



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor, Boston, MA 02108
VisitMA.com

Sports and Entertainment Events Fund Grants

FIFA World Cup Related Round 2 of Funding

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES (RFR) AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

RFR RELEASE DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

ONLINE APPLICATION AND DUE DATE: Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 3:00pm eastern time**. Application link: <https://mott.submittable.com/submit>. Online applications only. Applications must include all required documentation by the program deadline.

QUESTIONS:

Grant questions must be submitted in writing to Charlie Ticotsky, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (Charlie.ticotsky@mass.gov) by Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 3:00pm. Questions and responses will be posted online on approximately April 23.

Any applicants experiencing technical difficulties or have technical application questions must alert MOTT by emailing WebManager.MOTT@mass.gov by Monday, April 27, 2026 at noon.

OVERVIEW

The Sports and Entertainment Events Fund was established by Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 (“the Act”) to support major sports or entertainment events through a competitive grant program. The program is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT). This round of funding availability consists of \$2 million to support municipal public safety costs related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This round is not available for operating watch parties.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Only one application per applicant may be submitted. There must be one lead applicant, but multiple organizations may collaborate on an application. To be eligible for funding, applicants must complete the online application, including all required documentation, by the deadline.

A municipality, public agency, or tribal entity located in Massachusetts is eligible to apply.

Municipal applicants must be in compliance with MBTA Communities Act (Section 3A of MGL c. 40A) if applicable.

The following applicants are ineligible to receive funding:

- *Non-governmental organizations including non-profits and for-profits.*
- *Public colleges and universities or state agencies*
- *A fiscal sponsor that will pass through funds to an ineligible organization*
- *Applicants not located in Massachusetts*

GRANT CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY

Categories of funding are anticipated to include public safety costs to cities and towns consisting of:

- Public safety expenses supporting hosting of FIFA World Cup 2026 matches
 - Eligible applicants include Foxborough and communities that border Foxborough and expect to incur reasonable public safety expenses managing impacts of World Cup matches.
- Public safety expenses supporting the Fan Festival on City Hall Plaza in Boston
- Public safety expenses supporting team home bases and base camps (team hotels and team practice facilities)
- Public safety expenses supporting official tournament hotels (accommodating teams and VIPs, not hotels with FIFA hospitality or general public room blocks)

Eligible expenses may include:

- Public Safety staffing including police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, public health, and public works
- Equipment needed and available for World Cup-related purposes in the categories of police, fire, emergency medical services, emergency management, public health, and public works

Note: Salaries for employees working directly on the grant award (with the exception of public safety personnel) should be capped at 10%. Salary costs exceeding that cap should detail a specific budget justification in the application and will likely negatively impact the overall application score. For public safety personnel costs, overtime, detail, and regular rates will all be eligible for reimbursement, however, all expenses must be directly tied to World Cup impacts.

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Expenses incurred or obligated prior to January 1, 2026.*
- *Annual operating expenditures or overhead expenditures (e.g. rent, utilities)*
- *Salaries, bonuses, or fringe benefits of personnel not directly related to the grant award*
- *Prize money, gift cards, scholarships, awards, plaques, or certificates*
- *Purchases of alcohol, cannabis or tobacco*
- *Legal fees, insurance/liability insurances and/or membership fees*
- *Mini-grants or reallocation to other organizations without written approval from MOTT*
- *Any expenses not related to the described grant purposes*

MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENTS

All grants require at least a 1:1 match. This means that the grant recipient must raise an amount equal to or more than the grant amount. Costs incurred using matching funds must be used for expenses reasonably related to the funded program. Recipients will have until August 31, 2026 to both raise and incur matching funds. Grants that do not fulfill their 1:1 match will be required to reimburse the Commonwealth for the amount not met. Match expenses must be incurred on or after January 1, 2026, through the period of performance of the grant, which ends on August 31, 2026. Prior expenses are not eligible and MOTT is not responsible for any costs incurred in expectation of receipt of the grant. MOTT will make absolutely no exceptions to proposed matching expenses incurred prior to January 1, 2026.

Matching funds may include any of the following assets as sources:

- cash funds, which may be in place prior to grant award
- municipal funding
- in-kind contributions to the project
- capital equipment purchases
- donation of consultant time
- salaries for employees working directly on the grant award

Match amount may not include any of the following assets as sources:

- *employee fringe benefits*
- *consultant fringe benefits*
- *endowment funds*
- *MOTT funds, other Commonwealth grant funds, including grants from independent and quasi-public state agencies, and federal grant funds*

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by the strength of the following criteria.

Budget (50%)

- Strength of budget
- Ability to provide matching funds
- Appropriate timeline
- Alignment/partnership with federal, state, regional, and local public safety agencies

Need for Funding (40%)

- Articulation of need, including specific anticipated days that funding will be used, details of tournament components that require public safety support
- Avoidance of state costs
- Risks if funding is not awarded

Unique Factors (10%)

- How success will be measured
- Unique attributes of proposal
- Equity and inclusion efforts, including for persons with disabilities
- Any particular economic impacts on the tourism industry

DOCUMENTATION, CERTIFICATIONS, AND DISCLOSURES

A number of required documentations, certifications, and disclosures are part of the application pursuant to Chapter 23A, Section 13W(c). These mainly concern procurement and labor regulations and practices. By statute, all applicants must provide documentations, certifications, and disclosures, if relevant to the nature of the application, in order to be eligible to receive grant funding. Not all sections will be applicable to every application. A successful applicant's good faith failure to provide complete and accurate documentation, certifications and disclosures will result in suspension from the grant program for a period of 30 days, during which MOTT will provide an opportunity for the awardee to address application deficiencies to the satisfaction of MOTT. Failure to cure deficiencies will result in grant termination. A successful applicant's willful failure to provide accurate documentation, certification and disclosures will result in termination of grant funding and trigger the return of all disbursed funds within 30 days. The Attorney General will take enforcement action for potential violations as necessary.

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

The Sports and Entertainment Events Fund Grant Program anticipates awarding up to \$2,000,000 in this funding round via a competitive grant process.

Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 3:00pm eastern time**. Application link: <https://mott.submittable.com/submit>. Online applications only. Applications must include all required documentation by the program deadline.

Grant questions must be submitted in writing to Charlie Ticotsky, Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (Charlie.ticotsky@mass.gov) by Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 3:00pm. Questions and responses will be posted online on approximately April 23, 2026.

Any applicants experiencing technical difficulties or have technical application questions must alert MOTT by emailing WebManager.MOTT@mass.gov by Monday, April 27, 2026 at noon.

Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) staff will review all complete, eligible proposals submitted by the application deadline. MOTT will award grants based upon criteria outlined above in consultation with the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and other relevant state agencies, and subject to appropriation.

MOTT reserves the right to make awards in multiple rounds, with or without re-opening the application.

Grant awards are anticipated to be announced in May 2026.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Grants will be managed by MOTT staff in conjunction with EOED staff.

Grant funds will be reimbursed on a rolling basis, on a cost-reimbursement basis upon demonstration of incurred costs. Copies of original vendor invoices showing the actual matching and grant costs incurred, the check number, and date of the check corresponding to the invoices must be submitted by the conclusion of the grant period.

As outlined above, all grantees must maintain compliance with required documentations, certifications, and disclosures outlined in the statute.

Grantees are encouraged to support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

MOTT may require grant recipients to meet for progress meetings.

Grant funds (as well as required matching funds) must be spent by August 31, 2026. A final report must be submitted to MOTT by September 30, 2026.

COPY OF APPLICATION

Application questions are pasted below. **Applicants must apply online via** <https://mott.submittable.com/submit>

2026 Sports and Entertainment Events Fund Grant Application – Round 2

Please review carefully and answer the following questions.

Grant Proposal Title:

Organization Name:

Mailing Address:

Website:

Lead Contact Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Is the organization a Massachusetts municipality, other public agency or tribal entity? Yes/No

Please **attach** audited financial or draft audit statements for the most recent fiscal year.

Was the organization awarded any federal, state, quasi, and/or local grants within the past 12 months? Yes/No

If yes, please list granting organization(s) and amount(s):

Grant Amount Request:

Attach detailed budget proposal (please include: proposed uses of grant funds; sources of matching fund and whether they have been secured yet; proposed uses of matching funds).

Open-ended questions

Short Description of Proposal (100 Word Maximum)

Attach additional background documents, photos, or renderings (optional)

Budget (50%) (250 word maximum)

- Provide a narrative further explaining the proposed budget (state and match, including sources of match funds).
- Include a timeline of implementing proposed plan.
- Provide any information about alignment and partnership with federal, state, regional, and local public safety agencies.

Need for Funding (40%) (250 word maximum)

- Articulate the need for funding, including the specific anticipated days that funding will be used, details of tournament components that require public safety support.
- Would this avoid other state costs?

- Outline any risks if funding is not awarded.

Unique Factors (10%) (200 word maximum)

- How will success be measured?
- Are there any unique attributes of your proposal?
- Describe any equity and inclusion efforts, including for persons with disabilities.
- Would this funding lead to any particular economic impacts on the tourism industry?

Documentation, Certification, and disclosures:

For the category of “event services or construction, functioning, or operation of a sports or entertainment event”, applicants must complete the following for itself and for any contractors or vendors to be utilized:

certification that the applicant and any contractors or vendors it utilizes have complied with chapters 149, 151, 151A, 151B and 152 and 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq. and federal anti-discrimination laws for the last 3 calendar years

Yes/No

certification that the applicant and any contractors or vendors it utilizes are currently, and shall remain, in compliance with chapters 149, 151, 151A, 151B and 152 and 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq. and federal anti-discrimination laws for the duration of the services or labor

Yes/No

a disclosure by the applicant as to whether it and any contractors and vendors it utilizes to support sports or entertainment events have previously contracted with a labor organization, as defined by chapter 150A and section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act, in the Commonwealth or elsewhere

(100 word maximum)

a disclosure by the applicant of its plans for assuring labor harmony for the duration of work to support sports or entertainment events both separately and in conjunction with its contractors and vendors

(250 word maximum)

For grants seeking funds for construction within the category of “event services or construction, functioning, or operation of a sports or entertainment event” **to be held on publicly owned or leased property**, applicants must complete the following for itself and for any contractors or vendors to be utilized:

certification that the applicant and any contractors and sub-contractors are in compliance with the Commonwealth’s public procurement and bidding statutes, pursuant to chapters 30, 149 and 149A

Yes/No

disclosures in which the applicant shall specify whether it and any contractors and subcontractors on the project participates in a state or federally certified apprenticeship program and the number of apprentices the apprenticeship program has trained to completion for each of the last 5 calendar years
(100 word maximum)

a statement of intent concerning the extent to which the applicant and any contractors and sub-contractors on the project intend to utilize apprentices on the project if a grant is awarded
(100 word maximum)

Certify that the applicant and any contractors or sub-contractors have not been debarred by the federal government or the Commonwealth
Yes/No

For grants seeking funds for the procurement of services, labor, equipment, or supplies pursuant to chapter 30B within the categories of “event services or construction, functioning, or operation of a sports or entertainment event” **to be held on publicly owned or leased property**, applicants must complete the following for itself and for any contractors or vendors to be utilized:

Certify that the applicant and each of its vendors are in compliance with chapter 30B
Yes/No

Specify whether it and each of its vendors on the project has established or participates in workforce development programs within the Commonwealth and the number of residents of the Commonwealth the workforce development programs have trained to completion for each of the last 5 years
(100 word maximum)

To what extent the applicant and its vendors intend to utilize workers in the Commonwealth to fulfill services and labor requirement
(100 word maximum)

Signatory, Certification, and Acknowledgements:

I, submitting a proposal for the 2026 Sports and Entertainment Events Fund Grants Round 2, as established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and administered by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, hereby certify that I/we have been authorized to file this proposal and to provide the information within and accompanying this proposal. I/we certify that the information provided herein is true and complete and that it reflects the applicant’s intentions to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We understand that the information provided within this proposal will be relied upon by the Commonwealth in deciding whether to contract with the organization and that the Commonwealth reserves the right to take action against the applicant organization or any other beneficiary if the Commonwealth discovers that the applicant intentionally provided misleading, inaccurate, or false information. I/We make this certification under the pains and

penalties of perjury. The signatories also hereby acknowledge that, under the Public Records law of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this application and all documents submitted in support thereof are public records under the provisions of Massachusetts G. L., Ch. 4, sec. 7 (26).

Name:

Title:

Date:

Conflict of Interest

Pursuant to Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2010, applicants are subject to performance measurements and uniform standards related to accounting procedures, personnel practices, and purchasing procedures, and are subject to Commonwealth conflict of interest laws. As a condition to receiving grant funds from MOTT, the Sports and Entertainment Events Grant contract shall require that in any matter in which a person, corporation or other business entity in which you or any member of your organization is in any way interested, such interest shall be disclosed in writing in advance. In addition, you or any member of your organization having such an interest may not participate in a decision relating to such person, corporation or other business entity. As deemed necessary, the Sports and Entertainment Events Grant contract shall also require that the Grantee undergo a biennial audit and examination of the audited financial statements of the applicant conducted by the auditor of the Commonwealth. I agree:

Name:

Title:

Date: