



WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the conference report for the fiscal year 2010 omnibus appropriations bill approved by Congress includes \$4,383,000 in federal assistance for various projects in North Worcester County.

Congressman Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and worked to include the funding in the omnibus spending legislation. The omnibus represents six out of twelve annual appropriations bills pulled together into one package. The Senate must now approve the conference report before it goes to the President for signature.

The projects and their included dollar amounts are:

\$400,000 for Interoperable Credentialing

This project is led by the North Worcester County Drug Task Force (NWCDF), a consortium of nine area municipal law enforcement agencies (Gardner, Westminster, Fitchburg, Winchendon, Ashburnham, Lunenburg, Leominster, Hubbardston, and Clinton). NWCDF seeks to leverage existing and emerging technologies to provide a single nationally operable credentialing system that provides individual credentialing as well as controlled access to the members' secure facilities.

In a time when budget cuts are forcing departments to lay off personnel, towns are more dependent on mutual aid. Credentialing allows first responders at accident and fire scenes to more appropriately and efficiently divide duties among themselves based on their qualifications and certifications. Additionally, with fewer individuals to man departments, credentialing will contribute to providing more secure facilities and enhance the integrity of evidence collected at

crime scenes.

Congressman John Olver said, “In light of our current budgetary constraints, we are asking our departments to get by with less. It simply makes sense for departments to pool resources to address law enforcement challenges that do not neatly follow municipal lines. We must provide these departments with the tools necessary to draw the greatest benefit from their collaboration in the safest way possible.”

For additional information, please contact: □ Chief Neil Erickson, Gardner Police Department, 978.632.5600, NErickson@gardner-ma.gov
[er-ma.gov](http://www.gardner-ma.gov)

\$350,000 for United Way of North Central’s Engaging Youth for Success

United Way Youth Ventures (UWYV) seeks to expand the engagement of area middle and high school students in their community through two programs encouraging entrepreneurial and community projects, United Way Youth Ventures and Mount Wachusett Community College’s (MWCC) Citizenship Academy.

Youth Ventures is a youth-led program that uses adults as guides to encourage student-participants to think about ways to improve their community. After identifying an idea, they form a group of their peers, develop a business plan, and make their case before a board for seed money to launch their venture.

MWCC’s Citizen Academy (CA) is a 14-week session of courses that introduce high school juniors and seniors to higher education, civic engagement and community service. Students earn full college credit while they learn the basics of state and local government and work on projects that directly connect the student-participants with government leaders.

Congressman John Olver said, “These programs have a proven track record of reaching young people. This federal funding will make it possible for more students to participate, with the goal of reaching 20 percent of all students in the region within three years. Students, their families,

and their communities will benefit.”

For more information, contact: -Philip Grzewinski, President, United Way of North Central Massachusetts, 978-345-1577, philg@uwncm.org or Lea Ann Erickson, Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs, MWCC, 978-630-9322, lerickson@mwcc.mass.edu

\$533,000 for Community Policing & Training Active Bystanders Project

This funding will support two programs, an initiative to enhance community policing and the implementation of Training Active Bystanders (TAB) curriculum. The total amount of funding for this project is \$620,000, the balance of the funding will be used in Berkshire County.

The community policing component will include: Berkshire Mediation Services of Pittsfield, the Mediation and Training Collaborative of Greenfield, and Quabbin Mediation of Athol and Orange. These organizations will work together to enhance community policing by creating and sustaining partnerships between police departments, community mediation centers, Juvenile courts and community groups.

In addition, Quabbin Mediation will expand their Training Active Bystanders curriculum. TAB is an innovative approach to school and community safety in a region with a high rate of violence. The curriculum develops people’s sense of responsibility and empathy for others, and the competence, judgment and moral courage to safely and effectively help those in need. The program’s pilot has already shown a 20% decrease in violence in those communities in which it was implemented. With these funds the program will be spread into Greenfield, Fitchburg, Holyoke, Athol and Orange.

“Currently our police departments are stretched very thin. Every effort that can be made to change the fabric of a community which in turn reduces violence and bullying should be supported.”

For additional information, contact: Sharon Tracy, Quabbin Mediation, 978-544-6142

\$2.5 million for North Leominster Parking Garage

The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority will expand the parking facilities at the North Leominster commuter rail stop. The new three story garage will increase the current capacity for parking by 250%. The new structure will benefit the surrounding communities and facilitate the use of the stop by increasing the number of persons who can access rail, bus, and other modes of service.

“We must make sure that mass transit systems are completely thought through” Congressman John Olver said. “It isn’t enough to simply help people move from place to place; we need to make these stations accessible to make them useful to the public.”

For additional information, please contact: Mohammed H. Khan, Administrator,
978-345-7711 ext 2233

\$275,000 for Fitchburg Industrial Park

This money will be used for the design engineering and preliminary site work associated with the creation of a 24 acre industrial park complex in west Fitchburg across the railroad tracks from the proposed Wachusett Station. Once complete, the park will provide the region with a significant source of revenue and will significantly enhance the ability for new industry and business to build their infrastructure in the region.

Congressman John Olver said, “Our small investment in the preparation of this land creates the incentive for businesses to make large investments of infrastructure and jobs at this site. Located by rail lines and Route 2, the new industrial park will bring economic benefits to the entire region.”

For additional information, please contact: David J. Streb, 978-345-1018 x18

\$250,000 for Athol Memorial Hospital's Purchase of Electronic Medical Records (EMR)

The EMR technology will replace current accounting and billing systems and introduce electronic systems to replace outmoded paper charts.

Congressman John Olver said, "The use of this technology will improve efficiency, reduce administrative costs and improve patient safety. Conversion to EMR is viewed as a national goal throughout the health care industry, and this federal funding will help enable these providers to make the transition."

For additional information, please contact: Athol Memorial Hospital, Steve Penka, President/CEO, 978-249-1101

\$75,000 for North Quabbin Woods Support Economic Development in the North Quabbin Region

North Quabbin Woods will use this funding to expand their promotional activities highlighting ecotourism, agriculture, and local arts and culture in the North Quabbin. This project will cultivate a thriving creative and tourism economy that provides opportunities for small-scale production, utilizes increasing quantities of locally harvested timber, and complements the region's scenic and conserved forests and farms.

"The North Quabbin has been hit hard by the loss of manufacturing jobs," Congressman John Olver said. "North Quabbin Woods has recognized an opportunity for economic growth in the region by promoting the area's wealth of talented artisans and recreation and forestry resources. This funding will help the organization take their promotional efforts to the next level."

North Quabbin Woods is a leading organization for economic revitalization of the scenic North Quabbin region. Since 2001, North Quabbin Woods has promoted visitor information, area artisans, local lumber and custom woodworking.

For additional information, please contact: Scott Maslansky, 978-544-3332

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