



AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Franklin County & North Quabbin

What is Age & Dementia Friendly Franklin County & North Quabbin?

We are people working together to build the places, systems, and policies that make our communities livable and equitable for people of all ages and abilities.

LifePath Funds 17 Regional Organizations to Advance Age & Dementia Friendly Goals

LifePath has awarded funding to an array of community-based organizations in the second year of the annual Age & Dementia Friendly Community Grants initiative.

17 grants of up to \$3,000 each were awarded to support initiatives aligned with the [Regional Action Plan](#), a community-informed plan for building safer, welcoming, and more equitable communities for all ages and abilities.

Proposals were reviewed by individuals with lived experience, professional expertise, and local roots. Selected projects build on the work of previous awardees, expanding improvements to the policies, systems, and infrastructure of our region. This year's projects create more accessible outdoor spaces, strengthen digital literacy, promote dementia awareness, leverage technology to connect older adults to civic discourse, and much more.

According to Lynne Feldman, Associate Executive Director at LifePath, "We are grateful to these organizations who have stepped forward to partner with us on making our community more age and dementia friendly according to the goals set forth by residents. These initiatives are the

culmination of deep work and commitment by residents, local organizations, and our valued funders.”

Awards are supported in part by a three-year \$190,000 grant from the **Point32Health Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan, and by funding from LifePath. “These grants reflect the power of community-led solutions to create places where people can age with dignity, connection, and belonging,” said Caitlin Sullivan, Senior Community Investor at the Point32Health Foundation. “We’re proud to support LifePath and these local organizations advancing collaborative and inclusive projects that strengthen age-friendly communities across the region.”

Press Release with More Information About Awardees

Executive Office of Aging and Independence Offering FREE Virtual Digital Skills Training for Older Adults

-Reposted with permission from James Fuccione, MA Healthy Aging Collaborative

Now through September, the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) is offering free digital skills training through the **Northstar Digital Literacy** curriculum to up to 500 older adults in Massachusetts. The opportunity is available for councils on aging and aging service access points (ASAPs).

The Northstar curriculum provides tailored step-by-step, self-guided training modules to learners at various levels of digital skills. These courses typically cost \$500 per organization to administer. By partaking in this free offering from AGE, your organization can help your community learn the skills needed to fully participate in daily life and navigate online resources. Northstar offers set-by-step courses on basic computer skills, software skills (such as Microsoft Excel and Google Docs), and using technology in daily life (such as social media, accessing telehealth, and cybersecurity). They also offer certain courses in Spanish.

By setting your organization up with Northstar, you can also conduct assessments with your participants to track their progress over time. These assessments can also help auto-tailor the digital skills program to best meet your participants’ needs.

If your organization is interested email molly.r.evans@mass.gov to begin training.

Disaster Planning and Preparedness for Seniors and People with Disabilities

MAY 12, 2-3:30 PM
JOHN ZON SENIOR CENTER

Interested in learning how to be prepared for emergencies and natural disasters?

Please join representatives from the Greenfield Fire and Emergency Management Department and other local officials for an informational event and conversation for people with disabilities/older adults, their families, and advocates.

- Communication barriers, means of egress, and other needs and challenges will be discussed.
- Learn how to sign up for the Greenfield Community Connect & the Disability Indicator form for Landline, Wireless and VoIP Consumer.
- Refreshments will be provided at the end of the event.
- Hosted by the Greenfield Community and Economic Development Department with funding from a Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) grant & Mass in Motion.

FREE EVENT!

Registration is not required but we encourage you to RSVP at:

bit.ly/GreenfieldEmergencyPlanning

or scan the QR code



This video talks about building community by supporting the 'happy factor' through civic engagement in central Massachusetts.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Older Americans Act (Title III) and Church Street Home Fund

LifePath is now accepting grant proposals to support programs for older adults through the Older Americans Act (Title III) and the Church Street Home Fund. Funding is available for services including legal assistance, caregiver support, health promotion, home repairs, and senior center programs serving residents age 60+ (caregiver services 55+) in Franklin County and surrounding towns. Eligible applicants include municipalities, nonprofits, and businesses, with priority given to projects serving those with the greatest social and economic need. An online info session will be held May 14 at 1 p.m., with letters of intent due June 12 and full proposals due July 8. The grant period begins October 1, 2026. For details, visit LifePathMA.org.

Municipal ADA Improvement Plan

The Municipal ADA Improvement Grant provides reimbursement funding to Massachusetts cities and towns to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Funding supports updating a municipality's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition plans and making capital improvements that improve access or remove barriers in municipal programs, services, and facilities.

Eligible sites include municipally owned properties (such as town/city halls, libraries, parks, sidewalks, and streets), school districts, and housing authorities. Grants for planning and projects are available with a max award of \$250k. [Learn more here](#)

Grassroots Fund Grants

New England Grassroots Environment Fund supports small, volunteer-driven groups advancing Environmental Justice in broad ways—including food access, immigrant support, climate resilience, youth leadership, and mutual aid.

The Fund specializes in supporting groups without 501(c)(3) status or fiscal sponsors, prioritizing those with annual budgets under \$100,000.

- Seed Grants: Up to \$1,000 (rolling deadline) – to test new ideas.
- Grow Grants: Up to \$4,000 (next deadline: Sept. 16) – flexible funding for ongoing work.

Learn more and find application details at: grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs

MassVets Benefit Estimator Launched to Help Veterans Access Financial Aid

The MassVets Benefit Estimator helps veterans and families quickly determine eligibility for Chapter 115 financial assistance.

Chapter 115 provides state-funded aid for daily living expenses, medical costs, rent, and more. The 2024 HERO Act expanded benefits, preventing eligibility loss due to cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) and enabling direct deposit for faster payments.

Veterans can use the estimator at vets.mass.gov and apply through their local Veterans' Service Officer (VSO). For assistance, call (617) 210-5480.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Catalyst Fund

The Catalyst Fund provides one-time non-renewable grants of up to \$7,500 for twelve months to help community-based organizations strengthen their capacity to expand access to health and health care in Massachusetts. The Catalyst Fund is intended to help organizations pay for activities that can strengthen their infrastructure, build capacity, or plan for the future, and as its name implies, help spark innovation. [Click here for more information.](#)

Funding for Community Transportation

Looking for funding for a community transportation service or coordination effort? [Check out these federal, state, foundation, and other funding opportunities.](#)



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NEW

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Dementia Journey

Group for Those Living with Dementia and Their Care Partners

**Mondays at the
Athol Senior Center**

**May 4 to June 29
10:30-12:30**

Join us for an 8-session group for people living with early stage dementia and their care partners to equip themselves with resources and peer connections to help navigate the journey ahead.

The group will center around Ariadne Labs' Living Well with Dementia Toolkit, providing concrete strategies for enhancing quality of life.

Sessions cover essential topics such as relationships, daily living, future planning, health, and dementia supports.

A light meal will be provided!



Limited Space. Registration Required. Call or email to learn more:
Contact LifePath's Information & Caregiver Resource Center (ICRC)
at 413-773-5555 X1230, or email info@lifepathma.org

FREE TECH SUPPORT! with your Digital Navigator, Rich

If its on a computer, phone, or tablet, I can help! Whether you need support with internet access, devices, or digital skills, I offer **FREE** services to help you build your confidence with technology.

Weekly Service Locations:

Greenfield YMCA: **2nd and 4th Monday monthly, 9-11am**

Arms Library (Shelburne Falls): **1st & 3rd Monday monthly 1-3pm**

MassHire (Greenfield Corp. Center): **2nd and 4th Monday monthly, 12-2pm**

Greenfield Public Library: **Thursdays, 1-3pm**

Gill/Montague Senior Center: **Tuesdays, 12:15-1:45pm**

Franklin County Reentry Center: **First Monday monthly, 10-12pm**

Greenfield Senior Center: **Tuesdays, 9:30-11:45am**

Membership & Appointment Required: (413) 772-1517

Bernardston Senior Center: **2nd and 4th Monday monthly 10am-12pm**

Membership & Appointment Required: (413) 648-5413

Individual Appointments Available:

413-584-3962 x.111

Rich@uw-fh.org

My work is grant-funded by:



UNITED WAY
Franklin and
Hampshire Region

**The Alliance
for Digital Equity**



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LifePath, Inc. | 101 Munson Street Suite 201 | Greenfield, MA 01301 US

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