

To: **Town of Chilmark**  
Re: Warrant Article to Support Adult Education on Martha's Vineyard  
From: All Island School Committee  
Contact: Holly Bellebuono, [holly@acemv.org](mailto:holly@acemv.org), 774-563-9677

Warrant Article: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of \$10,780 to fund the Town of Chilmark's share of the expenses of the All-Island School Committee's contract for adult and community education in Fiscal Year 2022.

**NOTE: Chilmark's share for FY22 is \$10,780, which is a ZERO change from last year.**

Next to housing, the January 2020 Dukes County Focus Group, with the Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & The Islands (CACCI), identified training and workforce education as the greatest need on Martha's Vineyard. Our seasonal economy, high cost of living, and lack of a college or university campus contribute to barriers facing Islanders seeking to create or maintain their professional careers. Credentials are needed for almost every job, yet almost 1/3 (28%) of all MVRHS graduates drop out of 2- and 4-year colleges/universities every year. Most return to the Island to work, and they need skills and training. Additionally, Island employers need Island residents who are capable, trained, and educated.

Why fund adult education? The NEED FOR ACCESS to certification, skills & safety training, licensure, and degree opportunities in all of Martha's Vineyard's six towns is high. For FY22, the All-Island School Committee (AISC) and its vendor ACE MV have identified workforce education needs:

- 475 Vineyard teachers, who directly support 2,250 elementary and high school children
- 40-50 early education professionals, who directly support 572 infants and toddlers on Martha's Vineyard
- 100's of construction workers, who build, repair, renovate and landscape on Martha's Vineyard, and the hundreds of construction supervisors, project managers, and foremen
- 103 Registered Nurses working at MV Hospital & Windemere, not including travel and per-diem nurses, plus hundreds of CNAs needed at clinics and homes across Martha's Vineyard
- More than 5,000 Vineyard residents over age 60 needing gerontology or dementia care
- The roughly 92 MVRHS graduates each year who choose a non-4-year-college plan
- The unknown number of "disconnected youth" ages 18-25 who live and work on Martha's Vineyard

- The 74 high school juniors and seniors enrolled in Career and Technical Education courses each year, who will seek Island-based jobs after graduating
- Countless Vineyard retailers, restauranteurs, service providers, and hospitality/tourist business owners
- All local industries including fishermen, marine science, renewable energy, transportation, and municipal and technical jobs
- The MV Public School's strategic plan includes making STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) opportunities a priority
- Lonely elders need enrichment options and job opportunities to teach classes in their area of expertise
- The 10-20 Vineyard adults who pursue their high school diploma each year

#### **Adult Education Recommended By The All-Island School Committee**

The AISC enthusiastically supports adult education on Martha's Vineyard and has made it a priority every year, securing ACE MV as a vendor to provide a myriad of essential education services to our Island community. Through AISC's funding from all six Island towns and through private, foundation, and corporate donations, the AISC and ACE MV are able to contract with off-Island education providers and supply affordable, accessible training and credential opportunities to Vineyard residents in business, health care, educator/school administration, tourism/hospitality, trades and renewable energy, and literacy.

To address needs, ACE MV has served more than 7,600 Vineyarders with an average of 70 high-quality, accessible and affordable trainings, courses, and programs each year—many of which are taught by local residents hired and employed by ACE MV, totaling more than 1,188 classes offered. Additionally, ACE's mission includes keeping education affordable; to date, ACE MV has provided more than \$32,000 in scholarships, tuition reductions, and class discounts.

Off-Island partnerships with colleges and universities are critical to serve Island residents: adult ed on Martha's Vineyard must include partnerships with Fitchburg State, Cape Cod Community College, and Bristol Community College. Classes include HERS rater certification, pesticide and fertilizer cert, construction supervisors license, CPR and first aid, language instruction for hospital staff, business courses for municipal workers, Portuguese language, HiSET diploma prep, business, technology, and more. Partnerships must exist with Upper Cape Tech, MVRHS, MV Hospital, and MassHire Cape & Islands to develop opportunities for the Island's workforce.

Adult education on Martha's Vineyard must include Renewable Energy, Wind and Marine Sciences, preparing Island residents to graduate with a professional credential from Bristol Community College in wind energy. Because Martha's Vineyard's heritage is based on fishing,

harbors, waterway infrastructure, ecology, boats and vessels, and maritime professions, adult education must also include Marine Science and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

Adult education must include community lectures, “think tanks,” discussion panels, and awareness events—providing all adults and elders with forums for dialogue about current events and civics. The towns’ commitment to adult education also supports the Island’s only HiSET/GED preparatory classes and testing for individuals seeking to earn their high school diploma.

### **Adult Education Priorities for Martha’s Vineyard**

#### **#1: Workforce Development**

Island professionals in the building trades and in health care, business owners, tourism and hospitality professionals, and youth and school educators require accessible and affordable training and education throughout their careers. A 2015 Community Needs Assessment identified workforce education as the top type of education needed on the Vineyard.

#### **#2: Renewable Energy**

All six towns on Martha’s Vineyard have committed to being “Green Communities” and will need training for technicians, home and auto mechanics, and appliance service providers. In addition, the Offshore Wind turbine leases 14 miles off MV’s south shore will require technicians, providing 30-50 jobs annually for qualified and trained Vineyard residents.

#### **#3: Career Pathways for Young Adults**

MVRHS students, MV Public Charter School students, and young adults to age 25 need career skills, career pathway direction, and employability supports. In addition, MVRHS guidance counselors, social workers, and paraprofessionals need career education.

#### **#4: Community Enrichment**

Adults of all ages need enrichment opportunities, including social and racial justice seminars, language instruction, and personal skill development.

#### **#5: At-Risk Adult Literacy**

Adult education must support adults pursuing their HiSET/GED, as well as at-risk adults needing basic life and career skills.

### **Agreements and Partnerships with Off-Island Providers in Place**

Thanks to more than a decade working from the Island with off-Island providers, ACE MV is in a strong position to continue bringing adult education to the Vineyard. The following businesses, higher educational institutions, and government agencies partner with ACE:

- **Bristol Community College (BCC)**- ACE MV entered into an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the development and implementation of the Offshore Wind Technician Certificate program, which launched in January 2020.
- **All Phase Training, Duxbury, MA**- This brings licensure prep courses for contractors to acquire or maintain credentialing in Hoisting and Commercial Driving.
- **Bureau of Building Regulations and Standards**
- **Cape Cod Community College (CCCC)** – Since 2008, ACE MV has worked with the administration of CCCC to facilitate a stronger presence on MV, providing dozens of classes, degrees, and recruiting sessions.
- **Cape Cod Cooperative Extension**- We work with CCCE to bring expert entomologists to the island to train and offer CEUs to our landscape workforce in proper handling of pesticides.
- **Commonwealth Education Seminars**
- **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Reclamation and Mosquito Board**- We bring expert entomologists to the island to train and offer CEUs to our landscape workforce.
- **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources**- MDAR offers CEUs for the island landscapers who take our fertilizer and pesticide classes.
- **Contractors Success, Athol, MA**- licensure prep classes to Islanders to become builders.
- **Fitchburg State University (FSU)** - Since Fall of 2012 ACE MV has been a partner in FSU's Extended Campus Programs. Our partnership with FSU includes a 2-year Master's in Education in Teaching and Curriculum to Island teachers.
- **Golf Course Superintendents of America**- This partnership provides Education Points to MV golf course superintendents who participate in our professional landscape classes.
- **Jobs For the Future**. JFF staff support ACE MV with consultation regarding Career Pathways development for Island youth and young adults.
- **MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Development Board in Hyannis**. ACE MV works with this agency for state funding guidance and career initiatives.
- **Mass Nail It!, Milford, MA**.- This partnership supports licensed builders.
- **University of Massachusetts, Amherst Extension Turf Management Program**- This partnership allows us to bring turf management specialists and UMass, Amherst professors to the island to train our landscape workforce to be licensed fertilizer handlers.

#### Active Martha's Vineyard and Regional Partnerships In Support of Adult Education

- **Councils on Aging, Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands, Hospice of Martha's Vineyard, Healthy Aging MV, Dukes County Health Council, and MV Center 4 Living**. We partner with these agencies to plan and deliver gerontology, health, and aging education to our community's families and health professionals.
- **MV Building Association, MV Commission/Climate Action Task Force, and Vineyard Power Cooperative**. The directors and members of the MVBA serve on ACE MV's Advisory Committees and support our educational programs for tradespeople and renewable energy.

- **MV Hospital, MV Museum, Island Grown Initiative, Island Disability Coalition, Dukes Conservation District, MV Agricultural Society, Dukes County Homeless Prevention, MV Community Services, and more.** ACE MV partners with these organizations to assess need and develop a wide range of health, environmental, and horticultural educational opportunities for their staff, clients, and members.
- **MV Nonprofit Collaborative.** In addition to being their member, we support the MVNC by developing nonprofit leadership and management courses.
- **MV Regional High School and MV Public Charter School.** Our collaboration is strong with both school districts; we plan and deliver career pathway support and dual-enrollment opportunities for high school juniors and seniors.
- **MV Social Justice Leadership Foundation.** We work with the MVSJLF to develop and deliver social and racial justice education classes and seminars.
- **MV Youth, Permanent Endowment, Cape Cod 5 Bank Foundation.** These local philanthropic organizations have committed to supporting ACE MV programming.
- **MV Adult Learning Program and MV Transit Authority.** Essential activities for language and trade courses result from these partnerships.
- **SCORE.** We have close relationships with many SCORE volunteers who help us develop programs and provide classes and trainings.

Also, due to ACE MV’s existing partnership with Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, its offices are located within the school building and ACE uses school classrooms, culinary rooms, and other offices for adult education classes and workshops. ACE MV also hosts classes at the Vineyard Transit Authority, MV Hospital, MV Boys and Girls Club, and other on-Island venues.

The All-Island School Committee looks forward to continuing the provision of adult education for Martha’s Vineyard residents. The AISC thanks each town on Martha’s Vineyard for sharing equally (based on the 50/50 formula) in supporting the cost of adult education.

### **Projected FY22 Forecast for Adult Education**

#### **Revenue**

Grants, community contributions, tuition, sponsorships	\$289,788
All-Island School Committee (all 6 Towns)	\$ 68,231
<i>Total</i>	<b>\$358,019</b>

#### **Expenses**

Programming	\$320,132
Administration and office	\$ 35,900
Other	\$ 1,850
<i>Total</i>	<b>\$357,882</b>

Net (Revenue -Expenses)	\$ 137
-------------------------	--------