



HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS

April 12, 2016

To: All HCOG Member Towns

Re: Proposed FY-2017 Budget Message

Attached please find a Fiscal Year 2017 summary of the operating budget for the Hampshire Council of Governments.

The Council continues to save millions of dollars for taxpayers through our diverse and expanding mix of programs and services. For example, in the past six months Hampshire Power saved over \$13.6 million on behalf of over 70,000 ratepayers, compared to the default electricity rate. The FY-2017 budget shows continued investment in Hampshire Power and Municipal Aggregation supply. These two programs combined now serve 45 communities in western Massachusetts. The Council has unveiled new programs including Hampshire Web, offering low-cost professional web design and development for municipalities, and Hampshire Cloud for cloud computing. Hampshire I.T., SREC Aggregation, and Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative, along with our other programs, have shown significant growth. This is testament to the need for coordinated, professionally administered regional programs and services.

The Council earns income by leasing portions of the Old Courthouse, membership assessment, grants, and our fee for service programs. As part of our continued effort to save taxpayer dollars, the Council is pleased and proud that membership dues continue to stay low.

Please contact my office if you would like to receive a copy of the budget details; 413-584-1300 ext. 2, or [tford@hampshirecog.org](mailto:tford@hampshirecog.org). Should you have any questions concerning the detail of the budget I am available. A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for **Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 7:00 PM** in the Old Courthouse located at 99 Main Street in Northampton MA.

Todd D. Ford  
Executive Director