

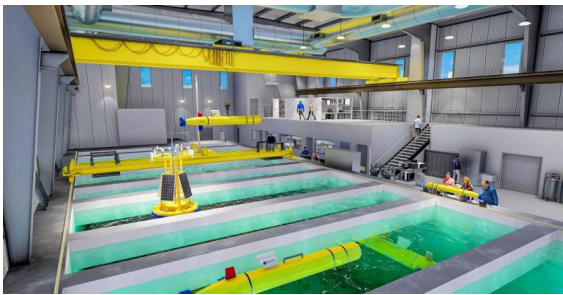


Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
One Ashburton Place, Room 2102, Boston, MA 02108

Seaport Economic Council Grant Program

FY2027 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
Program Guidelines and Application Template

INVESTING IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S



BLUE ECONOMY



Application Publication Date: **Friday, January 23, 2026**

Application Deadline: **Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

Questions: seaportcouncil@mass.gov

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A. INTRODUCTION

The Healey-Driscoll Administration is pleased to announce the opening of the FY2027 round of the Seaport Economic Council Grant Program. The program is administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) and is now accepting applications for projects that are ready to commence in FY27.

The Seaport Council serves all 78 of Massachusetts’ diverse coastal communities by making strategic investments in projects that develop and advance the strengths of the local maritime economy. The maritime economy remains a vital part of Massachusetts and presents an untapped potential for economic growth, jobs development, and investment across the Commonwealth and in coastal communities.

In FY2027, the Seaport Economic Council (SEC) will continue to provide critical capital grant funds to support projects that improve the Commonwealth’s seaports and coastal communities by developing infrastructure the enhances or enables economic activity. The program will be again accepting and reviewing applications on a competitive basis.

B. WHAT’S NEW IN FY2027

The Seaport Economic Council grant program is now part of the [Community One Stop for Growth](#), a single application portal and collaborative review process of community and economic development grant programs that make targeted investments based on a Development Continuum. For more information, including key dates, frequently asked questions, and instructions on submitting an Expression of Interest and Full Application, please visit www.mass.gov/onestop.

C. PROGRAM PURPOSE

As outlined in the state capital budget, the Seaport Economic Council Grant Program is established to provide capital funding to coastal communities for community planning and investment activities that will stimulate economic development in all sectors of the blue economy, advance the development of maritime technologies and innovation, and to construct, make improvements, repair, maintain, and protect coastal assets that are vital to achieving these goals. It also provides for the planning, prioritization, selection, and implementation of projects that consider climate change impacts in furtherance of the goals outlined in the state's integrated hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan.

D. ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all 78 coastal communities of the Commonwealth and other qualified public entities. Specifically, any Massachusetts city or town, acting by and through its municipal officers or by and through an agency designated by such municipal officers to act on their behalf, or any local public entity, may apply to the program for a grant in a specified amount to fund a public infrastructure project. Two or more municipalities may apply jointly, with one municipality or public entity acting as a fiscal agent. In instances where the municipality is not the lead on a particular application, it is strongly suggested and sometimes required that the municipality serve as co-applicant.

Preference will be given to those applications that demonstrate collaboration and/or include an advanced maritime technology component, and joint applications are encouraged by entities with a proven track record in maritime sector strategy, maritime economic development (including research and technology development), and the sustainable development of economically supportive and resilient coastal assets.

E. GRANT FUNDING CATEGORIES

In FY2027, the Seaport Economic Council grant program will consider applications that are proposing a project in one of the following categories:

- Local Maritime Economic Development Planning Grants:** Coastal communities vary in size and scope from deep-water port cities to small fishing villages. These grants provide capacity for coastal communities to explore their unique advantages and generate economic development plans which help them realize their full potential, increase job growth, and maximize the maritime economic sector for their community. Proposals that develop or leverage research and/or technology development assets will be viewed favorably.
- Port and Terminal Infrastructure Grants:** Port Infrastructure Development Grants assists in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the

movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports. Proposals that include the development of research infrastructure and/or testbed facilities (digital or physical) will be reviewed favorably.

- ❑ **Recreational Boating and Coastal Tourism Assets Grants:** The grants are intended to support coastal communities with implementing recreational boating and coastal tourism projects and approaches as part of their broader efforts to build climate resilience and advance their sustainable development goals. Proposals that will result in the development of marine and coastal research infrastructure and/or learning and engagement environments will be favorably reviewed.
- ❑ **Dredging Design & Permitting Grants:** This program provides pre- construction-phase funding, on a competitive basis, for saltwater dredging projects that contribute to the economic significance, recreational value, public safety, and/or coastal resilience of Massachusetts’ coastal harbors. Proposals that incorporate the development or implementation of advanced technologies, such as AI, Autonomous Systems, IoT, GPS mapping or Digital Twin modeling, will be favorably reviewed.

F. PROCUREMENT FEATURES

Application and Program Highlights	
Project Categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Maritime Economic Development Planning • Port and Terminal Infrastructure • Recreational Boating and Coastal Tourism Assets • Dredging Design & Permitting
Grant Use	<p>Predevelopment: Design, engineering & architecture documents, pre-permitting, proforma development, due diligence, bidding, testing etc.</p> <p>Construction: Earthwork and/or site work, such as demolition, road and infrastructure construction, utility relocation, bridge/culvert repairs, etc. May include contingency (up to 10%), construction administration, traffic control, and final design (up to 10%).</p> <p>Other Capital Expenditures: These could include the purchase of equipment or the development of new technology platforms or systems (digital infrastructure). These types of expenditures must be accounted for by the recipient in its financial records as a capital expenditure under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”).</p>
Acquisition Method and Contract Payment Terms	<p>Cost reimbursement contracts. Funds are disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis, on 45-day cycles, only for approved expenses based on a scope of work contained in a fully executed contract with EOED.</p>

Performance Period	Three years. SEC grants will run for a maximum of 3 full fiscal years following the successful execution of a contract.
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ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT CALENDAR	
NOFA Published / Application Open	Friday, January 23, 2026
Application deadline	Wednesday, June 3 2026, at 11:59 p.m.
Anticipated Notification of Award Decisions and Contracting	October 2026
Anticipated Contract Start	November 2026

G. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Only applications that meet the eligibility and project type requirements, as outlined above, will be considered. Applications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Applicant Information

- The applicant is an eligible public entity.
- The project site is in an eligible coastal community.
- The application was submitted by a formal partnership and/or the applicant has convened a meaningful group of stakeholders that are part of the project plan.

2. Project Information

- Project clearly aligns with one of the eligible project types.
- The project narrative provides a clear summary of the project, describes the project need, and explains why it is important to the community.
- The applicant provides a detailed scope of work that aligns with the project category and describes appropriate grant uses.
- The application has described any work that has been completed to advance the project goal.
- The application clearly describes how the project will advance the community's maritime economy, economic development goals, and/or other public benefits.
- The applicant demonstrates evidence of the public ownership of the site, plan for public ownership in the future, or clear public benefits if site will remain privately owned.
- The applicant has outlined a reasonable construction schedule based on the scope of the project, and the understanding that the project must be completed within three years.
- The applicant demonstrates clear understanding of the required permits/licenses and has provided a reasonable timeline for acquiring such approvals.
- The applicant has indicated whether the project will require MEPA Review. And if yes, the MEPA process has started.
- The applicant has clearly described if and how the project is consistent with a community waterfront plan and/or indicated that it is a priority recommendation in the community's MVP planning report.

- The applicant should demonstrate that they have evaluated their project for potential efficiencies and cost savings achievable through the integration of advanced technologies.

3. Project Budget and Sources

- The proposed budget and grant request seem reasonable and clearly reflect expenses related to the project scope.
- The applicant demonstrates that there will be match funding and clearly describes the source(s) and status of the match.
- Cost estimate or price proposal is reasonably aligned with the scope of work and budget.

4. Community/Environmental Impacts

- The applicant provides a clear description of the affected community, as well as the community impacts and benefits.
- The applicant clearly describes the direct or indirect economic and community development benefits of the project.
- The applicant clearly understands and describes steps they will take to mitigate environmental impacts.
- The applicant provides their climate resilience report and if applicable, indicates the design storm that will be used.

H. APPLICATION PROCESS AND GUIDANCE

Seaport Economic Council grant program is part of the [Community One Stop for Growth](#), a single application portal and collaborative review process of community and economic development grant programs that make targeted investments based on a Development Continuum. For more information, including key dates, frequently asked questions, and instructions on submitting an Expression of Interest and Full Application, please visit www.mass.gov/onestop.

The One Stop Full Application is organized into the following sections:

- Form 1 – Applicant Information
- Form 2 – Project Information
- Form 3 – Certification of Application Submission Authority

In order to be considered for Seaport Economic Council funding, applicants must include complete responses to all required questions.

Additional Information

- For information on the One Stop, including key dates, frequently asked questions, and instructions on submitting an Expression of Interest and Full Application, please visit www.mass.gov/onestop.
- The Expression of Interest is an optional, but highly recommended form that allows an applicant to seek guidance from the One Stop partner agencies. Applicants are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest prior to starting their Full Application(s). Visit the [One Stop Expression of Interest webpage](#) for more information and access to the Expression of Interest form.

- All applications must be submitted electronically. The online application portal, IGX, can be accessed at <https://eohed.intelligrants.com>. An online webinar outlining the use of the system will be available on the site. The application form template and link to the portal will also be available on the [One Stop webpage](#).
- Eligible applicants may submit funding requests for more than one project in the same round. However, a separate application is required for each project. Each proposal will be evaluated independently against the criteria and will be competing directly with all other proposals.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of all requirements and deadlines, and to ensure that their application is complete and submitted on time. All applications will be logged as to date and time received and kept on file as public record. Late submissions will not be considered.
- Seaport Economic Council reserves the right to request additional information from the applicant or external sources as may be necessary in order to complete the application review. Seaport Economic Council also reserves the right to recommend partial grant awards, as deemed appropriate.

APPENDIX: ACCESSING THE ONLINE APPLICATION

All applications to the Seaport Economic Council must be submitted electronically through the Community One Stop for Growth application process. The application will be available and accepted through the IGX Platform, accessed at <https://eohed.intelligrants.com>. A user account is required. Below are the steps for getting into the system.

The municipality should activate a primary account with the municipal CEO and/or designee(s) as a “Grant Administrator”. This person(s) can then add other users, as necessary.

Current Admin Users – Municipal CEOs and/or designees who have used the IGX system in past rounds may use their existing usernames to access the system. Applicants that have forgotten their username and/or password must use the "Forgot Username/Password" function on the IGX login page.

New Organizations – If your organization has not accessed the system in the past, a new registration is required. This should be done by the municipal CEO and/or a designee. Click the “New Organization? Register Here” link to complete and submit a registration request. When that account is approved by EOED, an email notification will be sent from the system confirming designation as a Grant Administrator.

NOTE: All new requests for Grant Administrator must be approved by EOED. These will be reviewed as they are received. Applicants will get an email notification from the system confirming the approval. If confirmation not received after 48 hours, please contact onestop@mass.gov to request assistance.

New User in Existing Organizations – Once a Grant Administrator is established for your organization, that user(s) may then create and/or approve additional accounts for municipal staff and/or consultants, such as grant writers, engineers, etc. Requests for access to IGX should be made directly to your community’s Grant Administrator.

Creating a new Full Application – Once accounts are registered and/or approved, a Grant Administrator can create a Full Application(s), from the “Start New Document” panel, and following the prompts in the portal. Any designated user may access, edit, and/or save an application on behalf of their organization, and are encouraged to save their work often, particularly after completing each section. Only a Grant Administrator will be able to create and submit the Full Application(s).

Submitting an application – Applications may be edited in IGX at any time up until the deadline. Official submissions to the Community One Stop for Growth will only be accepted during the posted

dates. During that timeframe, Grant Administrators may submit the Full Application by selection the “Submit Full Application” option at the bottom of the left side menu, to officially submit an application. Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt within 24 hours. If an email is not received after 24 hours, please contact onestop@mass.gov for assistance.

NOTE: If an application is erroneously submitted, the applicant may contact onestop@mass.gov to reopen the application for further editing and completion, as long as it is before the deadline. Staff will try to accommodate these requests as they are received but may not be able to respond to all requests immediately. Once reopened, it is the responsibility of the applicant to resubmit prior to the deadline.

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 the Electronic Funds Payment (EFT) system as a contract requirement by completing and submitting the Authorization 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 EFT Authorization 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.

