

Thank you for your interest in this new biodiversity grant opportunity!

[For more information see Massachusetts Community Biodiversity Grants | Mass.gov](#)

Posted on December 12, 2025	BD-26-1046-COM-COM1-122908
QUESTION	ANSWER
PROCESS QUESTIONS	
Can you meet to discuss this grant opportunity?	No, DFG can not meet to discuss this opportunity while the grant is open.
When will decisions be made and grant agreements sent out?	Please see RFR Calendar.
Should I submit my application to the email address or through a portal?	Applications, including required attachments, should be submitted through the provided email address dfg.info@mass.gov and as further described in the RFR.
Can one entity submit multiple proposals?	Yes.
Does the entire project need to be completed by the end of this fiscal year, or can a phase be completed?	Funding must be expended by the end of the fiscal year for the project as described in the application. It can be a multi-phase project, but the phase must be completed in FY26.
Can advances be made on this grant?	No, this grant is reimbursement only.
Are letters of support needed for the application or can additional other materials be included in the application?	Applications will be evaluated based on criteria described in the RFR. Letters are not required materials.
We are exploring the possibility of a nonprofit in town submitting an application with several related projects that different groups (other nonprofits, schools, etc.) would complete. Is that OK? To what extent should the narrative describe each partner's component separately? Should a separate budget be submitted for each group/project, or should they all be combined in a single budget?	Yes. The narrative should follow the RFR instructions and a single budget provided per application.
Can funding be used for services delivered after June 30th?	No.
Will we be allowed to apply for a future submission if we apply to this solicitation?	Yes.

Does DFG have a resource or document that outlines eligible costs for this grant program?	Please see the RFR and Q&A.
Can we submit a proposal that includes projects that will be completed AFTER June 30, 2026 but has at least one project phase that will be completed BY June 30, 2026?	Yes, and funding can only be for the phase completed by June 30, 2026.
Does DFG have any formatting preferences for the project narrative besides the page limit (e.g., font size, spacing, margins, file format)?	No.
How will grants to state agencies be handled?	Through an ISA.
Confirming that we will be able to submit monthly invoices with required documentation for reimbursement?	Yes, if awarded a grant there is an option for monthly reimbursement.
What are the DFG criteria and evaluation parameters that help describe community characteristics?	Please see Community Characteristics in Section 3 of the RFR.
Should budget numbers go in the narrative or the excel attachment?	Please used the RFR attached budget template for budget details.
Can funding go to an international contractor/partner outside the US?	Grantees must comply with Massachusetts standards term and conditions for subcontracting. The project must benefit Massachusetts.
ELIGIBILITY & ALLOWABLE EXPENSES QUESTIONS	
Who is eligible to apply?	Eligible applicants include public and non-public entities, such as municipalities, state agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal governments, museums, and academic institutions. Partnerships between eligible grantees and private organizations are welcome.
Can you please define staffing?	Full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff are not eligible. Professional services are eligible including contracting of outside professional consultants to deliver the eligible durable capital asset.
Can you clarify staffing as an ineligible expense?	The organization that is applying can not pay organization staff with this grant.
Can graduate students be funded on this grant or can student stipends be made with this grant?	No.

Can we use funds from this grant to cover independent contractors who help with design and installation of projects?	Yes.
Are personnel costs as part of hired consultant services allowed?	Yes.
Are indirect costs and/or facilities and administration charges allowed?	No.
Can individuals apply for this grant?	No, individuals are not included in the RFR eligibility list.
Are schools eligible to apply?	Yes.
Are public school districts eligible entities?	Yes.
Is land acquisition an allowable expense?	No. Please visit Division of Conservation Services for land conservation grant opportunities at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-conservation-services .
Are invasive species pulls or river clean-ups eligible?	Yes. Note that funding for organization employees is not eligible, but materials are.
Is staff time developing educational materials eligible?	No.
Are printing costs associated with educational materials eligible?	Yes.
For bus rentals or other logistics for biodiversity related educational experiences eligible?	Yes.
Are irrigation systems for native plantings and pollinator gardens eligible?	Yes, installation is eligible. Operation is not eligible.
Is purchase of native plant cultivars eligible?	Yes.
Can a project include multiple sites?	Yes.
Is there a cap on equipment as part of the grant?	No.
Are engineered plans required for project submittal?	No.
Do equipment-based activities, such as installation or deployment of innovative survey equipment, need to be fully implemented and data collection completed within the project period, or will the purchase, installation, and initial demonstration of such tools satisfy the grant's completion requirement?	Purchase, installation, and initial demonstration of such tools by June 30th would satisfy the grant's completion requirement.

Could you clarify the intended scope and scale of projects envisioned for this short project window? For example, are proposals expected to emphasize planning, pilot implementation, or full data collection and analysis?	Project proposals should be scaled to fit within the completion timeframe and will be ranked according to the RFR criteria.
Are organizations outside of Massachusetts eligible to apply?	Yes, but the project must benefit Massachusetts biodiversity and meet RFR criteria.
Are stormwater treatment projects eligible?	Yes, please refer to the RFR criteria.
What kind of educational materials are eligible?	Please refer to the RFR and rating criteria.
Can this grant serve as supplemental funds to existing projects or be part of a project with multiple funding sources?	Yes.
For projects that are focused on biodiversity monitoring, a deadline of June 30, 2026 may not yield full results, as much of the biodiversity in Massachusetts is only starting to wake up in late April/May. Is it possible for these types of projects to have the bulk of work complete by June, or the purchasing of equipment/supplies, complete by June but to have no-cost efforts continue through the end of summer?	Yes.
Can grant funds be used to hire consultants for design work?	Yes.
Can grant funds be used to do site work?	Yes.
It appears that the grant funds can be used to pay contractors (for project work) and/or to purchase materials for the project. Is that accurate?	Yes.
Is developing interpretive trail signage related to biodiversity eligible?	Yes, but note that organizational staff time is not eligible.
Is the cost of busing to bring student groups to biomonitoring field trips at local conservation areas eligible?	Yes.
Are food/snacks for students and volunteers at educational programming such as biodiversity monitoring field trips eligible?	Yes.

Are greenhouses eligible?	Yes.
Can we include the creation of public signage (explaining a biodiversity project) as part of our funding proposal?	Yes.
Can we incorporate concrete pads & walkways for accessibility, or picnic tables or other seating, into the design for grant reimbursement?	Yes.
Can we incorporate outdoor recreation for seniors?	Projects will be evaluated by the RFR criteria, including benefit of recreation facility to biodiversity.
Is ecological restoration design work accompanied by stakeholder and community outreach about coldwater stream biodiversity and best practices associated with riparian land management eligible?	Projects will be evaluated by the RFR criteria, including benefits to biodiversity.
Do plants need to be planted by June 30th, or just purchased? And does irrigation need to be installed?	Plants and irrigation must be purchased by June 30th.
How are logos to be used?	Guidance will be given upon grant award.
Can this grant be used to pay back loans for biodiversity related efforts?	No.
Can I combine projects into one grant application?	Yes, but the \$200,000 limit and RFR criteria still apply.
Can I apply for less than \$20,000?	Yes.
Could you please confirm whether educational and outreach materials (including print materials) are eligible for reimbursement under this RFR? For example: educational signage; promotional materials such as business cards and water bottle stickers; canopy tents, tables, tablecloths, and other equipment for educational events.	Yes, these are eligible.

<p>Please clarify what expenses are considered eligible under the cost category described as “watering stations” in the RFR. Are there any restrictions regarding the types of irrigation or watering equipment that may be reimbursed? Additionally, would 275-gallon (or similarly sized) plastic water totes and associated materials used for temporary watering installations be eligible for reimbursement?</p>	<p>There are no restrictions on type of irrigation or watering equipment. Applications will be ranked on grant criteria.</p>
<p>Would having confirmed dates for summer programming qualify for this grant support?</p>	<p>Funds must be expended by June 30th, 2026.</p>
<p>Can this funding opportunity be used for open space planning at the regional scale?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Are building supplies and payment to contractors for nature and cultural educational center building projects qualify?</p>	<p>Yes, as long as the applicant meets grant criteria.</p>