

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



**State Fiscal Year 2026
Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative
Availability of Grant Funds**

Release Date: Monday, August 25, 2025

Revision to Unallowable Costs: Updated AGF Posted on 9/5/2025

**Maura T. Healey
Governor**

**Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor**

**Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary**

**Kevin J. Stanton
Executive Director**

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

**SFY2026 Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative
Availability of Grant Funds (AGF)**

Introduction

The Office of Grants and Research is pleased to announce the Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) for the SFY26 Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative. Approximately **\$950,000** will be made available in state funding for **District Attorney's Offices** and the **Massachusetts State Police (MSP)** to address community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use and distribution.

Applicant Eligibility:

Only a Massachusetts **District Attorney's Office** and the **Massachusetts State Police** are eligible to apply.

Maximum Award Amount and Grant Award Period

- A District Attorney's Office may solicit up to **\$62,500** in funding for this initiative, with a total of \$562,500 available for all eleven (11) District Attorney Offices. All funding requests are subject to adjustment based on the total number of applications received and the amounts requested. OGR reserves the right to amend the total funds available and/or the maximum award amounts.
- The MSP may submit up to **4 different proposals**, to reflect the various regions of the Commonwealth where targeted PSN city support will be provided based on greatest need and in support of efforts being made by our District Attorneys. A total of **\$387,500** is being made available to the MSP. OGR reserves the right to amend the total amount if additional funds become available.

These funds must be prioritized to address community violence and drug activity in our neighborhoods. Applicants may utilize funding over an 8-month period from November-June 30, 2026. Since these are state funds, all funds must be expended on or before June 30, 2026.

Key Dates

Solicitation Posted:	Monday, August 25, 2025
Applications Due:	September 22, 2025, by 4:00pm
Anticipated Award Announcements:	October 2025
Grant Award Period	November 2025 – June 30, 2026

Important Highlights

Purpose

This grant opportunity is a competitive solicitation for District Attorney's Offices and the MSP to obtain funding to address gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotic distribution impacting the quality of life within the Commonwealth's cities and towns.

Funding Criteria for District Attorney's Offices:

Approximately 25% of total funds requested should be utilized for prevention, intervention and/or diversion type programming and approximately 75% of total funds requested can be used for enforcement and suppression.

Funding Criteria for the MSP:

MSP may submit **up to three separate applications** to address enforcement and suppression needs in various communities and at least **one application** must include a prevention, intervention, and/or diversion program request. Due to limited funding, not more than four separate applications will be considered for funding from MSP. *If MSP chooses to submit only two requests for funding, one request must be dedicated to prevention, intervention, and/or diversion programming.*

The MSP and District Attorneys may sub-award funds to outside entities to assist with prevention, intervention and/or diversion efforts such as partnering with a nonprofit to provide an anti-drug or violence prevention program within the area of the PSN target city being served. Any prevention type programming must have an anti-violence and/or anti-drug nexus to address the intent of these funds.

A District Attorney may sub-award funds to outside entities to assist with the enforcement and suppression efforts, such as a local police department, or choose to utilize some or all of the funds set aside for enforcement (approximately 75% of the total award amount) for their own needs (prosecutors, etc.) to address gang, gun violence, and/or drug related issues.

Evidence-Based/Promising Programs

OJP and OGR strongly emphasize the use of data and evidence in policymaking and program development in criminal justice. OJP and OGR are committed to:

- improving the quantity and quality of programs and strategies that are evidence-based;
- integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions; and
- improving the translation of evidence into practice.

Allowable Costs

All applicants and their selected partners must be able to implement their program immediately upon execution of this award, which is anticipated November 2025.

The following are **examples** of the types of allowable uses of funds under this application process:

- Personnel costs;
- Overtime for suppression/investigation/enforcement efforts;
- Subawards to local police departments and/or nonprofits;
- Consultants to provide services or training to address key priority areas;
- Small equipment items such as protective gear for officers in the field, surveillance cameras, etc.; and
- Materials needed for evidence-based youth prevention or diversion programming.

Unallowable Costs For this AGF

In general, applicants should refrain from using funds for the following types of expenses:

- Standard firearms or ammunition;
- Construction, office furniture, or other like purchases;
- Purchasing of vehicles, vessels, or aircraft including drones, unmanned aerial vehicle/unmanned aircraft, aircraft system, or aerial vehicles (UA/UAS/UAV);
- Gift cards;
- Food and beverages; and
- Extended warranty above and beyond the cost of the item and extending after the contract end date.



Please note, if an applicant is proposing to use funds for a specific type of promising or evidence-based program, and certain expenses deemed unallowable in this AGF are needed for programmatic success, please note this in your application for consideration of a waiver from OGR's Executive Director.

For example, an applicant is looking to expand a reentry program and needs funds for a gift card that will cover transportation costs for a client to attend a job training program, then an exception can be requested for consideration of a waiver, as such cost is needed for programmatic success. Please provide enough detail to justify such cost and the negative impact it could have if not allowed. All waivers will be subject to Executive Director approval.

Fund Disbursement

Funding will be disbursed via an Interdepartmental Service Agreement (ISA). Details about financial reporting requirements will be provided at the time awards are made.

Project Duration

Applicants must apply for up to nine (8) months of funding. The anticipated funding cycle for projects will begin **November 2025 and end June 2026**.

Award Recipient Requirements

Award recipients must abide by the grant requirements below as well as all OGR Grant Conditions to be provided at the time of contracting.

1. Grants Management
 - Submission of satisfactory and timely quarterly progress reports and quarterly financial reports, with all required back-up documentation, will be required of award recipients.
 - Award recipients are expected to cooperate during OGR monitoring endeavors, including site visits and desk reviews.
 - No consultant or trainer may be paid more than \$650 for an eight-hour workday or \$81.25/hour without prior written approval from OGR. Requests for a waiver of this requirement with documented justification must be made in writing at the time of application.
2. Procurement
 - Award recipients choosing to further subgrant all or any part of the award to an implementing agency or an independent contractor shall enter into a written contract or memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the implementing agency or independent contractor. At a minimum, the contract or MOU shall include the provisions of the OGR standard grant conditions and must explicitly outline the

expected deliverables, timeframes/hours, and rates. A copy of the contract or MOU must be submitted to OGR.

- Procurement of services, equipment, and supplies must follow M.G.L. Ch. 30B for local units of government and nonprofit entities and Operational Services Division (OSD) Purchasing Guide for state agencies. Local units of government must ensure that subcontracts with private organizations have provisions ensuring any goods and services provided by the subcontractor are consistent with M.G.L. Ch. 30B procedures.

3. Reporting Alleged Waste, Fraud and Abuse

- It is the responsibility of the award recipient to report alleged waste, fraud, or abuse, including any alleged violations, serious irregularities, sensitive issues, or overt or covert acts involving the use of public funds in a manner not consistent with related laws and regulations and appropriate guidelines for purposes of the grant. Reports should be made to the Offices of the Massachusetts Inspector General or State Auditor.

Office of the Inspector General
John W. McCormack State Bldg.
One Ashburton Place, Room 131
Boston, MA 02108
800-322-1323
MA_OIG@maoig.net

Office of the State Auditor
Massachusetts State House
Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2075
Auditor@SAO.state.ma.us

4. Equipment and Technology

- An award recipient shall use and manage equipment in accordance with their own procedures as long as the equipment is used for criminal justice purposes.
- When equipment is no longer needed for criminal justice purposes, the award recipient must dispose of equipment in accordance with State procedures.
- Award recipients are responsible for replacing or repairing the property that is willfully or negligently lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed. Any loss, damage, or theft of the property must be investigated, fully documented, and made part of the official project records.

5. Other Requirements

- **Reporting of a firearm, rifle or shotgun, large capacity weapon, machine gun, or assault weapon used to carry out a criminal act.** Law enforcement must comply with M.G.L. chapter 140 Section 131Q and ensure a firearm, rifle or shotgun, large capacity weapon, machine gun, or assault weapon used to carry out a criminal act is traced by the licensing authority for the city or town in which the crime took place. The licensing authority then must report readily available statistical data to the Commonwealth Fusion Center. The data shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the make, model, serial number, and caliber of the weapon used; (ii) the type of crime committed; (iii) whether an arrest or conviction was made; (iv) whether fingerprint evidence was found on the firearm; (v) whether ballistic evidence was retrieved from the crime scene; (vi) whether the criminal use of the firearm was related to known gang activity; (vii) whether the weapon was obtained illegally; (viii) whether the weapon was lost or stolen; and (ix) whether the person using the weapon was

otherwise a prohibited person.

- In addition to the requirements set forth above, recipients will be required to agree to and abide by all state rules, regulations, and conditions pertaining to the receipt, administration, and management of funding.

Application Instructions

Applications can be submitted using the [online application form](#).

To provide OGR with the best opportunity to fairly evaluate all requests for funding, applicants are encouraged to be clear and concise in their proposals.

The Application must be completed as outlined in this section. Applications submitted without a signature from the **District Attorney or MSP Colonel/Superintendent** could be considered invalid and may not be reviewed for funding.

Section I. Applicant Information

Contact and Fiscal Information

- Indicate Agency name, address, and the names and contact information for District Attorney or MSP Colonel/Superintendent, grant point of contact, and finance officer.

Program Summary

- Provide a summary of the proposal outlined in this application. (250-word limit)

Section II. Application Narrative

The application narrative is comprised of three sections: Needs Assessment, Project Description, and Implementation Plan/Timeline.

Needs Assessment (about 6,000 characters, approximately three double-spaced pages/size 12 font)

At a minimum, the needs assessment should address the following:

- Provide a description of the District and communities to benefit from this award.
- Describe in detail the current unmet criminal justice or public safety needs. **Include relevant statistical and/or anecdotal evidence whenever possible as it relates to community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics.**
- The sources or methods used for assessing the problem of community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use and distribution should be described.
- Further explain why these criminal justice needs have not been previously met to justify state grant funds are needed.
- Describe any negative effect, potential consequences, or impact for the agency and/or community as a result of not having the requested items.

Project Description (about 6,000 characters, approximately three double-spaced pages/size 12 font)

- Clearly describe the programs, services, and/or activities being proposed; the project must meet the funding criteria for District Attorney's Offices or MSP as stated above.

- Discuss how the proposed programming directly correlates to the needs assessment provided, specifically how it will address community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and/or narcotics.
- Describe any risk factors to be addressed and protective factors.
- Describe the link between research (evidence-based) and the proposed program.
- If possible, describe any previous evaluation results of the model program or strategy to be replicated or expanded. In a difficult budget climate, it is critical that grant dollars are spent on programs and activities proven to have a strong likelihood of success. Do not assume that the reviewer is familiar with the program, concepts, or services being proposed. Reviewers can only review the information provided, and a lack of detail could result in an unfavorable rating.
- Please include the names of any collaborating agencies and/or partners such as community and business groups, government officials, and nonprofits. Include a detailed description of each partner's participation in addressing the problem outlined in the application. If there are no collaborating agencies and/or partners for this project, please state "N/A – no collaborating agencies and/or partners."
- If you are proposing to sub-contract funds to one or more collaborative partners (outside organizations) to implement all or some of the proposed activities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be included as an attachment and contain the following information:
 - Summary of each agency's role and responsibilities specific to the proposed project;
 - Clear outline of deliverables, timeframes, hours, and rates of compensation; and
 - Signed by an official of the third-party organization(s).

Implementation Plan

Please discuss your execution plan for this award. This should include how you will ensure the effective implementation and oversight of the project, key activities and milestones, and identification of key partnerships or stakeholders who will play a role in the implementation of this award.

Objectives, Activities, and Timeline

Complete the table by identifying at least one measurable objective and the corresponding activities, timeline, and responsible persons necessary to meet these objectives. Start and end dates should align with project period.

Please include the following:

- List of major tasks/activities to be conducted,
- Anticipated beginning/end date for major activities,
- Individual responsible for conducting/overseeing the stated task/activity.

Applicant timelines will also be evaluated on whether the proposed timeline is reasonable and feasible, including whether it can be implemented within the 8-month project period.

Section III. Budget Narrative and Budget Excel Worksheet

The **Budget Narrative** should outline the budget requested and itemize the expenses by cost

category as described in this application. For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A), please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined. Please include any hires under personnel, a particular training, supplies needed, vendor information, or process for selecting a vendor where applicable. Applicants may submit an eight (8) month budget that covers expenses up to June 30, 2026.

Applicants must also complete a **Budget Excel Worksheet** (refer to **Attachment A**) to be uploaded to the online application. Please note that the Budget Summary tab will populate with the information entered in the Budget Detail tab.

Please note:

Applicants will be asked to select “Object Class” for each line item. Please refer to the “Object Class” tab in the Excel Budget Worksheet for definitions and guidance.

Allowable Budget Cost Categories

Allowable Budget Cost Categories	Definitions and Documentation Requirements
Personnel	Costs associated with agency personnel. List position, percentage of time charged to grant, and annual salary. Include a brief description of each staff member’s duties/activities to be supported by grant funding.
Overtime	Overtime is limited to sworn law enforcement personnel only. Indicate overtime rate for each officer charged to the grant and the number of overtime hours. Refer to OGR Overtime Policy below.
Payroll Tax	<p>Eligible costs include the employer share of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life insurance • Health insurance • Social security costs • Pension costs • Unemployment insurance costs • Workers compensation insurance <p>Applicants should only use the FY#2026-01 Proposed Payroll Tax of 2.21% and include any additional employer share of PFML when applicable.</p>
Consultants/Contractors	<p>Contractors: Provide a description of the product/services to be procured by contract and an estimate of the cost. Applicants must follow their organization's own procurement policy.</p> <p>Consultants: The maximum rate for consultants is \$650 for an eight-hour day or \$81.25 per hour. Any request for compensation of over \$650 per day requires prior written approval by OGR. Waiver of this maximum rate is at the discretion of OGR.</p>
Subawards	Subawards are awards provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient such as a nonprofit to carry out part of an award received by the pass-through entity.

Allowable Budget Cost Categories	Definitions and Documentation Requirements
Travel	Travel directly related to the purpose of the grant. In-state travel costs associated with the grant shall include mileage rates not to exceed \$.62 per mile, as well as the actual costs of tolls and parking. Note that no grant funds may be spent on out-of-state conference fees, out-of-state travel, or out-of-state lodging.
Equipment/Technology	Tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year; cost based on classification of equipment.
Supplies	Supplies directly related to the program.
Other	List items that don't fit within the above cost categories and the basis of the computation. No grant funds may be used for incentives without prior written approval from OGR.

OGR Overtime Policy

Sworn Uniform Personnel (state and local law enforcement personnel) eligible through their department, may be reimbursed for overtime costs related to grant-funded activities ONLY.

Overtime hours charged against a grant award provided by OGR may be reimbursed for actual hours worked only, regardless of union contract rules. For example, an officer working two hours of overtime on a funded project awarded by OGR is prohibited from charging the grant award for four hours of overtime due to a union contract agreement for a four-hour minimum. In this example, the department must cover the remaining two hours of overtime from their own state or local budget. Departments found violating this policy will be subject to immediate termination of a grant award and must return all misspent funds to OGR.

For this policy, definition for Overtime is listed below:

- Overtime - Expenses limited to the additional costs that result from state and local first responders – such as sworn law enforcement personnel – working over and above their weekly full-time/part-time schedule as a direct result of their performance of approved activities related to the project receiving funding.

If awarded grant funding for overtime costs, OGR will provide additional criteria and necessary reporting forms at the time an award is made to justify and support such reimbursement costs being charged against the grant.

Submission Process and Review

Submit the [online application form](#) including all required attachments no later than **September 22, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

Emailed submissions will not be accepted. Please let OGR know if you have any questions regarding the online application. All questions can be directed to Allison.C.Garvey@mass.gov.

The online application must be completed and submitted with the following required attachments uploaded:

- Attachment A: Budget Excel Workbook uploaded in Excel format, not PDF
- MOU, if applicable

- Additional Materials, if needed

Review Process

This is a competitive grant and will be subject to a peer review process. Applications will be reviewed and scored by three reviewers based on the following criteria:

- Clear and adequate responses in Section I: Applicant Information (5 Points)
- A needs assessment, including the use of data to demonstrate need and a description of how requested programming addresses the stated need (25 Points)
- A narrative that clearly describes the items to be purchased and/or programming to be implemented, and the benefits to the agency and/or community (30 Points)
- Implementation plan and timeline that are feasible and ensure the initiative will be implemented and completed within the anticipated grant period (15 Points)
- A detailed, reasonable, relevant, and complete budget (25 Points)

Notification of Awards

Funding decisions are at the discretion of the OGR Executive Director, Secretary of Public Safety and Security, and Governor's Office. It is anticipated that the grant awards will be announced October 2025.

OGR reserves the right to adjust maximum award obligations and/or award additional proposals recommended for funding by the peer reviewers if additional funds become available at the time the initial awards are made.

Proposal Checklist

Please Note: The application and attachments are to be submitted electronically via the [online application](#) form.

Hard copy applications are NOT required.

This AGF and all other required documents can be found on our website:

[OGR Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Grant Program](#)

- Submitted, Digitally Signed, [Online Application](#) – Please notify OGR immediately if applicant is unable to utilize the online application.
- Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A) with both the Summary and Detail sheets completed, uploaded to the online application in Excel format.
- MOU (if applicable) uploaded to the online application.
- Additional Materials (if needed) uploaded to the online application.

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this AGF, contact Allison Garvey at Allison.C.Garvey@mass.gov.