



Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) for State Grants to Support Federal CHIPS and Science Program Applications

NOFO No. 2025-STRAT-01

**Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581-3340
<http://www.masstech.org>**

Procurement Team Leader:	Ben Linville-Engler
Date Issued:	July 25, 2024
Questions Due:	On a rolling basis
Answers to Questions Posted:	On a rolling basis
Responses Due:	On a rolling basis through September 30, 2025 By 5:00PM EST

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Strategic Investment Team a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("Mass Tech Collaborative" or "MassTech") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity for State Grants to Support Federal CHIPS and Science Program Applications (NOFO No 2025-STRAT-01) applying to federal Notice of Funding Opportunities ("NOFOs") stemming from the United States CHIPS and Science Act that are administered by the United States Department of Commerce ("USDOC") including subordinate agencies, the United States Department of Energy ("USDOE"), the United State Department of Defense ("USDOD"), and the National Science Foundation ("NSF"), and are seeking a state capital grant award as part of the offer of a "qualified covered state incentive", "cost share", or "co-investment" that must be included in an application for federal funding. Funding for state grant awards in support of federal CHIPS and Science Act program applications will be made available primarily through annual bond allocations given to MassTech for capital expenditures. Alternative funding sources for non-capital expenditures may be available with limitations and will be determined by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance ("A&F").

Any Respondent interested in applying for a state grant to support a federal CHIPS and Science Act program applications from MassTech is required to submit an application in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section 3 below.

Mass Tech Collaborative will be the contracting entity on behalf of the Strategic Investment Team for the purposes of this Solicitation, and (except where the specific context warrants otherwise), the Strategic Investment Team and Mass Tech Collaborative are collectively referred to as Mass Tech Collaborative or MassTech. Mass Tech Collaborative will enter into a **Grant Agreement and Statement of Work** with selected Respondents containing certain standard provisions (the "Agreement"), located [HERE](#).

1.2 Mass Tech Collaborative and the Strategic Investment and Business Operations Team

Mass Tech Collaborative is an independent public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chartered by the Commonwealth to serve as a catalyst for growing its innovation economy. Mass Tech Collaborative brings together leaders from industry, academia, and government to advance technology-focused solutions that lead to economic growth, job creation, and public benefits in Massachusetts.

MassTech is working with the Executive Office of Economic Development and the Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office within the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to offer state grants in support of a federal CHIPS and Science Act program application. MassTech's Strategic Investment and Business Operations Team is leading this NOFO and working in collaboration with MassTech's John Adams Innovation Institute and Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

For additional information about Mass Tech Collaborative and its programs and initiatives, please visit our website at www.masstech.org.

2. The Grant

2.1 Grant Overview

As part of the CHIPS and Science Act, signed by the President in August 2022, the USDOC was appropriated \$39B to be used for microelectronics manufacturing incentives. Through that legislation, the USDOC was authorized to deploy an additional \$11B towards microelectronics research and

development (“R&D”) efforts. To administer these funds, the USDOC created [CHIPS for America offices within the National Institute for Standards and Technology](#) in September 2022. A significant portion, approximately \$5B, of the R&D appropriations will support the National Semiconductor Technology Center (“NSTC”) with NatCast as its operator. In addition to these funds, the USDOD was appropriated \$2B for the CHIPS for American Defense Fund and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) was appropriated \$1.5B Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation. The National Science Foundation (“NSF”), including its newly established Technology, Innovation, and Partnership (“TIP”) Directorate, is utilizing funding stemming from the CHIPS and Science Act for new programs such as the Regional Innovation Engines.

Many of the federal CHIPS and Science Act funding opportunities require that an applicant be offered a qualified covered state incentive or include cost share or co-investment from public and/or private third-party sources as part of the application for federal funding. The MassTech Collaborative is issuing this notice of funding opportunity in order to help Massachusetts-based companies, institutions, organizations, and coalitions achieve their goals of securing federal CHIPS and Science Act funding as part of their plans to expand innovation, technology development, and manufacturing in the Commonwealth while supporting federal economic and national security objectives.

Proposals led by Massachusetts-based entities or coalitions that either:

- create new, expand, or modernize capability or capacity of microelectronics production facilities, lifecycle processes such as packaging, test and integration, supply chain (e.g. materials) and equipment producers;
- support technology and innovation use-inspired research, development, and commercialization of key technologies identified in the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act: artificial intelligence, high-performance computing & semiconductors, quantum science and technology, advanced manufacturing, disaster prevention, advanced communications technology, cybersecurity, biotechnology, advanced energy technology & efficiency, material science; or
- address societal, national, and geostrategic challenges identified in the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act: bolstering U.S. national security, mitigating climate change and promoting sustainability, strengthening U.S. manufacturing and industrial productivity, addressing inequitable access to education, opportunity, and services; and closing skills gaps in the workforce; and
- that meet the eligibility requirements set forth below will be considered through this NOFO.

MA-based entities playing a significant role in federal proposals led by non-MA-based entities, but are addressing the criteria above, are also eligible; however, priority will be given to MA-led proposals and proposals that create the most benefit for the Commonwealth.

Desired outcomes and direct impact within the Commonwealth based on grant awards in support of federal CHIPS and Science Program applications include but are not limited to:

- leveraging federal, private, and/or other public funding for projects
- growth in economic opportunity across all regions of the Commonwealth
- leveraging, or strengthening, the existing research, technology development, and innovation ecosystem through partnerships
- translating or commercializing research and intellectual property (IP) to create economic opportunity and impact through the formation of new companies or corporate partnerships
- expanded and equitable employment of diverse talent and workforce
- deeper connections and collaborations with talent, education, and skills partners
- increase STEM engagement across the education and workforce development pipeline
- increased customer base or revenue for companies through increased production volume or new products and services

- establishment of more resilient and interconnected regional supply chains that include MA-based small/medium manufacturers
- helping to create more sustainable manufacturing processes to reduce environmental impact

2.2 Grant Requirements and Guidance

This NOFO is intended to provide grant support for Massachusetts-based entities to increase their competitiveness or eligibility for funding awards through U.S. CHIPS and Science Act program NOFOs. Successful Respondents to the MassTech NOFO for State Grants to Support Federal CHIPS and Science Program Applications will be provided a “letter of contingent commitment” which will express MassTech’s commitment to provide grant funding contingent on successfully securing a CHIPS and Science Act federal grant award or subaward. The letter of contingent commitment can be included as part of the federal application.

The amount of the MassTech award will be determined based on the total proposal amount, the amount of the direct funding support (i.e. grant support, not federal loan support) the Respondent is requesting from the federal funding agency and in accordance with NOFO-specific requirements, other private/third party cost share or co-investment included in the application, and the intended benefits to be created within the Commonwealth based on the previously stated desired outcomes. As some proposals may include, or be led by, entities in other states, the award amounts from the NOFO will be reflective of the direct funding or cost share provided by participating MA-based entities, funding or in-kind contributions being deployed within the Commonwealth, and have intended economic benefits and impact within the Commonwealth.

All MassTech awarded funding is contingent upon a federal funding award through the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act and can only be used within the borders of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Some U.S. CHIPS and Science Act program NOFOs may require contingent commitments be made as part of a “pre-application”, “preliminary proposal”, or “concept paper” phase prior to selection by the federal agency to submit a final application or proposal. In these instances, MassTech reserves the right to re-evaluate its letter of contingent commitment and require Respondents to this NOFO to submit updated documentation that aligns with their final federal application. If significant changes are reflected in the updated NOFO submission documents, the contingent commitment may be modified.

All Respondents who successfully receive a federal award will be required to provide MassTech a copy of their federal proposal no more than 10 days following receipt of a federal award letter. Respondents are allowed to redact confidential information from the copy of the federal proposal that is made available to MassTech. Once proof of federal funding is obtained, MassTech will work with Respondents to finalize an agreement and enter into a contract for the funds that are committed through this NOFO in alignment with the federal award amount, unless otherwise specified.

Provision of grant funds is specifically contingent upon satisfaction of the following conditions: (i) completion of all required MassTech Collaborative internal approvals; (ii) MassTech’s receipt of written notice of a federal award from the federal agency administering the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act program along with a copy of the federal proposal and executed contract (when available); (iii) review of detailed capital budget and scope of work for the portion of the proposed project to be funded by the state grant; (iv) execution of grant agreement between MassTech Collaborative and the awardee; and, (v) the availability of funds from the Commonwealth’s capital budget or other source of funds.

Use of Proceeds

The grant funds to be provided by MassTech Collaborative must be used for funding capital projects that are an integral part of the overall project or initiative being undertaken by the Respondent included in the

CHIPS and Science Act NOFO proposal. Any capital expenditures to be funded by the MassTech Collaborative under this program must be expenses that will be accounted for by the recipient in its financial records as a capital expenditure under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”). Funds awarded through this NOFO CANNOT be used for ongoing business operations such as payroll, benefits, buying of inventory, and general working capital. All equipment or other capital items procured under this program must remain in the state and be used for the funded purpose for the useful life of the equipment.

Information Needed to Determine Eligibility

In order to determine whether a Respondent is eligible for funding, the application must include the following information:

- Name of U.S. CHIPS and Science Act program NOFO, proposal submission deadline(s) or phases, and qualified covered state incentive, cost share, or co-investment requirements from the NOFO.
- A list of all partners, specifying the type of organization they represent. This may include institutes of higher education, including state and municipal colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and other public or quasi-public entities, etc.
- The location of Respondent’s headquarters, and/or a description of Respondent’s Massachusetts presence if not headquartered here (R&D, manufacturing operations, etc.). Please note, a Respondent must have, or plan to have, significant research and development, manufacturing, or business operation in Massachusetts.
- A list of all matching funds or in-kind contributions to the proposal and the related source(s) that constitute the total public, private, or third-party cost share or co-investment contribution.

2.3 Evaluation Process and Criteria

Mass Tech Collaborative shall evaluate each Application that is properly submitted. As part of the selection process, Mass Tech Collaborative may invite finalists to answer questions regarding their Application. In its sole discretion, Mass Tech Collaborative may also choose to enter into a negotiation period with one or more finalist Respondent(s) and then ask the Respondent(s) to submit additional information.

Lack of debarment status by either the state or federal government is also required.

Funding decisions will take into account the anticipated impact the project will have on the economy in Massachusetts. All applications will be evaluated against the qualifications, capacity, and experience of the proposed project team as well as the project’s demonstrated potential for success in each of the following evaluation categories:

- a) Responsiveness to Federal NOFO
 - 1) Is the proposal responsive to the requirements of the federal government?
 - 2) What is the competitive positioning of the proposal for a federal award?
 - 3) Why is this proposal important to Massachusetts and the Commonwealth’s economic development priorities?
- b) Impact on the Massachusetts Economy
 - 1) Over what time period(s) are expected economic benefits intended to positively impact the Massachusetts economy?
 - 2) What regions of the Commonwealth will the proposal contribute toward growth and economic opportunity?
 - 3) What impact will an awarded proposal have on expanded and equitable

- employment in Massachusetts?
- 4) How will the proposal increase the Respondent's customer base or revenues of associated companies through increased production volume or new products and services?
 - 5) What will be the proposal's impact on the growth of an industry sector in Massachusetts (e.g. through use-inspired research translation and commercialization, new company formation, or other)?
 - 6) Will a winning proposal result in out-of-state entities establishing a presence in Massachusetts?
 - 7) How does the proposal strengthen and diversify the STEM talent pipeline in Massachusetts?
 - 8) Is there any education, training, or workforce development for incumbent workers supported in the proposal?
- c) Resiliency
- 1) Does the proposal, or constituent projects, contribute toward more resilient and interconnected regional supply chains – including MA-based small/medium sized manufacturers?
- d) Contributions to the Ecosystem
- 1) How does the proposal leverage existing partnerships and collaborations or create new ones?
 - 2) How does the proposal leverage existing assets (e.g. facilities or equipment) located within Massachusetts or establish new ones? What will be the accessibility model for these assets?
 - 3) Does the proposal leverage or establish regional or national collaborations and how are those beneficial to Massachusetts?
- e) Viability of the Entity Submitting an Application
- 1) What is the competitive standing of the lead company, institution, organization, or coalition?
 - 2) How does this award contribute toward the growth and competitiveness of the company, institution, organization, or coalition?
- f) Manufacturing Sustainability
- 1) Does the project help create more sustainable manufacturing processes to reduce environmental impact of existing and/or new processes or facilities?
- g) Technology and Innovation Leadership
- 1) Does the project establish, maintain, or strengthen Massachusetts leadership and competitiveness, nationally or globally, in one or more critical technology area defined by the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act?

The order of these factors does not generally denote relative importance. Respondents can include other proposal information they deem important for consideration if not directly identified in the criteria above. The goal of this NOFO is to select and enter into an Agreement with the Respondent that will most closely align with MassTech Collaborative's goals in the publication of this NOFO. Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to consider such other relevant factors as it deems appropriate.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Application and Submission Instructions

Respondents are cautioned to read this NOFO carefully and to conform to its requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements of this NOFO may serve as grounds for rejection of an Application.

- a. Applications will be accepted by MassTech on a rolling basis through September 30, 2025.
- b. All Applications must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to when the CHIPS for America NOFO application is submitted. All Applications must be submitted electronically [HERE](#).
- c. All Applications will be reviewed by an internal review committee and an opportunity may be provided for Respondents to be interviewed by representatives of the funding agency. Respondents should be prepared to discuss all aspects of their proposal and eligibility, cost share and other requirements of the applicable U.S CHIPS and Science Act program NOFO.
- d. Required Submissions- All Applications submitted through the link above must include the items listed below:
 - Authorized Application **Signature and Acceptance Form (Attachment A)**, which contains specified certifications by Respondent. **Please read the certifications carefully before signing.**
 - Completed **Budget (Attachment B)** for the overall project, including the portions of the project not funded by the MassTech Collaborative, but specifying which capital expenditures are proposed to be funded by the MassTech Collaborative.
 - Copy of submitted statement of interest, pre-application, letter of intent, or concept paper in response to the applicable U.S. CHIPS and Science program NOFO, if applicable.
 - Application, which shall include:
 - A description of Respondent (including descriptions of partners, proposed subcontractors, if any) and Respondent's qualifications to perform the Project.
 - The details of Respondent's proposed Project.
 - Information required to determine eligibility stated in Section 2.2.
 - Narrative that addresses the applicable NOFO desired outcomes and evaluation criteria outlined in Section 2.3.
 - Note: There is no required format for the Application, Respondents must decide the best way to describe the proposed project and present the required information
 - Exceptions to the **Grant Agreement and Statement of Work**, located at [HERE](#).
- f) Any and all responses, Applications, data, materials, information and documentation submitted to MassTech Collaborative in response to this NOFO shall become MassTech Collaborative's property and shall be subject to public disclosure. As a public entity, the MassTech Collaborative is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (set forth at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66). There are very limited and narrow exceptions to disclosure under the Public Records Law. If a Respondent wishes to have the MassTech Collaborative treat certain information or documentation as confidential, the Respondent must submit a written request to

the MassTech Collaborative’s General Counsel’s office no later five (5) business days prior to submitting an Application. The request must precisely identify the information and/or documentation that is the subject of the request and provide a detailed explanation supporting the application of the statutory exemption(s) from the public records cited by the Respondent. The General Counsel will issue a written determination within three (3) business days of receipt of the written request. If the General Counsel approves the request, the Respondent shall clearly label the relevant information and/or documentation as “**CONFIDENTIAL**” in the Application and **shall only include the confidential material in the hard copy of the Application**. Any statements in an Application reserving any confidentiality or privacy rights that is inconsistent with these requirements and procedures will be disregarded.

- g. Respondents that receive a contingent award from MassTech Collaborative under this NOFO and who successfully receive a federal award will be required to provide MassTech a copy of their federal proposal no more than 10 days following receipt of a federal award letter. Respondents should redact confidential information from the copy of the federal proposal that is made available to MassTech.

3.2 Application Timeframe

The application process will proceed according to the following schedule. The target dates are subject to change. Therefore, Respondents are encouraged to check Mass Tech Collaborative’s website frequently for updates to the schedule.

Task	Date:
Solicitation Released	July 25, 2024
Questions Due	On a rolling basis
Question and Answer File Posted	On a rolling basis
Applications Due	On a rolling basis through September 30, 2025 @ 5 PM EST

3.3 Questions

Questions regarding this NOFO must be submitted by electronic mail to proposals@masstech.org with the following Subject Line: “Questions – NOFO No. 2025-STRAT-01“. Questions can be submitted on a rolling basis. Responses to all questions received will be posted on a rolling basis to the Mass Tech Collaborative website.

4.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

4.1 General Information

- a) If an Application fails to meet any material terms, conditions, requirements or procedures, it may be deemed unresponsive and disqualified. The Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to waive omissions or irregularities that it determines to be not material.
- b) This NOFO, as may be amended from time to time by Mass Tech Collaborative, does not commit Mass Tech Collaborative to select any organization(s), award any grant funds pursuant to this NOFO, or pay any costs incurred in responding to this NOFO. Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to withdraw the NOFO, to engage in preliminary discussions with prospective Respondents, to accept or reject any or all Applications received, to request supplemental or clarifying information, to negotiate with any or all qualified Respondents, and to request modifications to Applications in accordance with negotiations.
- c) On matters related solely to this NOFO that arise prior to an award decision by the Mass Tech Collaborative, Respondents shall limit communications with the Mass Tech Collaborative to the Procurement Team Leader and such other individuals as the Mass Tech Collaborative may

designate from time to time. No other Mass Tech Collaborative employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any questions or inquiries concerning this NOFO. Respondents may contact the Procurement Team Leader for this NOFO in the event this NOFO is incomplete.

- d) The Mass Tech Collaborative may provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of materials in an alternative format, for Respondents with disabilities or other hardships. Respondents requiring accommodations shall submit requests in writing, with supporting documentation justifying the accommodations, to the Procurement Team Leader. The Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to grant or reject any request for accommodations.
- e) Respondent's Application shall be treated by the Mass Tech Collaborative as an accurate statement of Respondent's capabilities and experience. Should any statement asserted by Respondent prove to be inaccurate or inconsistent with the foregoing, such inaccuracy or inconsistency shall constitute sufficient cause for Mass Tech Collaborative in its sole discretion to reject the Application and/or terminate of any resulting Agreement.
- f) Costs that are not specifically identified in the Respondent's response and/or not specifically accepted by Mass Tech Collaborative as part of the Agreement will not be compensated under any contract awarded pursuant to this NOFO.
- g) Mass Tech Collaborative's prior approval is required for any subcontracted services under any Agreement entered into as a result of this NOFO. The selected Respondent will take all appropriate steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. The selected Respondent is responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of its subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same requirements and are held to the same reimbursable cost standards as the selected Respondent.
- h) Submitted responses must be valid in all respects for a minimum period of sixty (60) days after the deadline for submission.
- i) Mass Tech Collaborative reserves the right to amend the Agreement at any time prior to execution. Respondents should review the Agreement as they are required to specify any exceptions to the Agreement and to make any suggested counterproposal in their Application. A failure to specify exceptions and/or counterproposals will be deemed an acceptance of the Agreement's general terms and conditions, and no subsequent negotiation of such provisions shall be permitted.

4.2 Posting of Modifications/Addenda to Solicitation

This NOFO has been distributed electronically using the Mass Tech Collaborative website. If Mass Tech Collaborative determines that it is necessary to revise any part of this NOFO, or if additional data is necessary to clarify any of its provisions, an addendum will be posted to the website. It is the responsibility of each potential Respondent to check the Mass Tech Collaborative website for any addenda or modifications to the NOFO. The Mass Tech Collaborative accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation to Respondents who submit a response based on an out-of-date NOFO.