

For Immediate Press Release

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Amirah, Inc. Awarded \$100,000 Cummings Grant Massachusetts nonprofit receives 4 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

Massachusetts, May 26, 2021- Amirah is one of the 140 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through the Cummings Foundations \$25 Million Grant Program. The Massachusetts-based organization was chosen from a total of 590 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$100,000 over 4 years.

Amirah, Inc. Receives Cummings Grant

Amirah, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, is excited to announce that they have received the Cummings Grant of \$100,000 over 4 years. This grant will be put towards the Community Resource Center in Lynn, MA that was opened by Amirah in January 2021. The Center offers case management, survivor mentorship, clinical therapy, group programs, and healing activities for women who are at risk of being exploited or are currently being exploited. Designed to minimize common barriers to access, the Center is located in a walkable communal location and offers on-site childcare—all at no cost to the women Amirah serves.

“We are so grateful to Cummings for their investment in our mission and the goals of opening the Community Resource Center,” said Mary Speta, Amirah’s CIO. The Center gives women the opportunity to self-identify as being trafficked, exploited, or prostituted, and then to access services designed to help them meet their goals for safety, exit, independence, and recovery. This grant will allow the Community Resource Center to build and expand its service capacity.

“We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets. “It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity, and so much more.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including social justice, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 43 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 800 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$300 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

About Amirah: Amirah exists to provide aftercare, resources, and opportunities to women who have survived different forms of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and prostitution. They offer residential recovery opportunities, organize outreach efforts, and educate communities, providers, and policy makers on the unique challenges victims and survivors face in the Northeastern United States. Amirah’s residential branch offers long-term recovery programs with an individualized, trauma-informed, whole person approach at safe homes in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The outreach branch brings survivor-led groups to incarcerated women and women in shelters who are at risk for exploitation or have been exploited. Amirah synthesizes what it learns from its work with external data to advocate for changes to policies that break down exit barriers and make recovery and independence possible for more women.