

## **COMMUNITY COMPACT - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. What is a Community Compact?**

The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Once approved, the written agreement will be generated and signed by both the municipality and the Commonwealth. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of all communities.

### **2. When was the Community Compact program launched?**

The first Executive Order, signed by the Governor in January 2015, established the Community Compacts. The Order creates a Community Compact Cabinet that will work toward mutual accountability, work to reduce red tape, promote best practices, and develop specific 'Community Compacts' with local governments. These Community Compacts create clear mutual standards, expectations, and accountability for both the state and municipalities as we seek to create better government for our citizens. The Baker-Polito Administration values input from the municipal leaders of the Commonwealth and will utilize the Community Compacts as a way to continue to engage them.

### **3. What communities are eligible for a Community Compact? And are these optional?**

The Community Compact agreement is open to all the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. While a great tool for cities and towns, Community Compacts are optional. All Compact agreements are subject to review by the Division of Local Services before they are signed.

### **4. How does a Community Compact work? What is the obligation of my community?**

Communities will self-identify the best practice(s) from the list on the Community Compact website. The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Once approved, the written agreement will be generated and signed by both the municipality and the Commonwealth. The municipal leader will be required to sign and authorize the Compact for a community. Those communities participating in the Community Compact will, over a two year period, implement the best practice(s) they selected when entering into the Compact. Resources for technical assistance from the Commonwealth will be prioritized for those communities entered into a Compact and seeking to implement their best practice(s). The Division of Local Services serves as the primary point of entry for communities looking for resources in best practice development and implementation.

5. **What is the obligation of the Commonwealth?**

The Commonwealth's commitments are found on the Community Compact website. In addition, the Commonwealth will offer incentives to communities for entering into a Community Compact, including prioritizing Commonwealth technical assistance resources to help reach your chosen best practice(s). Extra points on certain grants, and a grant program specifically for Compact communities are also incentives included for participation in the program.

6. **Is there a deadline to apply for the Compact? How do I access the application?**

No. A community may choose to enter into the Community Compact at any time. Each Compact agreement will run for two years. During the two year period of each compact, the Division of Local Services will periodically check in with the communities to monitor progress towards the implementation of the selected best practice(s). The application can be found by visiting [www.mass.gov/ccc](http://www.mass.gov/ccc). You will need a passcode to fill out the Community Compact application. If you do not have a passcode, please contact DLS by sending an email to Daniel Bertrand at [bertrandd@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:bertrandd@dor.state.ma.us).

7. **Can communities have a joint Community Compact?**

Yes, for smaller communities, regionalization of the Compact is an option. The Communities will individually fill out an application, choose the same best practice(s) and choose the regionalization option on the website.

8. **Where can I find out more information?**

To find out more information please visit [www.mass.gov/ccc](http://www.mass.gov/ccc).