



# City of Cambridge

Agenda Item No. 13(A)

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

October 17, 1983

ORDERED:

That under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53A, the City herewith accepts a grant in the sum of \$670,454.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development to the Department of Human Service Programs for the FY 84 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

In City Council October 17, 1983.  
Adopted by a yea and nay vote:-  
Yeas 8; Nays 0; Absent 1.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13(B)  
 CITY COUNCIL  
 CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTRODUCED BY CITY MANAGER ROBERT W. HEALY

October 17, 1983

AN ORDER CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1983

ORDERED: That in addition to sums previously appropriated by the City Council for the fiscal period 1983-84 the following sum is hereby appropriated in the ~~General~~ Fund of the City of Cambridge:  
 Grant

| FUNCTION                     | DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM                | SALARIES & WAGES | TRAINING & TRAVEL | OTHER ORDINARY MAINTENANCE | EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES | APPROPRIATIONS |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Human Resource & Development | Department of Human Service Programs |                  |                   | \$ 670,454.00              |                            | \$ 670,454.00  |

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the above appropriations in the ~~General~~ Fund are to be financed by estimated revenues drawn from the following sources:  
 Grant

In City Council October 17, 1983.

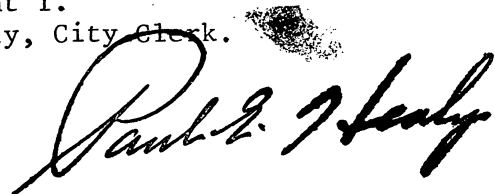
Adopted by a yeas and nays vote:-

Yeas 8; Nays 0; Absent 1.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



FINANCING PLAN

REVENUE

Massachusetts Executive Office  
 of Communities and Development Grant

\$670,454.00

# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council October 17, 1983

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER THIRTEEN (A)  
RE: ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF \$670,454. FROM THE STATE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OF COMMUNITIES & DEVELOPMENT

|                        | YEA | NAY | ABSENT | PRESENT |
|------------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| Mr. Daniel J. Clinton  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Thomas W. Danehy   | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Francis H. Duehay  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Ms. Sandra Graham      | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Leonard J. Russell | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. David E. Sullivan  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Walter J. Sullivan |     |     |        |         |
| Mr. Wylie              | ✓   |     | ✓      |         |
| Mayor Vellucci         | ✓   |     |        |         |

8 0 1

# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council October 17, 1983

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER THIRTEEN (B)  
RE: APPROPRIATION OF A GRANT OF \$670,454. TO THE DEPT. OF HUMAN  
SERVICE PROGRAMS

|                        | YEA | NAY | ABSENT | PRESENT |
|------------------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| Mr. Daniel J. Clinton  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Thomas W. Danehy   | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Francis H. Duehay  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Ms. Sandra Graham      | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Leonard J. Russell | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. David E. Sullivan  | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Walter J. Sullivan | ✓   |     |        |         |
| Mr. Wylie              |     |     | ✓      |         |
| Mayor Vellucci         | ✓   |     |        |         |
|                        | 8   | 0   | 1      |         |



City of Cambridge

Department of Human Service Programs

51 Inman Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139 498-9076

October 14, 1983

TO: Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

FROM: Jill Herold  
Assistant City Manager for Human Services

During the 1982-83 heating season, the Low-Income Fuel Assistance Program, administered by the Department of Human Services, served 2,100 households in Cambridge with direct payments to their oil dealers or utility companies. Despite changes in eligibility guidelines which eliminated many residents of publicly subsidized housing from participation in the program, the total number of households served in 1982-83 remained stable from the previous program year.

The fuel assistance program in Massachusetts is designed to aid, on an emergency basis during the winter season, those households whose income is inadequate to an ever-increasing burden of energy costs. Many of the households served are facing long-term economic difficulties, though the program can, and increasingly does, address the problems of families in temporary financial difficulties. Clients include the elderly on low and fixed incomes, households affected by unemployment or underemployment, the disabled, households relying on public assistance, and families whose earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs.

In 1982-83, over \$1 million in state and federal funds were expended on behalf of Cambridge clients to assist them in paying the costs of their primary heating source. In addition, 18,953 gallons of bulk oil (oil purchased by the Commonwealth from Citizens Energy Corporation) were delivered by local dealers to Cambridge residents, as a part of the program. Of the actual dollars expended, \$780,000 (or nearly 75%) were paid out for gas, an increase over last year's program largely attributable to the increase in gas rates; \$155,000 was paid out to local oil dealers; and the remainder was paid out to electric companies. Almost \$60,000 was paid out on behalf of those whose heating costs are included in their rent.

Benefits to individual households varied with the income level, the size of the household, and the actual energy used (from October 1, 1982--April 30, 1983.)

continued

Civic Unity 498-9018

Recreation 498-9028

Council on Aging / Elderly Services 498-9039

Community and Youth Services 498-9037/9072

TO: Robert W. Healy  
October 14, 1983  
Page 2

The average client benefit in 1982-83 was \$547, an increase of \$25 from the previous year, despite the fact that the weather was considerably milder than the previous year. The increase was partly due to increased rates for gas heat (thus lower usage did not lead to lower bills) and partly to improved outreach and client relations which led to earlier applications for benefits.

One of the most serious challenges of administering the program is helping all clients understand that the program offers only assistance, which at best can support no more than 60-65% of their total heating costs each year. Efforts to aid clients in setting up year long strategies for paying heating costs, to educate them about their rights and responsibilities in negotiating with their fuel vendor and advocating with fuel vendors and landlords for households facing serious emergencies are all as integral to the program as taking applications and paying out benefits.

The Fuel Assistance program also actively coordinates with C.A.S.H. (Cambridge Action to Save Heat) and with the weatherization program to ensure that clients have information, ideas, and no cost weatherization materials to further reduce their energy burdens. In 1983-84, the programs will be undertaking, in collaboration with the C.A.S.H. office and Commonwealth Gas, a study to assess the actual impact of weatherization on the burden of energy costs in the face of rising gas costs and other economic factors.

Cambridge households receiving help from the program are as diverse as the community itself. Thirty-nine percent are elderly; thirty-four percent (34%) are part of the city's racial and linguistic minority communities. In terms of primary income source, thirty-six percent (36%) receive Social Security and/or S.S.I. benefits; eighteen percent (18%) are AFDC clients, a mere three percent (3%) receive General Relief. The remainder (nearly half) rely on earned income, unemployment benefits, pensions, and other sources.

The early phases of outreach for the 1983-84 program are underway, including a mailing to all previous recipients and press coverage in the Chronicle. Phone lines are still jammed, however, and additional resources have been added to ensure that clients can get through as quickly as possible. About 40% of the appointments are scheduled for the main office and the remaining 60% are divided equally among sites in North Cambridge, East Cambridge, and Cambridgeport/Riverside.

In just six working days, 667 applicants have been scheduled for intake, advised of regulation changes, and reminded about needed documentation.

continued

TO: Robert W. Healy  
October 14, 1983  
Page 3

Several program changes have been instituted to improve the program for the clients. At the state level, policy changes now permit the program to pay for actual energy used during the program months while the client continues to pay a small amount monthly. This is particularly advantageous for elderly clients who have always found it difficult to understand why they shouldn't continue to pay "a little something." This policy also underscores for the clients their need to develop a year long strategy.

Other changes at the local level will enable program staff to secure Social Security income documentation for elderly clients so they are not faced with that extra trip during winter months. Similar arrangements are available for AFDC and General Relief recipients.

Information on this year's income guidelines and intake sites and hours are attached.

fc



# SOMERVILLE/CAMBRIDGE FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



51 INMAN STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 491-4367  
265 WASHINGTON STREET SOMERVILLE MA 02143 623-8400

TO: All Human Service Agencies in Cambridge and Somerville

FROM: Cambridge - Somerville Fuel Assistance Program 1983-84

DATE: October 3, 1983

As you've probably noticed, the Fuel Assistance Program for 1983-84 has begun. Although actual applications will not be taken until October 17, and payments can not be made until November 1, phone calls have started to come in fast and furious.

For your information, the chart below shows current eligibility requirements and benefit levels. The program will make direct payments to an eligible client's fuel vendor for heating fuel used or delivered between October 1 and April 30. If a client's heat is included in their rent, rental assistance payments can be made. Because funds can be depleted before the end of the heating season, it is advised that people call early to determine eligibility and then submit their bills as they come in.

In order to apply for the program a person must CALL to set up an appointment for an intake interview. In Cambridge the number is 491-4367. In Somerville, call 623-8400. There are no walk-in appointments!!

### ELIGIBILITY CHART

| Household Size | Income Range #1 | Income Range #2 | Income Range #3 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1              | \$ 6,075        | \$ 7,290        | \$ 8,505 *      |
| 2              | 8,175           | 9,810           | 11,445 *        |
| 3              | 10,275          | 12,330          |                 |
| 4              | 12,375          | 14,850          |                 |
| 5              | 14,475          | 17,370          |                 |
| 6              | 16,575          | 19,890          |                 |
| 7              | 18,675          | 22,410          |                 |
| 8              | 20,775          | 24,930          |                 |

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Over 8 | 2,100/each | 2,520/each |
|        | Additional | Additional |

**Benefits**

|        |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Levels | \$750 | \$500 | \$325 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|

Note\*: Income Range #3 for one-and-two person households is a State Program funded entirely by the Commonwealth of Mass.



# SOMERVILLE/CAMBRIDGE FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



51 INMAN STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 491-4367  
265 WASHINGTON STREET SOMERVILLE MA 02143 623-8400

## Cambridge Intake Sites

|  |                                       |                                     |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| D.H.S.P.<br>51 Inman St.                           | Mon - Fri<br>(closed thurs & Fri Aft) | All Intake<br>Workers-various hours |
| North Cambridge Branch Library<br>70 Rindge Avenue | Tues & Thurs<br>1 - 4:30 P.M.         | Helene Corry                        |
| North Congregational Church<br>1805 Mass. Avenue   | Tues & Thurs<br>8:30 - 11:30 A.M.     | Helene Corry                        |
| Cambridge Food Coop<br>580 Mass Avenue             | Mon & Fri<br>9 - 12:30 P.M.           | Amy Beauchaine<br>Rosa Vidal        |
| Graham/Parks School<br>15 Upton Street             | Tues & Thurs<br>8:30 - 12 noon        | Rosa Vidal<br>Maria Rivera          |
| Margaret Fuller House<br>71 Cherry Street          | Wed & Fri<br>8:30 - 12:30 P.M.        | Maria Rivera                        |
| East End House<br>105 Spring Street                | Tues/Wed/Thurs<br>9 - 12 noon         | Amy Beauchaine                      |
| Harrington School<br>850 Cambridge Street          | Mon Evening<br>4 - 7 P.M.             | Richard Lubell                      |
| GHAMA<br>105 Windsor Street                        | Wed<br>9 - 12 Noon                    | Tonie Marsh                         |



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

October 17, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached please find for your review and action an order requesting the acceptance and appropriation of a grant in the amount of \$670,454 from the State Executive Office of Communities and Development to the Department of Human Service Programs for the FY 84 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

This appropriation represents the initial round of program funds allocated to the Department and the funds associated with the administration of this program.

Passage of the enclosed orders is recommended.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/b

Agenda Item Number Thirteen

F-273

Re: acceptance and appropriation of a grant  
of \$670,454. to the Dept. of Human Service  
Programs.

In City Council,

October 17, 1983

*MV/A 10/17/83*

*Two Orders Adopted*

*8-0-1*