CASPAR Awarded $20,000 COVID-19 Relief Grant to Support Homelessness Services

CAMBRIDGE – CASPAR, a homelessness and addiction recovery services provider working on the front line of the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts, has been awarded a $20,000 grant by the Cambridge Community Foundation to provide food and clothing for guests at our Emergency Services Center in Cambridge and people receiving support from our FirstStep street outreach team. The funds for this generous grant were made possible by the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.

CASPAR’s goal is to save lives today so that recovery is possible tomorrow. Its mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families in Cambridge and Somerville who have been affected by substance use disorder and related issues—such as homelessness, mental illness, or domestic violence—through a comprehensive array of outreach, shelter, stabilization, residential, aftercare, education and prevention services. In 2014, CASPAR became part of Boston-based non-profit agency Bay Cove Human Services.

“We are profoundly grateful to Cambridge Community Foundation, the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, and all of their supporters for this vital funding,” said Bill Sprague, President & CEO of CASPAR/Bay Cove Human Services. “This grant will help to meet the basic needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our community during this very challenging time.”

“As we face a looming housing crisis in addition to the health crisis caused by COVID-19, we are incredibly fortunate to have well established organizations like CASPAR, who are already working hard to support neighbors that are unhoused or at risk of becoming homeless. Our sincere thanks to CASPAR for their essential work, and the support of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund to help make it happen,” said Geeta Pradhan, president of the Cambridge Community Foundation.

The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supports those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focusing on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities, and those facing food insecurity. The Fund works in concert with regional community foundations and nonprofit leaders, who partner with local leaders to understand the response and relief landscape, strategically filling in where gaps are pronounced. For more information on the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, visit www.MACovid19ReliefFund.org.
The **Cambridge Community Foundation** is the local giving platform for Cambridge, supporting our city’s shared prosperity, social equity, and cultural richness, with roots that go a century deep. The Foundation is a convener and catalyst for transformative change in Cambridge, supporting equity and opportunity in the city through civic leadership, grantmaking, and collective giving in partnership with generous donors from the community. The Foundation identifies emerging and critical needs, convenes all sectors of the city, and partners with nonprofits to direct resources where they can make the greatest difference. For more information on the Cambridge Community Foundation, visit [www.cambridgecf.org](http://www.cambridgecf.org).

**CASPAR** (Cambridge and Somerville Programs for Addiction Recovery) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1970 in response to the need for community-based services for those affected by substance use disorders. Since then, CASPAR has built a comprehensive array of outreach, shelter, stabilization, and residential services that meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Each day, CASPAR works to alleviate the opioid and homelessness crises in Cambridge and Somerville, providing lifesaving support and hope. To learn more about CASPAR, please visit [www.casparinc.org](http://www.casparinc.org).

**Bay Cove Human Services** is a non-profit agency committed to improving the lives of individuals and their families who face the challenges of developmental disabilities, aging, mental illness, homelessness, and substance use disorder. Bay Cove serves more than 6,000 people each day and 25,000 people per year throughout Boston and Southeastern Massachusetts. To learn more about Bay Cove Human Services, please visit [www.baycovehumanservices.org](http://www.baycovehumanservices.org).