



# **BARNSTABLE COUNTY**

2019

# An Overview of Barnstable County Government

## County Facts

- **Population: 214,990 (2013 U.S. Census Bureau)**
- **Land area: ~412 square miles**
- **Fresh water: 16 square miles**
- **Coastline (including Canal): 560 miles**

Massachusetts has had counties since colonial times. Barnstable County was established in 1685. Though initially counties had a primarily judicial function, more responsibilities were added over time included administering penal systems. Supervising certain health facilities, highways, agriculture, registers of deeds, and registers of probate. In carrying out these tasks, county governments served as administrative subdivision of state government. State law provided for election of county officials including county commissioners, treasurers, district attorneys, sheriffs, clerks of court, registers of deeds and registers of probate. The state constitution had no specific provision for counties so their existence depended on the Legislature's will. Unlike town and city governments, counties had no legislative authority.

Barnstable County has been recognized as the exception to failing Massachusetts county governments, and was similar to other Massachusetts county governments until 1988 when the first of two major changes were made:

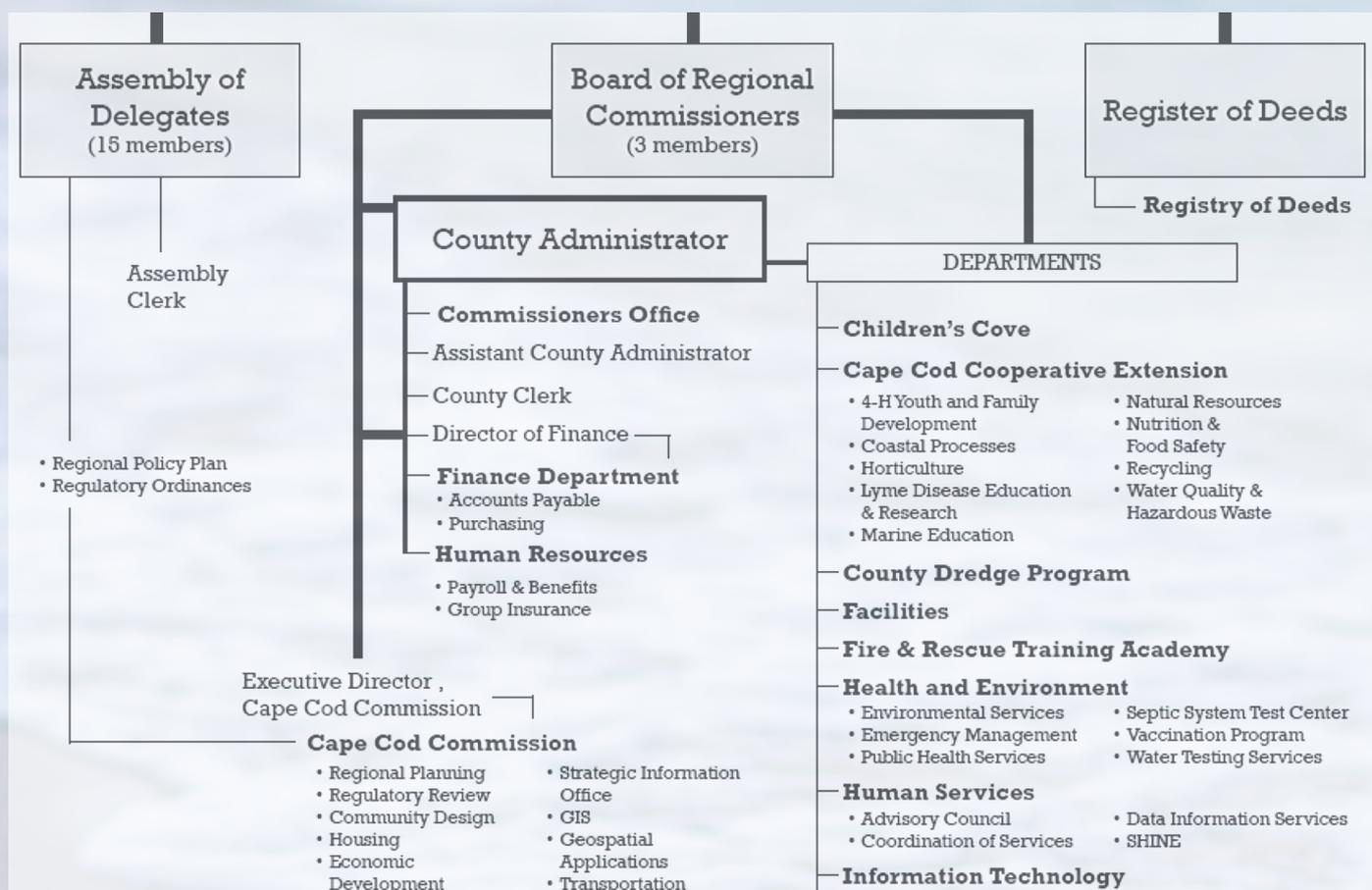
## 1. The **Barnstable County Home Rule Act of 1988** guaranteed:

- certain rights of home rule for the County,
- increased citizen participation in County government, and
- established a County legislative body with the power to enact ordinances.

## 2. The second change was the **Cape Cod Commission Act of 1990** which created a regional planning department for the County with regulatory power.

*"We the people of Barnstable County, in order to gain for ourselves and for our communities all the rights, powers, privileges, duties and obligations which may now in the future be derived from county government, do establish for ourselves and for our communities the means and structure to deal with regional issues which transcend the existing boundaries of municipal governments. This home rule charter for Barnstable County places the power and responsibility to deal with unique problems of Barnstable County in a county government directly responsible to the people of Barnstable County."*

- Barnstable County Home Rule Charter adopted by voters November 1988



# The Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates

The **Assembly of Delegates** is the legislative arm of County government. Fifteen Delegates serve in the Assembly, each elected on a nonpartisan basis from each of the Cape towns. A Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected as the Assembly Leadership. A Clerk is also elected from outside the Delegates to serve as the administrator of the Assembly's daily activities.

**Ordinances.** The Assembly governs by ordinance, binding actions approved by a majority of Delegates. The Assembly uses a weighted voting system, where each Delegate's vote is weighted proportionally to the population of the municipality they represent. Delegates are elected to two-year terms by voters in their municipality.

Passing ordinances follows these steps:

- 1. Introduction by a Delegate or Board of regional Commissioners**
- 2. Public hearing**
- 3. Adoption with or without amendment by a weighted majority of Delegates**
- 4. Approval by Board of Regional Commissioners. If the Commissioners disapprove, the Assembly may override by a vote representing two-thirds or more of the County's population.**

**Resolutions.** The Assembly also votes on resolutions to express its opinion on major issues of regional importance.

**Standing Committees.** The Assembly has seven standing committees that consider certain Assembly business: Finance, Health and Human Services, Economic Affairs, Public Services, Natural Resources, Telecommunications and Energy, Governmental Regulations.

*“The legislative powers of the Cape Cod regional government shall be exercised by an assembly of delegates consisting of fifteen members.” County Charter, Sec. 2-1*



Seated from front row left to right: Randi Potash-Chatham, Susan Moran-Falmouth, Suzanne McAuliffe – Yarmouth, Elizabeth Harder-Harwich. Standing first row left to right: James Killion – Sandwich, Deborah McCutcheon – Truro, Linda Zuern – Bourne, Lilli-Anne Green -Wellfleet, Mary Chaffee – Brewster, Patrick Princi – Barnstable. Standing back row left to right: Thomas O’Hara – Mashpee, Terence Gallagher – Eastham, Brian O’Malley – Provincetown, Christopher Kanaga – Orleans, John Ohman – Dennis.

# Board of Regional Commissioners

## ("County Commissioners")

### Structure and function:

Three county commissioners are elected on a partisan basis to four-year terms. They are responsible for:

- Direction of County agencies,
- Submission of County budget to the Assembly of Delegates,
- Care of County property,
- Supervision of revenue collection and disbursement,
- Reporting on financial and administrative condition of the County,
- Proposing measures to the Assembly,
- Considering veto of Assembly ordinances, and
- Appointment and removal of County administrator and County employees.

*"The executive powers of the Cape Cod regional government shall be vested solely in the board of regional commissioners and may be exercised whether directly by such board, or through the several regional agencies under its direction and supervision." County Charter, Sec. 3-2.*



County Commissioners: Mary Pat Flynn (Falmouth), Chair Ron Bergstrom (Chatham), Ron Beaty (Barnstable)

**County Administrator.** Day to day administration of the County is conducted by County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator and Director of Finance/Treasurer.

**Cape Cod Commission.** The Cape Cod Commission was created by the State legislature in 1990 to serve as Cape Cod's regional planning and land use agency.

**Register of Deeds.** The Register directs the Department of Land Use registration and Recording and supervises the registry of deeds, including collection of deeds excise tax.

**County Sheriff.** Operation and maintenance of the Barnstable County Correctional Facility and public safety was transferred to the state on January 1, 2010.

**County Services** (see [www.barnstablecounty.org/find-a-service](http://www.barnstablecounty.org/find-a-service) for full list). Barnstable County provides a broad array of services to municipalities and individuals. Many are programs that the largely rural, small Towns of Cape Cod could not afford to provide for themselves. These services are necessary especially in the small towns that experience large population growth in the summer months.

- **Bathing beach monitoring program:** Beach and pond water sampling for quality testing at 350 sites during summer months.
- **Public health nursing and immunizations;**
- **Dredge services:** County dredges at a reduced rate in all Cape coastal areas.
- **Procurement:** County offers bulk purchased to towns, maximizes buying potential.
- **Horticulture services** and classes including guidance from master gardeners;
- **Logistical services to town boards of health;**
- **Adult nutrition education;**
- **Food safety training** for restaurants to reduce foodborne illness; teaches proper sanitation measures;
- **Emergency planning:** County coordinates services to address weather and public health emergencies;
- **Coastal resources:** Does flood-plain planning, guides towns through FEMA planning programs to reduce insurance premiums for Cape homeowners.
- **Municipal waste and recycling** program support;
- **Entomology services** by County entomologist including tick identification, prevention and testing;
- **Landfill monitoring;**
- **Human services:** addressing opioid crisis through Narcan distribution, homelessness programs, education for seniors on Medicare options through SHINE program.
- **Insect identification services** and pest management solutions for residents and businesses;

- **Hoarding task force** to assist those struggling with this complex problem;
- **Fire and Rescue Training Academy;** provides regional public safety training.
- **Police Training Academy;** new academy -opened in summer of 2019 to reduce Town's training costs.
- **AmeriCorps Cape Cod Program:** Supports all Cape towns; provides natural resource management and other services;
- **Children's Cove:** Compassionate child sexual abuse services and advocacy.
- **Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Program:** Conducts research on septic technologies to confirm they will do what they profess to do;
- **Municipal shellfish propagation:** County offers a program to offer group buying power to purchase young oysters and other shellfish, shellfish workshops and training;
- **Septic loan program;** Aimed at assisting owners of failed residential septic systems;
- **Affordable housing, economic development, regional transportation services, and coastal resiliency** (Cape Cod Commission).
- **Resource Development Office:** Manages grants that defray costs of services for towns

### County Revenue and Expenditures

County revenues are generated by:

- Excise tax on real estate sales
- Assessments of Towns receiving services.
- Grants Expenditures are executed through the County's annual budget County

### Committees with Citizen Members (see County website for full list)

- AmeriCorps Advisory Board
- Coastal Management Committee
- Economic Development Council Advisory Board
- Health and Human Services Advisory Council
- Emergency Planning Committee
- Regional Substance Use Council
- Hoarding Task Force
- Health Agents Coalition
- Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board
- Cape Cod Commission
- Children's Cove Advisory Board
- Human Rights Advisory Board
- Rabies Task Force

#### Sources.

1. Barnstable County – The Regional Government of Cape Cod; <https://www.barnstablecounty.org>
2. How Barnstable County is Governed, County Commissioners and League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (2014).
3. Barnstable County Charter, <https://www.barnstablecounty.org/regional-government/assembly-of-delegates/home-rule-charter/>
4. Concannon, B. Massachusetts County Government: A Viable Institution? Bridgewater State University Undergraduate Review, Vol 10, Art. 15 (2014); <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/48833802.pdf>

**Revised by Assembly Delegate Mary Chaffee (Brewster),  
June 2019**



# ABOUT COUNTY SERVICES

*County government* was transformed in 1988 into a unique broad-based coordinator of regional services. The theory behind the County Charter propelled a transactional cooperative between the County and Towns to address challenges both common to all and often unique to others regardless of geographical borders. Its preeminent duty today is to protect and preserve water quality for the Cape's sole source aquifer, its ponds, rivers, streams and embayment's protecting its fisheries and aquaculture by cost-effectively utilizing emerging science.

## **Procurement**

Start with the most straightforward but most efficient service the County offers the towns: bulk purchasing. By bidding as a group, opportunities to maximize

buying potential in a way that saves the town's taxpayer money is markedly enhanced. In office supplies alone, the cost is reduced with a 60% discount to participating municipalities.

Collaborative purchasing is useful not only in saving towns money on supplies and services, but also freeing up staff time by having a central procurement specialist manage the process; as well as stimulating competition between vendors encouraging them to provide their best price. Just a few of the items procured collaboratively by the County are roadway construction, waste disposal, fuel oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel. The Procurement Division is always willing to work with towns to procure items that they feel would be beneficial to be purchased collaboratively. The Barnstable County Procurement Division is the best in the Commonwealth.



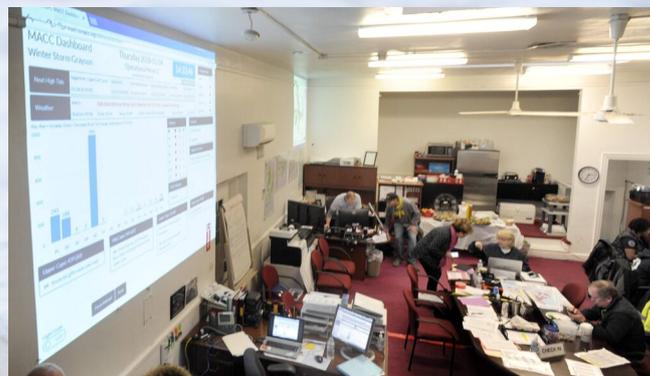
### COUNTY DREDGE

The County dredges perform coastal dredging at a significantly reduced rate to all the Cape's coastal areas. The cost of purchasing a dredge with accessory equipment exceeds \$2.5M and the annual cost of operation is approximately \$1.6M, so by providing this service to the towns on a regional basis the County is saving Cape Cod taxpayers millions of dollars on an ongoing basis while providing work that is critical to the region's beaches and boating.



### A REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The County's Regional Emergency Planning Committee, (REPC), works hand in glove with the Cape's public safety personnel in a coordinated approach preparing for and responding to County emergencies. During emergencies, the County opens and staffs the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) to monitor situation status and coordinate a regional response, transportation, and if necessary sheltering. MEMA and Eversource are vital contributing partners at the MACC.



As part of its emergency preparedness and planning functions with (2) part-time nurses, the County oversees the readiness of Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps a team of medical specialists and nurses serving as volunteers on the ready to deal with multiple complex medical emergencies should they arise. When businesses and municipalities on Cape Cod and Nantucket use OSHA hazardous or extremely hazardous

chemicals that meet or exceed Federally enforced thresholds at their facilities, they are required to comply with the Emergency Planning Community Right To Know Act (EPCRA) and file annual Tier 2 reports.

This annual reporting provides data for hazardous materials response preplanning at the local level, protects first responders who work to mitigate spills or releases, educates facility workers in proper emergency response, and helps to protect Cape Cod's sole source aquifer from the potential of a negligent discharge.

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The County's Health Department operates a bifurcated water quality monitoring program. Its field teams are continually testing and sampling as part of its beach monitoring programs across the Cape and likewise sampling wells as well as providing expedited water testing in its lab for both private and public well water quality assessments. The lab



monitors landfill samples, samples from its Innovative Testing Center, lead and metals testing and is beginning the process of accommodating testing for CEC's. The Department also operates the Alternative Septic Test Center an innovative proprietary and non-proprietary center that experiments and tracks alternative septic solutions. The center is self-funded, and several of its innovative technologies are now being deployed in the field.

The County's septic loan program began with a revolving loan from the Mass Clean Water Council to the County to establish a self-sustainable loan pool for the construction of new septic systems, repair and replacement of systems and connections to a municipal waste system. Since its inception, the County has provided more than \$44,000,000 in loans to Cape residents. Under a new initiative approved by the State Treasurer's Office and the MCWC this past year the County will now track the systems they fund to measure quality and accountability in those systems and the efficiency of the respective engineers and contractors. This database will be incorporated as part of the County's overall tracking in the 208 Program.

The Health Department likewise deploys health inspectors to the towns during the tourist season on an as needed basis to supplement local health departments. The County also staffs a small nursing division that maintains vaccinations on an as needed basis and supports a countywide health and wellness program. Programs of the Public Health Nursing Division include tick-borne Disease Prevention Program, Public immunization, Sun Safety and skin awareness and prevention programs, disease training, health screenings clinics, and educational fairs. The Cape Cod Regional Tobacco Program assists local boards of health with tobacco regulation enforcement and education regarding smoking and vaping. The Barnstable County Hoarding Task Force also helps the 15 boards of health on Cape Cod with educational resources for officials and citizens alike and professional support when a local health department needs assistance.



### **FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING ACADEMY**

The role of the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy as a regional public safety training center is well-aligned with Barnstable County's overall mission to provide high-quality regional services to the 15 municipalities of Cape Cod. The Academy annually provides basic to advanced level firefighting courses and hosts multiple nationally-recognized programs focused on the health and safety of members of the fire services. Additionally, fire departments from across Cape Cod use the facility for live fire training and the Academy meets a critical need with its ongoing fit testing program. Providing these types of programs locally, at little or no additional cost to the Cape's fire departments, reduces their personnel costs, significantly lowers wait times for enrolling in state offered training programs, eliminates travel and lodging expenses associated with off-Cape training options and keeps first responders closer to their stations. Beyond its work to support the fire services community on Cape Cod, the Academy provides industrial and maritime fire training programs in partnership with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and



New England Maritime. These programs allow non-fire-based entities to meet federally required training objectives related to fire suppression. The Academy continues to align all its programs with industry-standards and is investing in programs, equipment and infrastructure that are safer, more efficient and more cost effective. In the coming year, the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy will add a new fire training prop to the facility. This unit will enhance its industrial and maritime firefighting training programs and provide a state-of-the-art training tool to improve live fire training programs for local fire departments.

#### **CAPE COD COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Several years ago, in an attempt to help County residents, keep pace with the ever-changing FEMA regulations, which mandated that communities devise comprehensive flood plain planning to offset the rising costs of post-flooding coastal mitigation, the County established the position of Coastal Resource Specialist. This position was created to guide towns through the meticulous planning process required for FEMA flood plain management and thus reduced insurance premiums for Cape citizens. To date, several of the Cape's towns have engaged in the process, and the resulting savings to their communities are more than \$275,000.

Within two years that number will double again and in 2 years thence, still double saving Cape residents over one million dollars in flood insurance payments.

A century ago the Cape prided itself in having the cleanest waters and abundant shellfish. Among the most efficient filter-feeders contributing to water quality health, a natural system of oyster reefs was once omnipresent. Over time reefs became scarce and the ecosystem services they provided to reduce excess nitrogen couldn't keep pace. Commercial and recreational harvesters faced diminishing returns for their efforts. In response, the County has aggressively stepped in to replenish these resources which bolstered the local and growing Blue Economy and demonstrates the effectiveness of shellfish in helping to alleviate the Cape's nitrogen burden.



Between 1999 and 2017 over 220 million quahogs were purchased and seeded and between 2004 and 2017 over 44 million oysters. The plan was not based merely upon nitrogen reduction but was likewise intended to enhance the County's shellfish populations in support of over 17,000 recreational and 1,000 commercial shellfish harvesters. Similarly, the County's Extension Marine Program helped to create growth in one of the Cape's most important fishery businesses, aquaculture. The economic results have been dramatic. In 2017 alone, the industry raised over \$1M for the Cape quahog business and over \$14M in oyster revenue. Barnstable County harvests more than 95%% of the 4,000,000 plus in quahogs harvested annually statewide, and the average revenue raised for the Towns from the recreational and commercial seedlings to be raised in the communities generated \$675,000 to the Towns. This extensive investment in the shellfish industry relies in part on a \$175,000 state grant to the County and County and local contribution.

The County's commitment to the Cape's shellfish industry is not limited to its seeding program. The County supports the industry with shellfish habitat assessments, shellfish workforce training programs, and a regular vigilant marine water quality monitoring program to assure that the shellfish that reaches

your tables is healthy. The WQ monitoring provides critical environmental data to aquatic farmers and towns, and it collects baseline data necessary to detect changes relevant to ocean acidification and water temperatures.

While aquaculture is critical to the economy, the Cape still boasts of having over 400 working agricultural farms and hundreds more of backyard farmers. The County provides extensive instruction to both the commercial and residential Cape Cod farmers. The Master Gardener program sets the pace with 12-month instruction programs for the budding backyard farmer. The County is likewise offering both commercial farmers, landscape companies and golf course maintenance supervisors the latest information in organic farming and safe use of environmentally sensitive fertilizers and pesticides. And about pesticides, the County's entomologist is watching your back, legs and feet by keeping a constant vigil on ticks and partnering with Cape Cod Hospital in a



subsidized tick testing program that will analyze your potential exposure to tick bites and the potential of tick-borne disease on an expedited basis through a partnership with UMASS Amherst.

Warming temperatures have changed insect populations on the Cape, and the County is dedicated to keeping pace with the challenges as they develop. Although agricultural services are the backbone of the Extension Services, CCCE has expanded its mission to protect the environment, ensure a sustainable and safe food supply, respond to coastal flooding and to react to environmental and climatic disasters bringing 21st Century solutions to Cape Cod's changing environment and rising waters. Warming temperatures have changed the disease-carrying profiles of our insect populations while propelling our local community to more outdoor activities. Thus, CCCE has created a multi-media campaign aimed at creating public awareness of the dangers of tick-borne illness in partnership with the Cape Cod Hospital and UMass to subsidize and expedite laboratory testing of ticks and human exposure on an expedited basis.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

A decade ago issues like homelessness and opioid addiction were not front and center, but over time social issues change. In a complex society, the cost of

addressing these issues on a Town by Town basis is not supportable in a seasonal economy. Therefore, the County has stepped up and ascended to the role of the County facilitator of the numerous grants available on the State and Federal level directed to interceding and finding solutions. The County's role is to leverage those grants with public and non-profit investment to assure that services are in place to meet the demands and to hold grantees accountable for the services they provide. A great example of that process is set in the HOME program where the County's planned investment of federal dollars has leveraged over 3200 affordable units in this last decade through leveraging with local CPA investment and private developers.

The County's commitment to the SHINE Program assures that approximately 7000 of the Cape's senior population has a source for information in the complex world of health care planning and Medicare. Through the County's Regional Network on Homeless Continuum of Care program, a network of service



providers & housing authorities ensures that Cape residents have the opportunity to come in from the cold and have access to the counseling and support services necessary to mitigate against a prolonged and dangerous challenge with homelessness and hopelessness. The County is presently administering a centralized entry system into supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals to assure that bed availability, and utilization is tracked. The County recognizes that this is not a Hyannis problem but a Cape problem that



needs universal redress. On the critical issue of opioid prevention, the County's Regional Substance Abuse Council has aggressively pursued measures with both State and Federal aid to address response, Narcan availability and treatment to arrest the rampant rise in addiction and death. The County is conducting studies on the cause, industry impacts, and repeat occurrence to assist in devising strategies to decrease the epidemic in partnership with the towns.

## CHILDREN'S COVE

Established in 1997, Children's Cove is the Cape & Islands Child Advocacy Center. It's a nationally accredited facility designed to provide comprehensive, coordinated multidisciplinary 24/7 services, at no cost, to children and youth ages 0-17 (and their non-offending family members) who are victims of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, witness to domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation. They provide free specialized services in Family Advocacy, Mental Health Coordination, and Medical Care from a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Most funding is sourced from local, state and federal agencies. Children's Cove served nearly 160 families in the last fiscal year, all of whom had a child who disclosed child abuse.

Children's Cove also helps educate the community on issues surrounding child abuse including members of the community, law enforcement, prosecutors, emergency medical providers, firefighters, and child protection professionals. They have created a vigorous awareness campaign, including radio ads, news articles, and public service announcements as part of its outreach to the community regarding child sexual abuse. Most recently Children's Cove partnered with several school districts on the Cape to form the Teen TASK force, a program in which high

school sophomore students work together to raise awareness for the programs and services of the agency and to educate & advocate for child abuse issues.

### **AMERICORPS CAPE COD**

Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod is a significant program operated out of the County, supported by grant funding from the federal government through the federal agency CNCS, and by County match funding, with housing provided by Barnstable County, the Cape Cod National Seashore, and the Town of Barnstable. Each year the program recruits, trains, and houses 24 national service members, who make an 11-month, full-time volunteer commitment to Cape Cod. The program brings in skilled young professionals to serve on capacity building projects for municipal departments, schools, and critical organizations across all 15 towns of the Cape in the focus areas of natural resource management, disaster preparedness and response, environmental education, and volunteer engagement. The program accomplishes this through providing participating town departments and organizations with an "Individual Placement," where an AmeriCorps member is assigned to serve Tuesdays through Thursdays on various critical

projects. On Mondays and Fridays, AmeriCorps members group up with their housemates to complete larger scale projects, from invasive plant removal, wildfire mitigation and trail restoration to shellfish propagation and coastal resilience projects.

This past year alone, members served on over 300 of these projects. Members also take what they learn in the field to the schools of Cape Cod to teach the next generation about subjects ranging from protecting our delicate water supply, to how to prepare for the severe storms that can threaten our coastal region. When those storms do strike, AmeriCorps members are deployed across the Cape to staff the regional emergency shelters, as they did on two occasions just this past March. Before those storms, the members assisted the Towns of Provincetown and Chatham with filling and placing sandbags that prevented even greater coastal flood damage from occurring.

Over the past 20 years, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have served on over 3,800 land, and water-based conservation projects, provided environmental education to over 50,000 students, and taught over 500 disaster preparedness classes across all 15 towns of the Cape. AmeriCorps members also recruit, and leverage volunteers and have set the example for over 12,000 community members who

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served over 41,000 hours alongside the AmeriCorps members. Based on the State and National Volunteer Rate set by the Independent Sector, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members' service has totaled over \$25,000,000 in value to the towns of Cape Cod over the past 20 years. For more information on Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod or to request members for a service project, visit [www.americorpscapedod.org](http://www.americorpscapedod.org).

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

**(ACCC)** Operates out of the Resource Development Office (RDO). RDO provides all administrative support and fiscal oversight for this Federal Grant Program, which is matched by the County of Barnstable. RDO also provides the fiscal grant management for all other County Departments federal, state, and local/private awards. The RDO team provides technical assistance in grant writing for our County Departments as well as all 15 town and municipal departments that seek our help. RDO provides grant 101 training for grant writing and fiscal management and provides oversight for the Barnstable County Internship Program which recruits and manages interns for all County Departments. RDO is available to all 15 towns, and an intake form can be accessed on their Website.



### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

If the Cape is to retain its young and provide a future for competitive industry and growth it must continue to grow its information technology and broadband networks. The County's Information Technology Department developed a menu of services for municipalities. Leveraging the competitive advantages of enterprise-level purchasing, these services are designed to assist towns with primary communication and mission-critical technology infrastructure. Voice and data services, cloud-based data storage and protection, are among the offerings to improve departmental and inter-municipal communications for participating communities.



## CAPE COD COMMISSION

Through the Cape Cod Commission's Strategic Information Office, towns can access a growing suite of web-based applications to modernize core functions, expand financial transparency and facilitate economic development. The Commission is also preparing for the next regional flyover to update digital mapping and feature-rich geospatial data. This builds on the 2014 flyover, which provided a regionally-consistent dataset at an estimated \$700,000 savings over individual town contracts. Barnstable County supported that effort with a \$700,000 investment.

The Commission also offers continuing support to towns in programs to improve coastal water quality through implementation of the Cape Cod Water Quality Management Plan, better known as the 208 Plan, coordination of regional stormwater management efforts, and analysis of public supply conditions and threats. These and other technical assistance programs offered through the Commission align with its mission and growth policy to

encourage a balance between environmental protection and economic progress. Maintaining clean water, creating a vibrant blue economy, and implementing new strategies for comprehensive regional approaches to a sustainable future requires coordination of regional assets and a collaborative approach. The County and Cape Cod Commission are well-positioned to build on past successes and create new opportunities to achieve these mutual goals

The Commission has long recognized the threat to coastal degradation from rising sea levels and climate change. Along with its coastal resiliency efforts with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the Commission is working with the County to create an expanded dredge permitting process. With opportunities across the Cape, County operations including the dredge, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Health and Environment, and Innovative Technology Test Center are poised to partner with New England's best planning agency, the Cape Cod Commission, to make our future our present goal.

