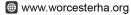
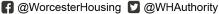
Alex Corrales, Chief Executive Officer

630A Plantation Street 508–635–3106 questions@worcesterha.org









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WHA named 2024 AARP Community Challenge grantee

WORCESTER, Massachusetts – The <u>Worcester Housing Authority</u> announces it has been named a grant recipient through the <u>2024 AARP Community Challenge</u>. The agency was among 343 grantees, one of nine in Massachusetts. It was the only housing authority in Massachusetts to receive a Community Challenge Grant, and one of only four nationally.

"We're very excited about this award," WHA CEO Alex Corrales said. "This grant will provide us an opportunity to increase our technology offerings to residents, which will help improve their overall quality of life, which is in line with our overall mission."

The WHA was awarded \$20,101 and will use it to offer digital literacy courses to our elderly residents and those with disabilities. The agency will also add desktop computers at four WHA buildings to community rooms with free, high-speed internet connections, cameras for security, and laptops for the courses.

WHA Vice President of Resident Services Erin Wilson said the grant should serve as a point of pride for the agency and noted the addition of the computers will increase access to technology and resources in the future.

"We were among more than 3,350 applicants, so this was an extremely competitive process," Wilson said. "I couldn't be prouder of the work we do here at the WHA and funding like this only means we can do more for our residents."

The WHA's grant was among more than \$3.8 million being invested through the Community Challenge across the country through 343 "quick-action projects," which AARP said will help urban, rural, and suburban communities "make immediate improvements and jumpstart long-term progress to support residents of all ages."

According to AARP, the Community Challenge is a grant program to "make tangible improvements in communities that jumpstart long-term change. It is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities Initiative (LCI), which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods, and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages."

Learn more about LCI by visiting www.aarp.org/Livable.

Please direct all media inquiries to Walter Bird, Communications Coordinator, at 774-764-1907 (cell), 508-635-3334 (work), or by email at wbird@worcesterha.org.