

GATEWAY CITIES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Gateway Cities is a grant program that was created by the Massachusetts Legislature this term. It is designed to help cities that have had an influx of recent immigrants needing specialized services and/or needing better access to existing city services. The formula for distributing funds was based on each city's school enrollment of children for whom English is not their primary language, as a means of calculating the immigrant population as a whole. The Gateway Cities program will operate in 26 cities and towns found eligible under these guidelines.

The Gateway Cities funds are being made available under the state local aid program, and only cities and towns may make application for and manage these funds. Cities may operate the services themselves, sub-contract with non-profit organizations, or any combination which best meets local needs. According to the state formula, Cambridge is eligible for \$239,706.54.

The Gateway Cities program is administered by the state Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD), and the program's regulations are published under Chapter 206, Acts of 1986, 751 CMR.

Cambridge Gateway Cities

Local Planning Process

The Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs conducted the planning and application process for the City of Cambridge, as directed by the City Manager.

The Cambridge Gateways process was conducted on an open RFP (request for proposal) basis. Municipal departments and private non-profit agencies applied for funding in the same manner. Three broad service categories were established: Health, Education and Social Service programs.

Every city department and private agency interested in applying for Cambridge Gateways funding received a four-page set of guidelines which explained the program and set forth the review procedures and funding criteria.

Departments and agencies were notified of the availability of funds through a mailing which was sent to 45 organizations in Cambridge who serve significant numbers of immigrants. In addition to the mailing, staff members made outreach phone calls to linguistic minority agencies and other community groups which would certainly be applying.

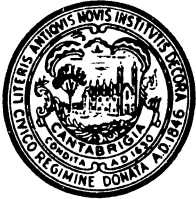
A second mailing was sent to the same 45 organizations informing them that an information session/public hearing on Gateways would be held on Wednesday, March 4 in the City Council chambers. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to applicants and hear testimony on the specific needs of newcomer communities. A Legal Notice was also placed in the Cambridge TAB announcing the hearing.

The City Manager appointed a Gateway Cities Advisory Board for the purpose of forwarding recommendations to him on the use of Gateway funds in Cambridge. The Cambridge Gateway Cities Advisory Board was composed of the Cambridge Human Service Commission, with added representation from newcomer communities. The Cambridge Human Service Commission was established through the same City Council ordinance which created the Cambridge Department of Human Services. Included in their duties is, "It shall be the function of the (Human Service) Commission to advise the City Manager of all policy issues and major problem areas pertaining to human service matters and to promote activities that enhance the quality of life for all the citizens of Cambridge."

The Gateways Advisory Committee met three times during the course of the planning process. At their first meeting, the Advisory Committee reviewed the background of the Gateways program and approved the local planning process, including the guidelines and funding criteria. The second meeting of the Advisory Committee was the hearing on March 4. The hearing was attended by over 40 people, 12 of whom testified on the needs of newcomers in Cambridge. The Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, March 25 to formulate its recommendations to the City Manager on Gateway Cities funding.

The Advisory Committee reviewed 22 proposals submitted by 12 applicant groups. The Cambridge Gateways allocation is \$239,707 and the requests totaled \$573,849, or 2.4 times the available funding. The Advisory Committee members read all of the proposals in advance. At the meeting each committee member assigned a numerical value to each proposal, based on their interest in funding the proposed project. The scores were then tabulated and the rankings were reported to the group. Time was allotted for the discussion of each project, and for explanatory remarks by

committee members and staff. Funding allocations were made beginning at the highest ranked proposal and continuing until funds were no longer available. Some proposals were recommended for full funding, some were recommended for less than full funding based on the budgetary information submitted, and others were reduced to meet the \$239,707 allocation figure. The recommendations were approved by a unanimous vote of the committee, and forwarded to the City Manager on Friday, March 27.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 27, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached is a summary of the process used for determining the
funding for the Gateway Cities Program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Re: enclosed summary of hte process used for
determining the funding for the Gateway Cities
Program.

In City Council,

April 27, 1987

Referred to Hearing
Scheduled @ 5:30 P.M.

Hearing Held
Placed on F-1