

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Education



Skills Capital Grant Program FY25 Updates

Announcing Two Concurrent RFP's

- 1. Skills Capital Technology and Equipment Grants*
- 2. Chapter 74 Vocational Lab Modernization Grants*

*All Current and Past Grantees are eligible to apply for Skills Capital Technology and Equipment Grants.
Only Chapter 74 Vocational Schools are eligible to apply for the Lab Modernization Grants



The Skills Capital Grant Program



- Grants are awarded for the purchase and installation of equipment and related improvements to support vocational and technical training. The program is aligned to regional economic and workforce development priorities for in-demand industries that provide students training pathways to career opportunities in high-skill, high-demand industry sectors, and include all of the following characteristics:
 - respond to WSC Regional Planning Labor Market Blueprint *with note of preference to occupations identified in the RFP (note addition of LPN and RN)**
 - engage industry partners in supporting structured work readiness activities and work-based learning experiences
 - offer focused career guidance and advisement systems
 - provide integrated rigorous instructional courses
 - support secondary and postsecondary linkages
 - provide the opportunity to obtain an industry-recognized credential, apprenticeship, or college credits towards a Certificate, Associate, or Baccalaureate degree



Timelines



Request for Proposals Released	TBD
To confirm eligibility, an optional letter of intent is requested by potential applicants. Letter should identify the type of program to be supported by funding.	Link to Letter of Intent form: https://masseoe.egrantsmanagement.com/ Or email james.poplasky@mass.gov
Proposals will <u>only be accepted through the online application</u> system.	On May 16, 2024 by 3:00 PM https://masseoe.egrantsmanagement.com
Projected Grant Awards Announcement	On or about June 2024
Anticipated Contract Start Date	On or about July 1, 2024
Funding Disbursement	On a rolling basis, upon verification of approved submitted purchases, requests for equipment, and related installation costs ALL Equipment and Technology MUST be delivered by June 30.
Contract End Date	June 30, 2025 or June 30, 2026 if two-year grant



Skills Capital Technology and Equipment Grants



- Up to \$15,000,000
- Organization may only submit one application
- Minimum Grant: \$50,000 - Maximum Grant: \$1,000,000
- Maximum of 2 program areas.
- Industry standard equipment
- Capital Equipment (5+ years useful life)
- No laptops, consumables, or non-capital, no vehicles
- Installation up to 10% of total grant
- Clarity of use of equipment, training needs, and specific items listed on budget.



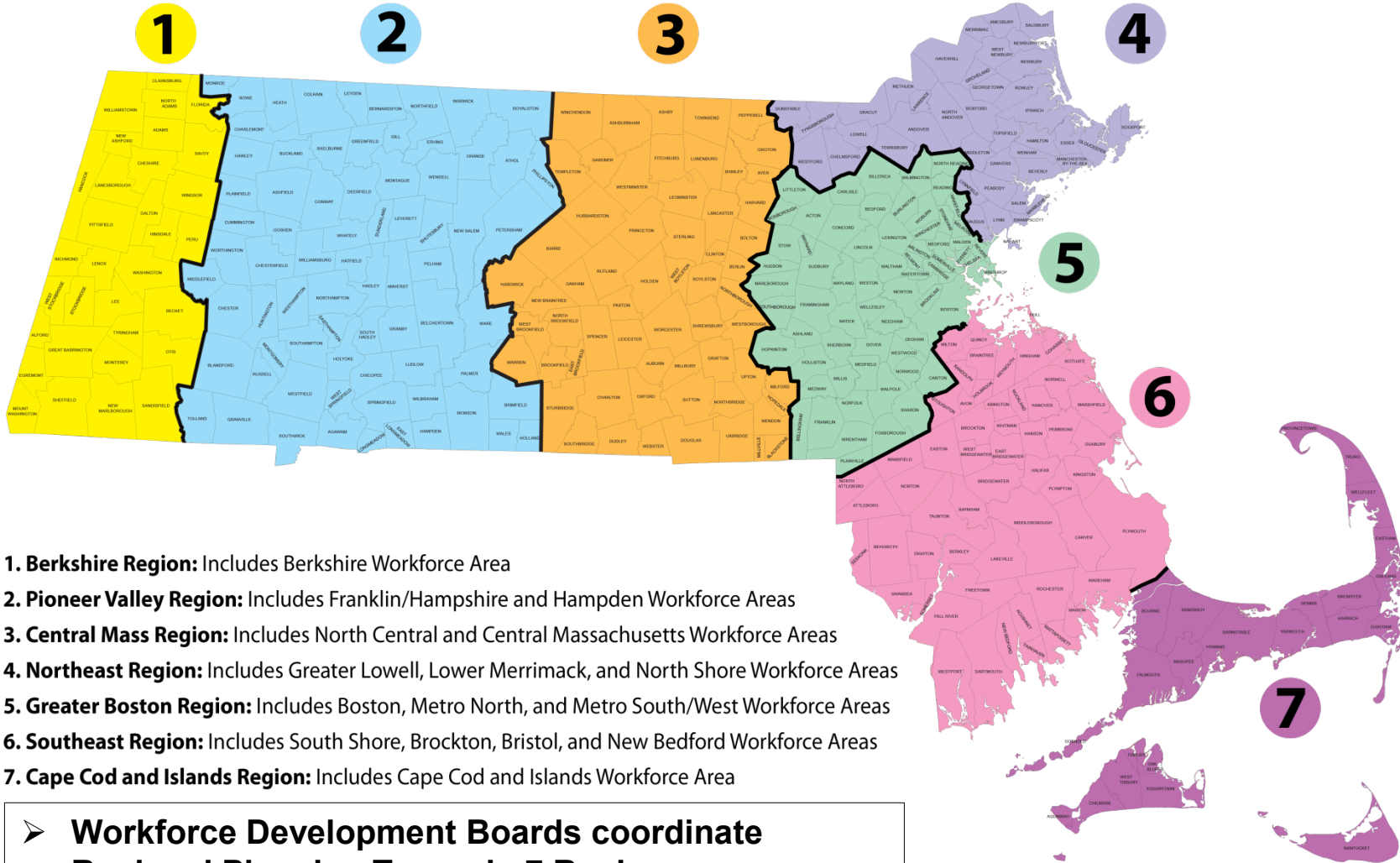
Chapter 74 Vocational Lab Modernization Grant



- Up to \$20,000,000
- Organization may only submit one application to support a multi-year award request (FY 25 and FY 26); \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 to support up to 2 Chapter 74 program areas.
- Industry standard equipment
- Capital Equipment (5+ years useful life)
- No laptops, consumables, or non-capital, no vehicles
- Installation and Lab expansion of up to 30% of total grant
- Indirect cost is not allowed
- Multi-year strategic investments
- Clarity of use of equipment, training needs, and specific items listed on budget.



Regional Planning



- 1. Berkshire Region:** Includes Berkshire Workforce Area
- 2. Pioneer Valley Region:** Includes Franklin/Hampshire and Hampden Workforce Areas
- 3. Central Mass Region:** Includes North Central and Central Massachusetts Workforce Areas
- 4. Northeast Region:** Includes Greater Lowell, Lower Merrimack, and North Shore Workforce Areas
- 5. Greater Boston Region:** Includes Boston, Metro North, and Metro South/West Workforce Areas
- 6. Southeast Region:** Includes South Shore, Brockton, Bristol, and New Bedford Workforce Areas
- 7. Cape Cod and Islands Region:** Includes Cape Cod and Islands Workforce Area

➤ **Workforce Development Boards coordinate Regional Planning Teams in 7 Regions**



Regional Labor Market Information



- **LMI and Data analysis of labor market demand and supply**
- **LMI information :Demographics, Industry Snapshot, Workforce Needs, Programs, Credentials, Career Paths**
- **Regional Blueprint and Labor Market Information can be found here**
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/view-your-regions-blueprint>

Below are the two Charts to be uploaded in the Application

Occupation	SOC Code	Current number of regional vacancies	Projected Number of local vacancies

Outcomes	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY27
Number of Students Enrolled				
Number of Students Completing Program				
Number of Credentials Awarded				
Number of Students Employed or Enrolled in a Post-secondary Program and/or Apprenticeship				



Application Evaluation



Selection Criteria	Base Points
Demand-driven and Reflects Regional Blueprint Plans, based on labor market data included in WSC Regional Planning Blueprint industry sector, critical occupation priorities and identified strategies	25
Leverages Partnerships and Matching Funds with Employers, Educational , Economic Development and Workforce partners and leverage Non-State Matching Funds	20 <u>Bonus 5 pts</u>
Optimizes Regional Training Capacity and Significantly Increases Supply of Skilled Workers in High-Demand Industries by expanding targeted population student learning, enrollment and credentialing, as validated by relevant employers	25 <u>Bonus 5 pts</u>
Builds on Proven Programs that demonstrate achieve high quality and consistent results	10
Demonstrates Sustainability of program enrollments and to provide resources to maintain and operate the new equipment	10
Project Implementation and Budgeting of project plan and documentation of resource requirements	10



Commonly Asked Questions



- Matching funds
 - Cash match or in-kind are both acceptable. Cash matches are given more points during application reviews. Not required for grant approval.
- Partnerships
 - Applicants may apply individually and as partners (only one will be funded)
- Allowable installation / Infrastructure Funding/
 - 1. Skills Capital Technology and Equipment Grants Installation of up to 10% of total grant funds.
 - 2. Chapter 74 Vocational Lab Modernization Grants Installation up to 30%
- Review process
 - Multiple reviewers will score the application.
- Future Funding Opportunities
 - The Skills Capital Technology and Equipment Grants are funded at \$15 million per year until FY28 under the current bond capital authorization.



EOE Grants



The Executive Office of Education (EOE) is rolling out a new grants management system called EOE Grants.

<https://masseoe.egrantsmanagement.com/>

Within the grants System you will find both the open applications posted in the RFP's.

FC 31TC - Skills Capital Technology and Equipment - COMP NEW

FC 30LM - Skills Capital Lab Modernization - COMP NEW*

Only Chapter 74 Approved Programs within Vocational Schools can apply for the Skills Capital Lab Modernization grant



Appendix A –Workforce Skills Cabinet list of priority occupations



- Automotive Body repairers
- Automotive Services Techs and Mechanics
- Biotechnology Lab Tech
- Building and Property Maintenance
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Computer Network Support Specialists
- Computer Operators
- Computer Use Support Specialist
- Construction Craft Laborer
- Cooks
- Dental Assisting
- Diesel Technology
- Electricity
- Electronics
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Science & Technology
- Groundskeeping and equipment operators
- Health Assisting
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
- Home Health Aid
- Information Security Analysts
- Information Support Services and Networking
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Machine Operator
- Machine Tool Technology
- Marine Service Technion
- Medical Assisting
- Metal Fabrication & Joining Technologies
- Pharmacy Tech
- Plumbing
- Programming and Web Development
- Nursing
- Robotics and Automation Technology
- Sheet Metalworking
- Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors
- Web Developers