

[The Southborough Library was recently awarded a federal Library Services and Technology Act \(LSTA\) grant for \\$10,000 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners \(MBLC\).](#) “We are proud to deliver grant funding to libraries for projects that fill unique needs of libraries across Massachusetts,” said Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development at the MBLC. “Libraries continue to be a vital resource to the communities they serve. Programs funded through LSTA grants illustrate the diverse range of topics and audiences served by Massachusetts libraries.” Last year, the Southborough Library was awarded a \$15,000 LSTA grant for an ‘Idea Lab’ initiative in the library’s new Teen Room.

The Southborough Library plans to use this new LSTA grant from the MBLC to support an installment of programs called *Dig In! Garden Information Series*. Collaborating with the [Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens](#), the Southborough Library will coordinate twice monthly garden information programs virtually over Zoom. Any interested individuals can register through the Southborough Recreation website. The first program, [Healthy Garden Recipes](#), will take place on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 PM. The remaining 2020 schedule is:

- 11/09/20 at 7:00 PM – [Heathy Garden Recipes](#)
- 11/21/20 at 7:00 PM – [Indoor Growing](#)
- 12/07/20 at 7:00 PM – [Sustainable Gardening](#)
- 12/21/20 at 7:00 PM – [Indoor Seed Starting](#)



In addition to programming, the Southborough Library also plans to develop a new community garden on the front lawn of the library grounds. Initially starting out as a local Eagle Scout Project, the library’s community garden will help to augment the successful new initiative: the [Library Seed Exchange](#). The library also hopes to have mobile “gardening kits” available to check out in Spring 2021. The MBLC developed this direct grant program using federal funding to help libraries meet local community needs including programs that help New Americans learn English and become citizens, STEM and STEAM projects, programs that serve teen needs, and projects that preserve valuable historical documents. The MBLC also offers grants to increase access to library services for people with disabilities.

In addition to the direct library grant program, the MBLC uses LSTA funds to support statewide programs and services including summer reading programs, research databases, the statewide eBook program, the [Commonwealth Catalog](#) and [mass.gov/libraries](#) that has information and resources for residents. LSTA is administered on the federal level by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and in the Commonwealth by the MBLC. More information about LSTA can be found on Board's website at [www.mass.gov/mblc](#).

About IMLS

[The Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) is the [primary source of federal support](#) for the nation’s approximately 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Be sure to follow the [Southborough Library](#) on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).