

**Cybersecurity Incident Response  
Plan and Tabletop Exercise Grant  
Opportunity for Massachusetts State  
Agencies**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
Office of Grants and Research



Posting Date: September 17, 2025

**Q: Where do I find the application materials for this grant opportunity?**

*A: Details about this grant opportunity as well as the application materials can be found on our [website](#).*

**Q: Where in COMMBUYS do we find the vendors - is there a search term?**

*A: Information on the two approved vendors for this grant opportunity can be found on [COMMBUYS](#).*

**Q: Can a state agency applicant submit a budget showing a 15% de minimis indirect rate line if we don't have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement?**

*A: Yes, if you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may use the de minimis rate for indirect costs.*

**Q: Is there a limit on the Indirect Rate that can be used, or should the negotiated rate be used?**

*A: The negotiated rate should be used for indirect costs.*

**Q: If the College uses the de-minimis rate, do we still need to provide an indirect cost rate agreement?**

*A: If you have an indirect rate agreement, you must use the approved rate. If you do not have an indirect rate agreement, the de-minimis may be used. Please note that if an indirect rate agreement exists, it is required to use the approved rate.*

**Q: Do the Cyber Hygiene Services scans need to be completed by the application submission/deadline?**

*A: No, the Cyber Hygiene Services do not have to be completed at the time of application. However, these requirements should be complete during the period of performance of the*

grant award. Please note that the [Nationwide Cybersecurity Review \(NCSR\)](#) is only open annually from October-February and must be completed by the end of February 2026. Completing the NCSR is a requirement of this grant opportunity. Failure to complete this requirement may result in a loss of funding. Please [register for the NCSR](#) as soon as you are awarded funds and complete the self-assessment before the close date of February 2026.

**Q: Can grant funding be used to support physical purchases (contingency software for the CIRP) and a senior leadership retreat to successfully plan and implement this plan?**

A: The allowable costs for this grant opportunity include contract/vendor costs, other costs (defined in the AGF as “supplies needed to implement a TTX if not included in the vendor cost, dissemination costs associated with reproducing the CIRP developed, etc.”), and indirect costs. Based on the details provided in the question, these costs would be unallowable.

For any questions regarding allowable costs in regards to your organizations specific needs or projects, please reach out to Program Coordinators Sarah Cook, [sarah.e.cook@mass.gov](mailto:sarah.e.cook@mass.gov), and Ira Berberaj, [ira.berberaj@mass.gov](mailto:ira.berberaj@mass.gov).