

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Bedford Public Schools, 761-275-7566, [carrie\\_powers@bedfordps.org](mailto:carrie_powers@bedfordps.org)

**Contact:** Alison Harding, Cummings Foundation, 781-932-7093, [aeh@cummings.com](mailto:aeh@cummings.com)

### **Bedford Public Schools awarded \$60,000.00 Cummings grant**

*Bedford/MA receives 3 years of funding from Cummings Foundation*

Bedford, May 30 2023 – Bedford Public Schools is one of 150 local organizations that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation's major annual grants program. The Bedford-based organization was selected from a total of 630 applicants during a competitive review process. Bedford will receive \$60,000.00 over three years.

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The Bedford Public Schools will offer an Adult ESL Program. The program is free of charge for adults who would like to take Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced ESL classes. Bedford is also offering a Citizenship prep class for those adults interested in becoming US Citizens.

"The Cummings Foundations supports Adult ESL Education and is making this program possible."

The Bedford Adult ESL program will offer a Citizenship Class, Intermediate ESL Class and Beginning Class this fall. Please register by emailing [carrie\\_powers@bedfordps.org](mailto:carrie_powers@bedfordps.org). Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real

estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“The way the local nonprofit sector perseveres, steps up, and pivots to meet the shifting needs of the community is most impressive,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are incredibly grateful for these tireless efforts to support people in the community and to increase equity and access to opportunities.”

The majority of the grant decisions were made by about 90 volunteers. They worked across a variety of committees to review and discuss the proposals and then, together, determine which requests would be funded. Among these community volunteers were business and nonprofit leaders, mayors, college presidents, and experts in areas such as finance and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

“It would not be possible for the Foundation to hire the diversity and depth of expertise and insights that our volunteers bring to the process,” said Vyriotes. “We so appreciate the substantial time and thought they dedicated toward ensuring that our democratized version of philanthropy results in equitable outcomes that will really move the needle on important issues in local communities.”

The Foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year grants of up to \$225,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected by a volunteer panel to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 46 different cities and towns.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded \$480 million to greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year’s 150 grant winners, plus nearly 1,500 previous recipients, is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

## **About Bedford Public Schools**

Bedford Public Schools supports Adult ESL learning by providing Bedford High School as a site for the Bedford Adult ESL program. Bedford welcomes language learners and supports English Language Education programs in all schools. .

## **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).