



Two Charlestown non-profits receive city grants

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The John F. Kennedy Family Service Center and the **Charlestown Boys & Girls Club** are among the grant recipients of the city's Partners with Non-Profits program, Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced last week.

"For almost 20 years now, the PNP awards have served as a chance for the City of Boston to reward more than 40 of these organizations that are so deeply invested in our neighborhoods – by directly investing in them," Menino said. "This program is one way the city can say 'thank you for what you do for the residents of Boston.' It's also a small, but effective tool we have to help preserve the programs and services you all offer to your communities."

Through the city's Department of Neighborhood Development, the PNP program provides grants of up to \$25,000 for capital improvements, such as handicap accessibility upgrades, code repairs or other infrastructure renovations to neighborhood non-profit organizations. The annual grants are made possible by the city's Community Development Block Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and typically help spur as much as \$3 million per fiscal year in construction projects for Boston's neighborhood non-profits.

This year, the city has awarded a total of \$696,000 in grants to 43 non-profits, which will leverage a projected total cost of approximately \$4.4 million in capital improvements to various facilities across the city.

Kate McDonough, executive director of the Kennedy Center, said the organization tentatively plans to spend the \$15,000 grant it received on landscaping, a sprinkler system and new elevator doors for its City Square facility.

"This money makes it possible to keep the building in pristine condition," McDonough said. "It really allows us to do something that we wouldn't normally be able to do."

McDonough added that the Kennedy Center has received PNP grants nearly every year, which helps offset the expensive cost of maintaining the building.

At the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, Executive Director Jenny Atkinson said the Club would spend the \$15,000 grant it received on waterproofing and improvements.

"The funding from the city will allow us to make critical repairs to our facility," Atkinson said. "We are very grateful for this assistance."