



SERVICES TO SUNDERLAND IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Helped the town administrator with completion of the FY23 MA Green Communities Annual Report.
- Assisted the planning board with preparation of a zoning bylaw and the public hearing process to address accessory and stand-alone battery-energy storage facilities.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 223 Frontier students, representing 76% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Worked with Frontier Regional School District (FRSD) administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided resources and direct technical assistance to student groups for advancing racial justice in schools to the FRSD.
- Provided training and stipends to parent leaders ("PEER Ambassadors") to provide outreach to other parents on topics such as positive parenting, youth substance-use prevention, and mental health resources.
- Supported the South County Senior Center and community members on Mass in Motion age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Mass in Motion funded additional staff time for the South County Senior Center Director and Outreach Coordinator to hold focus groups on issues of transportation and food security, fund a senior center postcard marketing effort aimed at residents over 55 and resulting in 48 new members, and to hold info/input sessions with the Franklin County and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authorities. Senior center staff leveraged this planning to apply for and receive digital literacy and transportation grants.
- Provided 4 Sunderland children with summer camp scholarships through a Community Health Improvement Plan Foundation for Community Justice mini-grant to improve youth health.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Sunderland contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment. Staff assisted the town with a bid for the replacement of an underground storage tank at Sunderland Elementary. Staff also conducted a Collective 5-year bid for Student Transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments through the end of March.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization – 1
Assault and Battery Response – 3

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

Selectboard 101 – 1

Planning, Conservation, & Development

Short Term Residential Rentals – 1

TRANSPORTATION

- Met with the South County Senior Center about public transit needs and issues.
- Participated in preliminary visioning meeting regarding the intersection of Route 116 and Route 47.
- Engaged in contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Conducted truck survey and reporting at the rest area in Sunderland for truck drivers.
- Provided technical assistance in preliminary discussion of Route 116 corridor improvements to better accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.