



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RCAP RECEIVES GRANT FROM HEALTH FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL MASS**

*Funding will allow organization to assist rural communities with septic repair*

(Gardner, Mass., February 21, 2013) - Gardner and Worcester based non-profit, RCAP Solutions is pleased to announce that the organization recently received a \$55,825 grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, which will allow the organization to provide no-cost technical assistance to several local communities.

RCAP Solutions has begun work to develop and implement Community Septic Management Plans in the communities of Orange, Hardwick, Palmer, Westminster, Harvard, Littleton and Groton. This will result in vastly improved local capacity and provide homeowners with a sustainable solution to their failing septic systems.

Community Septic Management Plans help municipalities ensure they have sanitary wastewater disposal and safe and sustainable drinking water. Across Massachusetts, failing septic systems and cesspools are a leading cause of contaminated drinking water and polluted streams and swimming areas. In Worcester County, it is estimated that approximately 280,000 people live in communities that depend on septic systems for their sewage disposal.

The development of Community Septic Management Plans also qualifies municipalities for grant and no-interest loans through the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust. Municipalities are eligible for up to \$25,000 in grants and \$300,000 or more in no-interest funds. This allows communities to lend funds to homeowners, making it possible for families to make badly needed repairs to their septic systems.

RCAP Solutions plans to expand this program to include additional municipalities in Central Massachusetts. For more information about RCAP Solutions and how Community Septic Programs can be developed to meet a specific community's needs, town officials should contact James Starbard, Program Resource Specialist at (978) 502-0227 or email [Jstarbard@RCAPSolutions.org](mailto:Jstarbard@RCAPSolutions.org).

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### **About RCAP Solutions, Inc.**

Established in 1969 as Rural Housing Improvement, RCAP Solutions mission is to foster personal and public self-reliance and improve the quality of life for individuals, families and the communities in which they live. RCAP Solutions is a comprehensive nonprofit community development corporation that works with communities of all sizes to address a broad range of needs. RCAP Solutions is the Northeast affiliate to the national RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Partnership) Network, offering an integrated, multi-faceted approach to delivering high-quality services customized to each community's unique requirements. For more information, please visit [www.rcapsolutions.org](http://www.rcapsolutions.org).

### **About The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts:**

Formally established in 1999 from the sale of Central Massachusetts Health Care, Inc., a physician-initiated, not-for-profit HMO, The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts currently has assets of approximately \$60 million dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in the Central Massachusetts region, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. The Foundation began its grantmaking in late 2000, and since that time, has made grants totaling more than \$25 million. For further information about the foundation's grant programs, please visit The Health Foundation's website at [www.hfcm.org](http://www.hfcm.org) or call (508) 438-0009.

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