



SERVICES TO MONTAGUE IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Assisted with completion of the visioning and goal-setting phase for development of a Montague Comprehensive Plan. For phase 2, developed technical memos and chapters for the climate & energy, housing, and transportation elements of the plan for Town staff and steering group review.
- Assisted with the first steps for Montague Municipal Vulnerability Plan pilot process.
- Provided technical assistance related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects, resulting in a signed recreation settlement agreement.
- Facilitated a monthly meeting with the MA Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Program, which allowed Montague staff to facilitate rehabilitation and eventual occupancy of abandoned housing.
- As part of a six-town Complete Neighborhoods "Greenfield Area" grant project, FRCOG worked on a zoning analysis of the area, to draft recommendations for increasing housing diversity.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) administrators on results from 81 G-M students, representing 59% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Staff reported to Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) administrators on results from 248 FCTS students representing 86% of the 10th and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Provided funding to Montague Catholic Social Ministries to support their after-school leadership and STEM program for low income and immigrant young women and girls.
- Provided 17 Montague children with summer camp scholarships through a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.
- Worked with GMRSD administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the GMRSD.
- Supported Montague Mass in Motion Age-friendly workgroup on age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Mass in Motion funding supported a Montague resident to coordinate the workgroup and facilitate the age-friendly identification of needs and potential strategies. The group produced a report, which the town leveraged to apply for and receive funding for digital literacy for older adults.
- Provided outreach materials to cannabis businesses that focus on safeguarding children and pets from cannabis exposure by emphasizing safe storage, plus other tips and resources.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided a CHIP grant to Atlas Farm to bring a mobile farmers market bus to Millers Falls.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Supported access to the US Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Brownfields Assessment program to assess two town-owned sites.
- Supported municipal and Turners Falls business community engagement with the consultants conducting the Rural Downtown District Management Study, as funded by a state grant to FRCOG.

- Provided assistance for the town’s application for local digital equity planning services from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and began working on the Montague Digital Equity Plan.
- Participated in meetings of local and state representatives working on Strathmore Mill property.
- Provided technical assistance on historic preservation-related planning.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Montague contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, fire alarm and fire extinguisher services, dog tags and licenses, and water treatment chemicals. Staff facilitated a bid for installation of a generator at the water pollution control facility, and conducted a collective five-year bid for student transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Montague public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Emergency Preparedness

- Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization – 2
- K-9 Life Support Certification – 14
- Assault and Battery Response – 3

Municipal Officials’ Continuing Education

- One-Stop Municipal Grants Information Session – 2

Public Health & Community Awareness

- Age & Dementia-Friendly Community Talk – 6
- Health Workforce Performance Standards – 1
- Mass in Motion Community Engagement – 3
- State Tobacco Updates – 1
- Understanding Alzheimer’s & Dementia – 5
- USDA Rural Development Grant Info Session – 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Assisted the town with implementation of project funded through the MA Shared Streets and Spaces Program to improve the bus stop at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Participated in the Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Conducted 12 traffic counts, including pedestrian counts on Montague City Road at the Farren site, intersection turning movement counts on Turnpike Road at the Sandy Lane intersection, and pedestrian and bicycle counts on the Canalside trail near Depot Street.
- Completed a summary report for an electric vehicle station survey in the town of Montague.
- Provided assistance to facilitate the Route 2 Task Force.
- Completed a data request for a Montague-based business.