

**Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell**



**Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Grant Program  
Summer 2026 Cycle**

*Release Date: February 9, 2026*

*Response Due Date: March 13, 2026*

*Project Start Date: July 1, 2026*

*Project End Date: August 31, 2026*

Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Grant Program Summer 2026 Cycle  
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### **Grant Program Description**

The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office (AGO) is pleased to announce the Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Grant Program (HSYJ) for the summer 2026 cycle. The AGO requests proposals which fund one or more youth summer jobs that advance positive public health outcomes in Massachusetts communities and meaningful professional development opportunities for young people. Applicants must provide grant-funded youth employees with access to structured professional development opportunities, including, but not limited to, career readiness training, financial literacy education, or professional certifications.

Examples of eligible programs include, but are not limited to:

- Mental health awareness and peer support programs;
- Nutrition and food security initiatives that increase access to healthy foods;
- Environmental projects addressing the health effects of pollution and climate change;
- Substance use/vaping prevention and harm reduction programs;
- Violence prevention and community safety programs integrating restorative justice or peer mediation approaches;
- Health literacy and education initiatives designed to increase awareness of public health issues and accessible community resources; and
- Physical activity and wellness programs that promote sustained engagement and improved health outcomes.

For the purposes of this grant, a “youth” is considered a person between the ages of 14 and 21. Youth workers under the age of 18 must obtain an employment permit before starting a new job. Award recipients must obey all laws related to youth employment.<sup>1</sup>

HSYJ will be funded with up to \$375,000 from the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office.

### **Background**

HSYJ is a key initiative of the AGO designed to foster youth employment while advancing public health objectives. Since its inception 12 years ago, HSYJ has awarded funding to public entities and nonprofit organizations to create meaningful summer job opportunities that provide young people with professional skills and direct experience in community health initiatives. In doing so, the program fosters economic opportunity and workforce preparedness, particularly for young people from historically underserved communities, while advancing critical public health priorities.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/youth-employment-permit-information>

Summer workforce development initiatives offer opportunities for youth to develop soft skills and refine career interests while learning to manage their own finances. Broader youth employment programs have also been linked to reductions in justice system involvement, child protective services engagement, and behavioral health treatment needs, underscoring the significant social benefits of investing in these initiatives.<sup>2</sup> By aligning youth employment opportunities with public health priorities, HSYJ ensures that participants gain practical experience in addressing health and wellness challenges while exploring their future career interests and building critical workplace skills.

### **Eligibility**

The following entities are eligible to apply for grant funding:

- Non-profit organizations within Massachusetts;
- Municipal and other local government entities; and
- State government entities.

Non-profit organizations that are public charities (generally speaking, public charities have 501(c)(3) status) must be in full compliance with the statutory requirements set forth in G.L. ch. 12, secs. 8E and 8F, and G.L. ch. 68, sec. 19, including initial registration and filing of annual financial reports with the AGO's Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division. Public charities must also comply with obligations and reporting requirements set by the Internal Revenue Service. As of September 2023, the Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division requires all charitable registrations and annual filings to be made through the Charity Portal. Please find more information [here](#).

At its sole discretion, the AGO may prioritize nonprofit applicants with operating budgets under \$10,000,000.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals seeking employment.

### **Funding, Duration, and Anticipated Timeline**

This RFP is subject to and contingent upon the availability of funds. Grant awards will be issued to multiple applicants in varying amounts up to \$12,500. Applicants should seek to fully fund one or more youth positions to the extent possible with grant funds. Applicants should not partially fund numerous positions with a grant award. Payroll tax expenses associated youth position wages may be included in applicant budgets.

Applicants may propose indirect rates (administrative rates) of 15% or less. Up to \$500 of the total request may cover expenses related to professional development including, but not limited to, career readiness training, financial literacy education, and/or professional

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<sup>2</sup> Sara Heller, When Scale and Replication Work: Learning from Summer Youth Employment Experiments, NBER Working Paper No. 28705 (Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2021), [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w28705/w28705.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w28705/w28705.pdf).

certifications. Applicant budgets may or may not be funded in their entirety, or at all. All funding decisions will be at the sole discretion of the AGO.

Recipients must pay youth at least a minimum wage of \$15 per hour. Programs requesting stipend payments to youth that are not equivalent to at least \$15 per hour wage will not be considered for funding.

Grant funds will be awarded for the period of July 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026. Unexpended funds must be returned to the AGO within 45 days of contract expiration. At its sole discretion, the AGO will require funds spent on ineligible costs to be repaid to the AGO or re-budgeted to an appropriate expense category.

### **Cash Flow and Disbursement of Grant Funds**

Grant disbursement(s) will be sent to grantees by Electronic Funds Transfer, provided that all necessary contract and periodic reporting documents are received by the established deadlines. Grant awards will be disbursed in full to award recipients after contract execution.

### **Submission Instructions**

- Grant applications with accompanying proposals must be delivered electronically through the [AGO's Online Grants Portal](#) by 5:00 P.M. March 13, 2026.
- Interested applicants may access grant information and application details at the [AGO's Current Grant Opportunities website](#).
- Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.
- Applications will not be accepted in any other format.
- As of February 1, 2026, the [AGO's Online Grants Portal](#) is now hosted on a new system.
  - Applicants must create a new free online account even if they have applied for an AGO grant in the past.
  - New accounts may take up to 2 business days to activate.
  - The application period has been lengthened by one week to accommodate new account registrations.
  - Applicants are required to keep their contact information current on the [AGO's Online Grants Portal](#).
- Once applicants have started an application, the application may be saved and returned to later.
- Confirmation of Application Receipt: Applicants typically receive an email confirmation within two business days. If a confirmation is not received, please email the AGO Grants Unit at [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov).
- If the applicant experiences issues with the [AGO's Online Grant Portal](#), they should email [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov) or call (617) 963-2797 for assistance. The AGO encourages applicants to upload any required documents in advance of the deadline to avoid last minute submission issues.

## Evaluation of Grant Proposals

Program proposals and application components will be evaluated on criteria that include the following:

- Applicant's experience with and commitment to youth workforce development and public health-focused programming;
- Impact and effectiveness of proposed public health programming;
- Integration of structured professional development activities into grant-funded youth employment;
- Applicant's focus on reaching historically underserved youth populations, including clear recruitment strategies that address barriers to participation;
- Applicant's approach to engaging youth in program design and evaluation;
- Applicants use of evidence-based programming;
- The geographic location served by the applicant;
- Applicant's approach to evaluating its program including measuring its impact on public health and career readiness of its grant-funded youth employees; and
- Applicant's capacity to deliver proposed programming.

## Questions

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted to [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov), only until 5:00 P.M. on March 6, 2026. When submitting your question(s), please include **Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Summer 2026 Cycle** in the email subject line. Questions received and answers provided regarding this RFP will be posted on the [AGO's Online Grants Portal](#).

## Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants who need assistance may seek reasonable accommodation, including receipt of the RFP in an alternative format, by writing to [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov) no later than 5:00 P.M. on March 6, 2026.

## Expectations and Requirements for Grantees

- Award is contingent upon the applicant satisfactorily completing all necessary contracting documents (see below) by the deadlines established by the AGO.
- Any changes to a grant program or budget at any time during the grant period must be requested in in the [AGO's Online Grants Portal](#) by the grantee and must be approved, in advance, by the AGO.
- All funds must be used in a manner consistent with the applicant's grant application and accompanying proposal, which shall both become part of the Scope of Services Agreement.
- Grant-funded youth workers will be required to complete pre- and post-program surveys to measure career readiness, leadership development, and the impact of their work in their communities.
- Grantees must complete a final report of their contract terms in a format to be provided by the AGO.

- At its sole discretion, the AGO may require grantees to provide programmatic documentation or financial records related to their grant awards.
- Grant awards may not be transferred (e.g., as the result of a change in fiscal sponsor) without prior approval from the AGO. Decisions made on award transfer are at the sole discretion of the AGO.
- Award recipients shall distribute the AGO's Guide for Working Teens to all grant-funded youth employees. The guide can be downloaded from the AG's website or requested in paper format free of charge by emailing [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov). The Guide is available in the following languages:
  - English: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guide-for-working-teens/download>
  - Portuguese: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guide-for-working-teens-portuguese/download>
  - Spanish: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guide-for-working-teens-spanish/download>

### **Additional Program Opportunities**

Award recipients will have the opportunity to participate in AGO-led activities such as teen workers' rights trainings or financial literacy workshops. Activities may be held on-site or in a virtual format with the award recipient's staff and/or with the youth the award recipient employs. Grant-funded youth employee participation in these activities may count towards the professional development component of an applicant's proposal.

### **Required Commonwealth Contract Documents**

The following documents will be required upon any notification of a grant award at a deadline established by the AGO and *should not be submitted with the grant application*:

- Standard Contract Form
- Scope and Services Agreement
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing
- Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9)
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form<sup>3</sup>

No grant funds will be disbursed unless the necessary documents are submitted by the deadlines established by the AGO.

### **Public records**

All submitted responses and information are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26. Applicants should not submit any personal, medical, or other sensitive information.

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<sup>3</sup> It is the responsibility of the applicant/award recipient to ensure that an electronic transfer of funds may be received by the award recipient. No paper checks will be issued.

**Equal Opportunity Statement**

The consideration of all proposals and subsequent selection of the successful applicant shall be made without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, political affiliation, veteran status or national origin. The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office encourages applicants from all backgrounds to submit applications.

**Updates to this RFP**

Any changes/corrections to any part to this RFP will be posted on <https://www.mass.gov/grant-opportunities>. It is the applicant's responsibility to check this web page frequently for any updates.