

July 17, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO AWARD MINI-GRANTS
IN GREATER FALL RIVER**

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) is set to launch a mini-grants program in Greater Fall River, with \$30,000 available for programs that focus on family literacy or youth development and empowerment.

“We recognize the vital role that the Fall River area plays in the health and prosperity of the region,” said CFSEMA President Craig J. Dutra. “After listening to Fall River community leaders discuss their pressing issues and concerns, our Board of Directors approved the mini-grants initiative and developed the program’s priorities.”

In this year’s cycle, at least eight non-profit organizations located in Fall River, Somerset, Swansea or Westport will be awarded mini-grants from the CFSEMA Discretionary Fund of up to \$5,000 each. CFSEMA invites proposals that seek to develop partnerships or collaborations, and strive to have full representation of all affected Greater Fall River groups and populations. Also, proposals should fund activities that enhance or enrich existing programs.

Requests for Proposals, which can be downloaded at www.cfsema.org, are due in the CFSEMA office at 63 Union Street, New Bedford, no later than **4 p.m. on August 25**. A **bidder’s conference is scheduled for 10-11:30 a.m. on July 29** in the Fall River Chamber of Commerce meeting room, 200 Pocasset Street, Fall River.

The funding priorities are:

Family Literacy programs that address early literacy programming for children birth to pre-kindergarten as well as programs addressing workforce development through English literacy and adult education. Programs can

- Engage in family literacy activities that support both parents and their young children.
- Support parents and caregivers in providing these developmental opportunities for young children.

- Support programs integrating early literacy programming for children birth to three years old with ESOL and parenting courses.
- Mitigate barriers to learning such as cultural and language differences.
- Protect the cultural context and bonds of a community by preserving and supporting neighborhood-based programs providing access to literacy and ABE/ESOL classes.
- Encourage programming for all stages of adult learning, from adult basic education to preparation for successful enrollment in post-secondary education and training.

Youth Development and Empowerment programs targeting middle- to high school-age youth, including:

- Drop-out prevention programs within and outside the Fall River school system
- Programs targeting “at-risk” youth, be it through leadership development, community involvement or education programs.
- Community and/or faith-based youth outreach programs that focus on safe neighborhoods and strengthening families.
- Programmatic activities that constructively engage youth with each other or address concerns as defined by youth themselves.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

While the Foundation’s primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$18.5 million and has distributed over \$6 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. . More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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