Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant Program
FY26 Grant Round

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

As of December 8, 2025

General Questions

- Where can a prospective applicant find the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that outlines the grant program guidelines and application requirements?
    - The FY26 NOFA is available at: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/regional-economic-development-organization-redo-grant-program. Program information can also be found on COMMBUYS (BD-26-1100-EED01-EED01-123198).

- What is the amount of state funding available to be awarded in this round?
    - For FY26, a total of $1,000,000 is available for REDO grants.

- What is the purpose of the REDO Grant Program?
    - The purpose of the program is "to support regionally based efforts to stimulate, encourage, facilitate and nurture economic growth and prosperity in the commonwealth including, but not limited to, the identification of regional competitive strengths, challenges and opportunities, regional cluster development strategies, long-range regional workforce skills, pipeline, transportation and land use planning and other systems-based activities related to the growth and retention of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses into the commonwealth.

Eligibility Requirements

- What are the requirements to apply for and be considered for a REDO grant?
    - As outlined in the NOFA, EOED is seeking proposals from any non-profit organization that meets the program's eligibility requirements. Generally, this includes being a Massachusetts 501(c) corporation in good standing, that operates as a regional economic development entity and can demonstrate a successful history of partnering with EOED, MOBD, and key regional stakeholders in regionally based efforts to nurture and facilitate economic growth and prosperity in the Commonwealth.

- My organization has been a REDO grantee in the past; do we need to submit another application for this round?
    - Yes. Each year, the availability of funds is subject to appropriation by the Legislature, and a new public procurement. The organization will need to submit a new application, demonstrating continued eligibility and commitment to a workplan that meets the program requirements.

- I have never been a REDO grantee; can I apply to this program?
    - Yes. Any non-profit corporation that meets the eligibility and program requirements may apply for consideration.

- My organization is an established nonprofit with a 501(c)3 IRS status and determination letter and is affiliated with a Regional Planning Agency (RPA). Are we eligible to apply?
    - As noted above, any nonprofit corporation that meets the program eligibility requirements is welcome to apply to the program. However, it is important to note that the REDO statute specifically disqualifies RPAs from eligibility in the program. Therefore, such an application will need to clearly delineate that the applicant organization operates independently and that the RPA's role as a partner is tangential.

- Do state universities automatically meet the 501(c) eligibility for the grant?
    - A state university does automatically meet the 501(c) status requirement. However, that is only one element of the requirements needed to be eligible for a grant through this program.

- The Submittable application does not ask for a list of specific partner names anymore. Are partnerships not allowed this year?
    - The application has simply been streamlined to only capture the main applicant's name, which is the organization that would be the legal signatory to whom a contract would be issued. Applicants are welcome to name and outline the roles for all partners that will be part of their workplan in the project narrative sections.

- My organization has been part of a regional alliance for many years. Can we proceed as we always have? And should we submit a joint letter saying outlining the partnership?
    - Yes, new and established partnerships may proceed as they always have in pursuing a grant. The role of each partner can be outlined in the narrative sections of the applications. Submitting a joint letter with the application is fine but not required.

- Are partnerships with other organizations required by the program?
    - While not a program requirement, EOED recognizes and appreciates that some REDOs have developed strong and valuable partnerships with other non-profits to bring more benefits to their regional constituents. The inclusion of partnerships in an application's narrative, workplan, or budget is solely at the discretion of the applicant organization.

- My organization does not service 11 contiguous communities – will we be disqualified?
    - The REDO statute requires that an organization must serve more than 10 contiguous municipalities to qualify for funding. There is no maximum to the number of communities served by a REDO, but no less than 11 of them must be contiguous. Applications that do not meet this standard will be disqualified

<u>Application Questions</u>

- The NOFA references other/optional attachments, including MOU's and support letters. Do we have to submit letters from every community in our service area?
    - No. Letters from each community in the region are not required. If a partner community or organization wishes to provide a support letter, MOU, or other types of written correspondence, they may be attached. However, these are not required and will not be included in the formal evaluation or scoring of the application.

- Can the creation of "business guidebooks" for municipal permitting be interpreted as websites or webpages with information dedicated to permitting/land use assistance?

    - Yes, technical solutions, including websites/webpages that offer the same permitting guidance tools as printed guidebooks, may be included.

- In the past, "Pop-ups" were an eligible project. Is REDO funding still a potential funding source for that type of project?
    - The REDO grants are issued as general operating grants and no longer have set-aside funds for "projects". However, once awarded, an organization may include costs for setting up a "pop-up" as part of their program's expenses on their proposed budget. The REDO will be expected to describe and justify the expense as a specific component necessary for achieving a program deliverable(s).

- My organization does not have the IRS determination letter for exemption status. Can I still apply for this program?
    - The application requires the submission of the organization's IRS determination letter as evidence of its 501(c) status. A copy of the organization's letter may be found here: https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search

- Can you confirm that the word versus character limit in the application is correct? Some questions have a 1000-character limit while others have a 1000-word limit.
    - We realized that one question in Section 3 was inadvertently given a 1000-word limit. However, since several applications are already in progress, we've decided not to make any changes at this time. In addition, we have noted this is the best location to add notes about partnerships.

<u>Contracting, Reporting, and Other Questions</u>

- Is there any re-consideration on how the 2nd 50% is distributed? In the past it was paid out in installments in the Spring with the final 5-10% released upon acceptance of final report. Any chance of going back to something like this?
    - For a parsimonious grant process EOED have moved to the model of two 50% distributions, one at the time of contract execution, and one at the time of contract closeout, in all our operating grants. However, if this presents a hardship for your programming, please note it in your application, and if your application is successful, we may work out an alternative during contracting.

- Can you talk about the reporting? Is it going to be the same sort of tracking spreadsheet as in the past? It also looks like we will need to provide proof of expenses?
    - Reporting will depend somewhat on the type of deliverables being proposed. The work outlined in the application work plan will be the primary source of determining what is tracked. The tracking report spreadsheet will generally be the same as previous grant cycles, but the specifics, including evidence of expenses to be reimbursed, will depend on the deliverables under contract.

- Can you discuss final report submission requirements? PowerPoint presentation, Excel spreadsheet of activity and referral? Is the final report the only reporting requirement?
    - Final reporting requirements will be worked out during contracting, and will be highly dependent on the projects outlined in your grant application. Generally, reporting will be done through a spreadsheet form, and may require additional back up documentation, to demonstrate costs incurred, or deliverables produced.