



THE PRICE CENTER

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The Price Center Is Awarded a \$100,000 Cummings Grant Funds Will Help to Expand Remote Learning Initiatives

Newton, June 2021—The Price Center is one of 140 area nonprofit organizations that received grants between \$100,000 and \$500,000 from the Cummings Foundation. The Price Center was selected from among 590 applications to the foundation's \$25 Million Grant Program. The center will receive \$100,000 payable over the next three years.

The Price Center empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive in living, social and work communities. This is accomplished through the center's highly regarded community day programs, employment services, day habilitation and community living support for individuals with special needs.

"The Cummings Foundation support will allow us to improve and expand our remote learning initiative," notes Karen Manning, M.Ed., Senior Director of Programs and Services, who supervises the Center's new Program Innovation Manager. "When our day programs were required to close during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was no longer business as usual. Our staff stretched to develop innovative programming, including training for families who needed help using technology."

The next step will be to take full advantage of the ongoing opportunities for remote learning, which have a role to play, despite the steady return of individuals to Price Center day programs. The Program Innovation Manager oversees this work. "Our goal now is to provide online courses, varied support for employment, family training and ways to build social skills and encourage independent living," says Ms. Manning. "We are planning a health and wellness program so that we can provide on-site and remote fitness classes. This is important for the overall health of our individuals."

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofit organizations based in Massachusetts that primarily serve Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties. Through this initiative, the Cummings Foundation aims to give back in locations where it owns commercial buildings that are managed by Cummings Properties. The Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and

manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the foundation.

“We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community,” says Joel Swets, Executive Director, Cummings Foundation. “It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity and so much more.”

With help from approximately 80 volunteers, the foundation identified the 140 organizations that will receive at least \$100,000 each. Winners included first-time recipients, as well as nonprofit organizations that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. This year, 40 organizations were repeat recipients and had their grants elevated to ten-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“We have adopted a democratic approach to philanthropy, which empowers an impressive roster of dedicated volunteers to decide on more than half of our grant winners each year,” Swets notes. “We benefit from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives; they benefit from a meaningful and fulfilling experience; and the nonprofit organizations often benefit from increased exposure, as well as new advocates.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of missions, including social justice, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention and food insecurity. The organizations are located in 43 different cities and towns. Visit CummingsFoundation.org to see the complete list of 140 grant-winners and 800 previous recipients. Cummings Foundation has awarded more than \$300 million to nonprofit organizations in Greater Boston.

About The Price Center

From the time The Price Center opened its doors 45 years ago, its goal has been to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities become full participants in life. The center guides them in developing the skills that will allow them to thrive at home, in the community and, increasingly, where they work. This mission is carried out daily by the center’s talented, committed staff. The Price Center continues to add programs, fine-tune existing ones and welcome all who will benefit—always with respect for each person for their individuality while encouraging their personal and professional growth.