



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Strong Women, Families, & Communities
Erin Murphy, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 11, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The following dockets were sponsored by the Administration and referred to the Committee on February 28, 2024:

Docket #0376, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount Two Million Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$2,232,152.00) in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-C Nutrition Service Program, awarded by the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund nutrition services for older adults in the City of Boston;

Docket #0379 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Thirty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Three Dollars (\$1,038,243.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III-B Supportive Services, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund home-based support services for older adults in the City of Boston;

Docket #0380 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$530,999.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III-E Family Caregiver Support Program, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund Caregiver Services for older adults in the City of Boston;

Docket #0382 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Sixty-One Thousand One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars (\$461,143.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III-A Administration, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund the cost for administration of Title III programs;

Docket #0383 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$177,271.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III- Ombudsman Program, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund consumer protection programs to improve long-term services for older adults in the City of Boston;

Docket #0384 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Age Strong Universal Fund, awarded by the Donor Group to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund senior center programs and services for older adults in Boston; and

Docket #0386 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount Eighty-Four Thousand Fifty-Eighty Dollars (\$84,058.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III-D Disease Prevention & Health Promotion, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund services that assist older adults in Boston to prevent illness and manage chronic conditions.

Summary of Legislation:

Docket #0376, authorizes the City to accept and expend \$2,232,152.00 in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-C Nutrition Service Program, awarded by the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission.

Docket #0379 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$1,038,243.00 in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-B Supportive Services, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission.

Docket #0380 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$530,999.00 in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-E Family Caregiver Support Program, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission.

Docket #0382 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$461,143.00 in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-A Administration, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission.

Docket #0383 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$177,271.00 in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III- Ombudsman Program, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the *Age Strong Commission*.

Docket #0384 authorizes the City to accept and expend **\$150,000.00** in the form of a grant, for the *Age Strong Universal Fund*, awarded by the Donor Group to be administered by the *Age Strong Commission*.

Docket #0386 authorizes the City to accept and expend **\$84,058.00** in the form of a grant, for the *Federal FY24 Title III-D Disease Prevention & Health Promotion*, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs to be administered by the *Age Strong Commission*.

The grants total over **\$4.5 million** from federal and state sources and will cover the period from October 2023 through September 2024 (Federal Fiscal Year 2024). The proposed grants fund a variety of services for seniors including nutrition programs, caregiver support, and health promotion.

Information Gathered at the Hearing:

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The Chair was joined by Vice Chair, Councilor Liz Breadon; Council President Louijeune; Councilor Flynn; Councilor FitzGerald and received an absence letter from Councilor Weber.

Emily Shea, Age Strong Commissioner; Myles Gerraty, Senior Director of Finance and Administration, Age Strong Commission; and Melissa Carlson, Deputy Commissioner and Senior Director of Programs and Partnerships, Age Strong Commission, testified on behalf of the Administration.

The Administration explained that the City of Boston receives grants of this kind as a federally designated “area agency on aging,” under the Older Americans Act.

The Administration testified as to the City’s specific responsibilities tied to the grant funding, including working closely with the State Executive Office of Elder Affairs to conduct needs assessments for individuals over 60 years old in Boston every four years. It was explained that the information gathered is used to create the area plan, which contributes to a statewide plan for older people in Massachusetts. The Administration highlighted the importance of community partners funded through Title III funding and emphasized the careful monitoring of grant spending to ensure that community partners receive the necessary support to fulfill their commitments for the well-being of older adults in the community.

The Administration elaborated on the grant funding sources explaining that Title III is a section of the Older Americans Act that encompasses various funding categories that are distributed to “area agencies on aging” across the country to provide specific services. The funding categories include: Title III A, which covers administrative expenses related to aging services; Title III B,

which allows for flexibility in funding local needs within specified categories, emphasizing support services; Title III C, which supports congregate meal sites for older adults, known as community cafes in Boston; Title III D which funds evidence-based healthy aging programs; Title III E which supports the Family Caregiver Program, including the Caregiver Solutions Program at Boston Senior Home Care and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program through MSPCC. Further, the Administration explained the Ombudsman Program, under Title III, which focuses on Long-Term Care Ombudsman services.

Councilors asked questions to understand how the funds will be used and how programming reaches diverse groups of seniors across all neighborhoods in the City. The Committee and the Administration expressed future and continued opportunities to provide essential services for aging residents like educational programs to prevent and avoid scams, social opportunities, affordable food and living options, and the possibility of expanding shuttle service to grocery stores. Councilors expressed support for the grants and appreciation for the work of the Age Strong Commission.

Recommended Action:

The Chair of the Committee on Strong Women, Families, & Communities, to which the following was referred:

Docket #0376, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount Two Million Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$2,232,152.00) in the form of a grant for the Federal FY24 Title III-C Nutrition Service Program, awarded by the U.S. Department Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund nutrition services for older adults in the City of Boston;

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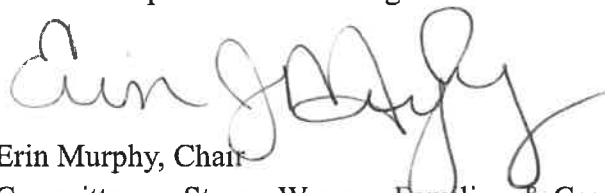
(\$461,143.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY24 Title III-A Administration, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, passed through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs, to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund the cost for administration of Title III programs;

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submits a report recommending that these dockets ought to pass.



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