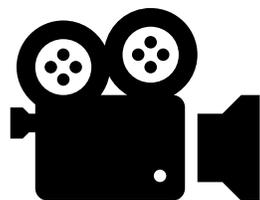


FY27 Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program (FSIG)

Informational Webinar
March 23, 2026





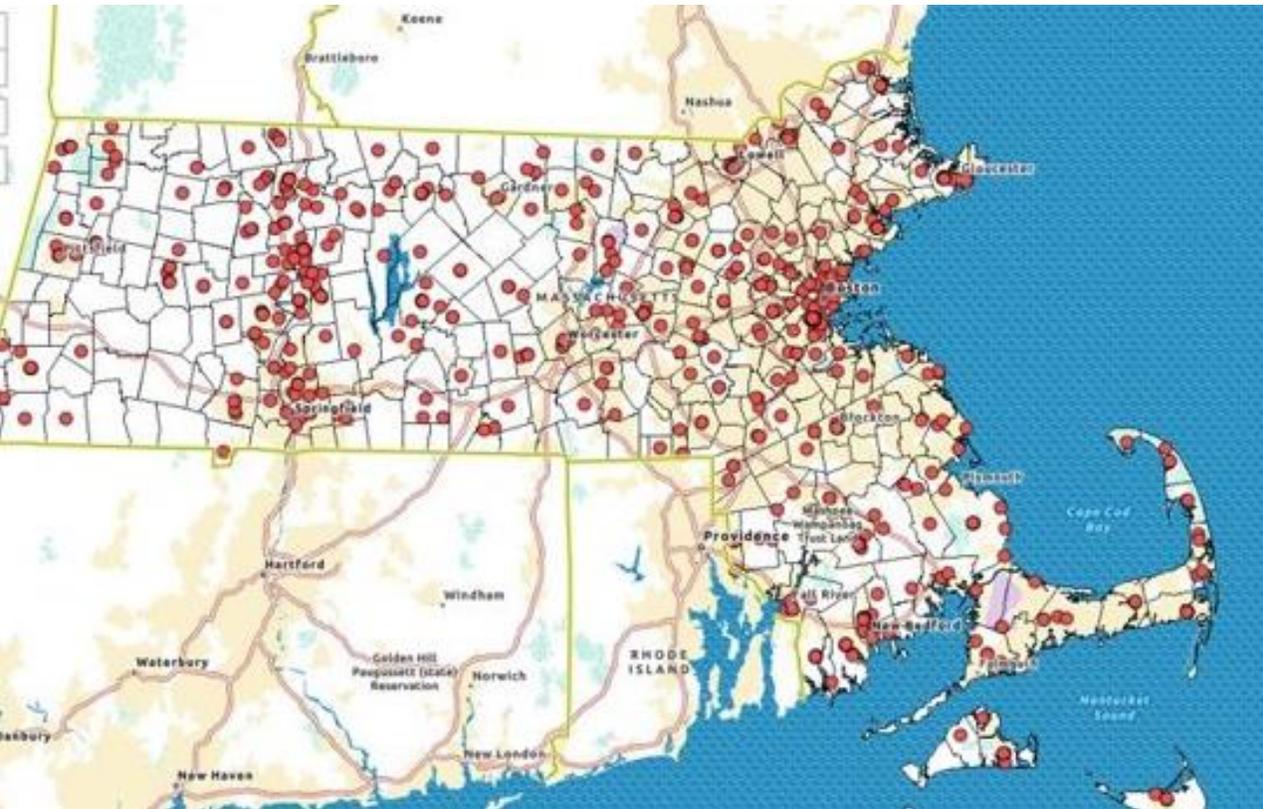
This recording and presentation slides are posted on the
FSIG application webpage:

www.mass.gov/ApplytoFSIG

WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

- I. FSIG priorities
- II. Grant timeline
- III. Overview of the FSIG FY27 RFR
- IV. Application and submission process
- V. Overview of review process
- VI. Guidance for submitting questions

Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG)



[FSIG GIS Map](#)

- Established in 2020 using ARPA funds as part of the State Food Security Taskforce to address supply chain disruptions and widespread food insecurity.
- Addresses supply chain disruptions and long-term food security through infrastructure and equipment investments across supply chain
- FSIG has awarded \$126.6 million to 927 projects
- Managed by MDAR since 2025

FSIG Program Overview



All Farmers, Springfield

The overall goals of the grant program are to:

- Fund infrastructure projects that increase local food production and consumption, enhance mid-supply chain capacity for processing, storage, and distribution for local markets, and build ensure a more safe, resilient and accessible food supply, especially during periods of widespread food insecurity and supply chain disruptions.
- Benefit underserved and/or under-resourced communities

FY27 FSIG Priorities



South Shore YMCA, Hanover

For FY27, the program will prioritize projects that:

- (1) increase the supply or availability of affordable, nutritious, and/or locally produced foods for underserved and under-resourced Massachusetts communities;
- (2) address food supply system vulnerabilities that could lead to shortages during extreme weather events or other disruptions; and
- (3) expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, and/or distribution of locally grown, raised, or caught foods to Massachusetts consumers.

FY27 Grant Overview

- Capital infrastructure only – durable equipment (will last 5+ years) and, if necessary, contracted labor costs
- Reimbursement program
- Contracts through June 30, 2027
- 20% cash match requirement
- \$10,000 minimum award - \$500,000 million maximum award

Grant Timeline

	Dates
Questions submitted:	Monday April 20, 2026 by 4PM
Application due:	Monday May 4, 2026 by 4PM
Review period:	May – August 2026
Estimated award announcements:	August or September 2026
Estimated contract sent:	September 2026
Contract end date/project completed	June 30, 2027

Eligible Applicants*

Eligible Applicants	Examples of Eligible Applicant Types	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located and operating within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts • Have been in operation for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years at the time of the application deadline; and • Operate or support a commercial or noncommercial food enterprise that contributes to the Commonwealth's food system and serves Massachusetts residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural operation • Seafood dealer and processor • Aquaculture • Food hub • School – K-12 • School – college/university • Early childhood education center • Food bank or pantry • Farmer's market • Food recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat processing/ Slaughterhouse • Municipality • Tribal governments or entities, and Native-led non-profits • Healthcare/Medical facility • Grocery store • Commercial kitchen • Value-added processor • Distributor/wholesaler • Medically tailored meals service

* Entities with an active FSIG contract must first complete their current project and the required reporting before applying for funding for FY27.

FY27 Project Types

Note that in FY27 projects will be evaluated based on IMPACT and PROJECT TYPE, not type of entity.

- Expansion of agriculture and seafood production
- Local and regional mid-supply chain expansion
- Noncommercial food access and availability
- Commercial food access and availability
- Food system resilience and emergency preparedness (For municipalities and Tribal entities, or collaborative and/or public-private partnerships)

Expansion of Agriculture & Seafood Production

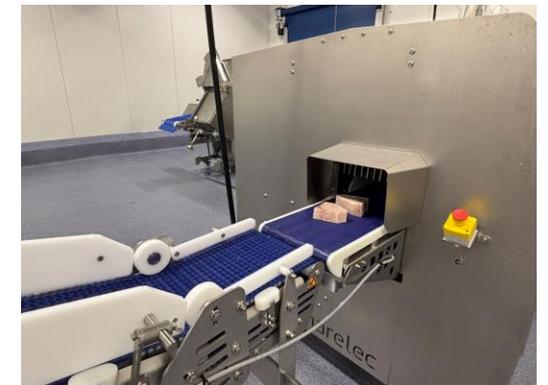
Project Purpose	Examples
<p>Supports farms, fisheries, aquaculture, and community-based food production to expand or enhance local food output and supply for Massachusetts residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-farm or on-vessel equipment• Season extension or climate adaptation structures (greenhouses, high tunnels, shade systems) which enhance resilience• Livestock and poultry biosecurity improvements• Aquaculture or mariculture systems• Slaughter or processing facility upgrades• Infrastructure supporting community or urban farming for requests over \$50,000 (projects under this amount should refer to MDAR's Urban Agriculture Program)• Infrastructure supporting culturally relevant food production



Copicut Farm, Dartmouth and Miss Trish II, Gloucester

Local & Regional Mid-Supply Chain Expansion

Project Purpose	Examples
<p>Develops mid-supply chain capacity that connects local producers to Massachusetts consumers and institutions and supports food system resilience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value-added processing and packaging facilities• Cold or frozen storage, coolers, or aggregation hubs• Shared-use cold chain facilities• Loading docks and staging areas• Food distribution vehicles• Product tracking and inventory systems• Meat, seafood, or dairy processing equipment



CommonWealth Kitchen, Dorchester and John Nagle Fish Co., Boston

Noncommercial Food Access & Availability

Project Purpose

Develop or enhance programs that increase the consumption of healthy, nutritious, and preferable local food at a free or reduced costs. This includes emergency food assistance providers, food delivery services, and institutions providing vulnerable and low-access populations such as early childhood centers, schools, elder care facilities, hospitals, and correction facilities.

Examples

- Refrigeration and cold storage
- Commercial kitchen upgrades
- Receiving, storage, and prep infrastructure
- Food recovery and redistribution equipment
- Facility upgrades to expand meal production



Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

Commercial Food Access & Availability

Project Purpose	Examples
<p>Develop or enhance programs that increase the consumption of locally grown, raised or harvested food through retail outlets at market rates. This includes farm stands, farm stores, CSAs, online retail, and small to mid-size grocery stores. However, requests under \$150,000 should be directed to MDAR's <u>Food Ventures Program</u>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refrigeration and cold storage• Retail display and handling equipment• Commercial kitchen or prep space upgrades• Facility improvements for farm stands, CSAs, farm stores, and small grocery



Photo credit: MDAR

Food System Resilience & Emergency Preparedness*

Project Purpose	Examples
<p>Increases resilience of local food systems against disruptions such as power loss, climate events, or supply chain shocks. (see ResilientMass Plan for more information)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backup power systems• Flood or storm adaptation infrastructure• Port or coastal infrastructure• Shared community storage or distribution hubs for emergency use



Photo credit: MDAR

**For municipalities and Tribal entities, or collaborative and/or public-private partnerships*

Project Tracks

Simplified Project Track (funding request between \$10,000–\$150,000):

For smaller-scale or lower-complexity capital projects, including equipment, systems, or limited infrastructure improvements that do not require extensive construction or technical documentation.

Standard Project Track (funding request between \$151,000–\$500,000):

For larger-scale or higher-complexity capital projects, including major equipment systems and/or substantial facility or infrastructure improvements that require more extensive planning, coordination, or technical documentation.

Match

- Based on the project TOTAL eligible under FSIG
- Required 20% cash match for all applicants
- Total project cost MUST include eligible expenses only
- Must be a cash match. No in-kind.

*Section 3D of RFR for more information

How the Match Works Example

Equipment (Equipment to be purchased under the FSIG grant)				
	Description	Amount	Qty	Total Costs
1	Convection Steamer	\$21,861	1	\$21,861
2	Tilting Kettle	\$22,501	1	\$22,501
3	Freezer	\$7,156	2	\$14,321
4	Heated Cabinet	\$3,548	2	\$7,096
5	Freight	\$675	-	\$675
Total FSIG Project Cost:				\$ 66,454
20% Applicant Match:				\$ 13,291
FSIG Request (Total Project Costs minus Applicant Match):				\$ 53,163

Evaluation Criteria

Project Need & Alignment	30%
Food Security Outcomes & Impacts	35%
Feasibility	15%
Sustainability & Maintenance	10%
Overall Compatibility	10%
	100%

Evaluation Criteria

Project Need & Alignment (30%)

- The extent to which the applicant clearly describes the organization/operation, identifies the problem or capacity gap the project addresses, and explains why the proposed project is the right solution. Applications should show clear alignment between the proposed project and the selected project type in Section B1 and describe who will benefit from the project.
- If applicable, the extent to which the applicant describes how the project is incorporating, or will allow, multi-sector collaborations/partnerships, and how the collaborations/partnerships will strengthen the Massachusetts food system.
- Additional consideration will be given to applicants that have not previously received FSIG funding.

Evaluation Criteria

Food Security Outcomes & Impacts (35%)

- Applicant clearly identifies 2-5 expected performance impacts (see Attachment C) that best align with the proposed project. Applicant describes how the project will achieve each expected outcome measure within 1-3 years of project completion and provide realistic, project appropriate estimated metrics expressed as whole numbers. Reasonable estimates may be used when baseline data is unavailable.
- If applicable, applicants may describe how the project incorporates resilience measures (e.g., backup power, flood protection, waste reduction) that protect food access during disruptions. If the project aligns with any of the objectives outlined in [ResilientMass](#), please demonstrate.

Evaluation Criteria

Food Security Outcomes & Impacts Continued (35%)

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates how the project will increase equitable access to nutritious—preferably local and culturally relevant—food for **under-resourced and underserved residents of the Commonwealth**. Applicants **should** reference relevant community-level data to document need, describe key characteristics of the population served (e.g., income, socioeconomic conditions, food access, English isolation), describe how the project will reach the intended population(s) and provide evidence of that pathway, demonstrate meaningful support, and where applicable describe direct benefits to farmers, ranchers, or small businesses within the food supply chain that face barriers to market access.

Evaluation Criteria

Feasibility (15%)

- The extent to which the project scope, budget, timeline, and implementation plan are realistic and achievable within the grant period. Applications should demonstrate readiness to implement (including permits if applicable), capacity to manage the project, and financial ability to cover upfront costs and the required match.
- Quotes should be consistent with the proposed budget and scope.

Evaluation Criteria

Sustainability & Maintenance (10%)

- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that the investment will be maintained and continue to provide benefits beyond the contract period. Applicants should describe who will maintain the equipment/infrastructure, how ongoing costs will be covered, and how benefits (food access, distribution, or resilience outcomes) will be sustained over time.

Evaluation Criteria

Overall Compatibility (10%)

- Reviewers will consider the applicant's overall operations alongside the proposed project details, including whether the project's benefits are proportional to the amount requested relative to the organization's size and budget.
- They will consider how well the proposed project aligns with the FY27 RFR priorities (improving food access for under-resourced and underserved communities, enhancing resilience to disruptions, or expanding mid-supply chain capacity for local foods).
- Letters of support from community members or partners will also be considered.
- For applicants who received previous FSIG funding, reviewers will take past project outcomes and impact into account.

Documentation

Document	Simplified Project (\$10,000 - \$150,000)	Standard Project (\$151,000 - \$500,000)
Budget (template provided in Attachment B)	Required	Required
Quotes	Required	Required
Demonstration of Project Need and Feasibility	Recommended	Required
Demonstration of Project Benefit to Underserved and Under-Resourced Communities	Optional	Recommended
Letters of Support	Optional	Recommended
Letter of Match	Optional	Recommended

Documentation Description/Instructions

Document	Description/Instructions
Budget (template provided in Attachment B)	The budget should include all the FSIG project costs, the applicant's cash match, and the total amount requested from the program. Failure to submit a complete budget will result in the application being ineligible.
Quotes	Applicants must submit two (2) quotes for each expenditure/line item in the budget that costs \$50,000 or more. Applicants must submit one (1) quote for each expenditure/line item in the budget that costs less than \$50,000. Quotes should be from qualified vendors or contractors and reflect accurate cost estimates. Failure to submit quotes will result in the application being ineligible.
Demonstration of Project Need and Feasibility	May include organizational planning and feasibility documents created or updated within the last three (3) years that demonstrate the applicant's operational readiness and strategic direction. Examples include a business plan, strategic plan, or SWOT analysis, as well as a project feasibility study, market analysis, or a recent report identifying a gap within the food system. Applicants may submit one (1) to three (3) documents for this category.

Documentation Description/Instructions

Document	Description/Instructions
Demonstration of Project Benefit to Underserved and Under-Resourced Communities	May include letters of commitment or MOUs from partners demonstrating planned and specific food security impacts, and/or supporting documentation that provides contextual or descriptive evidence of need and feasibility (e.g., demographic data of the clientele or service area, participant or beneficiary information, SNAP sales data, a list of partners, or a project plan). Applicants may submit one (1) to three (3) documents for this category.
Letters of Support	Non-binding letters of support from partners, community organizations, or stakeholders demonstrating community benefit, endorsement, or alignment with the project's goals without committing specific resources or actions. Applicants may submit one (1) to three (3) documents for this category.
Letter of Match	A signed letter from an authorized signatory confirming the applicant's cash match commitment and identifying the funding source(s).

Application Submission

- Application must be submitted through the online portal. Link is on the FSIG webpage.
- A copy of the application is provided in Attachment A.
- No hard copies or emails will be accepted.
- Allow adequate time for submission – consider any potential delays.
- All attachments must be PDF or Word documents.
- If an applicant applies to multiple MDAR programs for the same project, the Department reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to determine under which program, if any, the project will be funded. The Department's determination shall be final and binding.
- Only 1 application per operation. Entities and/or individuals that own multiple businesses **cannot** submit applications for each business.
- **Due by 4:00PM on Monday May 4, 2026.** Applications submitted after the deadline (even seconds after) won't be considered.

Review Process

1. Eligibility & Administrative review
 - Eligibility
 - Completeness of application & required documentation
 - Compliance
2. Technical review
 - Applications will be scored based on the evaluation criteria
3. Potential site visit if additional verification is required (a site visit does not guarantee funding)

Post Award:

Project Terms & Deliverables

- Applicants selected to receive a FSIG award will be subject to project terms and required to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Commonwealth.
- Read through Section 5 and Section 6 of the RFR for information on contracting, reporting, and reimbursements before submitting an application.

Questions & Support

- Questions must be submitted by email to **FSIGgrant@mass.gov**.
- The deadline for questions is 4:00PM on Monday April 20, 2026.
- All questions and answers will be posted and periodically updated on the FSIG webpage so that all applicants can review.

Resources on FSIG Application Webpage

- RFR
 - Attachment A – Copy of the Application
 - Attachment B – Budget Template
 - Attachment C – Expected Performance Outcomes & Metrics
- Q&A Document (updated periodically)
- Informational Webinar Recording and Slides
- Eligibility Tool

<http://www.mass.gov/ApplytoFSIG>

Thank you for
your interest in
the program!



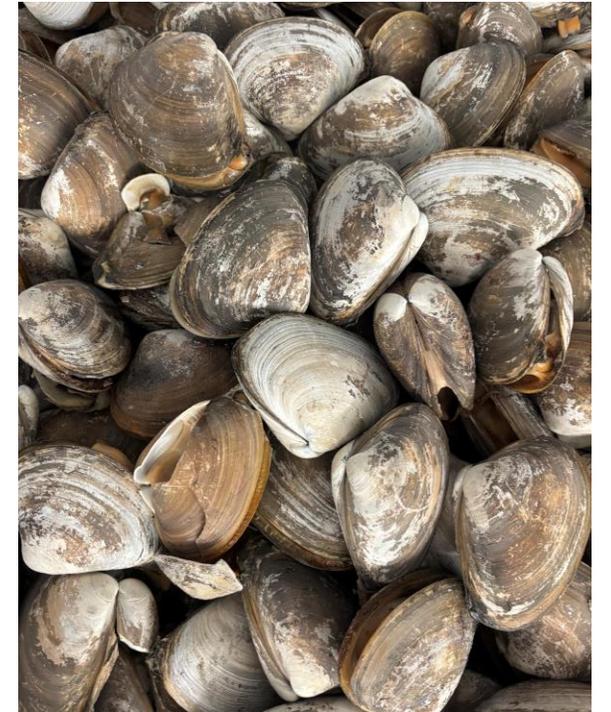
Boston Public Schools



*Island Grown Initiative,
Vineyard Haven*



The Farm School, Athol



Midnight Our, Harwich Port