Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
One Ashburton Place, Room 2102, Boston, MA 02108

Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant Program

FY2026 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Program Guidelines and Application Template

Application Publication Date:	**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**
Application Deadline:	**Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**
Questions**:**	**eohedgrants@mass.gov**

Table of Contents

A. INTRODUCTION 2
B. WHAT'S NEW IN FY2026 2
C. PROGRAM PURPOSE 3
D. ELIGIBILITY 3
E. NOFA HIGHLIGHTS 4
F. ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT CALENDAR 4
G. EVALUATION CRITERIA 4
H. APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDANCE 5
I. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS 6
J. APPENDIX: APPLICATION TEMPLATE 7

A. INTRODUCTION

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is pleased to announce the opening of the FY2026 round of the Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant Program. The program is administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED), in consultation with the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD) and is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2026.

EOED is seeking proposals from eligible organizations as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 23A, Section 3K, to partner with EOED and MOBD in supporting business development throughout the state. In alignment with the goals of the state's Economic Development Plan, a REDO shall support regionally based efforts to nurture and facilitate economic growth and prosperity in all parts of the Commonwealth. Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate how their organization improves equity, affordability, and competitiveness in their respective regions.

B. WHAT'S NEW IN FY2026

In FY2026, EOED will continue awarding grants to support the work of the various organizations throughout the Commonwealth that are implementing the goals of the REDO Program. Applications will be accepted via the Submittable platform and in a similar format to last year. However, given the shorter timeframe for this procurement and for the organizations to carry out their projects, EOED has updated the review process. The goal is to expedite the application review, grant allocation and disbursements, contracting, and year-end reporting. Notable updates/changes include:

1. Each applicant organization will be required to demonstrate their eligibility as a REDO and identify their regional coverage area made up of no less than 11 contiguous municipalities. While applicants may identify all municipalities it serves, it must include more than 10 that are contiguous, per the statute. Applicants will be required to elaborate on the common characteristics and economic independence of the municipalities in the identified region.

2. Each applicant organization will be required to identify at least five (5) of the statutory deliverables that will be included in their workplan. Applicants will need to elaborate on their work on the selected deliverables. Additional deliverables may be included. However, the year-end report will require grantee to primarily outline their progress on achieving the statutory deliverables.

3. The Performance Period for all grants will be January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026. Grants may be used to cover any and all expenses incurred by the REDO to complete the necessary work related to identified deliverables during this timeframe.

C. PROGRAM PURPOSE

Per M.G.L. Chapter 23A, Section 3J, 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.

D. ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for funding, the applicant organization must meet the following requirements:

- Be a corporation, foundation, organization or institution that is exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and have a primary focus on economic development and perform the services required by M.G.L. Chapter 23A, Sections 3Jand 3K.

- Operate regionally with a service area that includes **more than 10 contiguous cities or towns**. The organization shall describe the economic interdependency of its contiguous member municipalities and articulate a comprehensive vision for recognition of those municipalities as a self-identified region with interrelated economic assets such as industrial base, public infrastructure, research, educational and financial institutions and environmental characteristics.

- Engage primarily in activities intended to promote jobs and business retention, creation and attraction across all industry sectors within its identified region.

- Have a history of collaboration with the area business community, local officials, other economic development organizations, higher education institutions and public and private organizations within the identified region. The applicant must describe a plan for a formal program encouraging participation in activities by a wide variety of organizations, governments and businesses operating in the identified region.

- Has received, or has commitments to receive, substantial financial and/or in-kind support from private resources or member municipalities.

- Is capable of and agrees to provide services to the entire region identified in the application.

The application will require the applicant to attest to each of the above requirements, in order to proceed to the application form.

E. NOFA HIGHLIGHTS

Total Anticipated Grant Awards	**10 – 12 grant awards**
Contract Payment Terms	50% of funds will be disbursed upon contract execution. The remaining funds will be disbursed upon submission and approval of a Final Report to EOED.
Grant Use	**Any related general operating expenses incurred by the during the Performance Period to complete work required under the REDO program, including, but not limited to:** • (i) assessing regional competitive strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. • (ii) representing the regional business community in long-range workforce skills pipeline planning efforts to ensure robust skills and talent pipelines that meet regional needs. • (iii) representing the regional business community in collaborative, long-range workforce skills, transportation and land use planning. • (iv) promoting regionally significant industry clusters. • (v) promoting connections across sectors of the regional economy. • (vi) maintaining an inventory of key development parcels. • (vii) marketing the region in coordination with the Massachusetts marketing partnership established under section 13A; and • (viii) furnishing advice and assistance to businesses and industrial prospects which may locate in the region.
Contract Performance Period	Contracts will be executed with a performance period of January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

F. ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT CALENDAR

NOFA Published and Application Opened	**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**
Application deadline	**Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**
Notification of Award Decisions and Contracting	**January 2026**

G. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Only organizations that meet the eligibility requirements, as listed Section D above, will be considered. Per the statute, EOED may make up to 12 grant awards to eligible entities.

Once deemed eligible, each applicant organization will be awarded a grant amount determined as a prorated ratio of the grantee's award in one or both of the past two grant rounds, at EOED's discretion, and based on the available funds.

In the case that more than 12 applicant organizations submit eligible applications, EOED will rank the applications on the following criteria and scoring rubric (based on a 100-point scale):

- Organization Description (up to 25 points)
    - Extent to which the applicant organization has established and applicable experience in economic development.
- Organization Experience (up to 25 points)
    - Extent to which the applicant organization demonstrates experience in promoting and facilitating business development in the identified region.
- Community Needs (up to 25 points)
    - Extent to which the applicant organization outlines specific economic challenges and needs that are directly addressed in the region.
- Interaction with MOBD Regional Directors (up to 25 points)
    - Extent to which the applicant organization describes its regular engagement and interaction with EOED's regional business representatives and/or other regional entities.

H. APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDANCE

1. Program materials, including a copy of the NOFA and the online application are available online on the program's webpage at www.mass.gov/eoed.

2. The application template in this NOFA is provided for reference purposes only. The document may be used to make notes and prepare draft responses. However, the formal application must be completed, and submitted by the deadline, through Submittable, the online platform linked on the EOED website. Email, USPS or fax submissions will not be accepted.

3. EOED staff will be unable to answer any individual questions while the application period is open. Questions must be emailed to eohedgrants@mass.gov. They will be aggregated, and responses may be posted on the EOED webpage.

4. **Proposals are due by Wednesday December 10, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Please note that EOED technical support will only be available until 4pm on that day. Submittable.com/help will remain available after that time.**

5. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is received on time by EOED. All applications will be logged as to date and time received and kept on file as public record. Late submissions will not be considered.

6. EOED reserves the right to request additional information from the applicant or external sources as may be necessary in order to complete the application review.

7. In addition, EOED reserves the right to make partial awards as deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure equitable distribution of these resources.

Summary of Application Requirements: A complete proposal packet includes the following components. All documents must be submitted through the online application form at one time:

- **Eligibility Screen**
- **Application Form and Organization Narrative**
- **Required Attachments**
- **Certifications**

I. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development complies with all Commonwealth of Massachusetts' procurement laws and regulations set forth and overseen by the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division when awarding contracts as well as the state's award requirements as mandated and overseen by the Office of the State Comptroller when dispersing these funds. All responses and information submitted in response to this NOFA are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66, s.1-, and to c.4, s.7, ss.26.

Successful applicants, upon notification of award, will be required to enroll in EFT as a contract requirement by completing and submitting the Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment Form for review, approval and forwarding to the Office of the Comptroller. If the applicant is already enrolled in the program, it may indicate in its response. Because the Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment Form contains banking information, this form, and all information contained on this form, shall not be considered a public record and shall not be subject to public disclosure through a public records request.

Once contracted, the Grantee shall prepare and submit to EOED, on a quarterly basis and in the format provided by EOED, a progress and financial report outlining the status of the Project. Such a report shall include, at minimum: Project milestones and goals achieved to date. The grantee shall supplement each report with additional information as may be requested by EOED. As part of the final report, Grantee shall furnish in a template provided by EOED, a memo certifying Project completion.

During the term of a contract agreement and for a period up to seven years thereafter, if the Executive Office of Economic Development is audited, the grantee will be required to make all records relating to this grant available.

J. APPENDIX: APPLICATION TEMPLATE

Application Template

This template is provided as a guide for reference purposes only. Applications must be submitted electronically through the Submittable platform for consideration.

Eligibility: The Applicant must meet all the following eligibility requirements to apply to the REDO Grant Program. Before proceeding, please review and confirm eligibility by checking all applicable statements.

- ☐ The applicant is a corporation, foundation, organization or institution that is exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ☐ The applicant's primary focus is on economic development and performs the services required by M.G.L. Chapter 23A, Sections 3Jand 3K.
- ☐ The applicant operates regionally, and its service area or membership includes more than 10 contiguous cities or towns.
- ☐ The applicant engages primarily in activities intended to promote jobs and business retention, creation and attraction across all industry sectors within its identified region.
- ☐ The applicant has a history of collaboration with the area business community, local officials, economic development organizations, higher education institutions and other public and private organizations within the identified region.
- ☐ The applicant has received or has commitments to receive substantial financial and in-kind support from private resources or member municipalities.
- ☐ The applicant is capable of and agrees to provide services to the entire region identified in the application.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information

1.1 Applicant Organization Legal Name: _____

1.2 REDO Name, if different: _____

1.3 CEO Name: _____ 1.4 CEO Title: _____

1.5 Applicant Organization Legal Address: _____

1.6 City/Town: _____ 1.7 State: MA 1.8 Zip Code: _____

1.9 Telephone: _____ 1.10 Email: _____

1.11 REDO Contact Name/Title (if different): _____

1.12 Contact Tel: _____ 1.13 Contact Email: _____

1.14 Applicant Organization Website: _____

1.15 **ATTACHMENT:** ***Evidence of 501(c) status. Attach the IRS Determination Letter.***

1.16 **ATTACHMENT:** ***Attach Certificate of Good Standing from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Corporations Division.***

1.17 Indicate any applicable certifications and/or classifications for this organization (Optional):

☐ Women-Owned Business Enterprise
☐ Minority-Owned Business Enterprise
☐ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
☐ Disability Business Enterprise
☐ Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise
☐ LBGTQ-Owned Business Enterprise
☐ Other: (specify: _____)

SECTION 2: Identification and Description of Region / Coverage Area

2.1 Select the municipalities that constitute your Regional Economic Development coverage area, of which a minimum of 11 must be contiguous municipalities.

2.2 **ATTACHMENT:** ***Attach a map or graphic showing the municipalities that comprise the organization's region / coverage area.***

2.3 Describe the common characteristics and economic interdependence of the identified municipalities. Include any comprehensive vision for recognition of those municipalities as a self-identified region with interrelated economic assets such as industrial base, public infrastructure, research, educational and financial institutions, etc. _____

_____

_____ (*1,000 characters*) _____

SECTION 3: About the Regional Economic Development Organization

3.1 Organization Description – Provide a brief narrative about the Applicant Organization, such as its mission, history, and experience with community economic development. _____

_____

_____ (*1,000 characters*) _____

3.2 Describe the REDO's experience and successes in promoting and facilitating business development in the identified region. _____

_____

_____ *(1,000 characters)* _____

3.3 What are the specific community economic challenges and needs that this REDO seeks to directly influence and/or improve that are not being addressed for the region? _____

_____

_____ *(1,000 characters)* _____

3.4 Describe ways in which the REDO regularly engages and interacts with the corresponding MOBD Regional Director(s) and any other regional organizations. _____

_____

_____ *(1,000 characters)* _____

3.5 What is the Organization/REDO's total annual operating budget: $_____

3.6 Excluding this grant request, what other sources of financial support does the REDO receive for its operations? _____ *(500 characters)* _____

3.7 **ATTACHMENT:** ***Attach the Organization/REDO's most recent Form 990.***

SECTION 4: REDO Work Plan

4.1 Select and describe which of the following deliverables, based on statute requirements, will be primarily carried out by this REDO. **Applicants must select no less than five (5) of the statutory deliverables**. These will be the basis for the contract work plan and what the REDO will be expected to report on at the end of the contract period.

- ☐ Assess regional competitive strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Describe: _____
- ☐ Represent the regional business community in long-range workforce skills pipeline planning efforts to ensure robust skills and talent pipelines that meet regional needs. Describe: _____
- ☐ Represent the regional business community in collaborative, long-range workforce skills, transportation and land use planning. Describe: _____
- ☐ Promote regionally significant industry clusters. Describe: _____
- ☐ Promote connections across sectors of the regional economy. Describe: _____
- ☐ Maintain an inventory of key development parcels. Describe: _____
- ☐ Market the region in coordination with Massachusetts Marketing Partnership established under section 13A. Describe: _____
- ☐ Furnish advice and assistance to businesses and industrial prospects which may locate in the region. Describe: _____

4.2 Other Deliverable: Describe any other related activities that the REDO conducts in support of the statutory goals of the Program: _____ (*500 characters*) _____

SECTION 4: Application Certifications

To be completed by the individual that is authorized to submit this application on behalf of the Applicant Organization.

I, _____ (Submitter Name), hereby certify that I am duly authorized to submit this application on behalf of _____ (Applicant Organization Name), and further certify,

under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the responses to the questions provided in this application, and the attached documentation, are true, accurate, and complete.

I understand that EOED will rely on the information provided in this application in deciding whether to award a grant, and that the Commonwealth reserves the right to take action against me, the applicant organization, or any other beneficiary of a grant, if any of the information provided is determined to be false, inaccurate, or misleading.

I hereby also affirm that, if awarded, the applicant organization has the capacity to carry out the project in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and understand and acknowledge that all materials submitted as part of this application are subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

Name: _____ Title/Role: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____