

Gateway City: eligibility for Randolph



May 22, 2023

Slide presentation about requesting a Home Rule Petition
to secure Gateway City status for Randolph
with notes from Randolph Town Councilor Jesse Gordon
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26 Current Gateway Cities

Attleboro

Barnstable

Brockton

Chelsea

Chicopee

Everett

Fall River

Fitchburg

Haverhill

Holyoke

Lawrence

Leominster

Lowell

Lynn

Malden

Methuen

New Bedford

Peabody

Pittsfield

Quincy

Revere

Salem

Springfield

Taunton

Westfield

Worcester

These 26 small cities are eligible for dozens of Gateway City grants every year, for millions of dollars.

Randolph can be eligible too, and become eligible for millions for projects over the next 10 years....

Gateway City criteria

Gateway City is a municipality with these criteria that Randolph meets:

1. population greater than 35,000 and less than 250,000
2. rate of educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or above that is below the state average
3. median household income below the state average

...but the 2020 federal census listed Randolph at 34,984 (sixteen people shy of the cutoff). The federal census under-counted Randolph, if we can fix that.

Correcting the Census?

Randolph was under-counted by many hundreds of people.

How to persuade the Census Bureau?

- UMass Donahue Institute compared our municipal census with federal census, looking at group homes for people with disabilities, who are consistently under-counted in the census.
- They prepared their results, but the Census Bureau haven't accepted their results (i.e., they are reluctant to admit that they under-counted by 16 people)
- And even if the Census Bureau okays it, the Commonwealth has no clear mechanism to add Randolph to the Gateway City list
- A.P. reports that many non-citizens were missed (as Councilor Clerger has noted publicly) but there's no mechanism to fix ANY errors!

Legislative Solution

State Rep. Bill Driscoll, who first notified us about the possibility of Randolph's eligibility in late 2020, suggests that the Legislature could declare Randolph eligible:

- Town Council passes authorization for Home Rule Petition
- We send Home Rule Petition to legislature, with a supportive "info packet" from the Donahue Institute and letters of support.
- We work with legislative delegation to get it enacted (we lobby!)

Criteria 1: population 35,000

- Will we send an “info packet” accompanying our Home Rule Petition, demonstrating that we meet all the criteria.
- The info packet is to make Legislators and the Governor comfortable voting to “deem” Randolph a Gateway City.
- The UMass Donahue Institute has addressed the population requirement of 35,000 by showing where the Census undercounted by at least 110 people (we only need to show 16!)
- People can add other letters of support when the legislature holds hearings, later this year.

Criteria 2: Educational Attainment

- Randolph is below the state median for the percentage of adult residents with Bachelor's degrees or above:

	Randolph	Statewide
Educational Attainment (Bachelor's degree or higher for age 25+)	27.1%	46.6%
Quickfacts 2017-2021 update	30.5%	45.2%

- Source: 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S1501) <https://data.census.gov/table?g=040XX00US25&tid=ACSST1Y2021.S1501>
Quickfacts: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/randolphtowncitymassachusetts,MA/EDU685221>
- Randolph is a “city of nurses” many of whom get Associate’s Degrees – we’re well above the state average there! – but only BA degrees for age 25+ count in this statistic

Criteria 3: Household Income

- Randolph is just below the state average for Median Household Income (measured by a 5-year average):

	Randolph	Statewide
Median Household Income (5-year estimates)	\$73,697	\$89,645
Quickfacts 2017-2021 update	\$87,869	\$89,026

- 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (S1901) <https://data.census.gov/table?q=060XX00US2502155955&tid=ACSST5Y2018.S1901>
Quickfacts: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/randolphtowncitymassachusetts,MA/INC110221>
- Randolph's income statistics count for the 5-year period including the pandemic, when incomes were volatile. So single-year averages change differently for Randolph vs. Statewide. But the census officially uses the first 5-year average shown.

“Brockton has so many great resources” (like these from Gateway City programs!)

1. Brockton provides “Free Trees” to residents from a \$12 million grant, to plant 20,000 trees within eight gateway cities
2. Brockton gets a cut of a \$1.7 billion program to bring more foot traffic and more small businesses downtown
3. Brockton offers state tax credits for rehabilitating existing multi-unit residential housing (not property tax credits!)
4. Brockton trains teachers for bilingual education (like Randolph Community Partnership, but Brockton gets Gateway City grants!)

BENEFITS OF URBAN TREE PLANTING

ECONOMIC	ENVIRONMENTAL	SOCIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lowers Energy Usage & Costs• Raises Property Values• Reduces Pavement Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cools Summer & Warms Winter Temperatures• Improves Air & Water Quality• Reduces Pollution & Protects Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthens Physical & Mental Health• Decreases Noise Pollution Caused by Traffic• Enhances Beauty & Safety in Neighborhoods

BROCKTON

DO YOU LIVE IN THIS AREA? →
If so, you are qualified to have **FREE TREES** planted in your yard!

The Greening the Gateway Cities Program aims to plant trees for environmental health and energy efficiency in your neighborhood.

For more information, contact your local DCR office and find us online:
☎ 617-626-1503
🌐 wildlandstrust.org/greening-the-gateway-cities
📘 facebook.com/GGCBrockton

Map: Legend: Tree Planting Zone. Streets shown: W Elm St, School St, Main St, Brookside Ave, Copeland St, Longwood Ave, Main Street, MBTA Commuter Rail Line.

Benefits of Gateway City status

- **Attleboro:** \$2 million from MassDevelopment
- **Brockton:** \$150,000 for school bilingual immersion
- **Fall River:** \$290,000 for STEM “Career Academy”
- **New Bedford:** \$1M Empowerment for Small Business
- **Taunton:** \$60,000 for “Greening the Gateway Cities”
- **Quincy:** Permanent “Greening” city program
- **Randolph:** \$\$\$ for Shuttle Bus?

Attleboro: \$2M from MassDevelopment

- Feb. 2022: Attleboro and 12 other Gateway Cities are poised to reap big benefits from an expansion of the Transformative Development Initiative program.
- The expansion doubles the size of the program run by MassDevelopment, which currently operates TDI districts in five Gateway Cities, including Attleboro.
- The expansion will invest \$23.7 million in the 12 communities over three years.
- A funded "TDI fellow" [will result in] technical assistance, grants to support local market development and arts and cultural infrastructure, collaborative workshops, and resources.

Brockton schools: \$150,000 for bilingual ed

- Jan. 2020: Brockton Schools awarded \$150 Gateway City Grant As Bilingual Hub
- Grant will help Brockton Public Schools prepare teachers to lead dual language immersion and transitional bilingual education programs.
- Bridgewater State University will offer four grant-funded courses to Brockton teachers.
- Brockton Director of Bilingual Education Kellie Jones said, "We've expanded our transitional bilingual education and dual language education programs."

Fall River: \$290,000 for “Career Academy”

- Two state grants totaling close to \$300,000 will enable to the school department to expand opportunities for English language learners and students seeking career paths.
- The state’s Gateway Cities Education Agenda [will provide] \$245,000 to support the creation of a five-week intensive summer program centered on English language instruction.
- An additional grant of \$45,000 [will fund Fall River’s] plan for the creation of a career academy focused on science, engineering and math.

New Bedford: \$1M Empowerment for Small Business

- The “Empowerment Grant for Small Businesses” for businesses registered in a Gateway City
- Gateway City funding set up the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) which now offer \$3.3 million in programs for “small businesses and homegrown start-ups.”
- NBForward! program will offer at least 100 grants of up to \$20,000 – along with technical assistance including business planning, resource guidance, and best practices.

Taunton: \$60,000 for “Greening the Gateway Cities”

- Announcing \$825,703 in grants to support tree plantings in five Gateway Cities, [a continuation of] \$25 million to support planting nearly 35,000 trees across the Commonwealth.
- Taunton – \$60,000 to purchase a 500-gallon spray tank, install tree pits, and plant 15 trees in neighborhoods outside DCR’s planting zone.
- City of Fall River – \$99,125 to plant 175 street trees in partnership with the non-profit Fall River Street Tree Planting Program.
- Groundwork Southcoast – \$15,000 to disseminate literature and social media in the New Bedford DCR tree planting zone.

Quincy: Permanent “Greening” city program

- City of Quincy website: Forestry Division – they created a city agency with Gateway City funds, to administer local funds
- Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) is an urban tree planting program designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use. The Quincy Natural Resources Department is working closely with DCR to plant trees in our urban forest. A healthy urban forest also cleans the water we drink and the air we breathe, and contributes to neighborhood stability and overall quality of life [especially in neighborhoods with] a larger renter population.

Randolph: \$\$\$ for Shuttle Bus?

- Town Council will soon vote on a Shuttle Bus petition – how would Randolph pay for that? Gateway City grants are available....
- MassInc runs “The Gateway Cities Journal” with grant opportunities including this March 15, 2023 article: “Governor Healey’s budget invests in Gateway Cities”
- “Even smaller cities require frequent and reliable local transit to support intense urban activity without choking on congestion. Governor Healey’s budget provides a step in the right direction. Agencies could also seek additional [local transit] resources to expand service from a new \$19 million grant program.”

What you can do

- Send letters of support with our “Legislative Packet” (e.g. people who were not counted in census on April 15, 2020)
- There will be a legislative bill filed; write to our State Reps and State Senators in support
- There will be a legislative hearing for the bill; you can “testify”
- Letter of support from organizations that would apply for Gateway City grants (e.g. Randolph Community Partnership could get a bilingual education grant like Brockton got)