



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Charlie J. Sisitsky
Mayor

508-532-5401
mayor@framinghamma.gov
www.framinghamma.gov

MEMORIAL BUILDING
150 Concord Street, Room 213
Framingham, MA 01702

Michael A. Tusino III
Chief Operating Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 5/11/2023

For further information, contact:

Susan Scully Petroni
City of Framingham Public Information Officer
spetroni@framinghamma.gov
508-782-8629

City of Framingham & Town of Natick Granted \$20,000 To Make Communities ‘Climate Ready’

WASHINGTON DC - The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), with support from the Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded a partnership between the Town of Natick and the City of Framingham in Massachusetts with \$20,000 to supplement ongoing climate change and health adaptation initiatives at the local level.

Adaptation is an integral part of community resilience against the broad-reaching effects of unpredictable weather patterns attributed to climate change, the most obvious of which is the impact to human health.

The [Town of Natick](#) and the [City of Framingham](#) in Massachusetts will partner to use the grant to proactively share climate readiness information with residents living in neighborhoods historically affected by environmental injustice in a culturally resonant way.

“This grant will advance communications with all Framingham residents as we prepare for climate change impacts. Obtaining necessary health and safety information, especially our most vulnerable populations through improved existing platforms and/or newer advanced systems, is critical in our preparation efforts,” said Framingham Health Director Bill Murphy

As frontline communities, these residents are more vulnerable to climate change and typically have access to fewer resources to prepare for, and cope with, extreme weather.

Seeking out and respecting the experience and knowledge of these residents is critical to advancing climate equity.

The Town of Natick and Framingham will hire multilingual residents living in these neighborhoods, known as "Community Climate Liaisons," to co-design and co-promote climate readiness communication materials as part of the project.



CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

“We are excited to continue working with the Town of Natick to codevelop culturally-resonant and multilingual climate preparedness communications for our communities, advancing a major priority we heard from residents through MetroWest Climate Equity Project. This work is a testament to the excellent, forward-thinking emergency management and public health teams supporting both communities and will help strengthen local resilience to climate impacts such as extreme weather for vulnerable populations,” said City of Framingham Sustainability Coordinator Shawn Luz.

A recent climate opinion [piece](#) from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication shows the percentage of Americans feeling “alarmed” about climate change and demanding immediate action has more than doubled since 2012.

Local health departments are strongly positioned to deliver education and outreach to residents on the health impacts of climate change, surveil and monitor health shifts, and implement necessary changes in response to specific risks in their jurisdictions. NACCHO will provide funds, technical support, and peer connections to help grantees advance climate adaptation and mitigation at the local level.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities

###