TOWN OF KINGSTON, MA
STATE AID

What is state aid?
State aid is money that flows from the state budget to city and town budgets, helping communities fund vital local services such as schools, public safety, recreation, public works and more. The amounts distributed to each of the 351 communities in the Commonwealth is based on a set of formulas attempting to quantify each town’s ability to pay for vital local services. While these formulas are intended to use property values, income levels, and revenue growth models to create a needs-based allocation system, they are archaic and do not adequately reflect local variations in the costs of providing services.

How much does Kingston receive?
Approximately 12% of Kingston’s general operating budget is funded by state aid receipts. Since FY09, the level of state aid distributed to Kingston has been relatively flat; not keeping pace with inflation or the allowable 2.5% growth in the Town’s municipal budget. At the same time, the assessments (i.e., automatic reductions to our state aid) have increased annually. While the cost of operating the Town grows each year due to vendor price increases, collective bargaining agreements that have been negotiated, and staffing increases authorized by Town Meeting, the amount of state aid we receive supports an incrementally smaller share of the budget each year.