

# MASSACHUSETTS FEDERAL FUNDS PARTNERSHIP

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Meeting October 25, 2023

-This meeting will be recorded.

-Please mute yourself after arrival.

-Please submit your questions via the chat function. Questions will be answered during Q&A.

-Meeting is available to the public and the press

# AGENDA

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Welcome and Introduction from Lieutenant Governor Driscoll

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About FFIO

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Overview of Upcoming Federal Funding Opportunities

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Massachusetts Clean Energy Commission on Clean School Bus Rebate Program

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Massachusetts Broadband Institute BEAD, ACP & Other Programs

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Q & A

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# FFIO TEAM



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# ABOUT THE FEDERAL FUNDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

Officially created by recently signed Executive Order No. 624, and tasked with implementing a whole-of-government to compete for federal funding by:



**Identifying key federal funding opportunities** that advance Healey-Driscoll Administrations priorities including infrastructure, equity, job creation, economic competitiveness, climate resiliency and decarbonization, workforce development, and more



Leading bi-weekly meetings of the **Advisory Council on Federal Funds and Infrastructure**, to facilitate inter-agency coordination and promote government-wide strategies for maximizing federal funding

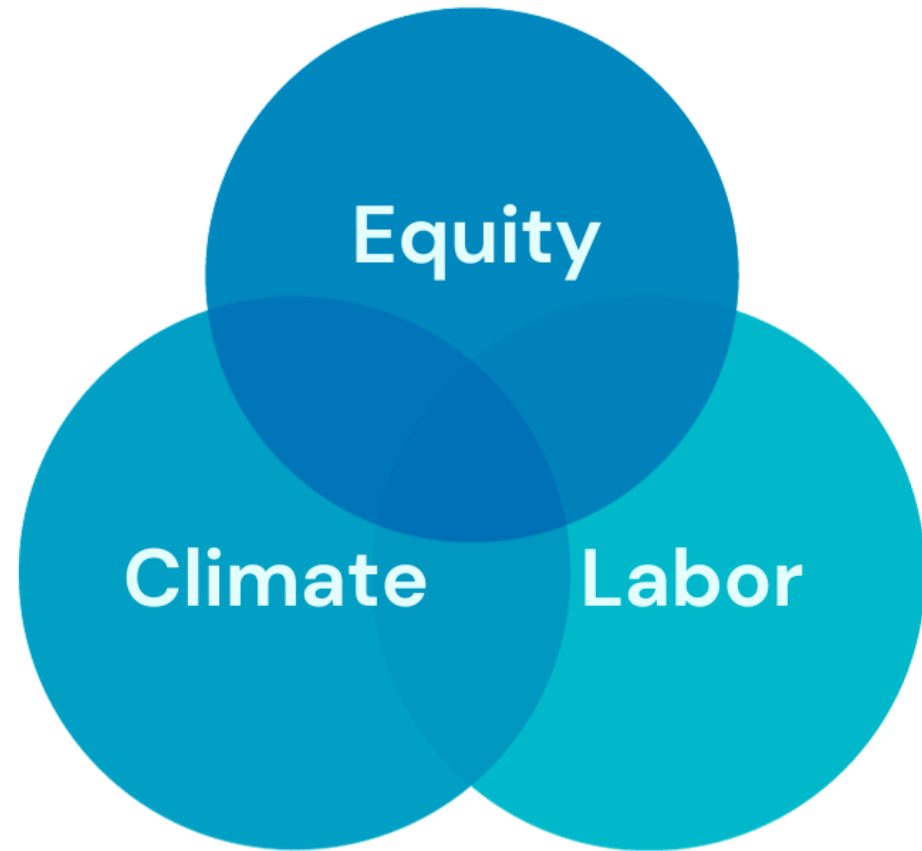


Tracking available federal grant opportunities and Massachusetts applications through the **State Clearinghouse**



Leading the **Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership** to support municipalities and tribes in their applications for federal funding

# INCORPORATING ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES AND PARTNERS



# SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Monthly Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership meetings to update municipal, regional, tribal and community leaders with targeted information on recently announced grant programs where you are the eligible applicant
- Monthly emails with Partnership meeting notes, video clips, and additional info on grant opportunities and resources
- Information also available on the [Federal Funds Local Governments page](#)
- [Grant Application Notice Form](#) to notify FFIO of in-progress or submitted federal grant applications
- FFIO ([FedFundsInfra@mass.gov](mailto:FedFundsInfra@mass.gov)) email inbox for questions about federal grant applications
- Access to additional resources for matching funds and technical assistance pending recently filed legislation

# STATE MATCHING FUNDS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION

- Proposal to create PAYGO Capital Investment and Debt Reduction Fund
  - Fund will leverage interest earnings on the state's Stabilization Fund to establish a permanent pay-as-you-go capital fund
  - Over the next three years, fund **will unlock an estimated \$750 million** in resources to pursue federal funding opportunities
  - Includes **\$50 million for municipal matching grants** and a **local infrastructure bank**
  - Includes **\$12 million** towards local government technical assistance
- **Adds to the over \$2 billion** in existing resources Massachusetts has made available for state match
  - Current estimates show a potential need for ~\$3 billion in state match to compete for \$17.5 billion in federal grants
  - This ready pool of funding will give Massachusetts a competitive edge in the pursuit of historic federal grant opportunities
- Legislation filed alongside signing of Executive Order on **October 19th**

# OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING MUNICIPAL AND TRIBAL ELIGIBLE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Program Name	Deadline	Policy Area	Eligibility
<u>Brownfields Projects</u>	11/13/2023	Climate & Resiliency	Municipal & Tribal Governments
<u>Climate Ready Workforce</u>	11/30/2023	Labor	Municipal & Tribal Governments
<u>Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)</u>	11/20/2023 (Statement of Interest) 12/18/2023 (Benefit-Cost Analysis) 1/8/2024 (Application Deadline to MEMA)	Climate & Resiliency	Municipal & Tribal Governments
<u>Thriving Communities Program (TCP)</u>	4/1/2024 (General) 5/1/2024 (Tribes)	Climate & Resiliency	Municipal & Tribal Governments
<u>Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (NEVI)</u>	11/13/2023	Transportation	Municipal Governments



# BROWNFIELD PROJECTS

- Eligibility: Municipal & Tribal Governments
- About Brownfield:
  - A brownfield is a property where development may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant
  - EPA administered program seeking to sustainably reuse brownfields by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training activities
  - EPA also provides technical assistance to brownfield communities through regional hubs to help address their brownfield sites
    - Massachusetts is located in EPA Region 1, making our regional partner the University of Connecticut
- **Deadline: 11/13/2023**
- **TA Contact: [nefeli.bompoti@uconn.edu](mailto:nefeli.bompoti@uconn.edu) (email); [tab.program.uconn.edu](http://tab.program.uconn.edu) (website)**

# CLIMATE READY WORKFORCE

- Eligibility: Municipal & Tribal Governments
- About Climate Ready Workforce:
  - Aims to assist communities in forming partnerships that train workers and place them into jobs that enhance climate change resilience, especially to benefit underserved communities
  - Approx. \$60M in funding available
    - Expectation of providing between 10-20 awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$10M each
  - Applicants required to submit a Letter of Intent before submitting a full proposal for this opportunity
- **Deadline: 11/30/2023**
- **Contact: [sg.grants@noaa.gov](mailto:sg.grants@noaa.gov)**

# BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNITIES (BRIC)

- Eligibility: Municipal & Tribal Governments
- About BRIC:
  - Supports states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards
  - BRIC also offers **direct technical assistance** that can provide holistic hazard mitigation planning and project support to communities – which can be directly applied to though the FEMA website
  - Massachusetts’ municipal governments must apply as a sub-applicant to the BRIC program – with MEMA as the main applicant – to be eligible for funding
- There is a [MEMA BRIC NOFO](#) that will be published on their website
- Federally recognized tribal governments can apply as the lead applicant or as a sub-applicant

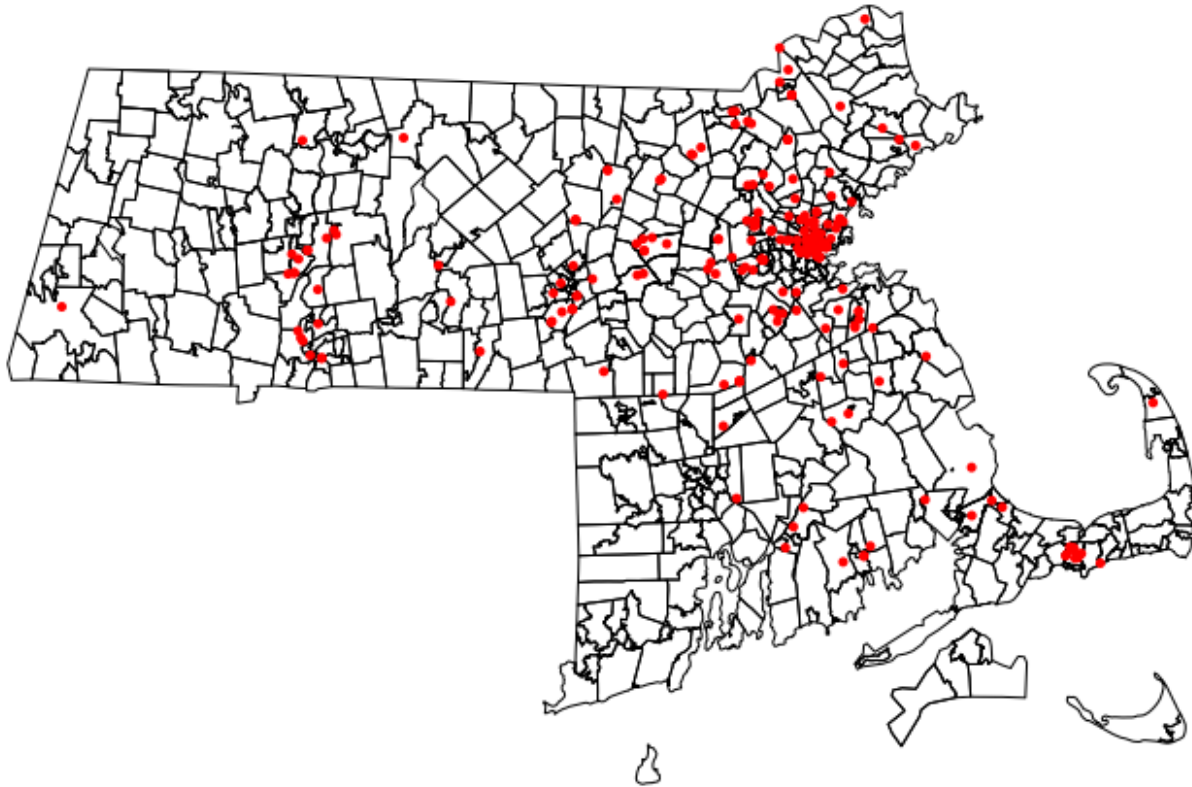
# THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- About TCP:
  - Offers:
    - technical assistance, capacity building, and peer learning over the course of 3 years.
    - deep-dive support based on community needs and facilitated peer learning and networking activities
  - Municipalities can apply to both the National and Regional programs
    - Priority given to disadvantaged communities and organizations with limited prior experience with Federal transportation funding
  - Letter of Interest for National Program can be submitted via the DOT webform
  - Letters of Commitment are submitted with the lead applicant's final application packet
- **Deadline: 4/1/2024 (General) , 5/1/2024 (Tribes)**
- **Contact: US DOT**

# NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (NEVI)

- Eligibility: Municipal Governments
- About NEVI:
  - Designed to repair and replace existing, but non-operational, electric vehicle charging infrastructure
  - 80% Federal Share, 20% cost match
  - Check out the [map on the next slide](#) to see if there are any EV charging stations with issues located in your area and reach out to MassDOT to apply jointly to this program
- **Deadline: 11/13/2023**

# NEVI CHARGING LOCATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR ACCELERATOR PROGRAM



Stations w/issues by city-zipcode in MA

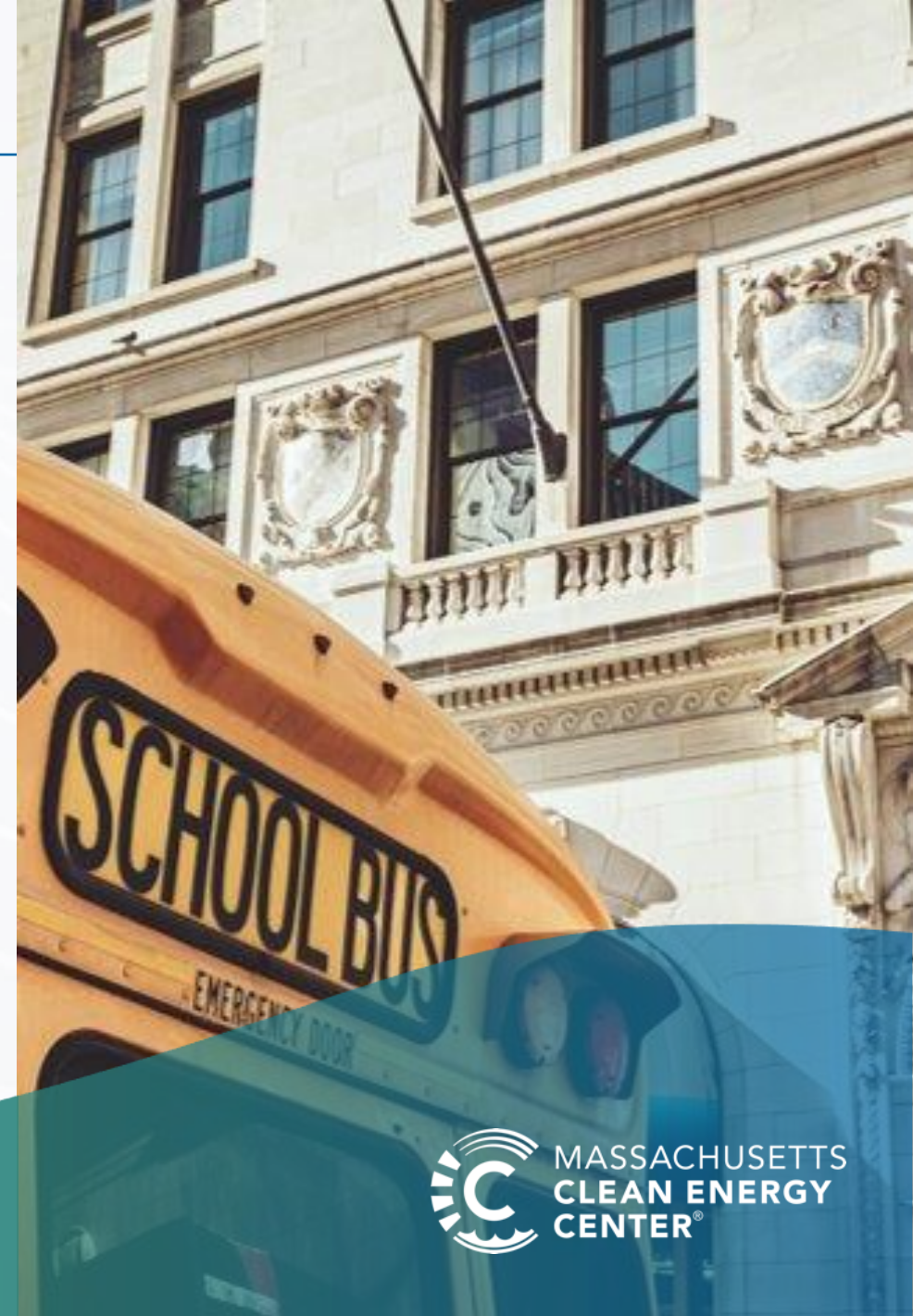
CITY	ZIPCODE	STATIONS W/ISSUES	TOTAL STATIONS	% OF STATIONS W/ISSUES
Wellesley	02481	9	15	60%
Boston	02210	8	83	10%
Barnstable	02601	7	19	37%
Auburn	01501	6	17	35%
Boston	02110	6	37	16%
Lawrence	01843	6	19	32%
Waltham	02451	6	72	8%
Marlborough	01752	5	57	9%
Medford	02155	5	16	31%
Cambridge	02139	4	44	9%
Norwood	02062	4	32	12%
Wilmington	01887	4	27	15%
Wrentham	02093	4	5	80%
Boston	02121	3	6	50%
Cambridge	02141	3	61	5%
Cambridge	02142	3	93	3%
Easthampton	01027	3	15	20%
Hadley	01035	3	14	21%
Hyannis	02601	3	15	20%
Revere	02151	3	23	13%
Sterling	01564	3	10	30%
Watertown	02472	3	25	12%
West Springfield	01089	3	18	17%
Westford	01886	3	15	20%
Boston	02115	2	18	11%
Boston	02118	2	41	5%
Boston	02119	2	7	29%
Boston	02128	2	36	6%
Boston	02129	2	27	7%
Boston	02215	2	22	9%

October 25, 2023

# School Bus Electrification:

## EPA Region and MassCEC Overview and Funding Opportunities

ORLY STROBEL (MASSCEC)





# EPA Clean School Bus Program

## Overview and Past Funding Opportunities

- \$5 billion over five years (FY22 – FY26)
  - EPA defined priority districts receive higher % of funding
  - 16 priority districts in MA
- FY22 Rebate (closed)
  - \$4 billion in applications
  - >12,000 buses; >90% electric
  - \$965 million awarded
- FY23 grant funding (closed)
  - Targeted larger bus fleets
  - Expect award announcement January 2024
- Expect future rebate and grant rounds for next 3 years





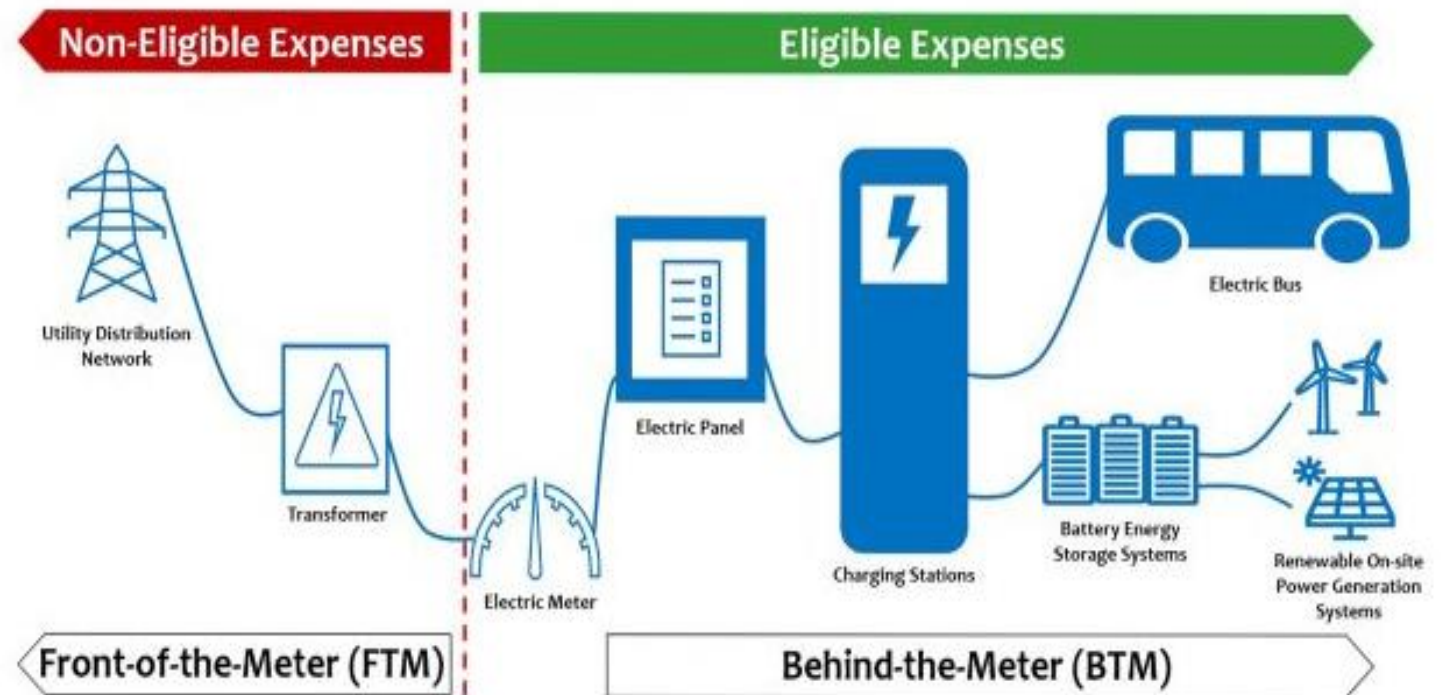
# 2023 EPA Clean School Bus Rebate



**EPA CLEAN  
SCHOOL BUS**

- **Due January 31, 2024**
- >\$500M in funding available
- Max of **25 buses**, no minimum
- **Eligible Applicants:** Private transportation providers and public-school districts
- Can replace diesel/gas buses with electric, propane, or CNG buses
- Minimum of 1 award per state (60% of awards for priority districts, 40% towards nonpriority districts)

## Eligible Infrastructure



# 2023 EPA Clean School Bus Rebate



Table 4: Maximum Funding Amount per Replacement School Bus

School District Prioritization Status	Replacement Bus Fuel Type and Size					
	ZE – Class 7+	ZE – Class 3-6	CNG– Class 7+	CNG – Class 3-6	Propane – Class 7+	Propane – Class 3-6
Buses serving school districts that meet one or more prioritization criteria	Up to \$345,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$265,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$45,000	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$35,000	Up to \$30,000
Buses serving school districts that are not prioritized	Up to \$200,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$145,000 (Bus + Charging Infrastructure)	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$20,000

# ACT School Bus – MA State Program



**Ensures successful electric school bus deployment projects, fill in funding and technical assistance gaps**

- \$12M already awarded to support electric school bus deployment in MA
- \$2.5M award cap for school districts and transportation providers in upcoming round

## **Advisory Services Program**

- MassCEC is currently enrolling up to 25 fleets to provide no-cost, full fleet electrification planning for school districts
- Prepares schools for electric school bus purchase and charging station installation
- Currently in the early stages of enrollment
  - Cohort includes Boston, Springfield, Mashpee, and Worcester

## **Fleet Deployment Program**

- MA schools have leveraged nearly **\$50M**, in funding for **96** buses
  - Clean School Bus, ACT School Bus, DERA, and vendor/district cost share)
- 6 MA public school districts supported in first Deployment round (including all 5 EPA Clean School Bus awardees and 1 DERA awardee)
- RFP of second Deployment round expected November

# Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership

October 25, 2023

# Agenda

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- Introduction and Federal Funding Overview
- MBI Programs
  - Gap Networks Grant Program
  - Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD)
  - Municipal Digital Equity Planning
  - Apartment Wi-Fi
  - Affordable Connectivity Program
- Contact MBI



Established in 1982



MASSACHUSETTS  
TECHNOLOGY  
COLLABORATIVE

## OUR MISSION:

We strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy  
by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights  
that harness the talent of Massachusetts.

**MBI**

MASSACHUSETTS  
BROADBAND INSTITUTE

**Mission:** To partner with municipalities and service providers to close the digital divide in targeted areas of the Commonwealth.



MassCyberCenter

**Mission:** To support the cybersecurity ecosystem, compete as the national cybersecurity leader, and strengthen the resiliency of the public and private sector.



**MeHI**

MASSACHUSETTS  
eHEALTH INSTITUTE

**Mission:** To lead as the single best destination for digital health innovation with focus on accelerating innovation; health data transparency and access; and improving healthcare outcomes and costs.



THE INNOVATION INSTITUTE

**Mission:** To create conditions for growth in the innovation economy.



**Com**

MASSACHUSETTS CENTER for  
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

**Mission:** To foster the most complete, most connected, and fastest manufacturing ecosystem from innovation through production.





## Federal Funding Priorities

### **Serve the Unserved:**

\$145M – Gap Networks Program (August Launch)

### **Quality of Service:**

\$22M – Residential Retrofit Program (Fall/Winter 2023)

### **Ensure Universal Access and Affordability**

\$147M - NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant (Q1 or Q2 2024)

### **Digital Equity:**

\$75M – Digital literacy, devices, Wi-Fi, etc.



# Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program

## *Mass Broadband Institute launches new broadband grant program*

### Overview

- \$145 million program funded through ARPA Capital Projects Fund
- First source of federal broadband infrastructure funds to be deployed in MA
- Primary objective is to increase availability of broadband by “connecting the unconnected”

### Eligible Locations

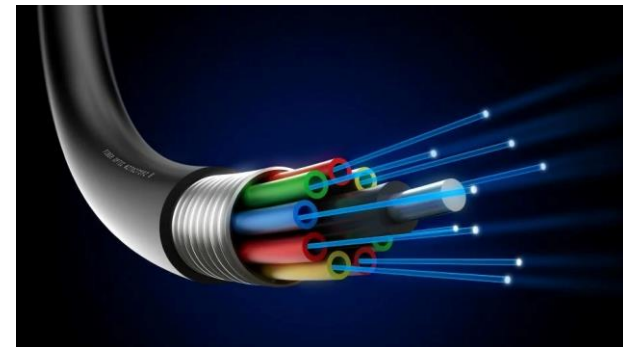
- Homes, businesses and community anchor institutions that do not have access to broadband service of at 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds

### Eligible Applicants

- Private entities and Public Private Partnerships
- Local governmental entities, including MLPs
- Co-operatives, electric co-operatives and utilities

### Schedule

- Program launches week of October 23
- Two competitive grant solicitation rounds (1<sup>st</sup> round deadline – 12/13/23; 2<sup>nd</sup> round deadline – 4/17/24)







# Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

BEAD projects are designed to provide fiber connectivity directly to the end user (last mile), including unserved, underserved, and CAIs.

## Broadband Deployment

01

### Unserved Locations

MBI awards funding in a manner that prioritizes Unserved Service Projects.

02

### Underserved Locations

Once MBI certifies that it will ensure coverage of all unserved locations, it may then prioritize Underserved Service Projects.

03

### Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)

NTIA Strongly urges that MBI serves eligible Community Anchor Institutions next

- Ensure deployment of gigabit connections to community anchor institutions such as libraries and community centers that lack such connectivity.
- Eligible Community Anchor: entity (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitates greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps.



## Non-Deployment Uses

04

### Access, Adoption, and Equity

MBI can apply any remaining funding to pursue eligible access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses, as well as any other uses approved by the Assistant Secretary that support the Program's goals.

BEAD funds prioritize projects that demonstrate they will be able to ensure service to all unserved and underserved locations.

# Why is the BEAD Challenge Process Important?



The BEAD Challenge Process is vital because it determines the **locations and community anchor institutions** within each jurisdiction that are **eligible for BEAD funding**.



## **Key step toward achieving BEAD goals**

Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of providing accessible and affordable broadband, all unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible Community Anchor Institutions must be identified.



## **Helps ensure accurate results**

An evidence-based, fair, transparent, and expeditious BEAD Challenge Process, as outlined in the NOFO and Challenge Process Policy Notice, helps ensure accurate results, an efficient process, and a precise allocation of resources.



## **Gathers information needed before running the subgrantee selection**

The subgrantee selection process cannot be run without first having an accurate and comprehensive list of eligible locations and CAIs.



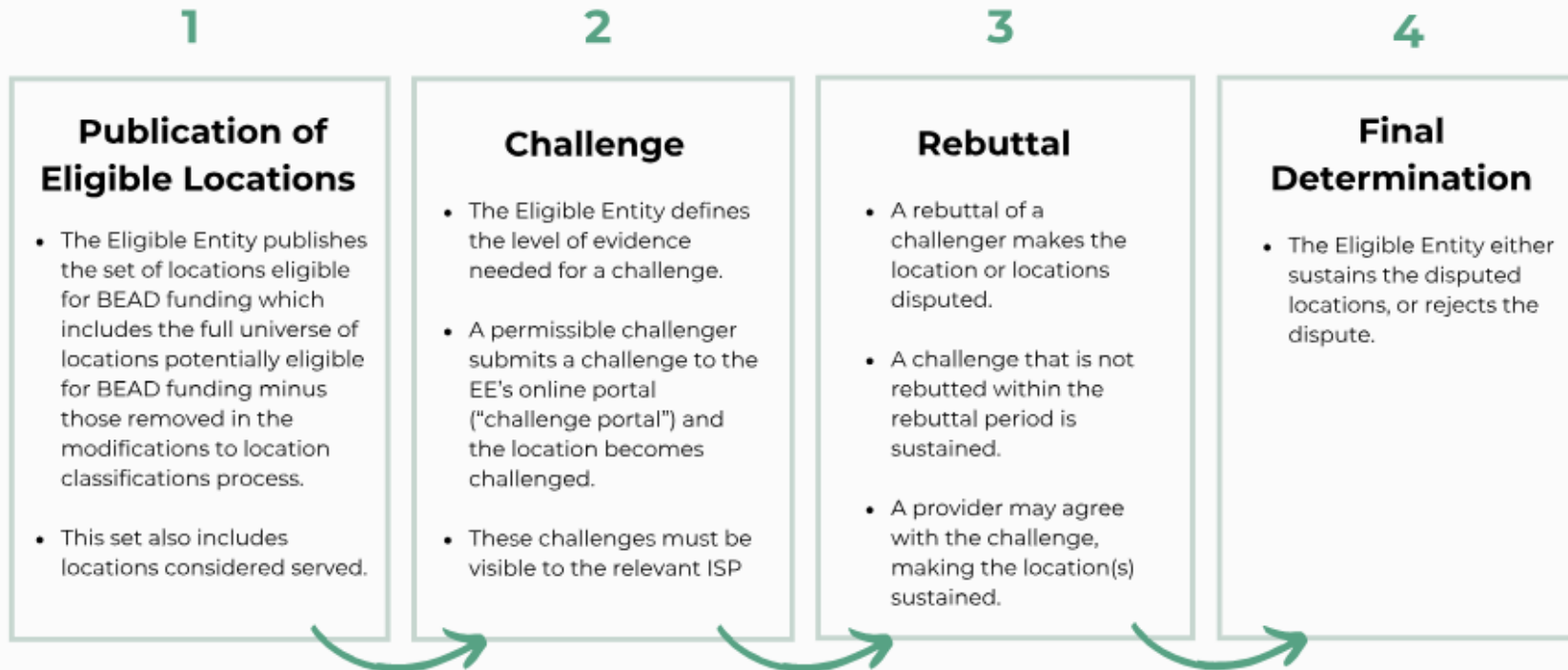
# BEAD Challenge Process



## Who can challenge?

- Local governments
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Internet service providers

### BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

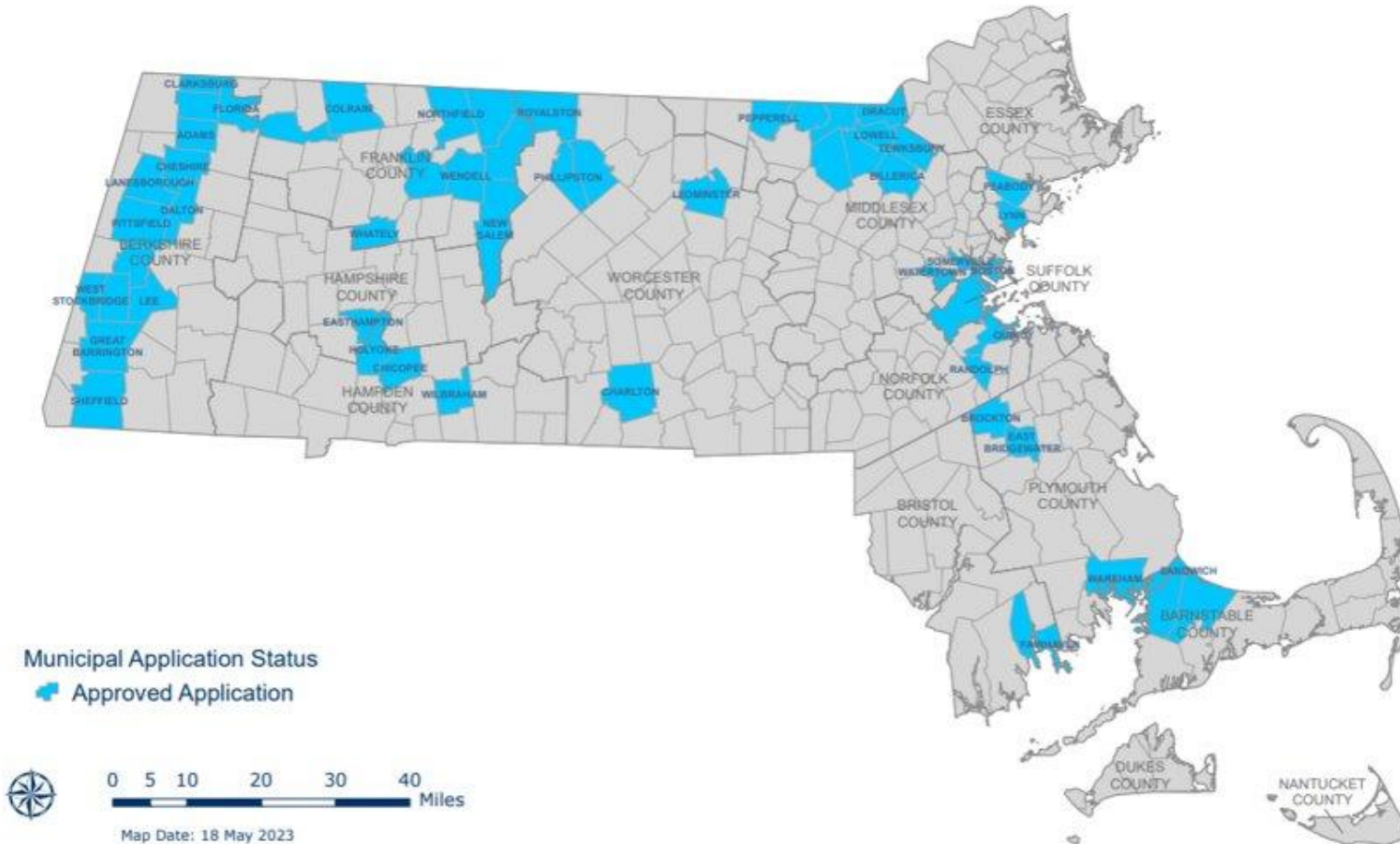


# Timeline



→ Visit [broadband.masstech.org/internetforall](https://broadband.masstech.org/internetforall) to stay connected

# Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program



Pairing municipalities with a pre-qualified consultant to undergo a digital equity planning process **at no cost** to the city or town. Regional applications are encouraged!

## Program Goals:

- Guide **municipal decision-making** related to services and infrastructure that will increase access, adoption and usage of the internet.
- Prepare municipalities to **submit grant proposals** to existing or forthcoming state or federal programs to support digital inclusion activities.



# Free Wi-Fi in Affordable Housing

## Massachusetts Apartment Wi-Fi Initiative

- One of six initiatives launched under Massachusetts Digital Equity Partnerships Program.
- Partner – Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
- Support to establish residential Wi-Fi networks at multi-unit housing sites operated by public and non-profit affordable housing providers.
- MBI covers all capital costs associated with network design, construction, and equipment, and the first year of ongoing operating expenses.

Projects result in **free**, in-unit high speed internet access without the need for a broadband subscription. Addresses affordability barrier to broadband adoption for low-income households.

**For more information go to:** <https://www.mapc.org/our-work/expertise/digital-equity/apartment-wi-fi/>

Take the next step by completing the online expression of interest form - <https://forms.gle/kmPKy3h7RPBPmcWH6>



*Connecting Households With*

# THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a new [federal government program](#) that helps families pay for home Internet and connected devices. The ACP benefit provides:

UP TO

**\$30**  
**/month**

*Discount on Internet Service*

UP TO

**\$75**  
**/month**

*Discount on Internet Service  
for Household on Qualifying  
Tribal Lands*

A ONE TIME DISCOUNT OF

**\$100**

*For a Laptop, Tablet or Desktop  
Computer*

# Affordable Connectivity Program



## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

### WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

### The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:**

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

### TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1

Go to **AffordableConnectivity.gov** to submit an application or print a mail-in application

2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must **both** apply for the program **and** contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

### LEARN MORE

📞 Call 877-384-2575, or  
🌐 Visit [fcc.gov/acp](https://www.fcc.gov/acp)



## Help low-income families access the internet:

- ✓ Access to healthcare/telehealth
- ✓ Pursue employment opportunities
- ✓ Educational attainment
- ✓ Access to government services
- ✓ Staying connected to family and friends

## Resources

- ACP Toolkit - <https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit>
- Consumer FAQ - <https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq>
- Find Participating ISPs - <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/companies-near-me/>

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at the MassTech  
Collaborative

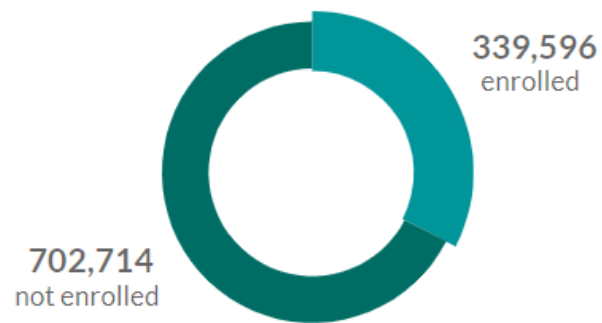


# Massachusetts ACP Adoption

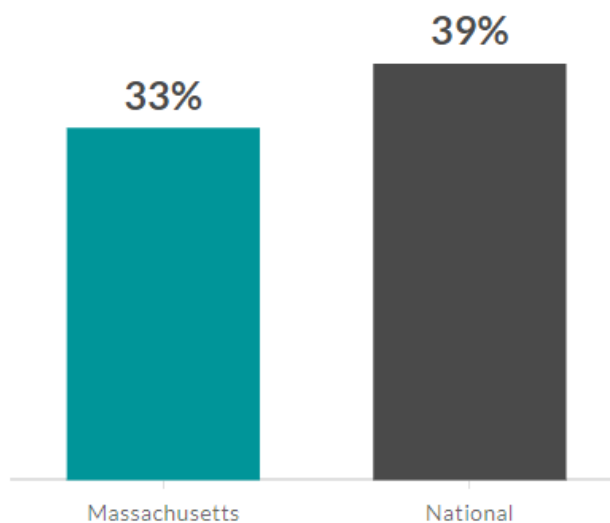
1,042,310 eligible households



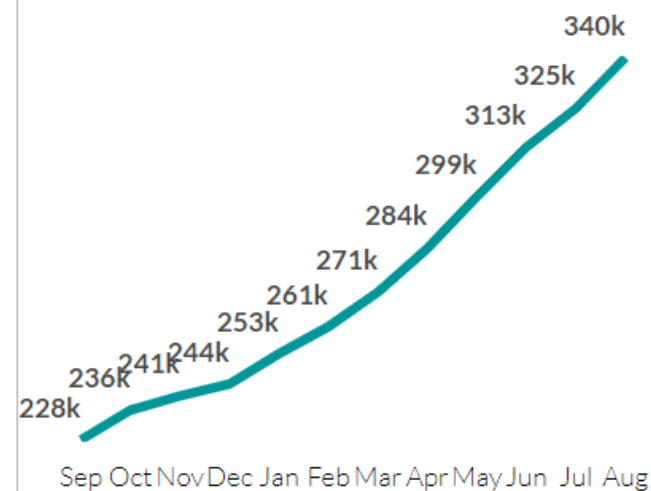
## ENROLLMENT



## NATIONAL



## ENROLLMENT OVER TIME



# MBI Team

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Have Questions?  
Need More Information?

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# FFIO POLL

*Please take a minute to respond to a few questions about the next Partnership meeting in the pop-up window.*

# Q&A

*Put questions in the chat you would like  
our speakers to answer!*

If we are unable to get to your question today, please  
send it to us at [FedFundsInfra@mass.gov](mailto:FedFundsInfra@mass.gov).