



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities  
Liz Breadon, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

November 30, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The following Age Strong Commission grants were referred to the Committee:

- *Docket #0931, referred August 10, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Million Two Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Sixty Eight Cents (\$2,299,117.68) in the form of a grant for the FY23 State Elder Lunch Program, awarded by 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, at the rate of \$7.39 per meal for up to 311,112 meals.*
- *Docket #1134, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Nine Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Sixty Six Dollars (\$1,969,066.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY23 Title III-C Nutrition Services 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 nutrition services for older adults in the City of Boston. These services are enhanced by Federal Nutrition Services Incentive Program and the State Elder Lunch Program grants.*
- *Docket #1135, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$1,006,875.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Title III-B Supportive Services, awarded by 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 #1136, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Forty Four Cents (\$987,452.44) in the form of a grant, from the Federal FY22 Nutrition Services Incentive 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 #1137, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$524,287.00) in the form of a grant for the Federal FY23 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 #1138, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$424,821.00) in the form of a grant for the Federal FY23 Title III-A, 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 #1139, referred September 21, 2022, 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 FY23 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 #1140, referred September 21, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Seventy Eight Thousand Sixty Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$78,695.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY23 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.*
- *Docket #1343, referred November 2, 2022, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Four Hundred Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$1,403,856.00) in the form of a grant, for the State FY23 Council on the Aging formula allocation, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund services for 116,988 older adults in the City of Boston at \$12 per person, according to 2020 Census data from UMass Boston Donahue Institute.*

Mayor Wu sponsored these dockets.

### **Summary of Legislation**

The Chair received a memorandum dated November 22, 2022 from Age Strong Commissioner Emily Shea and Deputy Commissioner of Finance Francis N. Thomas, Jr. which detailed summary information on these grants as follows.

*State Elder Lunch Program – Docket #0931 for \$2,299,117.68:*

The Age Strong Commission receives an annual grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elders Affairs for the purpose of providing direct funding to two nutritional service providers in the State Elder Lunch Program. The Age Strong Commission does not retain any of these funds in house. The State Elder Lunch Program is one of three funding streams for the Commission's nutrition program. The other two funding streams are Title III-C and Nutrition Services Incentive Program. The nutrition program includes congregate and home delivered meals.

*Title III - C Nutrition Services Program – Docket #1134 for \$1,969,066.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs for the Title III C Nutrition Services Program. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA provides direct funding for older adult nutritional services throughout Boston, monitors the service partner agencies and provides technical assistance as needed. The Commission directly funds 2 nutritional service partner agencies with the entire amount. Title III C is one funding stream for the Commission's nutrition program. The other two funding streams are NSIP and the State Elder Lunch Program. The nutrition program includes congregate and home delivered meals.

*Title III - B Supportive Services – Docket #1135 for \$1,006,875.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal Title III funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA plans and coordinates public, private and voluntary programs to provide the best possible services for Boston's older citizens. The AAA also provides direct funding for older adults-related services throughout Boston. The AAA unit of the Commission monitors their partner agencies providing the services and provides technical assistance as needed. The amount awarded is used for support services for older adults in the City of Boston.

*Nutrition Services Incentive Program – Docket #1136 for \$987,452.44:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (formerly called USDA Elder Lunch Program). The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA provides direct funding for older adult nutritional services throughout Boston, monitors the service partner agencies and provides technical assistance as needed. The Commission directly funds 2 nutritional service partner agencies with the entire amount. The NSIP is a funding stream for the Commission's nutrition program. The other two funding streams are Title III C and the State Elder Lunch Program.

*Title III - E Family Caregiver Support Program – Docket #1137 for \$524,287.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal Title III-E funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA plans and coordinates public, private and voluntary programs to provide the best possible services for Boston's older citizens. The AAA also provides direct funding for older adults-related services throughout Boston. The AAA unit

of the Commission monitors their partner agencies providing the services and provides technical assistance as needed. The Commission directly funds 2 partner agencies with the entire amount. The amount awarded is used for Caregiver Services in the City of Boston.

*Title III - A Administration – Docket #1138 for \$424,821.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal Title III funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA plans and coordinates public, private and voluntary programs to provide the best possible services for Boston's older citizens. The AAA also provides direct funding for older adults-related services throughout Boston. The AAA unit of the Commission monitors their partner agencies providing the services and provides technical assistance as needed. The amount awarded is used for administration of Title III programs for older adults in the City of Boston.

*Title III – B Ombudsman – Docket #1139 for \$177,271.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal Title III funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA plans and coordinates public, private and voluntary programs to provide the best possible services for Boston's older citizens. The AAA also provides direct funding for older adults-related services throughout Boston. The AAA unit of the Commission monitors their partner agencies providing the services and provides technical assistance as needed. The amount awarded is used to support a partner organization to provide ombudsman services in long term care facilities (nursing homes, assisted living facilities and rest homes) throughout the city of Boston.

*Title III - D Diseases Prevention & Health Promotion – Docket #1140 for \$78,695.00:*

The Boston Area Agency on Aging Region VI, the Age Strong Commission, is a sub-grantee of the federal Title III funding through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The federal funding source of this annual grant is the Administration on Aging, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The AAA plans and coordinates public, private and voluntary programs to provide the best possible services for Boston's older citizens. The AAA also provides direct funding for older adults-related services throughout Boston. The AAA unit of the Commission monitors their partner agencies providing the services and provides technical assistance as needed. The amount awarded is used to fund partner organizations to provide services that assist older adults in the city of Boston to prevent illness and manage chronic conditions.

*Council on Aging – Docket #1343 for \$1,403,856.00:*

The Boston Council on Aging, the Age Strong Commission, receives the annual Formula Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The grant funds Commission staff who help older adults connect to services and benefits, support older volunteers, and engage older residents in events and programming. The grant is also used to supplement operating and printing expenses of the Commission's Boston Seniority monthly magazine and other communications vehicles, as well as, such other expenses as small office supplies and equipment. The amount awarded is retained in-house and is based on 116,988 older adults in the City of Boston at \$12 per person, according to 2020 Census data estimate from UMass Boston Donahue Institute.

## **Rationale and Recommended Action**

These grants authorize the expenditure of \$8,871,441.12 in grant funds for various programs and staff to support the programs. The grants support the work of the Age Strong commission and its partner organizations. All recipients must maintain detailed reports. Most of the Age Strong Commission grants are formula non-competitive, so no formal applications are required. A list of partners provided in the memorandum is attached to the report. Passage of these grants will allow for the continuation of these programs, services, and resources as well as supporting staff.

By the Chair of the Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities, to which the following were referred:

*Dockets #0931, #1134-1140, and #1343, Age Strong Commission grants,*

submits a report recommending that these dockets **ought to pass**.

For the Committee:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Breadon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Breadon, Chair  
Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities

## Appendix

Our partner network includes the following:

- **ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center** (III-B Access to benefits and food, exercise and educational classes, recreation, group outings)
- **ABCD North End/West End** (III-B Access to benefits and resources, exercise and meals, recreation)
- **Elders Living at Home Program (BMC)** (III-B Supports for older adults in the transition from homelessness to housing including assessment and case management, consumer education, housing placement and stabilization)
- **DEAF, Inc** (III-B Supports older adults who are deaf and hard of hearing with services and benefits, assistive technology assessments, education around proper use of equipment, and health education)
- **East Boston Social Centers** (III-B Social and recreational opportunities, educational classes, volunteer opportunities)
- **ESAC** (III-B senior home repair, senior housing search and stabilization)
- **Ethos** (III-B Volunteer Services Program including medical escort, telephone check-in, companionship, and grocery shopping, and technology access; III-C, State Elder Lunch and NSIP nutrition program; III-D multiple evidence based healthy aging programs; Long Term Care Ombudsman)
- **Friendship Works** (III-B volunteer matching in Spanish and English including friendly visiting and medical escorts)
- **Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center** (III-B Drop-in Senior Centers including health education, information, assistance, translation and interpretation, fitness and wellness, and technology access; III-C, State Elder Lunch and NSIP nutrition services; III-D multiple evidence based healthy aging classes)
- **Greater Boston Legal Services** (III-B Legal help and information for older adults)
- **Generations, Inc** (III-B volunteer programs)
- **Hearth** (III-B recreational activities for the purposes of housing stability)
- **Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción** (III-B health and wellness education, social and recreational activities, information and referral)
- **JFK Family Service Center - Charlestown** (III-B fitness classes, social and recreational activities, health education)
- **La Alianza Hispana** (III-B social and recreational activities, health education, translation and interpretation assistance, other supportive services; III-D multiple evidence based healthy aging classes)
- **Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly** (III-B City sites program including intergenerational connections and programming in senior housing, technology access)

- **MAB Community Services** (III-B Supports for older adults who are blind or visually impaired including in-home evaluations, companionship, support groups)
- **Operation PEACE for the Peterborough Senior Center** in Fenway (III-B social and recreational activities, health and fitness, cultural activities, educational opportunities, technology access)
- **South Boston Neighborhood House** (III-B recreational activities and exercise, technology and art classes, information and referral)
- **Vietaid** (III-B Interpretation and translation, exercise and wellness, recreational activities)
- **Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences** (III-D Medication management counseling and education)
- **MSPCC** (III-E Grandparents raising Grandchildren)
- **Boston Senior Home Care** (III-E Family Caregiver Program)
- We also keep some III-B funding in house for services including information and referral, advocacy and benefits enrollment.