Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership

October 2025 Meeting

-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.

Agenda

FFIO Updates

Federal Updates

Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience (OCIR) Presentation - Direct Pay Update

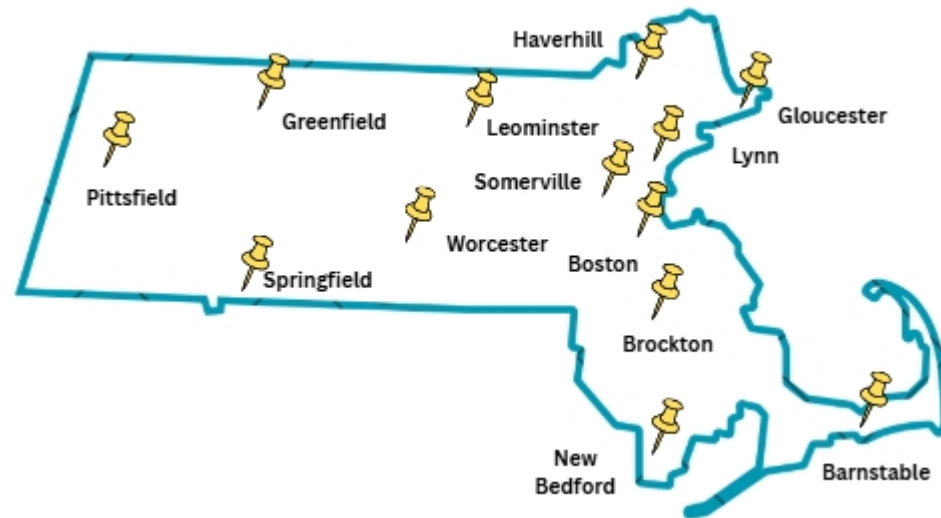Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) Presentation – Connected and Online Program

Q&A

FFIO Updates

FFIO COMMUNITY TOUR

Since November of 2024, FFIO has hosted 13 Community Tour events across Massachusetts to share information with communities about our resources.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at one of our events this year!
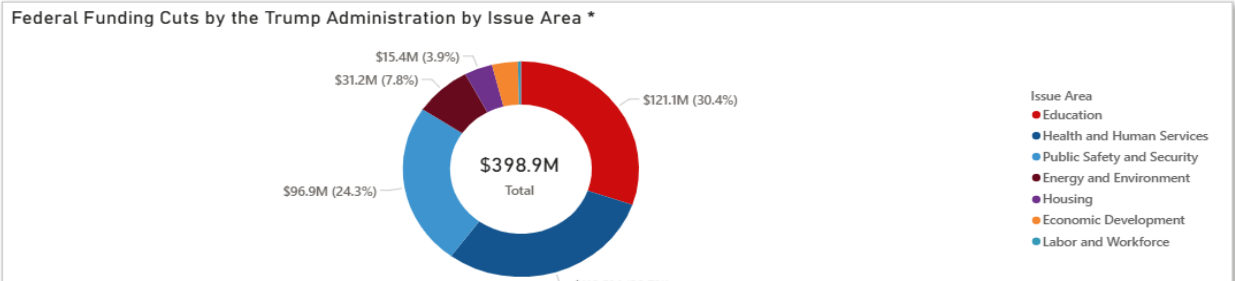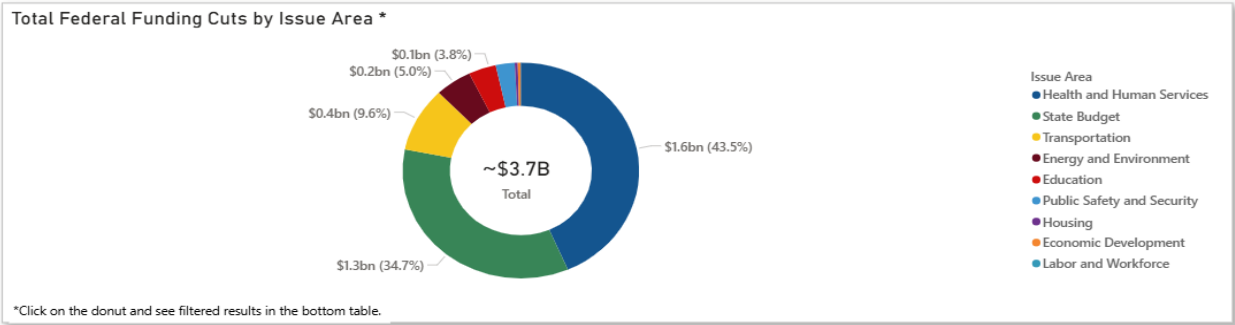
Mass.gov/fedimpact

WHAT DOES FEDERAL FUNDING DO IN MASSACHUSETTS?

Massachusetts received $22.9B in federal funding last year

OPERATING
$16.1B $41.9B

CAPITAL OTHER GRANTS
$1.5B $4.4B $5.3B

■ FEDERAL
■ STATE

$12.5 BILLION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
scheduled in the next 5 years

1 IN 4 RESIDENTS RELY ON SNAP
to afford nutritious food for their family.

115 MILLION SCHOOL MEALS
for low-income students across Massachusetts.

28% OF MA RESIDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN MassHealth
including low- and moderate-income families, older adults, and people with disabilities.

140,000 HOUSEHOLDS
are housed with the support of federal rental assistance.

11,000 CHILDREN ATTEND PRESCHOOL
with federal HeadStart programs.

Massachusetts is Tracking and Communicating the Impact of Federal Funding Cuts

- Website updated weekly on federal funding impacts

	Total Funds Cut	Funds Cut from Trump Administration	Funds Cut from Congressional Action	Funds Successfully Defended and Reinstated
All	~$3.7B	$398.9M	~$3.3B	$223.3M

Total Federal Funding Cuts by Issue Area *

~$3.7B Total

$0.1bn (3.8%)
$0.2bn (5.0%)
$0.4bn (9.6%)
$1.6bn (43.5%)
$1.3bn (34.7%)

Issue Area
● Health and Human Services
● State Budget
● Transportation
● Energy and Environment
● Education
● Public Safety and Security
● Housing
● Economic Development
● Labor and Workforce

*Click on the donut and see filtered results in the bottom table.

Federal Funding Cuts by the Trump Administration by Issue Area *

$398.9M Total

$15.4M (3.9%)
$31.2M (7.8%)
$121.1M (30.4%)
$96.9M (24.3%)

Issue Area
● Education
● Health and Human Services
● Public Safety and Security
● Energy and Environment
● Housing
● Economic Development
● Labor and Workforce

GET IN TOUCH WITH FFIO

Find more information on Federal Funds Partnership meetings, video recordings, grant lists, and other resources on the FFIO website.

Follow FFIO on LinkedIn to see the latest updates from our office.

Contact the FFIO email inbox (FedFundsInfra@mass.gov) for questions about federal grant opportunities!

Government Shutdown

Government funding lapsed on October 1, leading to a government shutdown. Congress can pass a continuing resolution to restore government funding and end the shutdown

Update

- The House passed a 7-week continuing resolution (H.R.5371) in September that would extend funding through November 21, but the bill has not passed the Senate.

- As the shutdown continues, more federal programs are being impacted. The USDA has communicated that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will begin to run out of money on Saturday, Nov. 1.

- FFIO is in contact with Senate offices to coordinate on impacts. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Open Federal Funding Opportunities

OPEN GRANTS

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
National Fish Passage Program	State, Local Governments, Tribes, NGOs, +	$1,000,000	No	11/12/2025
Farm to School Grant Program	State + Tribes. Partnerships of Local Governments, NGOs, agricultural producers, CNP operators	$500,000	25%	12/5/2025
Archival Projects	State, Local Governments, NGOs, Academic Institutions, Federally- or State-recognized Tribes	$150,000	No	11/5/2025

If you've applied for federal grants – let us know at fedfundsinfra@mass.gov
Search for federal funding opportunities here: Home | Grants.gov

OPEN GRANTS

Grant Name	Eligibility	Max Award	Cost Share	Deadline
Solid Waste Management Grant Program	NGOs, Federally- or State-recognized Tribes, Public bodies, Academic Institutions	N/A	No	12/31/2025
Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program	NGOs	N/A	No	12/31/2025
Rural Decentralized Water System Grant Program	NGOs	N/A	10%	12/01/2025

Direct Pay Update

Jonathan Schrag
Deputy Climate Chief, Office of Climate
Innovation and Resilience

What is Direct Pay?

- Under Direct Pay, the IRS provides cash refunds to tax-exempt entities for qualifying clean energy projects.

30% of clean energy project costs (usually)

$7,500 for light Electric Vehicles

Bonuses may affect these amounts

How Direct Pay Credits and Bonuses Affect a $2M Project

Example:

- A municipality with brownfield status renovates a building with **geothermal ground-sourced heating**.
- Project cost is $2M

Town recoups 40% of project in tax credits.

Chart axis labels:
$2,500,000
$2,000,000
$1,500,000
$1,000,000
$500,000
$0

Chart values:
$200,000
$480,000
$120,000
$1,200,000

Project Financing

Legend:
- Municipal Funds
- Basis Credit
- PWA Bonus
- Energy Community Bonus
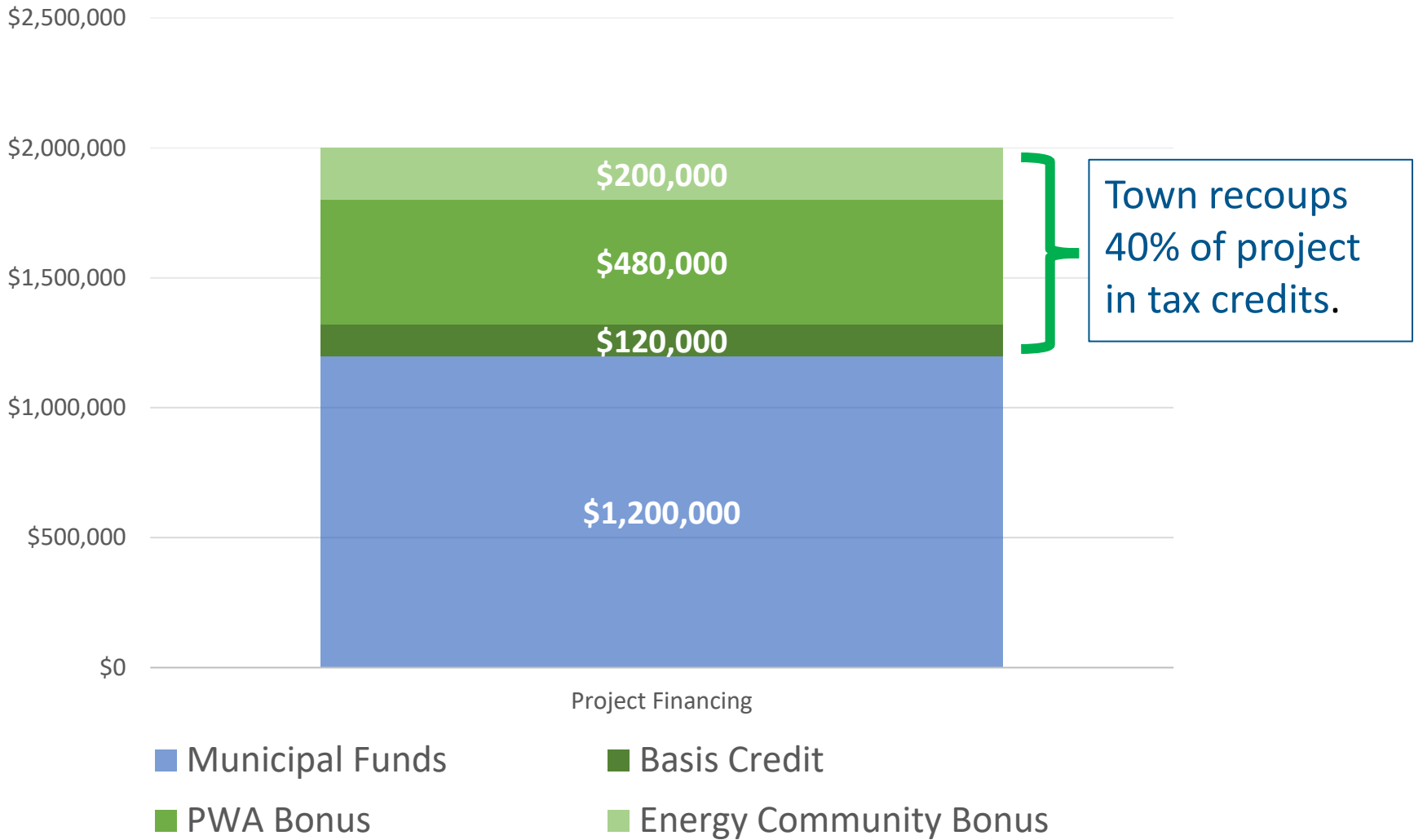
How Has the One Big Beautiful Bill Act Changed Direct Pay?

- Direct Pay still exists as a federal program, but OBBBA now imposes a variety of new restrictions, especially for solar and wind projects, and electric vehicle purchases and infrastructure.

EVs	EV Chargers	Solar and Wind	Ground Source Heat Pumps, Storage, Fuel Cells
• Must have been placed in service by 9/30/25	• Must be placed in service by 6/30/26	• Must begin construction on or after 7/4/26 and placed in service by 12/31/27 • "Foreign entity" restrictions	• Must begin construction by 12/31/33

Next Steps for Elective Pay Projects

1. **Identify projects in the pipeline with in-service dates of 2025 or later**:
   - Build an internal team by working with financial advisors and counsel to confirm eligibility and gather documentation.

   - Complete pre-registration for each project in the IRS Pre-registration portal. This should be completed 120 days prior to the tax filing deadline.

   - File Tax Forms generally 4.5 months after the end of the tax period.
     - May 15th for calendar year filers and November 15th for fiscal year filers. There is a six month extension available

2. **Inventory capital needs that could benefit from geothermal or storage over the next decade**:

   - Include tax credit value into real estate planning.

   - Ensure architects, designers, and facilities managers are aware of tax credit opportunities.

Helpful Resources

- [FFIO's Direct Pay Information Page](#)

- [CAP webinar](#) on Direct Pay

- [Lawyers for Good Government Resource](#)

- IRS [Video Tutorial](#) on pre-registration

- [IRS Q&A](#)

Agenda

1. Timeline

2. Program Overview and Goals

3. Equipment Details

4. Application Details

5. Questions

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01

Introduction

Timeline

Activity	Date
~~Program Launch / Applications Open~~	~~Monday, October 6th~~
Q&A Period Begins	Monday, October 6th, 2025
~~Technical Assistance Session~~	~~Wednesday, October 15th, 2025~~
~~Q&A Period Closes~~	~~Wednesday, October 15th, 2025~~
~~Q&A Posted~~	~~Wednesday, October 22nd 2025~~
Early Application Deadline	Friday, October 31st
Application Closes	Friday, November 7th, 2025
Award Notification	Anticipated Late November or Early December 2025

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02

Program
Overview

What is C&O?

Overview

The Connected and Online Program channels a combined $23.08 million in Capital Projects Fund resources—$20.46 million for fleets of internet-connected devices and $2.62 million for supporting equipment—into a statewide effort to close Massachusetts' device gap.

Objectives

The program provides **laptops**, **tablets, and desktops** to eligible organizations **for use in on-site public computer stations or free-to-borrow lending programs.**

Funded projects **must advance education, workforce development, and healthcare access** by enabling remote learning, work, and virtual health services.

CONNECTED & ONLINE

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Project Focus Areas

The Connected & Online Program will focus on three priority areas —Education, Workforce Development, and Healthcare Access. **Proposed projects must enable all three priority areas to be eligible. Some examples are:**

Education
- Devices for classrooms, libraries & learning centers
  - Supports: virtual coursework, homework help, adult education, credential programs
- **Connection:** Builds digital literacy that carries into workforce training & healthcare use

Workforce Development
- Devices for community career hubs
  - Supports: résumé building, training, remote work
- **Connection:** Digital confidence transfers to supporting children's learning & navigating healthcare tools

Healthcare Access
- Devices & connectivity for telehealth, patient portals, remote monitoring
- **Connection:** Confidence with telehealth platforms reinforces skills for online education & remote work

Device Deployment Models

Organizations may deploy devices through:

- **Onsite Public Computer Stations**
  - Located in classrooms, libraries, career hubs, health centers or other publicly accessible locations.
  - Provide consistent, reliable access in community spaces

- **Free-to-Borrow Lending Programs**
  - Residents can take devices home for education, work, or healthcare needs
  - **Flexible Loan Periods:** MBI allows agencies to set their own lending timelines to best serve community needs

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Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Municipality or municipal entity/authority
- State agency
- Tribal Nations
- Nonprofit Organizations, including community-based organizations
- Philanthropic Foundations

- Educational Providers
- Healthcare Providers
- Community Action Agencies
- Career Centers
- Libraries
- **Other organizations that can publicly deploy devices free of charge**

Applicants must:

- Be physically located in Massachusetts
- Serve individuals strictly in Massachusetts
- Make devices available to the public at no cost, via **onsite access** or **lending programs**

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Contracting Requirements

Public Benefit & Use
- Devices must support **education, workforce, AND healthcare access**.
- Must be available for **public use or lending** (not for admin/internal use).

Deployment Timeline
- Deploy devices within **3 months** of *contract execution*.
- Report any delays/unutilized equipment; MBI may recapture devices.

Ownership & Restrictions
- Awardee retains ownership through **Dec 31, 2026**.
- No resale, transfer, or disposal without **MBI approval**.
- Maintenance/support plan required to ensure continued **public access**.

Federal Compliance
- Must follow Treasury CPF guidance.
- Maintain proof of purchase, deployment logs, and service records.

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Reporting Requirements

Capital Projects Fund 1B Digital Connectivity Program

Quarterly Reporting
- **Inventory Narrative** – devices in circulation, usage counts, device impacts, lost/retired units.

End-of-Program Reporting
- **Program Impact Report** – due **Dec 31, 2026**; highlight outcomes, challenges, and success stories.

Close-Out Package – Asset Disposition Log (refurbished, donated, recycled).

Process & Confirmation
- Awardee must confirm **all serial numbers** via activation form before use.
- **No administrative reimbursements** – incidental costs covered by awardee.

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03

Equipment Details

# Core Device Bundles

Device Bundles

- **Laptop:** Dell Pro 14 (8GB RAM)
- **Chromebook:** Dell 3120 2-in-1 Touch (8GB RAM)
- **Tablet:** Dell Latitude 3140 2-in-1 Touch (8GB RAM)
- **Desktop (Standard):** Dell Pro Micro + 24" Monitor (16GB RAM)
  - Wired mouse, keyboard, and headset included
- **Desktop (Graphics):** Dell Pro Slim (RTX) + 24" Monitor (16GB RAM)
  - Wired mouse, keyboard, and headset included

Software & Security

- Microsoft 365 Business Basic (desktop and laptops only)
- Acronis Cyber Protect AV (desktop and laptops)
- Deep Freeze (desktops only)
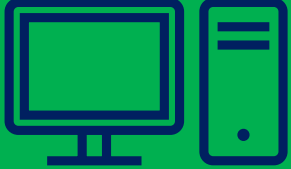- Optional assistive software: JAWS, TD Snap

Warranties

- 3-year accidental damage protection
  - For laptops, tablets, & Chromebooks
- 2-year Dell Limited Hardware Warranty
  - For laptops, tablets, & desktops
- 1-year Dell Limited Hardware Warranty
  - Chromebooks

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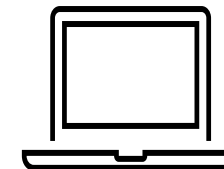
Ancillary Equipment

User Support	Assistive & Healthcare	Network Infrastructure
Charging Cart (36 devices)	iBloodpressure Classic (RPM Kit)	Ruckus R370 Indoor AP
Dell Pro Dock (WD25)	Freestyle Libre 3 Glucose Monitor (RPM Kit)	Ruckus One Mgmt. License
HP Color LaserJet Multifunction Printer	X-keys L-Trac Trackball	Ruckus 1 GbE PoE+ Switch
Epson Projector + Whiteboard Set	Logickeyboard XLPrint / Braille	Ruckus 10 GbE Core Switch + SFP+ Optic
SMART Board (75")	X-keys XK-12 USB Switch Interface	Ruckus Power Cord
	CST Vertical Wireless Mouse	**Ruckus Unleashed** (is a free controller-less software solution that allows you to manage a wireless network using only Ruckus Access points)
	Ergonomic Large Print Keyboard	
	Echo Dot	

Request Guidelines

Main Device Requests	Ancillary Equipment Requests
Request between **30 (min)** and **500 (max)** devices per organization	Ancillary requests are an **add-on** to a main device request.
Final allocations are determined by your demonstrated capacity manage devices and meet community needs.	An application for ancillary equipment **cannot** be submitted on its own.
MBI reserves the right to adjust final award amounts.	Ancillary requests must be proportional with main device requests.

04

Application
Process

Program Narrative

The narrative is the core of your application. It must clearly describe your project.

- **For the Main Device Program, you must address:**
  - **Scope & Schedule:** A clear scope of work and a timeline for device deployment.
  - **Justification:** The reason for the number and type of devices you are requesting.
  - **Program Alignment:** How devices will support education, workforce, and healthcare access.
  - **Public Access:** Your plan for onsite use or a lending model for the community.
  - **Outcomes:** Your strategy for measuring usage and providing ongoing support.

If requesting Ancillary Equipment, you must *also* describe:
  - How the equipment supports and enhances the main devices.
  - How it will be integrated with existing services to improve accessibility.

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Application Pathways

Umbrella Organization (One org applying on behalf of all sites)	Individual Site
One application per umbrella entity (**max 500 devices total**).	Each site is treated as its **own applicant** (30–500 devices each)
Must describe **each site's unique scope of work** within the single application. Application should also **include the addresses of where the devices will be deployed.** *Example*: ABC Downtown – 50 laptops for after-school program; ABC Eastside – 30 tablets for ESL classes.	Each application must reflect the site's **specific scope of work**. Applications are reviewed **individually**, even if part of the same network. Sites may use similar wording, as long as it's accurate for their activities.
Devices shipped to **one main contact/location** for distribution. Umbrella Organization will **retain ownership of all devices** and be **responsible for reporting on behalf of all sites.**	**Soley** responsible for receiving devices, ownership, and reporting

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Assemble & Submit Your Application

Gather the following required documents and upload them via Submittable on the MBI website.

- **Required Documents Checklist:**
    - W-9 Taxpayer ID Form
    - UEI & TIN Number
    - Submittable Application

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04

Submitting an Application

How to Submit an Application

1. **Go to the Application Portal**
- o Visit the **Connected & Online Submittable page**

2. Sign In or Create an Account
- o **New users:** Click **"Sign Up"** and create a free Submittable account.
- o **Returning users:** Log in with your existing credentials.

3. Complete the Application Form
- o Fill out all required fields, upload supporting documents, and review entries carefully.

4. Save & Review Your Work
- o Use the **"Save Draft"** feature if you need more time before submission.

5. Submit Your Application
- o Click **"Submit"** when ready. You'll receive a **confirmation email** upon successful submission.

6. Track Your Application
- o Log into Submittable anytime to check your status or respond to requests for additional information.

Need More Help? Watch the step-by-step guide here: **Submittable Help Center**

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05

Questions

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.

Federal Funds partnership Meeting Schedule

November Meeting Date:

- Tuesday, November 25th 2-3 pm