



# Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Details: Pay-As-You-Throw

## Overview

In a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program (also referred to as Save-Money-and-Reduce-Trash (SMART)), residents pay per unit for the amount of solid waste they generate. There is no direct fee for recycling. This creates a financial incentive to recycle more and to generate less waste. MassDEP is offering start-up funds for new PAYT program implementation and funds for specific program upgrades. If your municipality is planning to implement PAYT in the next fiscal year, it is recommended that you apply in this category.

## Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must have submitted and worked with their [Municipal Assistance Coordinator \(MAC\)](#) on implementation of a PAYT Program Planning Technical Assistance grant.
- This grant item is available to municipal applicants for their new drop-off PAYT program or new curbside PAYT program. New PAYT programs that begin prior to the submittal of a complete and qualifying grant application will not be eligible for funding.
- A municipality with an existing PAYT program may apply for a “program upgrade” as described in the Grant Award Amount section below. Sticker and punch-card programs are not eligible for funding, except for an upgrade to a bag program.
- Applicants must have adopted a municipal bylaw/ordinance and/or Board of Health hauler regulation that requires private haulers to provide integrated solid waste and recycling services to residential customers for one bundled price. (i.e., all customers receive recycling collection with trash collection). The purpose of this requirement is to level the playing field and minimize the number of households opting out of the municipal PAYT program. This requirement will be waived for curbside PAYT programs that include in their basic level service a 35-gal or less trash cart, bag or barrel each week, as households are less likely to opt out of this type of program.
- A municipality proposing a multi-family PAYT program will be required to approve an ordinance or bylaw requiring multi-family property owner and resident participation.
- Implementation of new PAYT programs may be prioritized over “program upgrades” described in the “Grant Award Amount” section above.

## Grant Award Amount

Grant awards will be calculated based on the number of households served by the PAYT program. The maximum award value is \$300,000. The amount awarded per household will be based on the type of PAYT program being implemented as described below.

<b>New Drop-off PAYT Program:</b> Per household award	\$10
<b>New Curbside PAYT Program:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. With ONE bag/barrel free</li> <li>b. With NO bags/barrels free</li> <li>c. With one 35-gal automated trash cart</li> <li>d. With one 64-gal automated trash cart collected every other week</li> </ol>	\$10, OR \$20, OR \$30, OR \$10
<b>Upgrades to Existing PAYT Programs:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Convert from one bag/barrel free to no-bags/barrels free</li> <li>b. Provide each household with automated trash cart of 35-gal capacity or smaller</li> <li>c. Transition from a sticker program to a bag program</li> </ol>	\$5, OR \$30 OR \$5

## **Special Notes**

1. If a municipality implements a “variable rate” cart program, in which residents are charged for trash collection based on the cart size they choose (i.e., 35-gal, 64-gal, or 95-gal), the per household award will apply ONLY to those households using a cart size of 35-gals or less.
2. Municipalities that utilize larger carts for trash collection and require all trash in the cart to be placed in official PAYT trash bags will qualify for a “No bags free” PAYT award (\$20/household served).
3. In Drop-off PAYT Programs the grant award will be based on the number of households obtaining access (e.g., through a transfer station sticker) to the drop-off location.
4. PAYT award will be based on the municipality’s estimate of the households to be served by the municipal program. Actual award disbursements will be based on actual households participating in the program.
5. MassDEP reserves the right to cap the total PAYT grant awarded to a municipality at \$30/household over a ten-year period.
6. The municipality will operate the PAYT program for a minimum of two years for bag and tag programs, and a minimum of five years for cart programs. At MassDEP’s discretion, the minimum program duration may be longer, depending on the size of the award.

## **Use of Grant Funds**

- PAYT funds may be used to fund the costs of bags, 35-gal or smaller trash cart, educational materials, a program coordinator, recycling containers and other MassDEP approved program start-up costs.
- Funding may not be used to pay for the disposal of solid waste or recyclables processing.
- Requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts and/or invoices for each expense to be reimbursed.
- Funds utilized towards the purchase of 35-gal trash carts through the municipality’s hauler must specify within the municipality’s contract with hauler that the municipality takes ownership of the carts at the end of the contract.
- Black or grey colored trash carts are strongly recommended.

## **Relevant State Contracts**

- PAYT bags may be purchased off statewide contract [FAC86: Solid Waste and Recycling Services](#), under category 1A.
- 35-gal trash carts may be purchased using Category 3 of statewide contract [FAC113designatedDEP: Recycling Containers, Compost Bins and Rain Barrels](#).

**For more information on PAYT grants, please contact:**

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