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City of Northampton Awarded \$50K in Vacant Storefront Tax Credits to Fuel City's Downtown Economy

NORTHAMPTON – The City of Northampton, recognized as a designated Vacant Storefront District by the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC), has been awarded access to up to \$50,000 in refundable state tax credits through the Massachusetts Vacant Storefront Program (MVSP) to help attract and support businesses moving into storefronts that have been vacant for six months or longer.

“Northampton is proud to continue this proven tool to encourage new investment in downtown Northampton,” said Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra. “The updated program gives the city the discretion to set the award amount for each business, lower the cost of opening, and strengthen downtown for the long term. I encourage entrepreneurs who are ready to be part of downtown Northampton's vibrant next chapter to reach out and apply.”

While Northampton already had an approved Vacant Storefront District, FY26 changes make participation simpler statewide: communities no longer need to create or maintain a district (prior adoption earns priority points); the vacancy threshold has been reduced from 12 months to six; and the city may calibrate both individual award amounts and any local match to fit project needs. As before, the state reviews each application for alignment with downtown goals, including fit with the existing business mix, job creation, and support for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. Northampton's access to these credits runs through the EACC's final meeting in December 2026.

Past Northampton recipients include Many Graces Farm & Design (Sub Rosa), Assemble, and Toasted Restaurant. Each received \$20,000 in combined state tax credits and local match. These awards helped businesses open and expand, and contributed to downtown's recovery.

Businesses interested in participating should review program details and contact the Mayor's Office to discuss eligibility, timing, and required documents (including Certificates of Good Standing from DOR and the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and a Certificate of Compliance from DUA). Full information is available on the [MVSP page](#) on the city's website.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.