THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ONE HUNDRED CAMBRIDGE STREET, SUITE 900, BOSTON, MA 02114

Request for Responses (RFR)

DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS

Agency Document Number: BWR RFR 2025-WET0-2

December 24, 2025

This information is available in alternate format.

Please contact MassDEP at 617-292-5500
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

Grant Summary

Total Funding Available: $500,000

Questions Due: Jan. 16, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.

Responses Due: Feb. 6, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. E.S.T.

Match Required: No, preferred

Eligible Entities: Commonwealth state or local government units, Commonwealth quasi-governmental, non-profit, or academic institutions

Sample Eligible Projects: Projects that quantify carbon storage and fluxes by wetland type in Massachusetts at the Tier 2 or higher level to refine the Tier 1 carbon estimates currently available for Massachusetts

1) SUMMARY OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY

a) Proposals Sought

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP" or the "Department") seeks grant proposals from Commonwealth state or local government entities, Commonwealth quasi-governmental entities, non-profit entities, or academic institutions, for the purpose of developing an innovative approach to quantifying existing carbon storage, sequestration, and emissions within the Commonwealth's wetlands. More specifically, MassDEP is seeking proposals to quantify carbon storage and fluxes by wetland type in Massachusetts at the Tier 2 level to refine the Tier 1 carbon estimates currently available for Massachusetts. Carbon data is "tiered" to denote its source based on the system established by the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). Tier 1 data in this context are nationwide estimates by wetland type scaled to Massachusetts by using look-up table values. Tier 2

data, the data level sought by this RFR, are data collected at the State level then scaled down to the local level. Tier 3 data are observations made at the local level with no scaling.

To further the goals of the Commonwealth's Clean Energy and Climate Plans ("CECPs") and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40, and regulations, 310 CMR 10.00 (the "Wetlands Protection Act and wetlands regulations"), Tier 2 level or higher data are needed because Tier 2 estimates are more detailed than Tier 1. The CECPs are two plans developed by the Commonwealth to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To acquire Tier 2 carbon storage and flux data in wetlands in Massachusetts, the successful proposal needs to identify local data that is currently available, sample carbon contained in the wetland soils and aboveground biomass, assess carbon fluxes between wetland soils and the atmosphere, and model the point sampling and flux data to regionalize it to wetlands of similar types across the Commonwealth.

b) Background

This grant opportunity is funded by the Commonwealth's Climate Protection and Mitigation Expendable Trust ("Trust"). The Trust is designed to further the climate change goals of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21N, the Climate Protection and Green Economy Act, by "supporting programs or projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including but not limited to programs and projects to support adaptation to the impacts of climate change... "

The Wetlands Protection Act and the wetlands regulations, protect critical wetlands interests including but not limited to groundwater supply, flood control, storm damage prevention, pollution prevention and wildlife habitat protection. See M.G.L. c. 131, § 40 and 310 CMR 10.01(2). Besides statutory interests such as flood control, wetlands also serve as a carbon sink, storing carbon in the underlying soil and the above ground plant biomass, which helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide pollution in the atmosphere. Quantifying the carbon storage and flux function (the movement of carbon) in wetlands is necessary to determine the best strategies to protect wetland soils and vegetation that store carbon and mitigate adverse environmental impacts resulting from land development or other activities.

The Commonwealth developed two separate plans to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050: the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 ("CECP for 2025 and 2030") and the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050 ("CECP for 2050"). The CECP for 2025 and 2030 identifies wetlands and other natural and working lands as having a net positive carbon storage (i.e., they remove more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than is emitted). This is driven by the high levels of carbon stored in forested wetlands, salt marshes, and other resource areas including subtidal eelgrass. Wetland alterations (e.g., fill and loss of wetlands) and disturbances (e.g., flow restrictions) may result in carbon release. Carbon that is released to the atmosphere contributes to an increase in temperature, which in turn induces sea level rise, more extreme storms, and flooding.

To reduce the likelihood of those possibilities, the CECP for 2025 and 2030 recommends that MassDEP implement a no net loss of stored carbon requirement in wetlands and increase the replacement ratio

when wetlands are altered. Further, the CECP for 2025 and 2030 recommends salt marsh restoration and removal of tidal restrictions. The CECP for 2050 echoes those recommendations. Carbon storage and flux data in wetlands are needed to quantify the carbon benefit of these actions. "Carbon storage" refers to the carbon stored in the soil as Soil Organic Carbon ("SOC") and biomass. "Flux" is the movement of carbon from the soil and biomass to the atmosphere from biological processes such as soil and vegetation respiration, and land use changes (e.g., deforestation, vegetation clearing, wetland loss, and urbanization).

Quantifying carbon storage and emissions within wetlands in Massachusetts furthers the goals of the CECP and the Trust and also furthers the interests and purpose of the Wetlands Protection Act and regulations. Tracking progress towards ensuring no net loss of Carbon and devising protection and mitigation strategies requires a well-understood and up-to-date carbon storage quantity to serve as a baseline. The development of up-to-date carbon related science is integral to MassDEP's compliance with the CECP's goals, and those of the Trust.

c) Overview and Goals

This grant opportunity focuses on addressing various CECP goals and strategies, including conserving land and water and supporting inland and coastal wetland restoration to minimize methane emissions, increase and preserve carbon sequestration and ensure long-term carbon storage. Through this opportunity, MassDEP seeks innovative proposals from qualified eligible entities to develop and implement a plan that will directly measure carbon storage and emissions in different types of wetlands, enabling the Department to better understand and compare how various wetland types affect carbon related goals. The selected Grantee(s) will be expected to develop a sampling and monitoring plan and implement that plan, which incorporates the following elements:

- Range of wetland types (this would include different types of wetlands such as forested swamp, marsh, land under water, and salt marsh).
- Range of locations (Western Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Islands, etc.).
- Influence of soil, sediment, vegetation, and fluctuations and/or alterations in the hydroperiod and how they affect carbon and methane relationships, which may include modeling.
- Temporal changes to carbon storage and flux due to natural succession in wetlands and seasonal cycles (e.g., for natural succession, a Scrub-shrub wetland transitioning to a mature forested wetland; for seasonal cycles, summer versus other seasons).
- Changes to carbon storage when various types of wetlands are impacted by development, vegetation clearing, and related activities. For example, research and gather data on how different types of impacts (e.g., fill, vegetation cutting, forest management, restoration and replacement etc.) might affect carbon relationships and determine if and/or when carbon is released to the atmosphere.

d) Disadvantaged Communities

MassDEP is committed to advancing Disadvantaged Communities through its public investments. To that end, preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to Disadvantaged Communities. Information on how communities are classified as Disadvantaged Communities and which communities they are can be found at The Disadvantaged Community Loan Forgiveness Program | Mass.gov

This Grant Opportunity will prioritize proposals that are located in, or directly benefit communities designated as a Disadvantaged Community following a system first utilized by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and the State Revolving Fund. A "Disadvantaged Community" is a community that falls into one of the three tiers using an affordability calculation based on the State's "**Adjusted Per Capita Income"** (*Per Capita Income * Employment Rate * Population Change (2020/2010)* = **APCI**). The State's Adjusted Per Capita Income for the purposes of this RFR is **$53,549.85**, from FY25, the most recent year data is currently available.

Tier 1: Communities with APCI more than 80% but less than 100% of the State's APCI.

Tier 2: Communities with APCI more than 60% but less than 80% of the State's APCI.

Tier 3: Communities with APCI less than 60% of the State's APCI.

The calculations may be viewed online: here.

FY25 Disadvantaged Communities Affordability Calculations I Mass.gov

Eligible applicants, including partnerships and coalitions, shall identify the municipalities served by their entity or entities, as well as which municipalities within their service area(s) are designated as Tier 1, 2, or 3 Disadvantaged Communities. MassDEP will assign a composite ranking based on the ranking of all the communities located within the service areas of the applicant(s). If the composite ranking falls within the scope of the assistance tiers, the Applicant will be assigned a Tier 1, 2, or 3 ranking for scoring purposes of the RFR. A list of communities by Tier is available in **Appendix B** of this RFR.

e) Eligible Entities

Entities for this grant opportunity include: Commonwealth state agencies or local government entities; Commonwealth quasi-governmental entities; non-profit entities; and academic institutions. Eligible Entities may partner with other parties (e.g., laboratory analysis of wetland soil samples); however, please be advised that any resulting grant award will be with the Eligible Entity only.

f) Eligible Projects

Eligible projects will quantify carbon storage and fluxes by wetland type in Massachusetts at the Tier 2 level to refine the Tier 1 carbon estimates currently available for Massachusetts. Eligible projects will:

- Assemble and review existing carbon storage and flux data available for wetlands located in Massachusetts. This data shall include but is not limited to data collected at AmeriFlux

Towers located in Massachusetts (http://ameriflux.lbl.gov) and salt marshes (e.g. Teng, Yu, Yellen, Turek, Woodruff, 2025, 2025, Blue Carbon Mapping Using Temporally Optimized Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery: A Regional Study of Northeast US Salt Marshes).

- Propose a Wetlands Sampling Plan (inland and coastal) for the in-situ sampling of wetlands to fill data gaps identified in the review of existing data.
  - The sampling plan should propose to identify soil and other properties to be sampled (e.g. soil bulk density, soil organic carbon (SOC), aboveground biomass) and atmospheric flux within different wetland types in different physio-graphic regions within Massachusetts at a sufficient sampling density to provide representative results by wetland type and the physio-graphic region. Depth of the soil sampling should be proposed to be consistent with NRCS soil mapping (at least 40-inches). The wetlands proposed to be selected for in-situ sampling should represent natural to minimally disturbed wetlands, replacement wetlands and wetlands affected by activities that may affect the carbon budget (e.g. thin layer deposition, runnels, elimination of tidal flow restrictions, cranberry bog renovation, harvests in forested wetlands, and land development proximate to wetlands). The wetland types proposed to be sampled should fill in the data gaps identified in the review of the existing data. These wetland types are likely to include Salt Marsh, Salt Marsh replacements, cranberry bogs, freshwater marsh, shrub swamps, wooded swamp deciduous, wooded swamp coniferous, and wooded swamp mixed trees, and wetland replacements and restoration projects.

- Propose which standardized methods are being considered to analyze the field data to be collected.

- Propose to prepare a geographic database of the results and develop a model to regionalize the results by wetland type, replacement type, and anthropogenic activity.

- Propose measures to be analyzed in a final report to be presented to MassDEP at the conclusion of the grant. Besides SOC and flux by wetland type, it is suggested that the analyses include whether there are statistically significant differences in SOC/Flux between natural, replacement or restored wetlands, and anthropogenic disturbed wetlands; and whether SOC concentration can be reliably estimated using the presence of Histosols and Histic epipedons.

g) Funding Availability

MassDEP anticipates $500,000 in total funding available through this solicitation. MassDEP may award up to the full amount of funds available to a single eligible entity but reserves the right to award multiple grant awards in smaller amounts. In addition, MassDEP may elect not to award the total funding currently available during this grant opportunity. Further, MassDEP reserves the right to

increase award amount(s), issue additional award(s), or to initiate additional funding rounds, in the event that additional or unspent funds become available for this program. All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

h) Match Preference

While applicants are not required to provide matching funds or an in-kind match, a match is strongly preferred. Applicants are encouraged to identify other known sources of funding for a proposed project on the cover sheet, from both secured and anticipated sources. Matches from non-Eligible Entities are permitted; however, please be advised that any resulting grant award will be with the Eligible Entity only.

i) Other Funding Obligations

Grant awards will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis, meaning Grantees will be reimbursed for funds already expended, unless a Grantee can demonstrate with sufficient financial documentation that it would be unable to implement its proposed project on a reimbursement basis. To receive reimbursement for funds expended, Grantees must submit a written request for payment, along with any other required documentation.

All work must be completed by the end of the two-year contract term, and the Grantee(s) is strongly encouraged to submit written requests for payment, and any corresponding supporting documentation requested by MassDEP, in its discretion, on or before the two-year deadline.

MassDEP reserves the right to include additional or more specific reporting, documentation, invoicing, or site visit requirements, in any contract or scope of work executed in support of a grant award issued through this opportunity.

j) Total Anticipated Duration of Grant(s)

The grant duration will be two (2) years from the date of full execution of the Grant Award Contract. MassDEP reserves the right to renew or extend the Grant Award Contract for up to one (1) year from the date of expiration, or to issue a time-limited, performance-only contract extension to facilitate completion of performance, consistent with the original terms of the Grant Award Contract and the Trust.

k) Applicable Procurement Law:

Grants – MGL c. 7A, § 7; St. 1986 c. 206, § 17; 815 CMR 2.00.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

a) Application Deadline: Applications are due by Feb. 6, 2026, 5:00 p.m. EST.

b) Page Limit: Grant applications must not exceed **ten (10) single-sided pages**, not including the cover sheet and attached supporting documents.

c) **Opportunity to Submit Written Questions:** Applicants may submit written questions by email to thomas.maguire@mass.gov by Jan. 16, 2026, which is the deadline for submission of questions. Please use "**Question, DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOUCE AREAS**" in the subject line. All submitted questions and MassDEP's official answers will be posted on MassDEP's website by 5 p.m. by Jan. 23, 2026. This deadline is also in the Estimated Calendar for Grant Application/Award below.

d) **Ownership of Equipment or Other Resources Paid for with Grant Funds:** Equipment or other resources paid for with grant funds shall be owned and maintained solely by the Grantee, unless otherwise negotiated between MassDEP and the Grantee pursuant to a Grant Award Contract. Consistent with the Commonwealth's standard Terms and Conditions, MassDEP reserves the right to assert ownership and possession over all deliverables purchased or developed with state funds.

e) **Compliance with Other Applicable State or Federal Legislative, Regulatory or Policy Requirements:** All potential applicants are advised that through submission of an application, the Applicant agrees to be responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state, or local permitting, regulatory, policy, or other requirements if selected for a grant award.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

l) Required Information

In order to be considered for a grant award, applicants must submit a completed application that: (1) includes a completed application cover sheet (Attachment A); (2) affirmatively commits to completing the project by the end of the two-year contract term; and (3) meets the eligibility requirements.

m) Evaluation Criteria

A MassDEP review committee will evaluate proposals based upon the criteria listed below - applicants must address each of the criteria in their application. The review committee reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Project Description **(20 points)**

i. Does the proposal identify existing sources of carbon data available for wetlands located in Massachusetts?

ii. Is the sampling plan sufficiently detailed to collect representative samples from different wetland types and physio-graphic regions of carbon in the soil, biomass, and fluxes, as specified in Part 1.A Proposals Sought?

iii. Are the proposed modeling approaches reasonable to regionalize the in-situ data collected with data that may be acquired from other sources (e.g., existing in-situ Massachusetts data, local AmeriFlux data, or Tier 1 data), as specified in Part 1.A Proposals Sought?

iv. Does the project description adequately identify proposed project tasks, personnel, and desired outcome(s) for the project?

Project Benefit **(20 points)**

i. How well does the applicant demonstrate benefits from the project?

ii. How well does the applicant demonstrate that the project as proposed is both consistent with, and will advance, the stated goals of the Massachusetts Climate Mitigation Trust (i.e., the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and/or mitigation of the impacts of climate change)?

iii. Does the applicant demonstrate that they understand basic sampling protocols for carbon storage and fluxes, and how to achieve the goals that are described within this RFR?

iv. Does the applicant demonstrate they have the capability to model the results of the sampling to different types of wetlands Statewide and produce mapping using raster geo-spatial gridded data?

Qualifications of Organization **(20 points)**

i. How well does the applicant demonstrate the qualifications of the organization to carry out the proposed work?

ii. Does the applicant demonstrate a track record of accomplishing similar projects?

iii. Does the applicant demonstrate a sound governance structure and record of fiscal responsibility?

Budget and Timeline **(20 points)**

i. How well does the applicant demonstrate a realistic understanding of project costs by providing a budget with detailed and credible cost estimates?

ii. Does the applicant identify and describe any match or other funding sources that will support the project?

iii. Is the applicant partnering with any other organizations to implement the project?

iv. For proposed future work, how well does the applicant describe the timeline for the proposed work? Is it demonstrated that the work can feasibly be completed within two years of the Notice to Proceed?

Financial Need **(10 points)**

i. How well does the applicant demonstrate a need for financial assistance to implement the proposed project?

Disadvantaged Communities (10 points)

i. MassDEP will prioritize projects that are located in, or directly benefit, Disadvantaged Communities. Points will be awarded proportionately by tier (i.e. the highest number of points will be given to Applicants with projects in communities that have been designated Tier 3 Disadvantaged Communities). Please see Attachment B for a list of Disadvantaged Communities by Tier as determined by the Clean Water Trust for FY25.

n) Application Completion and Submission Instructions

All grant applicants must include the attached cover sheet (Attachment A) with their application and submit the packet electronically, as a Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF file, by email to Thomas.maguire@mass.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Feb. 6, 2026.

Applications shall be submitted to Thomas Maguire, via email, at Thomas.maguire@mass.gov Please submit applications with the applicant's name AND "DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS" in the subject line (e.g., Subject line: "Applicant Name - DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOUCE AREAS").

Sections 1 and 2 of Attachment A must be included with the application. Attachment A is at the end of this document and also available for download at the grant website.

Applications received after the deadline will be rejected automatically. MassDEP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or request additional information, if needed.

o) Additional Required Documentation

If selected for a grant award, the applicant will be required to submit the following forms to complete the grant award contracting process. Forms with an asterisk (*) need not be submitted, if they have been completed previously and are already on file with the Commonwealth:

- Commonwealth Standard Contract Form filled out and signed by the applicant. The Standard Contract Form is listed under Contracts on this website: www.macomptroller.org/forms.
- Commonwealth Terms and Conditions. www.macomptroller.org/forms
  These Terms and Conditions are incorporated by reference into the Standard Contract Form, and do not need to be executed separately.
- Commonwealth W-9 tax information form filled out and signed by the applicant with DUNS number and Federal Tax ID (*) www.macomptroller.org/forms
- Completed Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing Form https://www.macomptroller.org/forms
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form (*) https://www.mass.gov/how-to/tips-for-completing-the-electronic-funds-transfer-eft-form
- Scope of Work

Applicants are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of an application.

ESTIMATED CALENDAR FOR GRANT APPLICATION/AWARD

EVENT	DATE	TIME
NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY/GRANT APPLICATION RELEASE DATE (posted on COMMBUYS and MassDEP website)	Dec. 24 , 2025	
Deadline for Submission of Written Questions (via COMMBUYS)	Jan. 16, 2026	5:00 p.m.
Estimated Publication of Official Answers to Sub-mitted Questions (published on MassDEP website)	Jan. 23, 2026	5:00 p.m.
Grant Opportunity & Application Amendment Deadline (if applicable updated documents will be published on MassDEP's website)	Jan. 30, 2026	5:00 p.m.
Deadline for Submission of Grant Proposals *(via COMMBUYS)*	Feb. 6, 2026	5:00 p.m.
Announcement of Grant Selection/Award Results *(posted on COMMBUYS and published on the MassDEP website)*	Estimated April 2026	.
Estimated Contract Start Date	Estimated April 2026	
Estimated Completion of all Grant Deliverables	(2-years from Grant awarding)	

REFERENCES

- Wenxiu Teng, Qian Yu, Brian Yellen, Bonnie Turek, Jonathan D. Woodruff, 2025, Blue Carbon Mapping Using Temporally Optimized Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery: A Regional Study of Northeast US Salt Marshes, JGR Biogeosciences, Vol. 130, Issue 2
- Turek, Teng, Yu, Yellen, and Woodruff, 2025, Modeling Spatial Distributions of Salt Marsh Blue Carbon Using Morphometric Parameters From Lidar, JGR Earth Surface, Volume 130, Issue 1
- Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030: https://www.mass.gov/doc/clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2025-and-2030/download
- Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050: https://www.mass.gov/doc/2050-clean-energy-and-climate-plan/download
- U.S. Department of Energy, AmeriFlux Management Project, https://ameriflux.lbl.gov/

ATTACHMENT A

DEVELOP BASELINE CARBON DATA FOR WETLAND RESOURCE AREAS

FY26 Grant Program Application

Overview: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP" or the "Department") seeks grant proposals from Eligible Entities to quantify existing carbon storage, sequestration and emissions within natural and working lands that are wetlands.

PLEASE COMPLETE SECTIONS 1 AND 2 AND INCLUDE IT WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Section 1: Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Short description of the project (<5 sentences)

Requested Funds: _____ Matching Funds (optional): _____

Name of person completing form: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

By checking this box □ the applicant confirms that it is authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the organization or entity listed above.

Section 2: Ability to Perform Proposed project

A. Ability to Use Funds: If awarded a Grant, the awardee must be able to enter into a contract with MassDEP within 30 days of the Grant Award.
By checking this box □ the Applicant acknowledges and agrees that it is able to enter into the contract and perform the project and meet all requirements of this state grant.

Section 3: Application Guide

Consistent with the Evaluation Criteria outlined in the Grant Opportunity document, please include the following in your application, in no more than ten (10) pages:

Project Description: Describe the proposed project and the proposed work to be covered by this funding. This project description should include project tasks and desired outcome(s) for the project, as well as how the proposed project meets the purposes of the Climate Mitigation Trust Fund and analysis of existing carbon storage, sequestration and emissions within natural and working lands that are wetlands. See Part A Proposals Sought for more detail.

Project Benefit: Provide information about how the project proposes to quantify existing carbon storage, sequestration and emissions within natural and working lands that are wetlands. See Part A Proposals Sought.

Qualifications of Organization: Describe the qualifications of the organization to carry out the proposed work.

Project Budget and Timeline: Detail the anticipated cost associated with the proposed project. Demonstrate a realistic understanding of project costs by providing a budget with detailed and credible cost estimates. Identify and describe any match or other funding sources that will support the proposed project. Describe the timeline for the proposed project, including how it will be completed within the grant term.

Financial Need: Explain the need for financial assistance to implement the proposed project, including other anticipated or secured funding sources that will support portions of the project (if applicable).

Disadvantaged Community Status: Please identify all municipalities served by the Applicant; indicate which of those municipalities are designated as Tier 1, 2, or 3 Disadvantaged Communities.

ATTACHMENT B

Disadvantaged Communities by Tier

Tier 1:

Amesbury, Ayer, Barnstable, Berkley, Billerica, Bourne, Braintree, Brewster, Cummington, Deerfield, Dighton, Douglas, East Longmeadow, Eastham, Falmouth, Gloucester, Great Barrington, Groveland, Hampden, Harwich, Hopedale, Hudson, Hull, Kingston, Lakeville, Leyden, Lunenburg, Mashpee, Maynard, Medford, Merrimac, Millis, North Attleborough, Northampton, Northbridge, Norwood, Pembroke, Pepperell, Plainville, Plymouth, Plympton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Richmond, Rochester, Rutland, Seekonk, Southampton, Sterling, Stockbridge, Sturbridge, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Uxbridge, Waltham, West Bridgewater, West Tisbury, Westhampton, Westminster, Westport, Wilbraham, Winthrop, and Woburn

Tier 2:

Abington, Acushnet, Agawam, Alford, Ashburnham, Ashby, Attleboro, Auburn, Avon, Becket, Belchertown, Bellingham, Blackstone, Blandford, Bridgewater, Brimfield, Carver, Charlton, Clinton, Conway, Dalton, Dartmouth, Dennis, Dracut, East Bridgewater, East Brookfield, Easthampton, Egremont, Fairhaven, Framingham, Freetown, Granby, Granville, Hadley, Halifax, Hanson, Hatfield, Haverhill, Hinsdale, Holbrook, Holland, Hubbardston, Huntington, Lancaster, Lee, Leicester, Leominster, Malden , Marlborough, Methuen, Middleborough, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Monson, Monterey, Montgomery, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Braintree, New Marlborough, Northfield, Norton, Oakham, Otis, Oxford, Paxton, Peabody, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Rockland, Rowe, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, Sheffield, Shirley, Somerset, South Hadley, Southwick, Stoughton, Swansea, Townsend, West Boylston, West Brookfield, Weymouth, Whitman, Williamstown, Worthington, and Yarmouth

Tier 3:

Adams, Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Brockton, Brookfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Chelsea, Cheshire, Chester, Chesterfield, Chicopee, Clarksburg, Colrain, Dudley, Erving, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Florida, Gardner, Gill, Goshen, Gosnold, Greenfield, Hancock, Hardwick, Hawley, Heath, Holyoke, Lanesborough, Lawrence, Lowell, Ludlow, Lynn, Middlefield, Monroe, Montague, New Bedford, New Salem, North Adams, North Brookfield, Oak Bluffs, Orange, Palmer, Peru, Pittsfield, Plainfield, Royalston, Russell, Sandisfield, Savoy, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Springfield, Sunderland, Taunton, Templeton, Tisbury, Tolland, Tyringham, Wales, Ware, Wareham, Warren, Warwick, Webster, Wendell, West Springfield, Westfield, Whately, Williamsburg, Winchendon, Windsor, and Worcester

Date Source: https://www.mass.gov/doc/affordability-calculation-october-2024/download

Note: FY25 is the most current year for which data was available at the time of the publication of this RFR. New calculations are typically published in October.