

Massachusetts Inclusive and Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Grant Program Application Guide / Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What does this grant program support?

The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) Inclusive and Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Grants are intended to support <u>new</u> inclusive and/or accessible outdoor recreation events <u>or</u> boost existing outdoor recreation events with <u>new or expanded</u> inclusive and/or accessible components.

What do you mean by Outdoor Recreation?

MOOR supports all kinds of outdoor recreation that occurs within the natural environmental including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, trail running, mountain biking, snowmobiling, off-highway vehicle riding, horseback riding, swimming, skiing, climbing, sailing, paddling, bird-watching, shooting-sports, star-gazing, etc.

For the purposes of this grant offering, outdoor recreation does <u>not</u> include field or court sports, even those that occur outdoors, or events that take place solely on paved road, such as road running races, or bike rides.

What do you mean by "inclusive" and "accessible?"

The purpose of this grant offering is to help engage, include and welcome new, historically excluded, historically marginalized, under-represented, diverse, and disadvantaged audiences in outdoor recreation activities and spaces (inclusive). It is also meant to break down barriers, be they physical, cognitive or social, to access to outdoor recreation activities and spaces (accessible). Any event that helps achieve these purposes is eligible for funding under this grant program.

What kinds of expense / activities are eligible for grant support?

Any expense or activity necessary to put on / hold an inclusive and/or accessible outdoor recreation event are eligible for grant funding, including but not limited to transportation costs, staff time, promotional costs, gear expenses, accessibility equipment, event costs, and translation services. Expenses for gear that will be used at a number of events into the future are also eligible.

Sample Ideas:

Event Promotions: Work with social media influencers to promote your event and engage non-traditional and diverse audiences.

Gear Support: Partner with youth organizations and outfitters to make gear available to new participants who may not have access.

Transportation: Partner with underserved community and environmental justice organizations and offer free transportation to your event.

Language: Engage translation services and interpretation services to make your promotions and event information and signage available in languages other than English.

Accessibility Equipment and Support: Work with an accessibility provider to provide adaptive equipment and support to facilitate participation of persons with disabilities.

Where can I see example of past funded grants?

You can see descriptions of past funding rounds here:

FY25: https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-awards-165000-in-grants-to-support-inclusive-and-accessible-outdoor-recreation

FY24: https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-announces-167000-in-grants-to-support-inclusive-and-accessible-outdoor-recreation

What kinds of expenses / activities are NOT eligible for grant support?

Capital investments, land acquisition costs and expenses that are not directly related to the program grant activities are not eligible. This grant cannot be used for capital investments such as infrastructure or large pieces of equipment. It is also not intended to fund general programmatic or operating support for existing programs or organizations.

Can these funds be used to support outdoor music or arts events?

The intent of this grant offering is really to boost inclusive and accessible "outdoor recreation" events as described in the RFR and above. Music / art events, while amazing counterparts to outdoor recreation, don't really fall into that definition. If you'd like to put in an application, please feel free, however, may not be as competitive or meet the core intent of the grants program.

Where must events take place?

Events must take place in Massachusetts. They may engage Massachusetts residents and / or visitors to the Commonwealth.

When must grant funds be spent by, and when must events take place?

At this time, grant funds should be expended by June 30 of the fiscal year of the grant round. For example, if the grant round opens in the summer, events should be completed and grant funds expended by the following June 30.

Who are eligible grantees? Eligible grantees include non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)), community-based organizations, municipalities, state agencies, and tribal governments. Partnerships between eligible grantees and other community-based organizations or private organizations are welcome.

What kind of budget information should we submit?

In order to evaluate any grant request, we will need to understand the details of the proposed grant related activities and expenses. Applicants should submit a budget that specifically details the proposed grant funded portions of your event or program. In addition, it is helpful to understand the full budget for your event or program.

Is this a reimbursable grant program, or are up-front payments possible?

This is primarily a reimbursement grant program. Most grant contracts will be set up for reimbursement. However, for eligible, small, community-based organizations, we will consider a monthly grant installment payment.

For reimbursement grants, reimbursements will be based upon proof of actual expenditures and payments. Reimbursement shall only be for expenses up to the approved grant amount, and in accordance with the approved budget. Grantees must pay costs and then submit reimbursement requests. Reimbursement requests must include both invoices / receipts and proof of payment. Multiple reimbursement requests are acceptable.

For grants to community-based organizations with an approved installment payment model, the first installment will be made at the time the grant contract is executed, and subsequent monthly installments will be made contingent on receipt and approval by MOOR of estimates, invoices, and / or payments for approved grant activities. All grant funds must be used for eligible activities in accordance with the approved grant budget. Grant payments will only be made up to the approved grant amount or the actual approved expenditure amount, whichever is less.

Is there a cap on how many different grant proposals a single entity can submit or be awarded?

Applicants are allowed to submit multiple proposals and they will be separately evaluated.

Are former grantees eligible to re-apply for a new grant?

There is no prohibition on previous grantees applying to this round of grants.

The application requires land-owner / manager permission, and/or permit, and yet, the landowner will not accept or process permits until later in the year. How should we handle this?

We understand that final permits / permissions may not be in by the grant deadline. That is fine. Please just include documentation of communication with the landowner for the application. If your project is selected for award, you will be required to submit final permits / permissions to us prior to holding the event.