



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Seaport Economic Council

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August 9, 2019



Dear Coastal Community Leader:

As you know, the Commonwealth's maritime history is storied. Even today, the Blue Economy remains an important part of Massachusetts' job base and economic impact. According to our most recent numbers, the statewide economic impact of maritime-related industries is more than \$17 billion, incorporating more than 5,500 businesses and nearly 136,000 jobs. The Baker-Polito Administration reestablished the Seaport Economic Council in 2015 in order to support and develop the industry and remains committed to providing real dollars every year to support maritime-related planning and infrastructure within Massachusetts' 78 coastal communities. The Seaport Economic Council works to expand the maritime industry, promote economic development and support resilient infrastructure along the state's nearly 200 miles of coastline.

Since our reestablishment in August 2015, the Council has awarded \$39.6 million in grants for 83 projects across the Commonwealth's maritime communities. Those dollars have leveraged \$33.9 million in federal, local, and private matching funds for a total of \$73.5 million of strategic investments to our maritime economy.

The Seaport Economic Council offers capital funding in five areas.

- **Innovation Grants:** These funds serve as a resource to promote innovative ideas and projects that support job creation and economic growth within the maritime sector, broadly defined as shipping and trade; marine science and technology; coastal recreation and tourism; ocean-based clean energy initiatives; and the seafood industry. Administered by the John Adams Innovation Institute at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, \$2.4 million has been awarded to date to 10 innovation projects since 2015.
- **Grants to Public Education Institutions:** These funds are available to public education institutions from Pre-K through higher education that foster awareness of our coastal assets and the maritime traditions of the Commonwealth. Four public education projects have been funded for a total of \$1.6 million since 2015.
- **Local Maritime Economic Development Planning Grants:** Recognizing the diverse character of our coastal communities, from deep-water port cities to small beach towns, these funds provide capacity for coastal communities to consider their unique qualities to

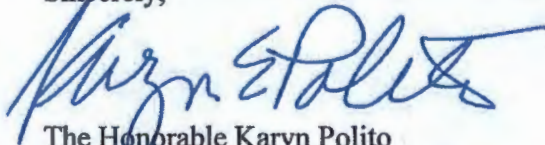
promote economic development and grow maritime business and job opportunities. Since 2015, \$1.7 million has been awarded for 15 planning grants.

- Maritime Economic Sector Strategy Grants: Guided by Navigating the Global Economy: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Massachusetts Maritime Economy by the UMass Dartmouth Public Policy Center, \$600,000 in sector strategy grants were awarded for five projects since 2015, including reports and surveys on the challenges and opportunities within the maritime sector.
- Supportive Coastal Infrastructure Grants: The largest program under the Seaport Economic Council, these funds are used to support investments in coastal infrastructure and resiliency. Each project can be awarded up to \$1 million. Since 2015, \$33 million in infrastructure grants have been distributed to more than 50 projects.

While we have witnessed the success of the Seaport Economic Council's work first hand, we want to learn from you as we engage on a new four-year program of investment. I have attached a [link \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5CY3LZ\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5CY3LZ) to a brief survey in order to identify your needs and priorities as it relates to the maritime economy and state funding support. Your input will help us plan for and promote our work in the years ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Commonwealth and the Blue Economy. We know that you appreciate the invaluable roles that our waterfronts and our maritime industry play in our state. We encourage you to follow the work of the Seaport Economic Council and apply for our programs during our biannual grant rounds. If you have any questions about the work of the Seaport Economic Council or our survey, please do not hesitate to contact Ellen Cebula, Director, Seaport Economic Council, at 508-999-3030.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Karyn Polito  
Chair, Seaport Economic Council  
Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts