



# Regionalization 101

## Regionalization Toolkit Conference

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# Presentation Overview

- Navigating the Massachusetts General Laws
- From Idea to Implementation
- Helpful Resources

# Navigating the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL)

- What type of regionalization project?
  - Mutual Aid Agreements
  - Shared Services vs. Comprehensive
  - Lead Municipality vs. Host Agency
  - Regional District

# Navigating the Massachusetts General Laws (MGL)

- Choose a Legal Mechanism
  - Mutual Aid Laws
  - The “IMA Law” (Chapter 40, Section 4a)
  - Simple contract
  - Specific MGLs (*Veterans Services, Public Health and Public Safety*)
  - Special Legislation
  - The Joint Powers Act (*legislation pending*)

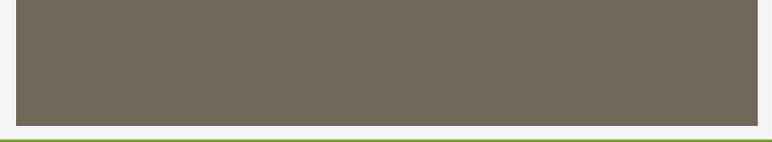
# Labor Legal Issues:

- Seek legal counsel
  - Work openly with your current employees
  - Regionalize new positions or as existing positions become open or contracts expire
  - Recreate hiring system (example: SSRECC)



# Easy ways to start

- Align service contract terms with other municipalities and bid for service collectively
- Start with low risk, relationship-building ventures
- Take advantage of staff attrition and retirement



# Planning Committee Best Practices

## Set ground rules for deliberation

- Who will participate in the process and any voting mechanism for making decisions;
- What role each committee member will play in the process;
- When and where the meetings will be held;
- How the meetings will be conducted and who will chair the meeting;
- How votes of participating municipalities will be weighted (e.g., one town/one vote, or weighted by population) or if decisions will be made by consensus.

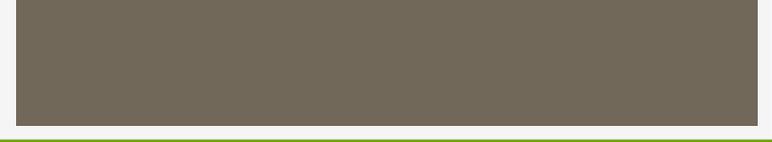
## Establish goals and objectives for the process

## Use good public engagement procedures



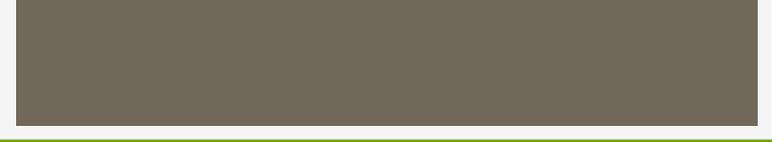
# Planning process checklist

- ❑ Find out what the benchmarks are for the service you want to share
- ❑ Conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis
- ❑ Set measureable and achievable performance standards for implementation
- ❑ Design a fair governance structure
- ❑ Design a fair cost-sharing structure



# Resources: Technical Assistance

- Your Regional Planning Agency
- DOR Division of Local Services
- MARPA Municipal Service Sharing Manual (forthcoming)
- MARPA Regionalization Website
- Collins Center



# Resources: Funding

- DLTA - funds available through your Regional Planning Agency
- Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grants
- E911 grants through EOPSS

[www.regionalbestpractices.org](http://www.regionalbestpractices.org)

