



Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) FY26 Grant

Questions & Answers

Question 1: Can this grant be used to complete the design of a small bridge replacement?

Answer: *Yes, requests may be for project planning and field data collection (i.e. new projects); design and engineering; permitting; preconstruction activities; and construction. Projects must be culvert or bridge replacement(s) or removal(s) located on a public way within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, owned and maintained by a municipality or other eligible applicant, and must cross a natural freshwater, non-tidal river or stream channel. The stream channel may be either intermittent or perennial. Projects (e.g. any work funded under this grant) must intend to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards.*

Question 2: How do we apply for the grant - when I click on 'Application' it brings me to COMMBUYS - but I don't seem to be able to get to the actual application.

Answer: *Under 'File Attachments' on the COMMBUYS page select the first item (FY26 CRMA Stream Continuity RFR). Navigate to "Instructions for Submission" (Section 4.2) for all instructions and a link to the online form.*

Question 3: Can a civic organization that maintains/operates a crossing that provides public and private access but may not be on public property apply for a grant? (This question was modified and shortened to remove identifying information and for clarity.)

Answer: *Lead Applicants must be Eligible to apply, and projects must be an Eligible project. All applicants with eligibility questions are encouraged to carefully review the following sections to ensure eligibility:*

- *Section 1.7: Eligible Applicants*
 - *"The Commonwealth of Massachusetts local government units, including municipalities, towns, cities, districts, commissions, regional governments, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Applicants are also eligible to apply*

jointly and should submit one application together with one eligible applicant serving as the Lead Organization.”

- **Section 1.8 Eligible Projects**
 - *“Eligible projects must be culvert or bridge replacement(s) or removal(s) located on a public way within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, owned and maintained by a municipality or other eligible applicant, and must cross a natural freshwater, non-tidal river or stream channel.”*
- **Section 1.13 Definitions**
 - *“For purposes of this RFR, a public way includes a road, trail or passageway that allows vehicle or foot traffic and serves a public purpose or provides public access. The existing structure and roadway approach should be publicly owned or be acquired through public leasehold, right-of-way or easement before execution of a grant award.”*
- **Section 4.2.1 Joint Application**
 - *“Please indicate if the Lead Organization is applying jointly with another eligible applicant or if you do not own or maintain all of the existing structures. If yes, then please provide the contact details for the other applicant organization(s). A letter of endorsement from the joint organization or owner of the structure will be required as an uploaded document if a Joint Application is submitted.”*

Question 4: If the anticipated start date for construction of a project is March 2026, with completion expected by June 2027, can the grant date be extended to June 2027?

Answer: *The contract duration for awarded grants is anticipated to be summer 2025 to June 30, 2026 (See further detail in Section 3.1 Project Terms). Applicants may apply for work needed in one or multiple phases; however, applicants should only apply for funding for the portion(s) of the project that can be completed by June 30, 2026.*

Question 5: Does the applicant have to have all permits in hand in order to apply for this grant?

Answer: *It depends on the phase(s) of work proposed. See Question 1 for a list of typical project phases supported by this opportunity (project planning through construction). All projects seeking construction funding should demonstrate the ability to obtain and secure all permits and environmental reviews, as well as the balance of funds prior to the start of the grant contract period (i.e., July 2025).*

Question 6: Does a town need to be in MBTA Community Law compliance to apply for this grant? *(This question was modified and shortened to remove identifying information and for clarity)*

Answer: DER will take compliance with the MBTA Communities Act ([Section 3A of MGL c. 40A](#)) into account when making grant award recommendations. This is now reflected in the RFR in Section 3.7 of the RFR.

Question 7: Can an application be submitted by a 501(c)(3) non-profit? Can a non-profit submit a grant on behalf of a municipality, or must the municipality submit a grant application on its own behalf? *(This question was modified and shortened to remove identifying information and for clarity)*

Answer: *Eligibility may depend on the specific project(s) proposed, proposed applicant/joint applicant arrangement, and ownership of the land/structure(s). Please see Question 3 for relevant sections of the RFR to review for Eligible Applicants, Eligible Projects, and Joint Applications for cases where the Lead Organization does not own or maintain all of the existing structures.*

Lead Organizations must be an eligible applicant (Section 4.2.1), and an Eligible Applicant must be the entity that applies.

Question 8: Do all permits need to be in place before applying for construction funding?

Answer: *See Question 5. All projects seeking construction funding should demonstrate the ability to obtain and secure all permits and environmental reviews, as well as the balance of funds prior to the start of the grant contract period (i.e., July 2025).*

Question 9: Can an entity apply for a CRMA grant if they are currently under contract for a previously awarded CRMA grant with DER?

Answer: *Yes, applicants awarded funding through the Stream Continuity grant programs in a previous fiscal year are eligible to apply for a new project or apply for a new phase of work on the previously awarded project for funding in Fiscal Year 2026.*