



MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (MASH) AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) GRANT INFORMATION

Overview

In 2021, the Massachusetts State Legislature appropriated \$150 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a reserve to support the production of permanent supportive housing. Of that \$150 million, \$15 million is being administered by the Massachusetts Alliance for Supportive Housing (MASH) to advance the creation of permanent supportive housing for unaccompanied adults experiencing homelessness who have disabling conditions.

MASH is a collaboration between Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA), United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley (United Way), and Corporation of Supportive Housing (CSH).

Grant Opportunities

Development Grants: MASH will award up to \$13.5 million for flexible capital grants to close critical gaps in the creation of permanent supportive housing for adults experiencing homelessness. Gaps may include, but are not limited to predevelopment, acquisition, renovation, or new construction costs.

Projects may include the following:

- Filling in budget gaps for a project in development
- Assisting with predevelopment costs for securing debt financing
- Converting or renovating a building into permanent supportive housing
- Paying for an acquisition of a property

Capacity Building Grants: MASH will award up to \$2 million in grants to build the capacity of organizations to develop and/or operate supportive housing. Organizations must have specific supportive housing development projects in mind to be eligible for these grants.

Projects may include the following:

- Building organizational capacity to initiate a housing project (e.g., hiring project manager)
- Meeting critical training needs (e.g., construction and project management)
- Reducing barriers to help Minority-Owned Business Enterprises become equitable partners in the development and/or operation of supportive housing
- Establishing a partnership with a housing developer



How to Apply

1. **Eligibility:** The lead applicant or partnering organization must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
2. **Application Process:** MASH will use a competitive two-step application process. The first step will require the completion of a Pre-Qualification Form, which will allow applicants to submit information about their PSH project needs in a simple manner without needing to complete an extensive application. In the second step, applicants may be invited to submit the Full Application based on meeting the threshold criteria. Please note that MASH will begin the first step of the application review process while finalizing its contract with the Commonwealth, thus, MASH-ARPA funds will not be available to be awarded until that contract is finalized.
3. Applicants will be required to first submit a Pre-Qualification Form.
4. Applicants may apply for both types of funding.
5. Applicants can submit Pre-Qualification forms for multiple Development and/or Capacity Building projects. However, applicants must submit one Pre-Qualification Form per project.
6. Submitting a Full Application for either type of funding opportunity will not impact the possibility of receiving the other type of funding.

The information gathered from the Pre-Qualification Form will aid in prioritizing projects for invitation to the next round and will provide a sense of the need among those developing or seeking to create permanent supportive housing projects.

Based on meeting the threshold criteria, applicants may be invited to submit the Full Application to one or both funding opportunities. Advancing to step two and completion of a full application will be pending completion of final contracts between MASH and DHCD.

The funding timelines for the grants may overlap. MASH reserves the right to redirect projects and requested funds to the most appropriate of the two funding mechanisms.

Timeline: Pre-Qualification Forms submitted within 30 days of the launch date (June 3, 2022), will be prioritized for review. Applicants may continue to submit Pre-Qualification Forms for review on a rolling basis. The forms will be reviewed based on availability of resources.

As part of the review, MASH staff may contact applicants, if necessary, to clarify any responses on the Pre-Qualification Form. Applicants may be invited to submit a Full Application. Details regarding the full application timeline will follow (once the MASH-DHCD contract is finalized). MASH commits to review of full applications and to provide notification of grant awards within 90 days of the submission of the Full Application.



The two-step application process is anticipated to remain open on a rolling basis for twelve months after the launch of the Pre-Qualification Form or until the funds are depleted, whichever comes first. MASH anticipates making initial grant awards as quickly as possible once funds are available. As per federal requirements, ARPA funds must be obligated no later than December 31, 2024 and expended no later than December 31, 2026.

Selection Process: All eligible applicants must apply by first completing the Pre-Qualification Form. Given the limited funds and the potential number of projects, only a select number of Pre-Qualification Forms will be invited to submit a Full Application. A limited number of sizeable Development grants (potentially in the \$2-\$4 million range per project) and Capacity Building grants (potentially ranging from \$100,000 - \$200,000 per project) with flexibility based on requests, will be awarded to projects that demonstrate the following:

- Feasibility
- Impact
- Adherence to Housing First low-threshold supportive housing
- Commitment to advancing racial and ethnic equity
- Prioritization of COVID hotspots, gateway cities, rural/underserved cities, and/or areas with homeless encampments and/or high shelter occupancy
- Alignment with DHCD One Stop and/or other expected funding sources

Questions: General questions may be submitted to Calpurnyia Roberts, at MHSA, croberts@mhsa.net.

Q&A Session: A question and answer session will be held via Zoom on **June 9, 2022 from 3-4pm.**

During the session, we will review the requirements for the funding opportunity. To register for the Q&A session click [HERE](#). A frequently asked questions (FAQ) list will be posted on the webpage after the Q&A session.

To complete a Pre-Qualification Form, click on the below links:

[Development Grant Pre-Qualification Form](#)

[Capacity Building Grant Pre-Qualification Form](#)