



Massachusetts Inclusive and Accessible Outdoor Recreation Events Grant Program 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 new inclusive and/or accessible outdoor recreation events or boost existing outdoor recreation events with new or expanded inclusive and/or accessible components.

What do you mean by Outdoor Recreation?

MOOR supports all kinds of outdoor recreation that occurs within the natural environment 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, star-gazing, etc.

For the purposes of this grant offering, outdoor recreation does not 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.

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.

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 must be expended by June 30, 2025. Ideally, proposed events would take place before June 30, 2025, however, there may be cases where grant expenses are used to support a series of events that continue past June 30, and those expenses are still eligible for funding.

We also welcome applications for future events with expense after June 30, 2025. However, funding for such events after June 2025 will be dependent on future available resources.

The Deadline for applications is September 13, 2024.

Who are eligible grantees? Eligible grantees include non-profit organizations (501(c)(3)), 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.