



Upper Middlesex Commission on the Status of Women

Regional Commissioners: Jennifer Canfield, Co-Chair (Littleton); Christina Li, Co-Chair (Lexington); Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello (Somerville); Diane Randolph Jones (Acton); Jessica Kallin (Ashby); Shreya Kesarwani (Lexington); Julie Laflamme (Bedford); Anna Tse (Malden); Doreen Wade (Dracut)

Regional Area: The Upper Middlesex Commission on the Status of Women includes the towns of Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stoneham, Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wakefield, Westford, Wilmington, Winchester, and the cities of Cambridge, Everett, Lowell, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, and Woburn.

Highlights and Accomplishments for FY25

- **Community Coffee Conversations.** We hosted a series of community conversations across our region, covering as many of our towns and cities as possible, and invited state legislators, local elected leaders, and community partners to join us for impromptu listening sessions.
- **Continuation of the Athena (youth) Council.** We work together in two subcommittees, a policy/nonprofit one and a hearing one. The members of our Athena Council identified the issues of menstrual equity and mental health as two key areas that they believe are most important to teen girls in their own communities. They continue to collaborate with regional schools to participate in drives that provide free access to menstrual products to girls in our region and are in the process of soliciting donations through their school events, secured funding from the commission, and contacted area nonprofits to provide period hygiene products.
- **Eldercare preparedness.** We continue to follow this issue as a regional priority and are preparing a report based on the feedback we received from last year's survey and the community conversations we have hosted on this topic.
- **MCSW Advocacy Day.** We had outstanding participation at this year's Advocacy Day, both with regional commissioners and community partners. We spoke to several of our legislative offices and will continue advocating for our regional priorities.

Goals for Next Fiscal Year

- Create and enact a robust orientation and onboarding plan that spans the full year to promote leadership and support commissioners, Athena Council members, and volunteers - and to increase our efficacy and capacity.
- Continue to expand our community and network in the region, working in collaboration.
- Plan and implement a programming calendar that fully supports our regional legislative priorities.