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Freedom House Awarded \$350,000 Cummings Grant

Grove Hall nonprofit receives 10 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

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Freedom House is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,00 each through Cummings Foundation's \$25 Million Grant program. The Grove Hall-based organization was chosen from a total of 580 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$350,000 over ten years.

As a leader in helping prepare Black, Brown, and Immigrant students for successful entrance and completion of post-secondary opportunities, particularly college, Freedom House provides a unique combination of meaningful college-level learning, college-going experiences, identity building, community service, jobs, social/emotional development, and career exploration.

“The sustained support of the Cummings Foundation means so much to Freedom House,” said Freedom House Chief Executive Officer Charmaine Arthur. “We are proud to partner with the Cummings Foundation as we work to advance economic, racial, and social equity for Black, Brown, and Immigrant students through education and leadership development.” Grant funds from the Cummings Foundation will be used to provide comprehensive youth-development focused programs and services to high school and college students across Boston.

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits based in and primarily serving Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back to the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We are so fortunate in greater Boston to have such effective nonprofits, plus a wealth of talented, dedicated professionals and volunteers to run them,” said Cummings Foundation Executive Director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are indebted to them for the work they do each day to provide for basic needs, break down barriers to education and health resources, and work toward a more equitable society.”

With the help of about 90 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients and nonprofits that



had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“Our volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives, which is so critical to our grant selection process,” said Vyriotes. “Through this democratized approach to philanthropy, they decide more than half the grants every year.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including food insecurity, immigrant and refugee services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 45 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 900 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$375 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

About Freedom House

Freedom House is building economic, racial and social equity in our communities through education and leadership development. For 72 years, Freedom House has been a leader in programs and services that champion educational equity and economic opportunities for Black and Brown youth throughout our communities. We see education as a pathway toward economic opportunities. We focus on college access and post-secondary success to increase college graduation rates and career readiness by providing comprehensive services focused on holistic youth development to our students. Freedom House was founded in 1949 by Muriel and Otto Snowden as a catalyst for promoting equality for lower-income Bostonians; with an initial goal of centralizing community activism in the fight for neighborhood improvement, good schools, and harmony among racial, ethnic, and religious groups primarily in the Roxbury/Dorchester area. For more information about Freedom House, visit <https://freedomhouse.com/>.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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