program to collect public input on the floating wetland through on-site pop-ups. This informed their own ideas to kick off efforts to design floating wetland expansion for the Charles. As we continue to collaborate with the Cambridge Public Works department to utilize artificial wetlands to meet resilience goals, we will prioritize engagement and input of Cambridge youth.</p>		
8	Eric Grunebaum	<p>We propose Cambridge dedicate ~\$6mm of ARPA funds for public improvements at the critically sensitive Jerry’s Pond site. The specific need is to expand the pond’s perimeter along Rindge Avenue, creating space for 150-175 new trees along a largely treeless roadway, building biodiverse wetlands where there’s a steep, unplantable embankment and fully separating bicycles, creating a complete street along the busiest stretch of Rindge Ave. There are numerous environmental benefits which align with Cambridge’s climate goals along with critical public health benefits including: improved air quality, heat island relief, safer bike/pedestrian pathways and access to a densely planted green space with associated physical and mental health benefits. Especially throughout the pandemic, the health benefits of green spaces have been recognized and elevated. Along Rindge Ave. live ~4,000 affordable housing residents, so ensuring the greatest public health benefits are met, is a matter of equity. There are multiple co-benefits also serving this community. Expanding the steep embankment along Rindge requires compensatory wetlands which are proposed for the corner of Rindge and the Parkway – a largely paved area under a thin topsoil layer with no history of industrial use per Haley & Aldrich. Supported by Friends of Jerry’s Pond and Alewife Study Group, the ConCom granted approval to excavate here. De-paving will increase soil permeability in an area at high risk of floods from storm events while allowing greater tree growth, further reducing heat-island and improving soil quality. Natural habitats are also improved and expanded with proposed new tree canopy and wetlands.</p>	\$ 6,000,000.00	

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9	CAMBRIDGE LOCAL FIRST Pooja Paode Theodora Skeadas	<p>Develop a program offering one-on-one technical assistance and implementation support for locally-owned businesses in Cambridge to assist in their recovery from the pandemic in an era of standardization. This program could: 1) Provide financial support to local businesses seeking to improve, enhance and elevate their current operations in their physical and/or online space. 2) Focus on the implementation of technical assistance in local businesses’ digital and physical spaces. 3) Engage with local service providers to implement the technical assistance to create a multiplier effect for the community. 4) If possible, target newer business owners, those not eligible for previous types of funding, businesses owned LGBTQIA+ populations, and businesses in the creative space. This program could involve an assessment of local business recipients to determine and prioritize their service needs, then match them with qualified local service providers. This is also a great opportunity to collate a list of local service providers and compensate them accordingly. The grant could be administered in partnership with an organization such as Cambridge Local First as well as other business associations. Data suggests that businesses impacted the most by Covid-19 have experienced higher closure rates and are unable to access or afford resources to improve their business performance for a number of reasons.</p>		
10	Manoucheca Lord Poppportunity Program Director	<p>Poppportunity is a pandemic-inspired initiative that provides low-cost pop-up stores and technical support to local entrepreneurs, so they can graduate to permanent stores on Main Street. As a newly minted 501-c3, Poppportunity counteracts the negative economic impacts of COVID, specifically the widespread closure of brick and mortar businesses and the corresponding job loss. Its first site, located on Municipal Lot #5 alongside Starlight Square, opened in November 2020 and consists of 13 pop-up stores. The first year saw 220 applicants, a rotation of 31 entrepreneurs, and one permanent placement on Main Street. If given the resources to expand its pop-up infrastructure to new sites in the city, Poppportunity could provide opportunities to more entrepreneurs and help restore the COVID-19 losses on Main Street.</p>		

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11	Shannon Farrell Greater Boston	Breakthrough Greater Boston	<p>Breakthrough Greater Boston (BTGB), a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has served 7th-12th grade students in Cambridge for 30 years, respectfully requests support from the City of Cambridge to launch our new College Success Program. Nationally, only 14% of students from low-income backgrounds complete college within eight years of high school graduation (compared to 60% of their more affluent peers). Low-income students of color additionally face the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 as they navigate paths to and through college. The pandemic is an educational crisis, particularly for the key demographic that Breakthrough serves. In this especially difficult time, BTGB is powerfully positioned to leverage our six-year relationships with students and our research-based, holistic College Success Program model to help the students most affected by COVID-19 enroll, persist, and graduate from college. Breakthrough is piloting the College Success Program to extend BTGB’s support for our students through their college years. BTGB delivers tailored guidance that addresses the academic, social-emotional, and financial challenges faced by low-income students, students of color, and first-generation college students during the high-risk transition to college and their undergraduate years. BTGB’s Board of Directors is excited by the potential for a permanent launch of the College Success Program and aims to ensure there is adequate funding and community partnership support for this expansion. Partnership with the City of Cambridge would serve as a strong endorsement for this work, which would mark the most significant programmatic expansion in BTGB’s organizational history by moving from six to 10 years of programming. We respectfully request an investment of \$500,000 to be distributed from FY22 through FY26. \$100,000 per year would cover approximately half of College Success programming costs, and BTGB would commit to raising the matching funds from external sources</p>	\$ 500,000.00
12	Michael Johnston Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority		<p>SEWER MITIGATION - Provide Funding for Off-site Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Mitigation Required for Construction of 278 Affordable Apartments at Jefferson Park Federal. By adding 103 units of housing to a site that currently has 175 units, the state Department of Environmental Protection requires added sewer flow be offset by on-site or off-site mitigation at a rate of four to one. This is because the Cambridge sanitary sewer is a shared storm/sanitary sewer that discharges into surrounding waterways during storm events. The estimated 24,520 gallons of increased sewer flow will require the mitigation of 98,120 gallons by the project. Approximately 14,100 gallons will be mitigated on-site, leaving 83,930 gallons to be mitigated off-site in a project chosen by Cambridge DPW. DPW staff have recommended estimating \$15/gallon for the project, meaning the off-site mitigation will cost the project approximately \$1.3 Million. The financial stresses and turmoil of the pandemic have led to increased rates of homelessness and created an even higher demand for affordable housing in Cambridge. The Revitalization of Jefferson Park Federal will preserve 175 affordable units at risk of being lost to poor building conditions and create 103 additional affordable units with a total of 278 units of new housing. Given the demographics of the residents of Jefferson park and the CHA wait list, many residents are front-line essential workers who will directly benefit from this housing.</p>	\$ 1,300,000.00

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13	Michael Johnston	Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>Safe and affordable housing is key to improved health outcomes and economic opportunity. Cambridge Housing Authority plans to begin construction in the next year on two affordable housing sites: Jefferson Park Federal and 116 Norfolk Street. At Jefferson Park Federal, CHA plans to bring the family housing site from 175 to 278 units, providing housing for some of the 21,000 households on CHA's waiting list. The pandemic exacerbated the already difficult economic circumstances of low-income families in Cambridge, increasing the already dire need for more affordable housing. At 116 Norfolk Street, CHA will increase units on site from 37 to 62, convert single room occupancy housing to studio apartments, and conduct intake for the new units from the City's Coordinated Access Network for people experiencing chronic homelessness in Cambridge. The pandemic has shown the shortcomings of the congregate living model currently at 116 Norfolk Street, in which seniors and people with disabilities share kitchens and shower rooms. After construction, all residents will have their own kitchens and bathrooms, increasing privacy as well as protecting against contagious illnesses. Both projects require the need for funds from the City. Permanent Supportive Housing like that planned at 116 Norfolk has been shown to reduce the hospitalization rate of people who were experiencing chronic homelessness prior to entering such programs. Safe and dignified housing coupled with supportive services is a base from which people exiting homelessness can pursue their goals for health, employment, and social connection. Providing funds for the renovation and expansion efforts at Jefferson Park Federal and 116 Norfolk would support the health and wellness of low-income families and people currently experiencing homelessness, two of the groups most impacted by the pandemic.</p>	up to \$54,000,000
14	Michael Johnston	Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) has the opportunity to build new affordable housing in East Cambridge on vacant land within the Millers River parcel. This new construction project on Cambridge Street would add up to 100 new affordable units to East Cambridge, help preserve the diversity of the neighborhood and bring more commerce to Cambridge Street. Increasing the supply of affordable housing, protecting diversity, and supporting small businesses all help combat the impacts of the pandemic. Furthermore, these are three major goals coming up in the City's ongoing planning effort for Cambridge Street between Inman and Lechmere. The CHA is requesting ARPA funds for pre-development costs to support the creation of up to 100 new affordable apartments in East Cambridge. Creating more affordable housing is a long and expensive process that begins with pre-development. Receiving ARPA funds would allow the CHA to set these plans in motion and reach the end goal of creating more affordable housing to serve historically underserved populations.</p>	\$ 2,000,000.00

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15	Michael Johnston Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>Food is essential to both our physical and mental well-being. Food security, however, proves increasingly difficult to access amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for populations who bear greater health risks, such as low-income seniors and people with disabilities. To help mitigate the stress resulting from the pandemic, the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) proposes the creation of a free meals program at four of our developments with the largest community of at-risk populations: the L.B. Johnson Apartments (177 households), Frank J. Manning Apartments (205 households), Daniel F. Burns Apartments (198 households) and Millers River Apartments (300 households). This meal program includes the integration of a commercial kitchen at the LBJ Apartments to parallel the existing kitchens at the other three developments. For these kitchens, the CHA will hire chefs for each location who will work to supply fresh, quality, and healthy meals to up to 880 residents daily. Additionally, this program creates the foundation to provide meals for the properties surrounding these three developments, such as family properties like Woodrow Wilson Court (69 households), Putnam Gardens (122 households), and Roosevelt Towers (199 households), ensuring food security for hundreds of low-income families as well. The food program will also assist in countering the isolation that many elders experience which has been exacerbated through the pandemic. CHA has had an existing program at John F. Kennedy Apartments which enhances the social atmosphere and mental wellness with healthy food. Furthermore, the meals program will create the opportunity to offer cooking classes for residents in order to provide in-house programming and opportunities for connection between residents to help combat isolation exacerbated by the pandemic.</p>	\$ 3,000,000.00

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16	Michael Johnston	Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>In March 2020, the CHA, Cambridge Health Alliance, and Boston Medical Center started a Community Wellness Program pilot to provide a full-time community wellness advocate and part-time nurse at Manning Apartments in Central Square. Manning is home to 205 elders and people with disabilities. The community wellness advocate and nurse are medical and public health professionals that can effectively consult residents on healthcare and insurance options, improve medication management, and make connections with doctors, health specialists, rehab facilities, healthy food sources, legal services, and disability assistance. Approximately 150 residents are active participants in the program and many have seen significant benefits. One resident in her late 70s was having difficulty with transportation because she could not see. The pilot program connected her with primary care and eye doctors, and drove her to her initial appointments. When doctors discovered she had cataracts, the program connected her to the correct medical help and now she can see and move around the City safely and independently. Another resident was suffering from mental health issues and frequently hospitalized due to difficulty managing medications before the program assisted him by organizing his medications into pill boxes and getting him a 3-week supply. He hasn't been hospitalized since. As shown in the examples above, the Community Wellness Program helps keep elders and people with disabilities housed and living independently. Funding for the program at Manning runs out in early 2023. CHA hopes to utilize ARPA funds to sustain the Community Wellness Program at Manning (205 households) and expand the program to Millers River (300 households), Burns (198 households), LBJ (177 households), Russell Apartments (52 units) Putnam School (33 units) and Truman (69 households) to better serve over 1,000 low-income seniors and people with disabilities in Cambridge.</p>	\$ 4,000,000.00
17	Michael Johnston	Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>A significant portion of the ARPA funds should be allocated to strengthen existing, transformational programs that are positively and successfully assisting low-income families as they struggle to afloat and stay in Cambridge. Since September 2021, Cambridge RISE has been allocating a guaranteed monthly income to 130 single parent households. The positive outcome of "guaranteed income" programs worldwide are well-documented. They are effective, often curing the awful choices many families must make between essentials like heat, food, and education. Guaranteed income pilots also make fiscal sense as the least expensive way to break intergenerational poverty. The Cambridge Housing Authority supports over 5,000 families at or below 30% AMI and almost 7,000 families at or below 80% AMI. Expanding the Cambridge RISE program to more households (including expanding eligibility requirements beyond single caregiver households) now could not be more timely as low-income households across Cambridge continue to struggle due to compounding impacts of inequality and the pandemic.</p>	<p>\$9,000,000 for 500 participants for 3 year program</p> <p>\$18,000,000 for 1,000 participant expansion for 3 year program</p>

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18	Green Cambridge Nutter Steven	<p>Outdoor activities that involve community engagement like urban farming, break cycles of disempowerment and isolation that many are feeling due to the pandemic. With our youth, this has become a public health emergency. Growing food provides a sense of agency to alleviate the mental health affects and food security issues caused by the pandemic. Growing space at CRLS has been a perennial request by faculty. In 2018 through Spring 2020, teachers participated in professional development workshops to coordinate integration of climate justice in an interdisciplinary way and across the curriculum. The effort included Lesley University faculty, Green Cambridge, and Cambridge Youth Programs. One outcome was the need for growing space on campus as a classroom. During COVID, CPS leadership established an ad-hoc working group to understand how to integrate outdoor learning into curriculum. This group also identified the need for outdoor, hands-on classrooms. Green Cambridge has extensive experience creating and managing educational growing spaces using a collaborative model in Cambridge. We partner with Cambridge DPW to revitalize and operate the Riverside Press Park, operate our Hurley Street Neighborhood Farm with funding provided by Cambridge Public Health, and have built a learning garden for Nurtury Preschool at Moses Youth Center funded by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority. We share our Hurley location with City Sprouts, and support Cambridge City Growers. In addition, our Executive Director Steven Nutter is on the City's Food Planning Task Force and Climate Protection Action Committee. With CRLS stakeholders, Green Cambridge would facilitate a community process to develop a design by working with James Shen, Loeb Fellow and Partner at People's Architecture Office. A full description of the project can be found at: bit.ly/CRLSfarm. Green Cambridge would operate the Farm by creating a Grow Team Intern program to pay students. We would collaboratively coordinate the Farm with Cambridge City Growers and in coordination with City Sprouts and Lesley Faculty.</p>	\$ 372,480.00
19	The Outdoor Church / Steven Bingaman	<p>The mission of the Outdoor Church of Cambridge is to care for the unhoused, homeless, and economically disadvantaged community of Cambridge, Massachusetts. In the course of undertaking this mission, we provide spiritual, pastoral, and outreach care to over 250 of the community weekly, in many instances, multiple times a week. We provide this care by bringing food and other items to the various locations where our community congregate. During the COVID crisis, we have met the increased need for food and other care uninterrupted. The City has supplied 175 meals for our Sunday afternoon outreach that we distribute. Additionally, we have undertaken to expand our food and sundry item distribution during our Sunday morning community meeting at Porter Square and provide water and food on Thursday evenings throughout Harvard and Central Squares. And, we provide our food outreach on Saturday afternoons similarly through Harvard and Central Squares.</p>	\$ 10,000.00

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20	HEART / Stephanie Guirand	<p>Cambridge HEART (Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team) is a crisis response and public safety program for Cambridge, MA. HEART addresses a need for alternative ways for individuals experiencing crises (including those related to mental health, substance use and domestic violence) to receive help at their moment of need. It also enhances community cohesion by facilitating residents' knowledge of and access to existing community services. HEART is led and staffed by community members representing the most marginalized communities in Cambridge. The COVID pandemic has had adverse effects on the health and social-economic well-being of residents, with those from marginalized backgrounds experiencing a disproportionate impact (Artiga, Garfield, and Orgera 2020). The HEART program addresses these adverse effects. HEART responders provide trauma-informed care and support for those experiencing mental health crises, and is specifically designed to meet the needs of marginalized community members such as those who are unhoused. HEART responders also provide conflict mediation services to support the resolution of both private and public disputes including instances of domestic violence.</p> <p>Cambridge community members who are financially vulnerable may have exacerbated economic needs due to the pandemic. HEART provides mutual aid to directly meet their needs. Furthermore, HEART indirectly addresses economic impacts of the pandemic by providing employment opportunities within organization for community members: as responders, program staff and more.</p>	\$ 5,500,000.00	
21	Greg Nicaise Sustainable Business Network Of Massachusetts	<p>To rebound Cambridge businesses and boost long-term economic development, we propose a Independly-owned Local Business Procurment Fair. Many local shops, service providers, and industries have suffered from a lack of institutional sales. With hospitals, schools, government facilities, and business spaces at reduced capacity, the network of businesses that support these institutions have seen significant drops in revenue and some have had to close. In addition, we have seen a shift towards digital providers and online delivery services. To focus support, sales, and attention towards these greatly impacted, locally-owned businesses, we need an organized initiative to put them center stage again. This procurement fair will do just that. The Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts has specialized in managing the Local Food Trade Show for 11 years, and would use this expertise to conduct a highly successful B2B convention. Bringing together the diverse array of Cambridge businesses, we would match supply and demand needs in the market and refocus institutional purchasing towards the businesses that give Cambridge its integrity and culture. This procurement fair is a single day event featuring these business with targeted sales meetings, panels, exhibitions, and networking meetings to deepen these B2B connections.</p>	\$ 30,000.00	

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22		Greg Nicaise Sustainable Business Network Of Massachusetts	<p>Cambridge food businesses would greatly benefit from a commercial kitchen space for shared-use and business incubation. Food businesses have seen extreme financial hardships during the pandemic, with an estimated 110,000 US restaurants temporarily or permanently closed at the peak. Those who have survived now face extreme difficulties as their margins shrink further due to labor shortages, inflation, and supply-chain shortages. In Cambridge, many restaurants have closed and many storefronts remain unused. Cambridge currently has no such commercial kitchen space, yet the city has signed support for the cottage residential program. Currently, many of these entrepreneurs' only opportunity is at church kitchens or pop-ups. While the Foundry is an incredible project, it will serve as a test kitchen only and doesn't make a space for establishing businesses. Shared-use kitchen's are known to reduce start-up costs and share risks for both established and emerging caterers, restaurateurs, and value-added producers. This project's potential to lower the entry barrier for new food businesses is extremely important considering the high-failure rate that restaurants already face. To expand the impact of this project we propose that a number leases for the space be reserved for Black/Brown-owned businesses, given that there currently only exist about 6 out of the nearly 400 pre-pandemic food service businesses in Cambridge.</p>	<p>\$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000</p>
23		Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts /Allison Deyo	<p>The Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network (CSBBN), in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network of MA, Cambridge Local First, and the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA), and multiple banks, law firms, and a community foundation, is developing an Equity Fund to increase the number of Black and Brown businesses in MA. Black and Brown founders receive less than 2.6% of venture capital and fewer than 4% of decision makers at the firms are Black or Brown. "Pattern recognition" remains the major driver of investment decisions. Most start-up and growing businesses rely upon "friends and family loans", however the lack of wealth in communities of color across MA reduces access to capital needed to grow businesses. According to the Business Diversity Directory, only 3 food businesses identify as Black-owned in Cambridge. Black businesses were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with 41% of Black businesses closing nationally as of August 2020. Only 43% of businesses received all of the Payroll Protection Program funding they applied for, compared to 79% of white-owned businesses (wapo.st/3vviSZp). Though BECMA will oversee the statewide Fund, CSBBN will be responsible for Fund activities in Cambridge. Activities will include: fundraising; screening businesses; connecting businesses to technical assistance (required to participate); working with bank to train business school fellows in underwriting, therefore building capacity in the community; resource development; and communications to grow the Fund. Capital raised in Cambridge will be earmarked to be used exclusively in the city. To launch this Fund, seed funding is needed for loans and grants for minority businesses in Cambridge.</p>	<p>\$ 2,000,000.00</p>

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24	Just A Start Angela Chan O'Donnell	<p>Just A Start respectfully requests \$75,000 to support costs of deleading activities. The funding will be a grant to the homeowner for up to \$5,000 per unit to be used for deleading activities including lead testing. The funding would leverage Just A Start's Home Improvement Program (HIP). This funding will remove a barrier to the critical public health issue of remediating lead paint hazards, which has historically had a disparate impact on low-income families and communities of color. The cost of deleading, in particular lead testing, has become an increasing burden over the past two years as the pandemic has negatively impacted our clients' finances. Furthermore, homeowners are spending more time at home, often in unsafe and substandard housing. The HIP program is often the only viable option for homeowners with poor credit and/or low income to make essential repairs to their homes. Part of the HIP program's charge under HUD is to ensure homes participating in the program are lead safe. The associated costs with deleading are often unexpected and prohibit homeowners from moving forward with HIP and making critical repairs to their home. Homeowners must pay for lead testing (up to \$500) out of pocket before they know the scope of the deleading work or whether they can receive HIP or other funding. Once the scope is determined, and they qualify for the program, we can help clients access city grants and state loans but they typically don't cover full deleading expenses.</p>	\$ 75,000.00
25	Community Servings / Tobin Scipione	<p>Community Servings' mission is to actively engage the community to provide scratch-made medically tailored meals to individuals and their families experiencing critical or chronic illness and nutrition insecurity. We commit, in all our programs and business practices, to prioritize racial and economic justice and health equity. Over the past 23 years of service in Cambridge, Community Servings has provided nearly 500,000 home-delivered medically tailored meals to Cambridge residents. Our "Nutrition Program for Cambridge Residents Affected by Critical & Chronic Illnesses" is a critical health intervention and an emergency household nutrition assistance program for individuals and their families who are experiencing the dual challenges of poverty and serious illness, including cancer, renal disease, diabetes, and COVID-19. Cambridge residents who are severely immune-compromised and nutrition insecure have faced enormous challenges due to COVID-19, and accompanying economic disruption and rates of food insecurity are expected to remain at historic levels for years, with long-term health consequences. Community Servings is committed to a long-term recovery approach, strengthening our nutrition program for Cambridge populations that have faced systemic underinvestment and been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. ARPA funding will support the home-delivery of 125,000 medically tailored meals, customized to meet the individual health needs of 250+ Cambridge clients, their dependent children, and caregivers over the five-year funding period. Each weekly delivery includes five days' worth of medically tailored meals for each household member. Funds will be allocated to meals and kitchen expenses associated with the provision of medically tailored meals to Cambridge residents.</p>	\$ 250,000.00

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26	Breakthrough Greater Boston / Elissa Spelman	<p>Breakthrough Greater Boston (BTGB), a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has served 7th-12th grade students in Cambridge for 30 years, respectfully requests support from the City of Cambridge to launch our new College Success Program. Nationally, only 14% of students from low-income backgrounds complete college within eight years of high school graduation (compared to 60% of their more affluent peers). Low-income students of color additionally face the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 as they navigate paths to and through college. The pandemic is an educational crisis, particularly for the key demographic that Breakthrough serves. In this especially difficult time, BTGB is powerfully positioned to leverage our six-year relationships with students and our research-based, holistic College Success Program model to help the students most affected by COVID-19 enroll, persist, and graduate from college. Breakthrough is piloting the College Success Program to extend BTGB's support for our students through their college years. BTGB delivers tailored guidance that addresses the academic, social-emotional, and financial challenges faced by low-income students, students of color, and first-generation college students during the high-risk transition to college and their undergraduate years. BTGB's Board of Directors is excited by the potential for a permanent launch of the College Success Program and aims to ensure there is adequate funding and community partnership support for this expansion. Partnership with the City of Cambridge would serve as a strong endorsement for this work, which would mark the most significant programmatic expansion in BTGB's organizational history by moving from six to 10 years of programming. We respectfully request an investment of \$500,000 to be distributed from FY22 through FY26. \$100,000 per year would cover approximately half of College Success programming costs, and BTGB would commit to raising the matching funds from external sources</p>	\$ 500,000.00
27	Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts/ Allison Deyo	<p>Develop a program that will allocate 20 total full "All Alcohol" licenses for minority-owned businesses, with half specifically set aside for Black-owned businesses. There are currently only four minority-owned restaurants/bars in Cambridge that have full liquor licenses according to the Cambridge Business Diversity Directory. Black-owned businesses across the country were severely impacted by the pandemic, with more than 40% closing within the first six months of the crisis. Bars and restaurants in Cambridge were also hit hard, leading several to go out of business due to several pandemic-related factors. As a result, several former bar and restaurant spaces are vacant. This program will make it more financially feasible for minority-owned food and beverage businesses to move into these spaces. It will also make it easier for existing minority-owned businesses to expand their offerings and generate more revenue through alcohol sales as they recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic. Both of these outcomes will potentially lead to job creation within the city as well.</p>	\$ 5,000.00

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28	Just A Start / Gerry Zipser, Director of Housing	<p>We are proposing a Digital Navigator Program for Cambridge residents living in affordable housing. The services offered would be in line with the recommendations of the Digital Equity in Cambridge: Data and Strategic Recommendations Report which was prepared for the City of Cambridge, MA and released in April 2021. Just A Start trains adults in a 9 month tuition free program for entry level positions in IT. Many graduates are Cambridge residents, have lived in affordable housing and are multi-lingual. The IT graduates could be hired as Digital Navigators. They would work with the Resident Service Coordinators of each housing development to offer services including: signing up residents with low-cost providers and enrolling eligible residents in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Digital Navigators would also be available to help residents set up connectivity in their homes or trouble-shoot when problems occur. They would also connect residents to free/low-cost computers and related equipment when needed. Digital Navigators would work with residents to identify their individual needs and wishes for being connected. Individual and group trainings on site would be offered. Depending on funding level, Just A Start would seek to partner with the Cambridge Housing Authority, Housing Resources Inc. (HRI), Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) and other Cambridge affordable housing providers to bring services to their residents. We would also work closely with the Cambridge Public Library as their programming also works on digital access issues.</p>	\$ 93,400.00
29	Just A Start / Ian Davis, program Manager	<p>The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has resulted in lay-offs, lost work through quarantining and needing to provide childcare for children learning from home, long COVID symptoms: resulting in increased costs with everyone at home, financial strain, and the depletion of savings. These negative economic impacts, particularly on low income residents and communities of color, will take years to overcome. Just A Start has been in the process of building out a storefront location in Central Square, at 55 Norfolk St, a small building owned by our company, on the Financial Opportunity Center model, combining one-on-one career coaching and financial coaching services under one roof, additionally leveraging our community contacts for direct referrals and warm hand-offs to food pantry, childcare, and benefit sign-up assistance services. During tax season, this storefront location will host intake for our volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) site, offering free tax preparation to income-qualified community members, with an eye on maximizing refunds, handling complicated tax situations like gig economy work from people adapting their working lives to the pandemic, and advising on the use of refunds through integration with our one-on-one financial coaching.</p>	\$ 273,385.00

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30	Just A Start / Angela Chan O'Donnell, Manager	<p>Just A Start is respectfully requesting \$252,000 to provide stipends to students of our Biomedical Careers Program and IT Careers Programs, which provides full-time workforce development training to adult students to enter careers in the growing life sciences and IT sectors. The COVID pandemic has highlighted systemic inequities that exist in our communities, and especially in our workforce. Low-income people have been especially hit hard due to losing jobs and/or job security, leading to volatility in income. This uncertainty of the next paycheck has led to housing, financial and food insecurity. The need for family-sustaining wages is high, and with it the need for programming to help them achieve economic stability. Our workforce development programs aim to support the economic resiliency and mobility of low-income individuals and families. The 9-month long programs take place Mon- Fri from 9am-2pm. The time commitment (22 hours/week class time plus homework) is intensive and can make the program inaccessible to some students due to family, childcare, work, and other responsibilities. Tuition is free but not free of cost as students forgo time, and therefore income, to be able to attend the program. Stipends will be a critical tool in providing financial assistance that will allow students to participate in a program that has proven to increase earning potential. The average wage increase is \$15,000/year - a substantial increase considering participants need to earn 80% or less of the Area Median Income to qualify, and most students earn 50% or less.</p>	\$ 252,000.00	
31	Kavish Gandhi Project Right to Housing	<p>This project proposes that the City of Cambridge rehouse 400 individuals experiencing homelessness between April 1, 2022 and April 1, 2023, and functionally end homelessness by April 1, 2024. This could be accomplished through the proposed Cambridge Unhoused Stipend Program (CUSP), which would cover the full cost of living for participating unhoused individuals and families for three years, and a significant portion (at least rent less 30% of household income) for the following 7 years. CUSP embraces a Housing First approach to ending homelessness, and performs three key activities: - Identifies eligible households, - Finds and secures available units, and - Moves those eligible households into those units, and provides long-term supportive services as necessary. We have attached a more detailed description of CUSP to this email. This proposal was written by Project Right to Housing and incorporates input from homelessness services providers and unhoused community members. The unhoused community has been disproportionately affected by the ongoing pandemic. Limited shelter and housing options have left many people on the street or in crowded congregate shelters where life is difficult and the risk of contracting COVID-19 is high. There have been reductions and changes to resources, including health services, day centers and homeless services, that were available to people who are unhoused prior to the pandemic, making their lives significantly more challenging. Stringent requirements for identification and other impediments have also made it hard for many unhoused people to gain access to federal aid that many people have been able to obtain. Though the burden of the pandemic has eased somewhat, rehousing through CUSP will go a long way towards sustainably addressing these needs, which remain at crisis levelsmic</p>	\$ 15,000,000.00	

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Item	#	Submitter Information	PROJECT IDEA	Funding Request
32	Angela Chan O'Donnell	Just A Start	<p>Just A Start requests funding to build an Economic Mobility Hub at the intersection of Rindge Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway (located within close proximity to the Alewife MBTA Station). Just A Start will consolidate and house all of our programs and operations under one roof, including career training for youths and adults, financial opportunity, 24 affordable apartments, housing resources, and four universal child care classrooms. The 70,000 square foot, \$36 million mixed-use project will include a state-of-the-art bioscience lab and IT lab. The new additions will allow us to double the number of students we train for life sciences and IT careers while enhancing our curriculum to seamlessly integrate lab work. Additionally, we will be building a cutting-edge Construction Training Center to train youth in the increasingly high-demand industry. By providing a continuum of services in one central location, Just A Start's Economic Mobility Hub will address the negative community impacts from the pandemic by serving as a bridge to economic opportunity for residents who have lacked those opportunities.</p>	\$ 500,000.00
33	Michael Malmberg, COO	Daily Table	<p>With record unemployment, lost wages, high inflation, and many having little-to-no savings to protect them from the economic impact of COVID-19, food insecurity has doubled in Massachusetts in the past year and significantly impacted Cambridge residents served by Daily Table, a nonprofit community grocery store. Daily Table is committed to increasing access to fresh, healthy food and fighting the real face of hunger -- the lack of affordable nutrition for the food insecure. Federal Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funding will help Daily Table in Central Square serve Cambridge residents who are unable to afford a balanced and nutritious diet because of low incomes and rising prices. Our primary customers are the working poor and those living in low-income households within a one- to three-mile radius of Daily Table. Philanthropic funding is critical so that we can continue to provide healthy, nutritious food at affordable prices and offer programs and services that help increase equity and contribute to the vitality and economy in the City of Cambridge, and will: subsidize our operating costs enabling us to offer prices that are 25% to 35% less than other grocers; support our online grocery ordering and free delivery service within two miles of the store; support our partnerships with mission-aligned, Cambridge-based organizations to distribute shopping vouchers, groceries and meals to those facing financial concerns; and help underwrite the operation of our store and commissary kitchen, which makes healthy, prepared meals that meet strict nutritional guidelines for low sodium and sugar established by a world-class team of Boston Med-Ed dietitians.</p>	\$ 500,000.00

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Item	#	Submitter Information	PROJECT IDEA	Funding Request
34	Mark T McGovern Program Director Cambridge/Somerville Health Care for the Homeless	<p>Given the success of the City funded Street Medicine Project, which provides funding for a Physician to work up to 12 hours/week with the Baycove First Step Outreach Team, I am interested in new funding to expand this project. We would like to extend hours of direct care MD services and add a community health worker to existing team. The role of the MD on the van has been demonstrated the ability to bring acute health care services to people living on the street. This MD is also providing care in our shelter-based clinic at the CASPAR/Baycove shelter at 240 Albany St, one afternoon/week and works on inpatient units at The Cambridge Hospital. The ability to see patients in these 3 settings has helped to provide an increased continuity of care as well as nurture relationship building with these traditionally hard to engage people. So, we would like to enhance this model by adding MD time on the outreach van and add clinical sessions in our shelter-based clinics in order to see these same patients in a clinical setting. I would like be able to hire an additional MD for this so that we could build a team. We propose to add an MD to do 2 Street Outreach Sessions/Week and 2 Sessions/week in shelter-based clinics for a total of 16 hours/week. We are also proposing to add a Community Health Worker to the team in order to provide critical support to the MDs in order to assist with coordination of care, transportation to clinic sites, assist with access to health insurance, provide for medication pick up and delivery when needed and work the clinic sessions with the Street MDs to provide the familiarity of connection when these patients present in the shelter-based clinic. The Community Health Worker would be a FT 40 hour/week position.</p>	\$ 220,000.00	
35	Sharon Zimmerman Executive Director Cambridge Camping Association	<p>This project idea is generalizable to all direct care serving nonprofits who are struggling to pay increasing wages and keep staff and youth healthy. However this project idea is focused on the specific needs of Cambridge Camping since it is such an urgent need as our seasonal staff hiring is happening right now for April vacation camp, the summer and into the fall for weekend camp. For Cambridge Camping, funds would be used for reimbursement for sick days for seasonal part-time or full-time front-line staff working directly with youth. As per the CDC guidelines, if someone tests positive they are to stay home for 5 days. There is a disproportionate impact on those who with lower incomes and who are BIPOC which for Cambridge Camping is the case for 80% of our seasonal staff working summer, school vacations and weekends. We want our staff to feel able to stay home if they have symptoms or test positive for Covid without fear of lost wages, which many of our staff use to help support their families. Nonprofits don't usually budget for paid time off for seasonal part time staff and those are the people who need the money the most, come to work sick and spread illness. Many nonprofits who run summer, school vacation and weekend programming have to get substitutes to fill in when staff are sick, then having to pay double. As wages increase due to the economic impacts of Covid, this financial burden is unmanagable, especially as we are hiring more staff than in typical years to help meet increased camper mental health needs. Our camp staff and their communities have been disproportionately impacted by loss of income and illness throughout the pandemic, and these funds would allow us to support their essential work supporting vulnerable youth. We are also requesting funding for home Covid tests for youth and staff to help prevent transmission.</p>	\$ 15,000.00	

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36	John Lindamood	Director of Residential Services Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>The Work Force Youth Program (TWF) has been serving youth and families since 1984. The goal of TWF is to disrupt the cycle of poverty by helping youth attain post-secondary credentials that position them for sustained economic mobility and the creation of generational wealth. TWF serves about 360 youth annually from the 6th grade through completion of their post-secondary degrees. Our sites operate at CHA's three largest family developments, CRLS, and the CSUS. Sites are staffed by a full-time Teacher-Counselor, a part-time Learning Center Coordinator and are supported by a full-time Director, Alumni Coach, and Career Development Specialist. Our success is measured by tracking multiple outcomes. Key metrics include annual matriculation into 2- or 4-year colleges (90% and above) and college graduation rates within 6-years of leaving high school (nearly 80%). The program's comprehensive approach and meaningful engagement with families produce outcomes that are well above the national averages for low-income youth. However, the pandemic has created significant challenges for our participants and their families. Many of our students, families, and seniors are struggling with trauma and need greater supports. Loss of income, food insecurity, and prolonged illness due to COVID, social isolation, and learning loss and atrophied social-emotional development during remote learning have severely impacted many of our residents. To meet these needs, we are seeking funding to support a three-pronged approach over three years. Funding would assist us in securing a second Alumni Coach, provide sequential training to staff on trauma informed practices, and support the expansion of a unique intergenerational pilot. Responsible for a caseload of well over 100 students, our Alumni Coach worked to meet the needs of our alumni as they struggled with isolation, remote learning, and persistence in college. The addition of a second Coach creates more manageable caseloads and enhances support services for each graduate. Additionally, targeted training in trauma informed practices will bolster our ability to support both current participants and alumni as they contend with post-pandemic challenges. Finally, to address the social isolation at many of our elderly developments, we are proposing the expansion of our Intergenerational Basic Computer Literacy and Cyber-Security pilot, an eight week program built on Tech Goes Home modules taught by two TWF high school seniors.</p>	\$ 742,700.00
37	John Lindamood	Director of Residential Services Cambridge Housing Authority	<p>In April of 2021, the CHA's Resident Services department incorporated a team of eight Service Coordinators and a Director into the agency to provide comprehensive aging-in-place supports to residents of our elderly/disabled developments. All members of the team are credentialed Social Workers and/or Clinicians who have extensive experience working with under-resourced clients in a variety of social service settings. Growing concerns over the health and welfare of our senior residents during the pandemic served as the primary impetus to take this important step. Social isolation and reduced services contributed to an alarming increase in various mental health issues. Over the past year, the individual and concerted efforts of the Service Coordinator staff were instrumental in diminishing the impact of the pandemic on CHA elderly and disabled populations. The proposed project seeks funding to support a small portion of the Service Coordinators' and their Director's salaries over the next three years (25% annually), as well as a small amount to conduct training enhancements, in the form of Certificate programs in Gerontology and/or Aging-In-Place Case Management Services. As we navigate the aftermath of the pandemic, ongoing city support for the critical services this team provides to our most vulnerable residents is imperative, as is increased training opportunities to position them to provide the best possible services to the thousands of residents who make CHA's elderly developments their home.</p>	\$ 520,000.00

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38	Darrin Korte Executive Director Cambridge Community Center	<p>The Cambridge Community Center (CCC) aims to increase access to mental/behavioral health services and treatment for youth and families enrolled in our programs who are experiencing mental/behavioral health challenges by providing community-based therapeutic services. We hope to utilize the currently unoccupied space located at 205 Western Avenue to provide: 1. Support for Youth: Youth with high-level mental/behavioral health needs will be identified by our Social Worker to receive additional support and/or treatment. These services will take place at 205 Western Avenue during regular program hours. Therefore, services will be provided in a setting that's familiar to the child at a time and location that's convenient for their caregivers. 2. Support for Families: Our Social Worker will work with caregivers to co-create plans to best support youth in their home environments, building on the positive impact of services provided during program hours. Additionally, caregivers who require additional support and/or treatment themselves will be able to receive those services at 205 Western Avenue while their children are being cared for in our program. Mental/behavioral health issues among Cambridge Public School students have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic according to data reported in the 2021 Cambridge Youth Health Survey. In 2021, 35% of high school students and 27% of middle school students reported feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more that they stopped doing usual activities. This compares to 26% of high school students in 2018 and 24% of middle school students in 2019</p>	\$ 1,000,000.00	
39	Sasha Purpura Chief Executive Officer Food for Free	<p>Food For Free's Weekend Eats Program (formerly Cambridge weekend backpack program) has shifted to what we call "Carrot Cards" which are debit cards similar to those used in Cambridge's UBI pilot. We have received overwhelming feedback from families that they prefer these to food as it allows them to get culturally appropriate foods. As a side note, we see in the data that a number of families use these cards at their local ethnic bodegas. We plan to move away from food entirely and go with the Carrot Card. Due to the drastic increase in food insecurity, our program grew from about 900 kids across Cambridge and Somerville to over 2000. We also now distribute an additional 6 million pounds of food across Eastern MA. We need to ensure we have funding to keep up this work, as we don't see a decline in demand anytime soon. Cambridge historically funds \$75k of Weekend Eat. An additional \$100k was approved through ARPA. I'm asking for an additional \$200k in ARPA (for a total of \$300k ARPA) to cover the entire cost of the cards. Food For Free would find other funding for the staffing/management/execution of the program. We are asking the same of Somerville for their students. Our budget went from \$1.4m pre-pandemic to over \$4m. We now distribute around 8 million pounds versus 2m in 2019. We need our cities and state and others in the community to help share the burden of this new crisis in hunger so that we can keep up with the demand.</p>	\$ 200,000.00	