



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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

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One City Hall Square 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ [city.council@boston.gov](mailto:city.council@boston.gov)

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

September 25, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities was referred the following docket for consideration:

*Docket #0907, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in the form of a grant, Childhood Obesity Prevention and Environmental Health Sustainability, awarded by the United States Conference of Mayors to be administered by the Office of Early Childhood Development. The grant will fund and support programs that engage community members and promote or stimulate behavior change in Childhood Obesity Prevention and environmental health and sustainability.*

This docket was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on June 5 2024.

*Docket #1106, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$165,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Mayor's Office of Human Services' Connect, Learn and Explore Initiative, awarded by Boston Children's Hospital to be administered by the Office of Human Services. The grant will fund youth sports and swim activities in partnership with Boston Public Schools*

*Docket #1109, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$22,500.00) in the form of a grant, for the Child Care Licensing Support grant, awarded by the United Way to be administered by the Office of Early Childhood. The grant will fund stipends for individuals who have completed the Family Childcare Licensing Support Training and have opened their businesses.*

These dockets were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on July 10, 2024.

*Docket #1172, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Senior's Save Program grant, awarded by the Boston Charitable Trust Fund to be administered by the Mayor's Office of Housing. The grant will fund the heating system replacement program for eligible senior citizen homeowners in Boston.*

*Docket #1176, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$11,600.00) in the form of a grant for the Escrow-Mitigation Activities, awarded to the City of Boston to be administered by the Boston Center for Youth and Families. The grant will fund to pay contractors for mitigation activities.*

These dockets were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on August 7, 2024.



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*Docket #1276, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of 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 FY25 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.*

*Docket #1278, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$1,736,520.00) in the form of a grant for the State FY25 Council on Aging formula allocation, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund social and health care services for 115,768 older adults in the City of Boston at \$15 dollars per person, according to the 2020 Census data for UMass Boston Donahue Institute.*

*Docket #1279, 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 FY25 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 #1280, 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 FY25 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 Caregivers Services for older Adults in the City of Boston.*

*Docket #1281, 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 FY25 Title III-A Administration grant 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 costs for the administration of Title III programs.*

*Docket #1283, 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 FY25 Title III- Ombudsman Program, award 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 #1284, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eighty-Four Thousand Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$84,058.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 Title III-D Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and*



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*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.*

These dockets were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on August 28, 2024.

## Summary of Legislation

*Docket #0907, authorizes the City to accept and expend \$50,000.00 in the form of a grant for **Childhood Obesity Prevention and Environmental Health Sustainability**, awarded by the **United States Conference of Mayors**, to be administered by the **Office of Early Childhood Development**.*

*Docket #1106 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$165,000.00 in the form of a grant for the **Mayor's Office of Human Services' Connect, Learn and Explore Initiative**, awarded by **Boston Children's Hospital** to be administered by the **Office of Human Services**.*

*Docket #1109 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$22,500.00 in the form of a grant for the **Child Care Licensing Support grant**, awarded by the **United Way** to be administered by the **Office of Early Childhood**.*

*Docket #1172 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$100,000.00 in the form of a grant for the **Senior's Save Program grant**, awarded by the **Boston Charitable Trust Fund** to be administered by the **Mayor's Office of Housing**.*

*Docket #1176 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$11,600.00 in the form of a grant for the **Escrow-Mitigation Activities**, awarded to the **City of Boston** to be administered by the **Boston Center for Youth and Families**.*

*Docket #1276 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$2,232,152.00 in the form of a grant, for the **Federal FY25 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**.*

*Docket #1278 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$1,736,520.00 in the form of a grant, for the **State FY25 Council on Aging formula allocation**, awarded by the **MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs** to be administered by the **Age Strong Commission**.*

*Docket #1279 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$1,038,243.00 in the form of a grant, for the **Federal FY25 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 #1280 authorizes the City to accept and expend \$530,999.00 in the form of a grant, for the **Federal FY25 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**.*



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*Docket #1281* authorizes the City to accept and expend \$461,143.00 in the form of a grant, for the *Federal FY25 Title III-A Administration grant* 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 #1283* authorizes the City to accept and expend \$177,271.00 in the form of a grant, for the *Federal FY25 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 #1284* authorizes the City to accept and expend \$84,058.00 in the form of a grant, for the *Federal FY25 Title III-D Disease Prevention and 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*.

## Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Monday, September 23, 2022, to discuss various grants to be administered by the Office of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, Mayor's Office of Housing, and the Age Strong Commission. The Committee heard testimony on behalf of the Administration from panelists which included Kristin McSwain, Senior Advisor and Director of the Office of Early Childhood; José Massó, Chief of Office of Human Services; Karen Rebaza, Director of Boston Home Center within the Mayor's Office of Housing; and Emily Shea, Age Strong Commissioner.

Chief Massó testified on *Dockets #1106* and *#1176*, explaining that *Docket #1106* will support collaborations between the Human Services Cabinet and Boston Public Schools to ensure all young people know how to swim and that *Docket #1176* will fund continued mitigation efforts specific to the Piping Plover population.

Director McSwain testified on *Dockets #0907* and *#1109*, explaining that *Docket #0907* will Childhood Obesity Prevention by funding the expansion of sports programming for youth, targeting 3-6 years olds and that *Docket #1109* will go towards the City's childcare entrepreneurship fund which supports family child care providers who want to start a business.

Director Rebaza testified on *Docket #1172*, explaining that the grant will support the Senior Save Program to replace failing or insufficient heating systems for eligible senior citizen homeowners.

Commissioner Shea testified on *Dockets #1276*, *#1278*, *#1279*, *#1280*, *#1281*, *#1283*, and *#1284*. It was explained that *Docket #1278* is awarded to the Commission each year for being the City of Boston's 'agency on aging' and funds a number of the Department's staff, among other programming initiatives. The Commissioner explained that *Dockets #1276*, *#1279*, *#1280*, *#1281*, *#1283*, and *#1284* are Title III grants that will be used to support programs that support older adults, including nutrition services, supportive services, caregiver support, disease prevention, and health promotion.



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Specifically, it was explained that *Docket #1276*, Title III C funding, will support congregate meal sites for older adults, as well as the citywide Meals on Wheels program for older adults; *Docket #1279*, Title III B funding, will support older adult programming through community partnerships; *Docket #1280*, Title III E funding, will support the Family Caregiver Program, which supports people caring for family members over the age of 60, or people over the age of 60 caring for younger family members; *Docket #1281*, Title III A funding, will cover administrative expenses related to aging services; *Docket #1283* granted under the Title III Ombudsman Program, will fund community partnerships to provide support services at long term care facilities; and finally, *Docket #1284*, Title III D funding, will support evidence-based healthy aging programs for disease prevention and health promotion.

Councilors inquired about the SHINE program, the Ombudsman program, and swim programs for youth aged 3-6 years old. The Administration explained that the SHINE program is not funded by the City but by federal and state sources and further assured the Committee that the Governor's recent veto of \$1M did not defund the SHINE program completely. Regarding the Ombudsman program, the Administration explained that the program is coordinated by Ethos, a nonprofit organization with volunteers assigned to different long-term care facilities who go around monthly to connect with the residents. Finally, regarding swim programs for children aged 3-6, the Administration explained that this past summer, the City offered three programs, reaching 100 children across the City, with plans to expand the program in the future.

## Summary of Amendments

*Dockets #1276, #1279, #1280, #1281, #1283, and #1284* were amended to accurately reflect dollar amounts granted. The grants as filed reflected the anticipated dollar amount the Age Strong Commission expected to receive based on various factors, but the grant amounts have since been confirmed. The dockets are amended as follows:

*Docket #1276, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of ~~Two Million Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$2,232,152.00)~~ Two Million Two Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Nine Dollars (\$2,283,959.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 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.*

*Docket #1279, 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)~~ One Million Sixty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,062,340.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 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 #1280, 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)~~ Five Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Five Dollars (\$527,205.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 Title III-E Family Caregiver Support Program, awarded by the U.S. Department of*



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*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 Caregivers Services for older Adults in the City of Boston.*

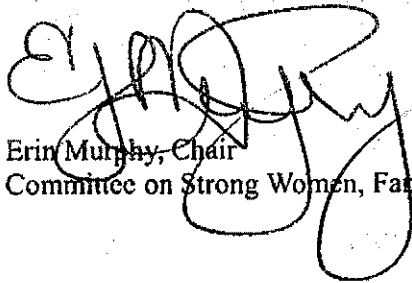
*Docket #1281, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of ~~Four Hundred Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Forty Three Dollars (\$461,143.00)~~ Four Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars (\$469,184.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 Title III-A Administration grant 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 costs for the administration of Title III programs.*

*Docket #1283, 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)~~ One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Six Dollars (\$177,406.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 Title III- Ombudsman Program, award 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 #1284, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of ~~Eighty-Four Thousand Fifty Eight Dollars (\$84,058.00)~~ Eighty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$84,323.00) in the form of a grant, for the Federal FY25 Title III-D Disease Prevention and 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*

### Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Strong Women, Families and Communities I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that *Dockets #0907, #1106, #1109, #1172, #1176 and #1278 OUGHT TO PASS* and that *Dockets #1276, #1279, #1280, #1281, #1283, #1284 OUGHT TO PASS IN A NEW DRAFT.*



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