City of Cambridge
Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026-305
IN CITY COUNCIL
November 2, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am hereby requesting the appropriation of $1,000,000 from the Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to the Grant Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance account to fund grant awards to nonprofit organizations to address the needs of Cambridge residents. This effort is being overseen by the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC).

Background:
Through zoning amendments and special permit requirements, several million in mitigation funds for community benefits purposes have been pledged to the City of Cambridge in accordance with the Community Benefits Advisory Committee Ordinance (Chapter 2.127 of the Cambridge Municipal Code). Of these commitments, $8.6 million has been received and transferred to the City's Community Benefits Stabilization Fund. To date, $7 million has been appropriated to fund nonprofit planning and implementation grants, evaluation services, and two rounds of emergency grants to nonprofit organizations.

Current Situation
With its charge to solicit and evaluate proposals from local nonprofit partnerships to address the community benefit needs of Cambridge residents, the CBAC launched a competitive process to accept applications with the intent to recommend $1 million in grant awards to nonprofit organizations. Awards, ranging from $10,000 to $25,000, could be used for programs, projects, operating, and capital expenses. The grant awards will support community-based nonprofit organizations as they respond to the critical needs of Cambridge residents.
Additional information about the current grant process is available at
cambridgema.gov/news/detail?path=/sitecore/content/home/cdd/news/2026/07/cambridgetoawardupto$1millioninnonprofitgrantfunding

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager