

# **FEDERAL FUNDS & INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE COMMUNITY TOUR**

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Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill  
March 5, 2025

# AGENDA

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About FFIO

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Local Government Engagement

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Federal Matching Funds Legislation

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New Federal Funding Opportunities

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MassDOT: Highway's Community Grants Team

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MBI: Broadband Resources

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Direct Pay

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Audience Engagement Exercise

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Q&A / Discussion

# ABOUT THE FEDERAL FUNDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE (FFIO)

Officially created by Executive Order No. 624, and tasked with implementing a whole-of-government to compete for federal funding by:



**Identifying and tracking key federal funding opportunities and Massachusetts applications through the State Clearinghouse**



**Leading bi-weekly meetings of the interagency Advisory Council on Federal Funds and Infrastructure**



**Leading the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership and other meetings to support local governments in their applications for federal funding**



**Implementing the Federal Match legislation (*Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2024*)**

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT**

# MASSACHUSETTS FEDERAL FUNDS PARTNERSHIP

**The Partnership provides key federal grant information to the local governments of MA.**

FFIO leads the monthly Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership meeting. This forum delivers federal funding updates and offers a platform for addressing questions related to the many funding opportunities at the disposal of cities, towns and tribal organizations.

**Previous Federal Funds Partnership Meeting Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

- National League of Cities Presentation on federal budget reconciliation and legislative updates for municipalities

**Next Federal Funds Partnership Meeting Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

# ENGAGEMENT WITH RPAs AND FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

## **Previous Monthly Meeting with MARPA + Federally Recognized Tribes Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

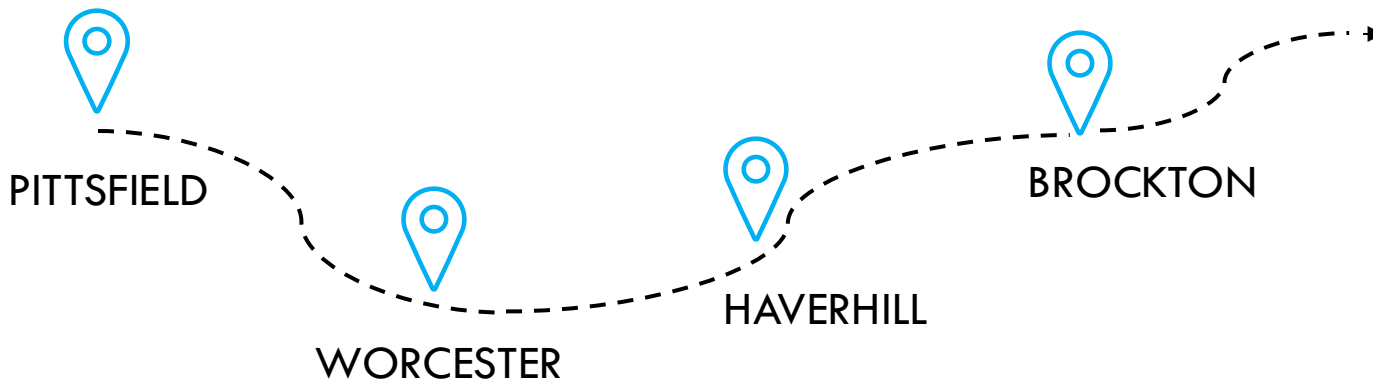
- Met with the 13 Regional Planning Agencies to cover the latest updates on federal grants.
- Working with RPA's and agencies to identify technical assistance gaps.
- MassDOT Safety Action Planning Technical Assistance
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP), Kara Runsten & Emma Sass

## **Next Monthly Meeting with MARPA + Federally Recognized Tribes Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Working with RPA's and agencies to identify technical assistance gaps.
- MBI Technical Assistance

# FFIO COMMUNITY TOUR

- **INFORMATION SHARING:** Provide information on federal grant application resources made available by the new legislation
- **UNDERSTAND NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:** Seek community input on priority projects seeking federal funding
- **GATHER FEEDBACK:** Solicit feedback on the Federal Funds Partnership and other FFIO processes



## FEDERAL FUNDS & INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE (FFIO) COMMUNITY TOUR



11:00 AM | 05 MAR 2025

Come meet the FFIO team, learn about our office, and how our resources can help your community.



NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HAVERHILL**  
& ZOOM

**RSVP**

Questions? Email us at:  
[fedfundsinfra@mass.gov](mailto:fedfundsinfra@mass.gov)

# **FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS LEGISLATION**

# MASSACHUSETTS FEDERAL MATCH LEGISLATION

## Matching Funds

- Unlocks up to **\$750M** for matching funds for federal programs
- Eligible entities, including RPA's can now apply for match via the [FFIO Match Request Form](#)
- Learn more on the new [Massachusetts Matching Funds Website](#)

## Other Financial Assistance for Municipalities

- Allocates up to **\$50M** in the form of grants, loans, or other financial assistance, which may be directed to municipalities.
- Explore providing start-up capital for Direct Pay-eligible projects, etc.

## Technical Assistance for Municipalities

- Allocates up to **\$12M** for technical support to munis for grant application development and implementation assistance for successful awards
- Leverage existing municipal outreach (partnership meetings, upcoming community tour, etc.) to understand municipal needs

# MATCHING FUNDS PROCESS

## Eligible applicants:

- State agencies
- Independent governmental state or public entities (quasis)
- Municipalities (cities and towns)
- Tribes
- Regional planning agencies (RPAs)
- Community development corporations (CDCs)
- Other development authorities or agencies
- *Private entities (under review)*

## Application process:

1. Fill out Federal Matching Funds Form
2. Email supporting materials to [fedfundsinfra@mass.gov](mailto:fedfundsinfra@mass.gov)
3. Questions on form or materials: reach out to Bob and Sam
4. If your agency works with munis on a federal program, **have the muni who would be award recipient apply for match**

## Timeline:

- Three (3) weeks prior to federal application submission
- FFIO and ANF review on a rolling basis (for now)
- Still reviewing how to process retroactive requests

# PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS



## **Develop Project Prioritization List**

- Aggregate priority projects through RPAs, EJ organizations, the Road Show, engagement with mayors, Fed Funds Partnership meetings, EEA's Green Communities and MVP program, etc.
- Identify potential federal funding sources, other potential financial assistance (e.g., match funding, loans, grants), and TA roadblocks.
- Create and execute plan to advance issues related to these projects.

# **NEW FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

# CLIMATE

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
<b>Energy Improvements in Rural and Remote Areas</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Private, Universities	\$50,000,000	5-50%	Concept Papers: 2/27/2025 Full Applications: 8/28/2025
<b>Accelerating CO2 Conversion Technology Development and Deployment</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, For-Profits, Nonprofits	\$8,000,000	20%	4/11/2025
<b>Round 3 - Habitat Restoration</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, NGOs, Small Businesses, Universities	\$2,000,000	N/A	5/12/2025
<b>Thriving Communities Grant Makers –Region 1</b>	Local Governments, Tribes, NGOs	Multiple tiers	N/A	Multiple rounds
<b>BRIC</b>	Local Governments	\$50,000,000	25%	3/10/2025 MEMA Deadline

# CLIMATE

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
<b>Candidate Species Conservation Fund</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities, School Districts, Nonprofits, Small Businesses, Individuals	N/A  Total Program Funding: \$500,000	N/A	9/30/2025
<b>Partners for Fish and Wildlife</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities, School Districts, Housing Authorities, Nonprofits, Small Businesses, Individuals	\$750,000	N/A	9/30/2025
<b>Coastal Program</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities, School Districts, Housing Authorities, Nonprofits, Small Businesses, Individuals	\$500,000	N/A	9/30/2025

# TRANSPORTATION

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program	Rural Local Governments, Tribes	\$2,250,000	N/A	4/17/2025
PROTECT Grant	State, Local Governments, Tribes	\$60,000,000	0-20%	Expected Timeline: Spring 2025
Port Infrastructure Development Program	State, Local Governments, Tribes	\$112,500,000	20% (with exceptions)	4/30/2024

# UNIVERSITIES

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
Archival Projects	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities	\$150,000	N/A	11/5/2025
NASA's Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES)	Proposers must be affiliated with an institution at NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System	-	N/A	7/10/2025
Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)	Universities	\$3,000,000	N/A	5/25/2025

# THRIVING COMMUNITIES (WATER, VETERANS SERVICES, ETC.)

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
<b>EDA Public Works Program (PWEAA)</b>	States, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities, NGOs	\$30,000,000	20-40%	Rolling
<b>Small Business Innovation Research Phase II</b>	Small Businesses	\$690,000	N/A	3/14/2025
<b>Advancing Data in Corrections Initiative</b>	Universities, Nonprofits, For-Profits, Small Businesses	\$4,000,000	N/A	3/12/2025

# THRIVING COMMUNITIES (PUBLIC SAFETY, HOUSING)

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
<b>Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP), and the Homeless Women Veterans' and Homeless Veterans' with Children Reintegration Grant Program (HWVHVWC)</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Nonprofits, For-Profits, Housing Authorities, Small Businesses, Universities	\$500,000	N/A	3/17/2025
<b>Advancing Data in Corrections Initiative</b>	Universities, Nonprofits, For-Profits, Small Businesses	\$4,000,000	N/A	3/12/2025
<b>Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program</b>	State, Local Governments, Tribes, Universities	\$550,000	20-40%	4/3/2025

# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:



DIRECT PAY TAX CREDITS

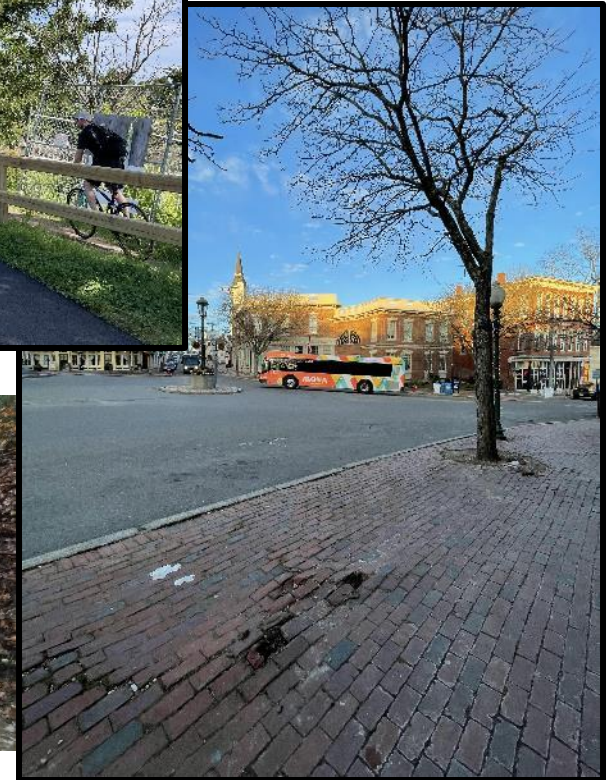


# **Municipal Grants Engagement (MGE) Group and MassDOT Highway Division Grant Central and Community Grants**

**Kristen Rebelo  
(she/her)  
March 5, 2025**

# About the Municipal Grants Engagement (MGE) Group

- MassDOT's Municipal Grants Engagement Group's mission is to **connect municipalities with federal funding opportunities** to advance local and regional transportation needs.
- The group will also **provide technical assistance** to Massachusetts communities, with a focus on rural areas and Gateway Cities, to **prepare projects for the receipt of federal funding, develop discretionary grant applications, and assist with coordination efforts** across MassDOT, municipalities, and our partner agencies.



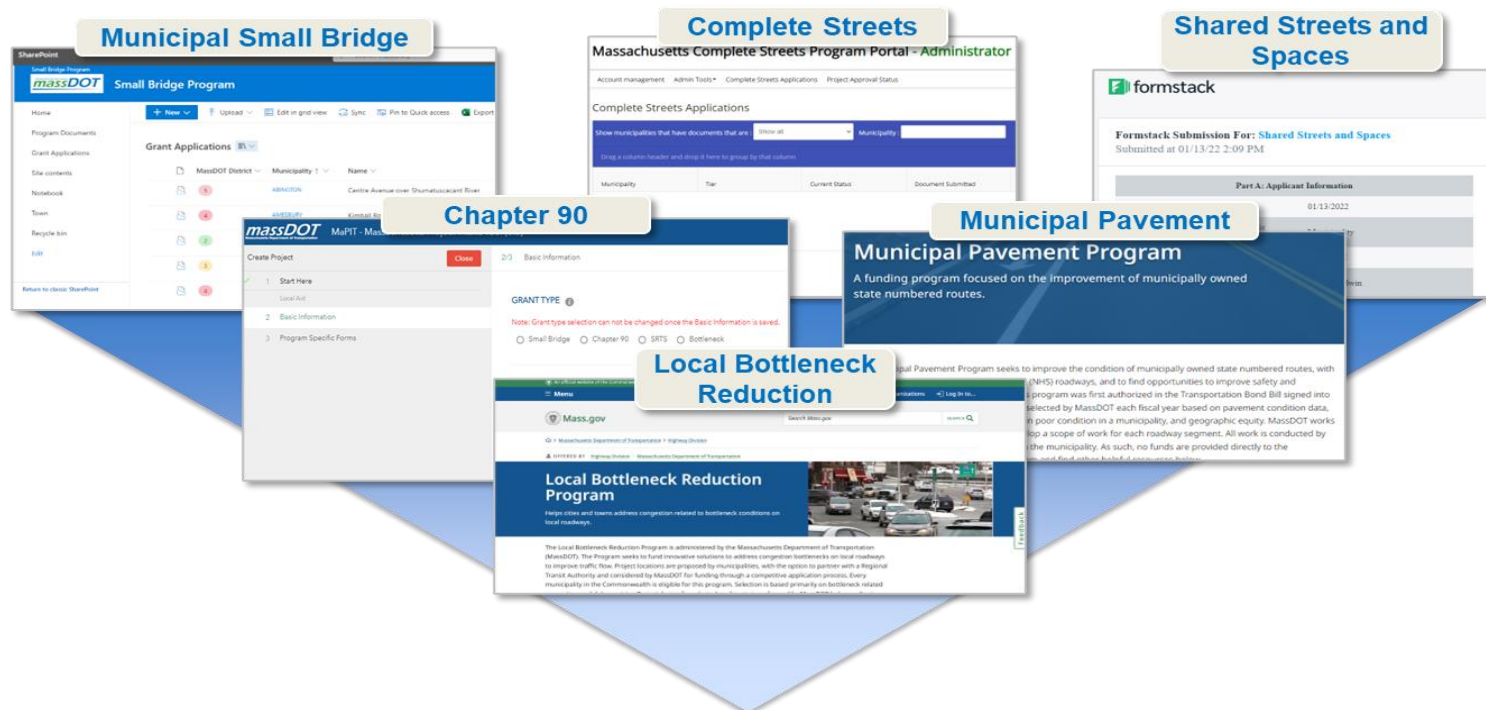
## Resources and Contact Information

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- **Derek Krevat**, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, Manager of Municipal Grants Engagement: [Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Derek.Krevat@dot.state.ma.us)
- **U.S. DOT Navigator**: <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>
- **Grants.gov**: <https://www.grants.gov/search-grants>
- **MA Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office**:  
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/federal-funds-infrastructure-office>

# Grant Central

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## Funding Programs

Chapter 90 | Complete Streets | Local Bottleneck Reduction | Municipal Pavement | Municipal Small Bridge | Shared Streets and Spaces



## Grant Central Users

The Public | Municipal Officials | Regional Transit Authorities | MassDOT Staff

**636 unique  
Municipal Users**



# Municipal Grant Opportunities

## Complete Streets Funding Program

**Details:** A three-tiered program encouraging the incorporation of Complete Streets principles in local planning and design practice. Communities who participate in this program pass a local policy, adopt a prioritization plan, and implement multimodal projects.

**Focus:** Sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths, bus stop Improvements.

## Chapter 90 Program

**Details:** A formula-based program that provides funding to all communities each fiscal year for improvements to transportation infrastructure. Not a competitive application program.

**Focus:** Roadway construction, pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure, road building equipment, consultant services.

## Local Bottleneck Reduction Program

**Details:** A program that funds innovative solutions to address congestion bottlenecks on local roadways to improve traffic flow. Selection is based off of bottleneck related congestion and delay metrics.

**Focus:** Improvements to traffic signal timing, equipment, vehicle detection, and infrastructure.

## Municipal Pavement Program

**Details:** A program focused on improving the condition of municipally owned state numbered routes. Not a competitive grant program. Projects are selected based on pavement condition data, the proportion of state numbered routes in poor condition in a municipality, and geographic equity.

**Focus:** Pavement rehabilitation, resurfacing, or pavement preservation.

## Municipal Small Bridge Program

**Details:** A program providing funding to municipalities for the improvement of bridges that are on a local public way, included in the State Bridge inventory, and have a span between 10 and 20 feet.

**Focus:** Bridge replacement, preservation, or rehabilitation.

## Shared Streets and Spaces Program

**Details:** A program focusing on improvements to plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, bus stops, parking areas, and other other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and strengthened commerce.

**Focus:** Sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, dedicated bus or bus/bike lanes, wayfinding, lighting.

# Complete Streets Funding Program

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## Complete Streets Funding Program

**Details:** A three-tiered program encouraging the incorporation of Complete Streets principles in local planning and design practice. Communities who participate in this program pass a local policy, adopt a prioritization plan, and implement multimodal projects.

**Focus:** Sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths, bus stop Improvements.

# ***Complete Streets Funding Program***

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- Launched in 2016, the program has invested approximately \$105 million through 508 Tier 2 and Tier 3 grants.
- Results of the FY25 Round 1 were announced the week of January 13, 2025.
- The next Tier 3 application round opens in April, but we are always accepting Tier 1 and Tier 2 submissions!

# Shared Streets & Spaces

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## Shared Streets and Spaces Program

**Details:** A program focusing on improvements to plazas, sidewalks, curbs, streets, bus stops, parking areas, and other other public spaces in support of public health, safe mobility, and strengthened commerce.

**Focus:** Sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, dedicated bus or bus/bike lanes, wayfinding, lighting.

<https://madothway.my.site.com/GrantCentral/s/shared-streets-public-overview>

# ***Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program***

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- Launched in 2020, the program has invested approximately \$56.5M million through 524 grants.
- January 13, 2025 was the last day to submit an application for this round.
- We anticipate the results of this application round to be announced in April 2025.

# ***Municipal Small Bridge Program***

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## **Municipal Small Bridge Program**

**Details:** A program providing funding to municipalities for the improvement of bridges that are on a local public way, included in the State Bridge inventory, and have a span between 10 and 20 feet.

**Focus:** Bridge replacement, preservation, or rehabilitation.

<https://madothway.my.site.com/GrantCentral/s/municipal-small-bridge-public-overview>

## ***Municipal Small Bridge Program***

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- Launched in 2016, the program has invested approximately \$75.25 million through 210 grants.
- The FY25 application round closed on Monday, February 3, 2025.
- We anticipate the results of this application round to be announced in late April 2025.

# Local Bottleneck Reduction Program

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## Local Bottleneck Reduction Program

**Details:** A program that funds innovative solutions to address congestion bottlenecks on local roadways to improve traffic flow. Selection is based off of bottleneck related congestion and delay metrics.

**Focus:** Improvements to traffic signal timing, equipment, vehicle detection, and infrastructure.

<https://madothway.my.site.com/GrantCentral/s/local-bottleneck-public-overview>

## ***Local Bottleneck Reduction Program***

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- Launched in 2021, the program has invested approximately \$8.5 million through 47 grants.
- MassDOT announced the results of the latest application round in early January and assigning designers to the awarded communities before the end of the month.

# Safe Routes to School (<https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school>) 33

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 2025 EVENTS



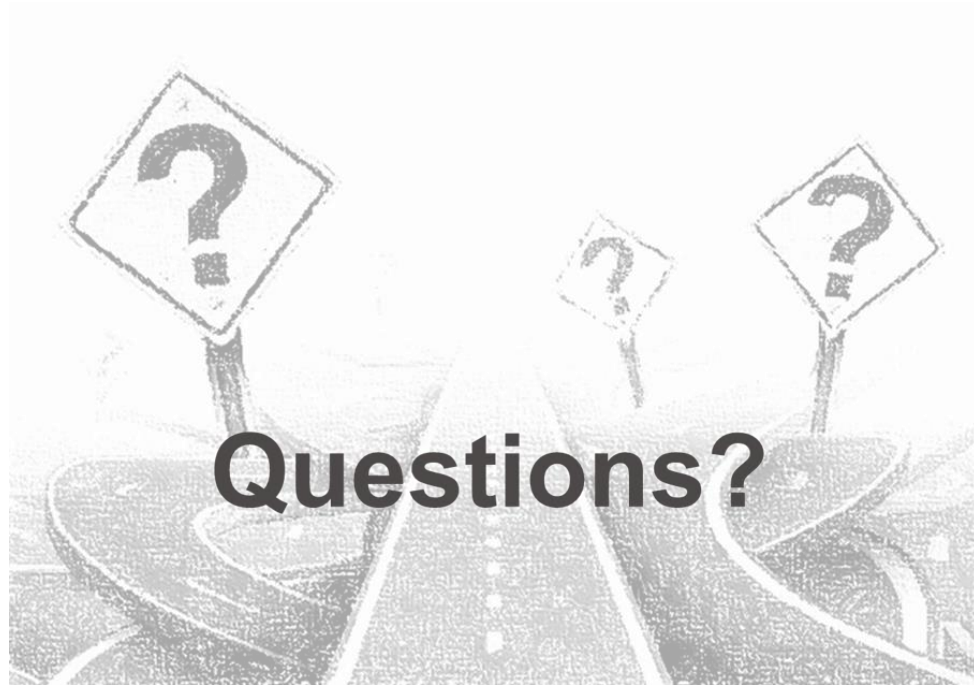
The MassDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program organizes events all year round to promote safe biking, walking, and rolling among students in elementary, middle, and high school. You can learn more about these events and how to participate by scanning the QR code.

<b>JANUARY</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>3</b> Yard Sign Design Contest Launch Students make their trip to school safer by designing yard signs for this annual contest.</li><li><b>29</b> Winter Webinar 12:00 p.m. In this webinar, you will learn about the community approach to SRTS. A recording is available online if you missed it.</li></ul>	<b>APRIL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>16</b> Car-Free Campus Day In celebration of Earth Month, high schools across the Commonwealth pick one day in April, May, or June to make their campus car-free.</li><li><b>16</b> Spring Webinar: New Tools for Schools 12:00 p.m. In this webinar, you will learn about the new SRTS resources available for schools. A recording is available online if you missed it.</li><li><b>21-25</b> Spring Break</li><li><b>22</b> Earth Day Protect our planet by getting to school today in a person-powered way!</li></ul> 
<b>FEBRUARY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>5</b> Winter Walk &amp; Roll to School Day Encourage students and staff to get to school by walking or rolling!</li><li><b>17-21</b> Winter Break</li><li><b>24</b> Yard Sign Contest Entries Due</li></ul>	<b>MAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1</b> Crossing Guard Appreciation Campaign Launch Celebrate your Crossing Guards and nominate them for Crossing Guard of the Year! Nominations are due by March 19.</li><li><b>19</b> Crossing Guard Appreciation Day</li></ul> 
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>MAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>7</b> Massachusetts Walk, Bike, &amp; Roll to School Day Students, families, and staff across the state are encouraged to participate.</li></ul>
<b>1</b> Crossing Guard Appreciation Campaign Launch Celebrate your Crossing Guards and nominate them for Crossing Guard of the Year! Nominations are due by March 19.	<b>MAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>7</b> Massachusetts Walk, Bike, &amp; Roll to School Day Students, families, and staff across the state are encouraged to participate.</li></ul>
<b>19</b> Crossing Guard Appreciation Day	<b>JUNE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>SRTS Annual Awards Ceremony</b> Celebrating the best SRTS Program partners for this school year! Check the SRTS website for the official date.</li></ul>

  MASSACHUSETTS  
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
MASS.GOV/SAFE-ROUTES-TO-SCHOOL

The MassDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program organizes events all year round to promote safe biking, walking, and rolling among students in elementary, middle, and high school. You can learn more about these events and how to participate by scanning the QR code.





**Grant Central:** [MassDOTGrantCenral@DOT.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTGrantCenral@DOT.state.ma.us)

**Kristen (Pennucci) Rebelo:** [Kristen.E.Rebelo@DOT.state.ma.us](mailto:Kristen.E.Rebelo@DOT.state.ma.us)

# Internet for All in Massachusetts

## **FFIO Community Tour**

March 5, 2025

# BEAD Program Overview

The state of Massachusetts received \$147 million funding allocation for its BEAD program. The goal of the BEAD program is to achieve universal service – which means 100% of broadband serviceable locations (BSL's) have the internet available. CAIs are eligible for funding in Round 1.

MBI  
Objectives  
for BEAD  
Round One

1. Unserved Locations (below 25Mbps / 3Mbps)
2. Underserved Locations (below 100Mbps / 20Mbps)
3. Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)

# Provisional Map of Locations

## BEAD Eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations

- Underserved (634)
- Unserved (2,494)

## Municipalities Covered by Program Funding

- Gap Networks Rounds 1 & 2 Project Service Areas (128)

Map Date: 1/23/2025

The unserved and underserved locations on this map represent the locations tentatively eligible for funding following the Massachusetts BEAD Challenge Process.

### Sources:

1. Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) from FCC Fabric v4
2. BSL Eligibility List for the BEAD Deployment Program

0 5 10 15 20  
Miles

Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

**3,128** eligible  
BSLs in **221**  
Municipalities

# Residential Retrofit


## Funding Source and Parameters:

- \$72M Capital Grant Program to build state of the art broadband infrastructure into Affordable and Public Housing Developments
- \$8M in ancillary awards for broadband adoption grants, including laptops/tablets, improved community facilities, and digital navigation
- Projects must be completed by 12/31/2026

**Housing Operators May Apply to the Program Until 3/28!**

**<https://airtable.com/appZJiQZsQwUddiE7/pagfUSs05acagrea/r/form?>**

Find a list of participating housing operators on our website and please encourage any that are not participating in your region to apply!



11,350 Units of  
Public and Affordable  
Housing Have Been  
Awarded As Of  
1/16/25

# The Launchpad Program



**LAUNCHPAD**

**Funding:** \$9.44 million

## **Goals:**

1. Address priority needs articulated in the SDEP, not addressed by existing ARPA SLFR funds (i.e., Digital Equity Partnerships Program):
  - **Prioritized Regions:** Barnstable, Bristol, and Worcester Counties, including Gateway Cities and State-designated rural communities
  - **Prioritized Populations:** Incarcerated/formerly incarcerated individuals, residents with language barriers, and veterans

## **Eligible Entities:**

- Nonprofit Organizations, including Community Based Organizations
- Municipalities
- Regional Planning Agencies
- Philanthropic Foundations
- State Agencies or Quasi-Governmental Entities
- Educational or Healthcare Providers
- Community Action Agencies

**Eligible Activities:** Wi-Fi Access, Public Space Modernization, Connectivity for Economic Hardship, Digital Literacy, Device Distribution & Refurbishment, Education/Outreach/Adoption (inclusive of Coalition-Building)

## **Key Dates:**

- **March 12<sup>th</sup>:** [Launchpad Program Webinar](#)
- **April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Concept Papers due
- **July 26<sup>th</sup>:** Full Applications due

# Digital Equity Resource List (RFI)

## Goals:

- Identify service providers and vendors who provide services aimed at promoting digital equity and inclusion
- Increase visibility of the ecosystem, including service providers and vendors who may support and advance MBI's mission to close the digital divide
- Responses will be used to inform future program outreach and engagement, including potential alignment with current and further MBI programing

**Focus areas for vendors:** Wi-Fi Access, Public Space Modernization, Connectivity for Economic Hardship, Digital Literacy, & Device Distribution & Refurbishment

## Qualifications:

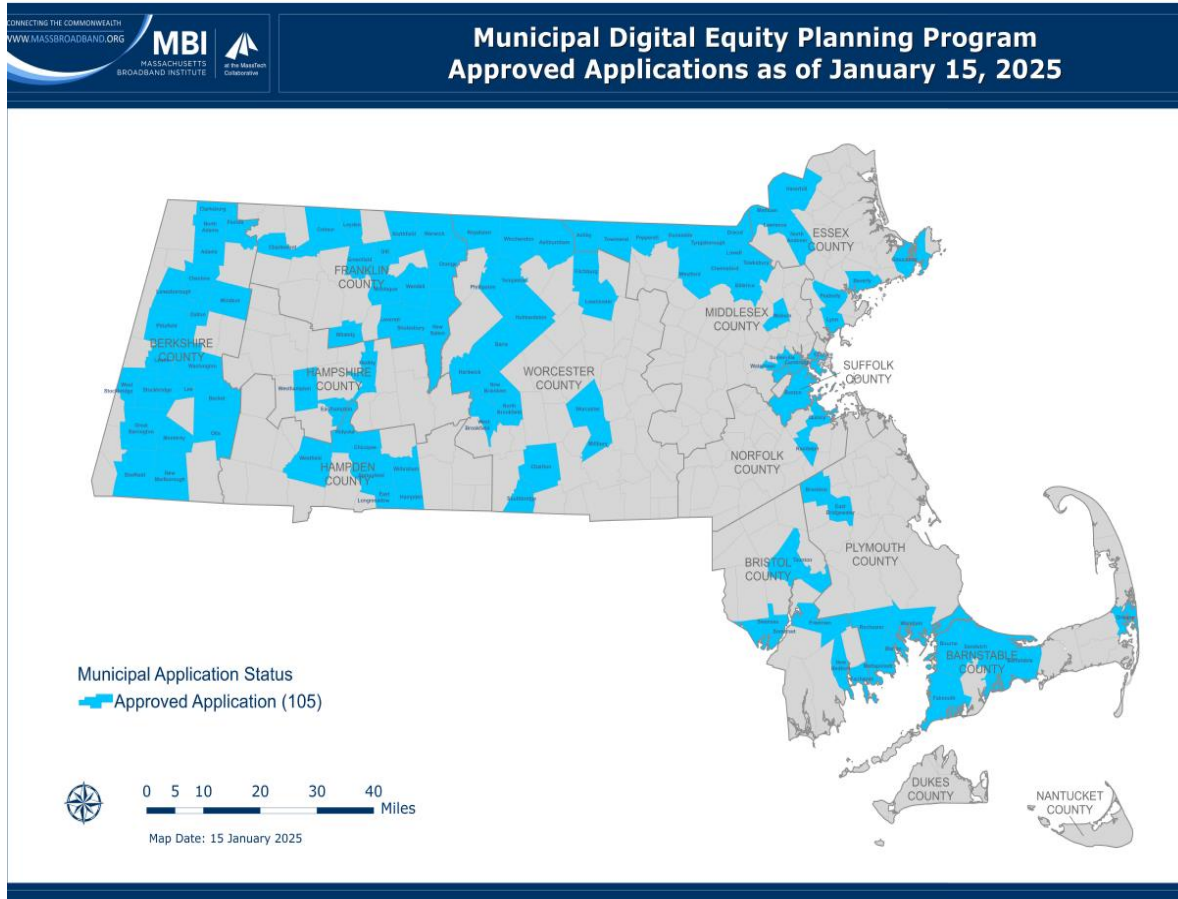
- Experience working with at least one of the Digital Equity Act defined Covered Populations
- Offer a digital equity and inclusion service aligned with one or more of the focus areas Have been providing digital equity and inclusion services for at least 6-months within the United States
- Attest that they have capacity to serve communities in Massachusetts at the time of RFI response submission

### **Key Dates:**

- **March 14<sup>th</sup>:** RFI Closes
- **March 28<sup>th</sup>:** RFI Results Posted



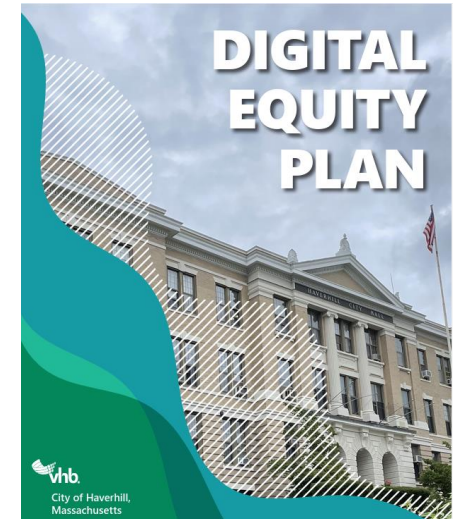
# Re-Opening the Municipal Planning & Implementation Programs



<https://broadband.masstech.org/municipal>

Visit this link to:

- See if your town is in the Planning Program
- View completed Municipal Plans
- Apply to the new round of funding for the Municipal Planning Program by **April 25<sup>th</sup>**



105 municipalities participating in the Planning program; \$5.4+M allocation

19 Implementation awards made to date for over \$1.3 million total

# SDEP Survey Update – Estimated Timeline

Survey Development	Timeframe
Draft survey	January-February
Solicit partner feedback	March
Build survey tool	March
Pilot survey	April
Finalize survey	4/25
Pre-deployment	Timeframe
Create outreach material	March-April
Complete sample planning	February-April
Deployment	Starting in May

Initial Survey deployed in 2023 received over 10k responses from across the state, thanks to the support of RPA's, Municipalities, and other partners.

The redeployed survey will begin to provide data regarding the impact of MBI's programming and investments in broadband and digital equity.

Your continued support in building awareness and engagement for the survey is critical!



# Direct Pay Overview

March 5, 2025

Jonathan Schrag, Deputy Climate Chief, Office of Climate Innovation  
and Resilience

*Confidential*

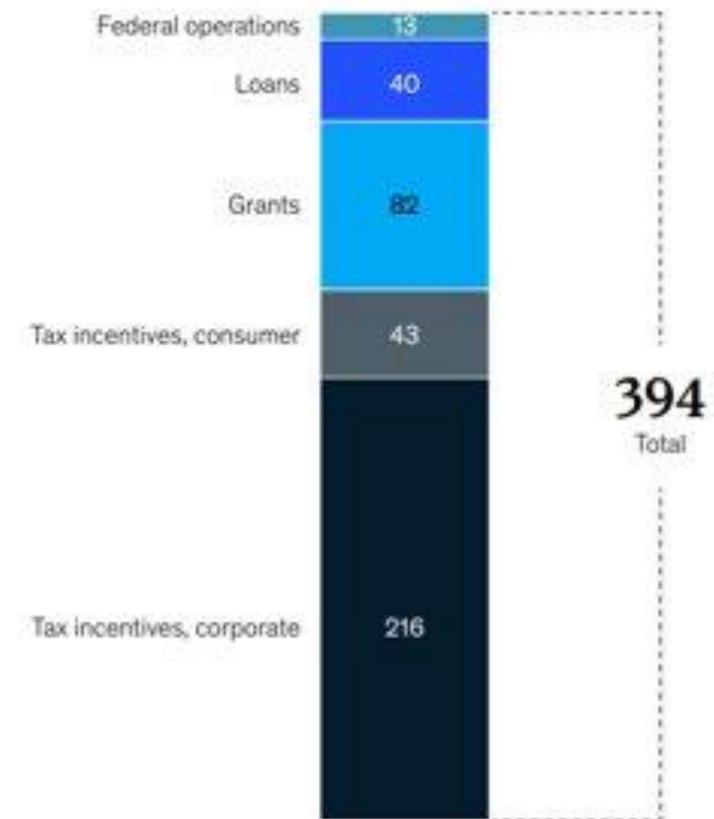
# Agenda

- What is Direct Pay?
- Applicable Credits for Direct Pay
- Credit Amounts and Bonuses
- Process Timeline
- 2023 Projects
- Helpful Resources

# What Is Direct Pay?

- Direct Pay is a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) which makes government entities eligible for certain clean energy tax credits.
- The IRA makes the largest investment in clean energy in United States history, and much of that investment is delivered via tax incentives.
- For the first time, tax-exempt and governmental entities – such as cities and towns -- that do not owe Federal income taxes are able to receive a payment equal to the full value of tax credits for completing qualifying clean energy projects. This is called **Direct Pay** (also known as Elective Pay).

Energy and climate change funding in the Inflation Reduction Act, \$ billion



# Direct Pay Clean Energy Tax Credits: The Basics

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- By filing a newly created form of tax return and using Direct Pay, non-taxable entities can receive a cash refund from the IRS for certain clean energy projects.
- Direct pay applies to clean energy projects put into service January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2032, creating a future decade of tax-based cash refunds to reduce net capital cost of infrastructure replacements and upgrades.
- In most cases, the Investment Tax Credit results in a refund equal to 30% of the project investment but can escalate to 50% of the project investment.
- Direct Pay builds on existing clean energy tax credits that are well established and commonly used to fund projects in all 50 states.
- Unlike competitive grant programs, the potential dollar value of these tax credits to states and municipalities is unlimited.

# The Commonwealth's Approach to Direct Pay

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1. Understand and execute the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filing process



2. Provide actionable guidance and resources to cities, towns, and tax-exempt orgs (TEOs)



3. Build strategy for maximizing impact and usage of tax credits for the state/TEOs

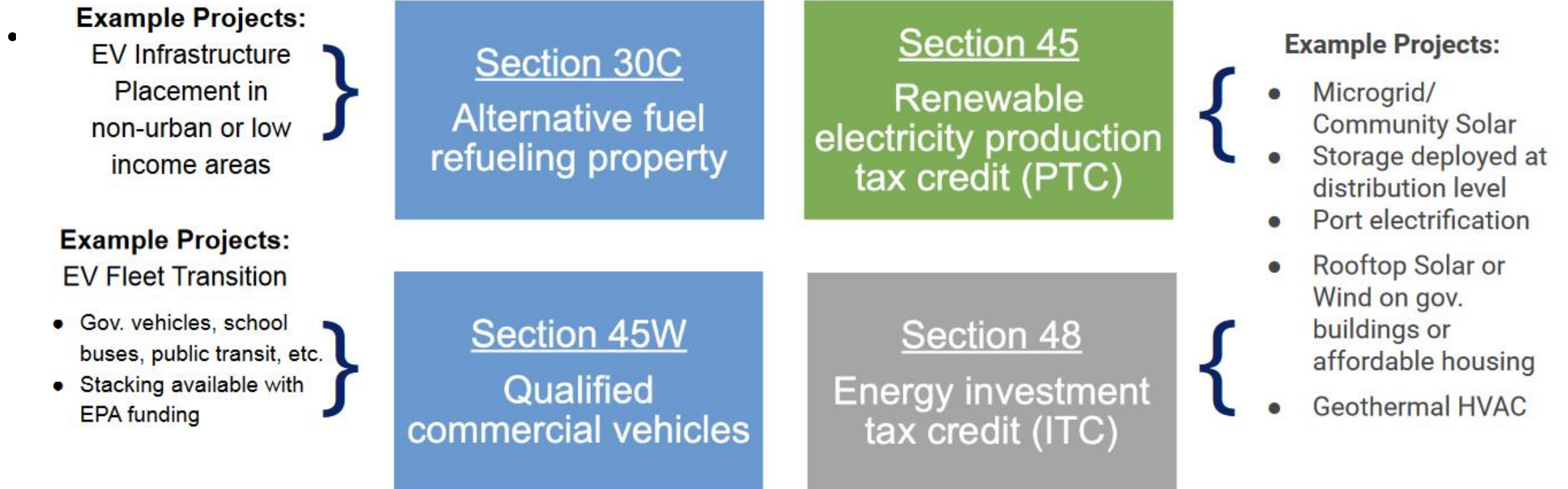


4. Provide bridge lending/financing mechanisms for capital projects for TEOS



# Most relevant tax credits for Massachusetts

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# Credit Amounts

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- The most common credit is the Investment Tax Credit (ITC). The amount of the ITC is calculated as a base credit of 6% on the investment basis of the project.
- For the replacement of existing municipal vehicle fleets with new electric vehicles, entities can receive up to \$7,500 per light vehicle and up to \$40,000 per larger vehicle.

# Some Basics on Bonuses

**Please Note: Additional details apply**

Low-income Communities	Energy Communities	Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship**	Domestic Content* **
10-20% bonus	10% bonus	5x bonus	10% bonus
... if project is in a low-income community with extra bonus if residential or econ benefit project	...if project is in historical "energy community" (i.e., closed coal mine, some brownfield sites)	...if reqs for prevailing wages and registered apprentices are met	...if 100% of applicable steel and iron and an applicable share of "manufactured products" produced in U.S.
ITC only	Applies to both ITC tax basis and PTC rate	Applies to both ITC tax basis and PTC rate	Applies to both ITC tax basis and PTC rate

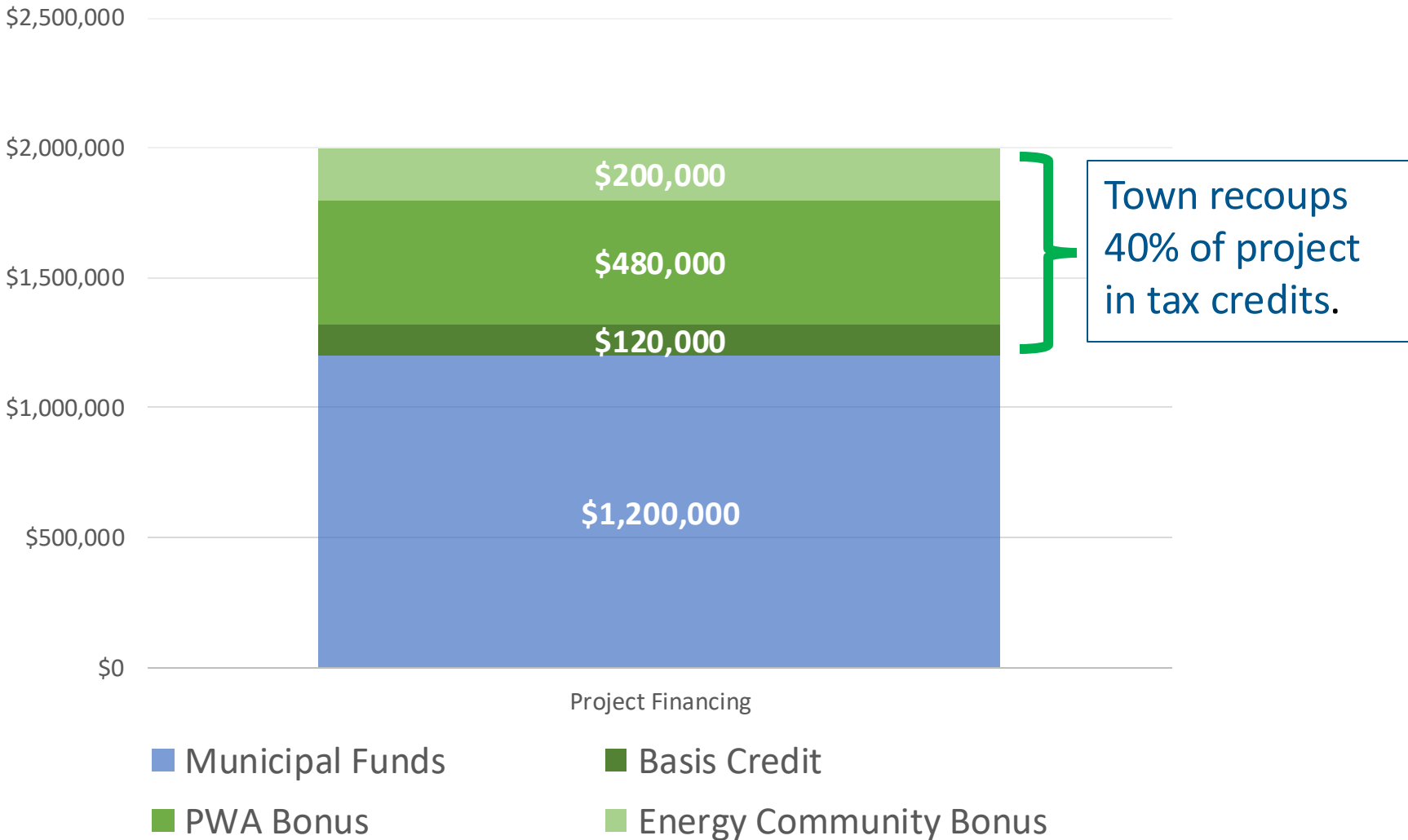
\* - On December,28, 2023, IRS issued new guidance on this rule for projects beginning in 2024 (see Notice 2024-9)

\*\* - Applicable for projects of a size >1MW

# How Direct Pay Credits and Bonuses Affect a \$2M Project

## Example:

- A municipality with brownfield status installs microgrid with solar and energy storage.
- Eligible for an ITC (Energy ITC, Sec. 48)
- Project cost is \$2M



# 2023 Massachusetts Projects

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In July, ANF successfully registered more than 80 Direct Pay-eligible projects with the IRS, including:



Sec 30C: Alternative Fuel Property

Fall River Heritage State Park



Sec. 45W: Commercial EVs

Dozens of light EVs purchased by  
OSD



Sec. 45: Investment Tax Credit

Solar and Geothermal Projects at  
the Veterans' Home in Chelsea

# Next Steps for Elective Pay

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## **1. Identify projects in the pipeline with in-service dates of 2024 or later:**

- Build an internal team by working with financial advisors and counsel to confirm eligibility, gather documentation, address key questions.
- Complete pre-registration for each project in the IRS Pre-registration portal. This should be completed 60-90 days prior to the tax filing deadline.
- File Tax Forms generally 4.5 months after the end of the tax period.
  - May 15<sup>th</sup> for calendar year filers and November 15<sup>th</sup> for fiscal year filers.

## **2. Inventory capital needs (new construction, retrofits or vehicles) over the next decade:**

- Include tax credit value into real estate and vehicle fleet planning.
- Ensure architects, designers, and facilities managers are aware of tax credit opportunities.

# Helpful Resources

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- [FFIO's Direct Pay Information Page](#)
- [Elect Pay Overview](#)
- [CAP webinar](#) on Direct Pay
- Lawyers for Good Government [Elective Pay resources](#), including worksheets on:
  - [EV Purchase](#)
  - [EV Infrastructure](#)
  - [Tracking](#) ITC and PTC projects
  - [Slides](#) from a presentation to local governments (but provides overview of Direct Pay for all)
- IRS [Video Tutorial](#) on pre-registration
- [IRS Q&A](#)

# GrantWell: Simplifying Federal Grant Application Process With AI

AI4Impact x Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office



**The Burnes Center  
for Social Change**

at Northeastern University

**Jai Surya Kode  
Anjith Prakash**

# About us

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**We are student researchers from Northeastern University working on this project as part of AI4Impact program.**

**AI4Impact partners state agencies and Northeastern University to develop innovative, sustainable, and impactful AI-driven solutions**



**GrantWell**

**GrantWell is a free, public AI-enabled grant-writing tool designed to streamline the application process.**



# GrantWell

An AI tool to help Massachusetts communities secure federal grants

Find a Notice of Funding Opportunity Document (NOFO)

Q

CCG NOFO

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant NOFO

IRA-Urban & Community Forestry NOFO

Port Infrastructure Development Program

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

Recently viewed NOFOs

IRA-Urban & Community Forestry NOFO

Last viewed: 12/5/2024, 4:27:31 PM

Port Infrastructure Development Program

Last viewed: 12/5/2024, 9:42:05 AM

EPA Community C

Last viewed: 12/3/2024, 4:27:31 PM

Search for NOFOs

# We would like to hear from you!

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Do you want to help us build GrantWell?

What challenges do you face when applying for federal grants?

What tools do you use to assist in grant writing?

# FEDERAL FUNDING: HAVERHILL & MERRIMACK VALLEY WINS

**\$5 Million to Lowell in Brownfields Cleanup Grant** to clean up the Veterans of Foreign War Highway at the Beaver Brook site at 644 Aiken, 650 Aiken, and 432 W. Sixth Streets.



**\$595,021 to Haverhill and \$573,000 to Lawrence in Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grants.**

**\$15.3 Million to Lowell in Renew America's Schools Prize and Grant Program** to improve energy infrastructure in 23 district buildings.



# SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS



## **\$147 Millions for Broadband**

Massachusetts awarded over **\$147,000,000** from the **National Telecommunications and Information Agency's Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment program** to expand high speed internet access in unserved and underserved locations in the state.

## **\$175 Million for Rail Improvements in MA**

**MassDOT** was awarded **\$36,800,000** from the **DOT-FRA Consolidated Rail infrastructure & Safety Improvements program**. Funds will be used to advance West-East Rail, building on the **\$108,000,000** award from last year. 2 other Massachusetts entities were also awarded over **\$30,000,000**.



## **Clean School Bus Program**

**\$105 million** to Massachusetts entities from the **Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program** for low and zero emission school buses

# SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS



## **\$156 million award through Solar for All program**

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), MassHousing, and the Boston Housing Authority were awarded \$156,120,000 for clean energy investments to up to 31,000 low-income and affordable homes from the **EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**.



## **\$342 Million in Massachusetts Awards for Reconnecting Communities from USDOT**

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced awards for the **Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Grant Program**. This includes **\$335 million to replace the Allston Viaduct** and create new and improved access to expanded waterfront parks and open space in Boston, as well awards for **Haverhill, Lynn, Everett, Cambridge and Chelsea**.



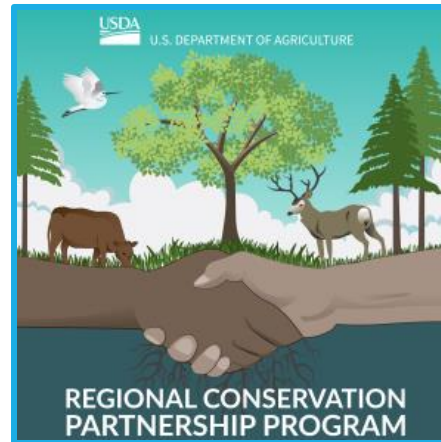
## **\$993 Million Award for the Cape Cod Bridges**

\$993 million in funding from the USDOT's **Bridge Investment Program (BIP)** towards MassDOT's replacement of the Cape Cod Bridges. Adds to over \$700 million in existing federal funding for the project. Phase 1 of the project will begin with the replacement of the Sagamore Bridge.

# SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

## \$450 Million Multi-State Award for Heat Pump Adoption

Massachusetts selected as part of a five-state coalition led by Connecticut that proposed a regional heat pump market transformation program called the New England Heat Pump Accelerator, funded under the competitive portion of the **EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants**.

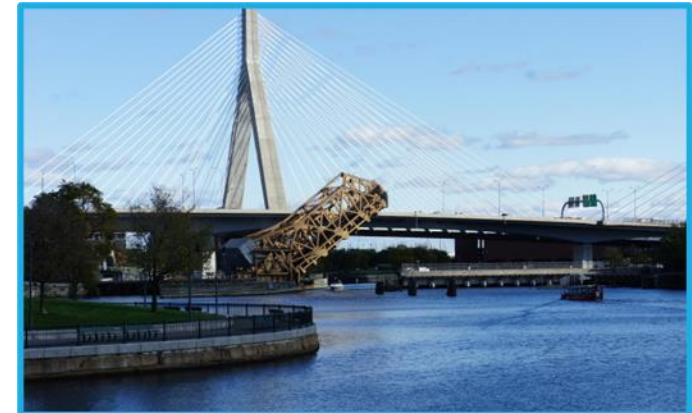


## \$45 Million for Conservation in Massachusetts

**Mass Audubon** was awarded \$25,000,000 and **EEA** was awarded \$20,835,000 from the **USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program**. Funds will be used to protect thousands of acres of land and boost climate resilience in Massachusetts.

## \$472 Million for North Station Draw Bridge

The **MBTA** was awarded \$472,300,616 from USDOT as part of the **Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG)**. The project will allow for more train capacity, faster and more reliable rides, and increased safety on MBTA commuter rail and Amtrak trains.



# MUNICIPAL NEEDS SURVEY

**Please take 5 minutes to fill out this form and help us learn more about how our office can support you to best leverage available and upcoming federal funding opportunities!**



# DISCUSSION AND Q&A

As a reminder, we can help with:

## Looking for grants

- Match grants to projects
- Help look for partners/co-applicants (CBOs, other states, state agencies, universities, etc.)

## Developing application

- Advice on labor standards, DEI , climate, language.
- Review application

## Advocating for submitted applications

- Letters of support from the state or congressionals
- Calls and in-person advocacy when FFIO is in DC.
- Get award dates/application status

## Helpful information for us:

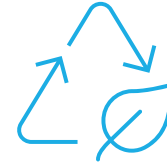
- Are there any upcoming grants you are preparing for? Developing applications?
- What kind of technical assistance on these grants would be the most helpful for you?
- Do you have any applications pending or stuck?
- Are you looking for partners/co-applicants?
- Looking for gap financing for projects?

*Reach us anytime at:*  
[FedFundsInfra@mass.gov](mailto:FedFundsInfra@mass.gov).

**Please join us for  
our office hours,  
bring your  
questions, and  
discuss priority  
projects!**



**Transportation**



**Climate and  
Resiliency**



**Broadband**



**Direct Pay**



**Priority Projects**