

Massachusetts state programs available to alternative protein producers

These Massachusetts state grants, loan programs, and tax credits are likely relevant to the alternative protein industry. Companies should assess their eligibility for programs of interest.

Grant programs

Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative

Phase I concept paper deadlines:

July 21, 2025

October 6, 2025

January 5, 2026

April 6, 2026

Phase II full application deadlines:

September 15, 2025

November 17, 2025

February 9, 2026

May 18, 2026

[Website](#) | [Application process](#)

The Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative provides grant funding to businesses in Massachusetts who are ready to manufacture their “hard-tech” technologies, such as electronics, **bioindustrial manufacturing**, robotics, and additive manufacturing. Previous grant award amounts between 2016 and 2025 range from **\$66,000 to \$10 million**.

- **Eligibility:** Companies, incubators, and accelerators located in or planning to be located in Massachusetts are eligible to apply for this grant. However, private sector applicants must partner with an “institution of higher education, non-profit, or public or quasi-public entity in Massachusetts” who will serve as the private entity’s contracting entity for the award.
- **Project requirements:**
 - Awards must be used for “capital purchases including equipment, development of new technology platforms or systems, and related capital costs.”
 - The company and equipment must remain in Massachusetts.
 - There is a 1:1 cost match requirement, which can be obtained from state dollars, private funds, or federal grants.
 - Projects must demonstrate a benefit to Massachusetts’ economy. Benefits include: “technical innovation; project feasibility; job impact on Massachusetts; market impact; community benefit; quality of collaboration with other entities; budget soundness; and diversity, equity, & inclusion.”
 - All projects must be aligned with the federal priorities put forward through the following Manufacturing USA Institutes; see [here](#) for the institutes. Alternative protein companies are likely aligned with the work of BioMADE.

Technology and Innovation Ecosystem Program

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

The Technology & Innovation Ecosystem Program offers grant awards for projects in Massachusetts that “provide new technologies, business, talent, capital, or other ecosystem support” that lead to growth in technology and innovation in the State. The program also seeks to increase job growth, expand business, help form new businesses within the State, and promote “geographic, social, racial, and economically equitable outcomes.” The program offers small-scale grants ranging from **\$250,000 to \$500,000** and larger capital grants of **\$2 million to \$4.7 million**. Awarded projects and grant recipients can be found [here](#).

- **Eligibility:** The lead applicant for the program must be an organization, such as a nonprofit organization or economic development organization, in Massachusetts. Businesses can partner with an organization.
- **Project requirements:**
 - Applicants must focus their business or technology on one of the following areas (“priority clusters”): Artificial Intelligence; robotics; cybersecurity; blockchain; marine technology; digital health; quantum; defense & aerospace; **manufacturing and/or production systems**; and FinTech.
 - Applicants will need to show a commitment of cash and in-kind donations to their ecosystem project “that equals or exceeds 25 percent of the grant award.”

Collaborative Research & Development Matching Grant Program

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

The Collaborative Research & Development Matching Grant Program provides matching capital grants for research and development projects. The program aims to support partnerships between research institutions and businesses by providing funding for R&D infrastructure. Grant sizes range between **\$1 million and \$5 million**, depending on the size and nature of the project.

- **Eligibility:** The lead applicant for the program must be a research university, a nonprofit research organization, or a nonprofit entity legally formed in Massachusetts. Private companies may partner with the lead applicant.
- **Project requirements:** Applications must identify and describe an opportunity that focuses on (i) existing economic strengths and assets in the Innovation Economy that will expand an existing industry cluster (please see industry clusters listed above—alternative proteins likely fit under manufacturing and/or production systems), or (ii) developing the potential to achieve marketplace dominance in one or more existing clusters.

Loan programs

Commercial Real Estate Loan

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

MassDevelopment offers real estate loans that can be used to fund “facility acquisition, renovation, construction, and permanent financing” of up to **\$10 million**. Loans are available for manufacturers, small businesses, and nonprofits.

Equipment Loan

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

MassDevelopment offers loans or bank loan participations of **\$100,000** to **\$3 million** to companies for the purchase of equipment. Loans offer fixed-rate financing, terms of up to seven years, and advance up to one hundred percent of the cost of new equipment or 100 percent of the “orderly liquidation value of used equipment.”

Real Estate Enhancement Financing Program

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

MassDevelopment offers loans of up to \$2 million for a term of five years to small business owners to buy or refinance commercial property that will be occupied by the owner (owner-occupied property of at least 25 percent and no residential units permitted). The loan must be used for business purposes.

Emerging Technology Fund

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

MassDevelopment’s venture debt program offers loans of up to **\$4 million** to technology companies located in Massachusetts or who will be relocating to Massachusetts. The loan can be used for working capital, expansion, or purchases of equipment. For a comprehensive overview of the Emerging Technology Fund, please see the white paper [here](#).

Eligibility: Applicants must be technology companies that:

- Are considering launching or expanding manufacturing operations in Massachusetts
- Will receive financing from two parties other than the ETF
- Can demonstrate that the financial investment benefits the Massachusetts economy

The Emerging Technology Fund also offers loans to Massachusetts companies that have been awarded a grant through the federal government’s Small Business Innovation Research grant program. Small Business Innovation Research Bridge Loan offers amounts of up to **\$250,000**.

State Small Business Credit Initiative

Rolling deadline | [Website](#)

MassDevelopment offers guarantees and loans with flexible terms for business investment through the [State Small Business Credit Initiative](#) (SSBCI). Though not an official requirement, the SSBCI focuses on SEDI (Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual) businesses. Businesses must have a loan from a private lender in an amount that is equal to or greater than the State Small Business Credit Initiative loan, which varies from **\$100,000** to **\$10 million** depending on the purpose of the financing; see more information [here](#).

Tax credit and incentive programs

Massachusetts Investment Tax Credit

Credit filed with annual tax return | [Website](#)

The Massachusetts Investment Tax credit may be available to Massachusetts corporate entities, such as a manufacturing corporation or research and development corporation, for certain tangible property, such as “personal property or buildings or structural components of buildings acquired by purchase.” Additionally, this credit may not “reduce the corporate excise due below \$456. The maximum amount of credits otherwise allowable to a corporation in any taxable year may not exceed 50% of its excise. Any unused credit may be carried forward for 3 tax years after the credit was earned.” For more information on how the tax credit may be calculated, please see Massachusetts General Laws [chapter 63, section 31A](#).

Massachusetts Research Tax Credit

Credit filed with annual tax return | [Website](#)

The Massachusetts Research Tax Credit may be available to Massachusetts businesses who engage in qualified research expenses within the State. The Massachusetts Research Credit may not decrease the company’s tax liability below \$456. The tax credit limit is “the first \$25,000 of corporate excise due, plus 75% of any excise due in excess of \$25,000.” For more information on how the tax credit may be calculated, please see [Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 63, section 63M](#).

Economic Development Incentive Program

July 30, 2025 and
November 5, 2025 | [Website](#)

The Economic Development Incentive Program is a tax incentive program that awards between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to businesses to invest in projects within the State that will create new jobs.

Considerations for award amounts for this program include:

- “Whether the project is located in a Gateway City, a rural or small town, or an area of economic need
- Whether the project is in a high-priority sector, such as technology, artificial intelligence, climate technology, advanced manufacturing, medical, or robotics industries
- The wages of jobs created and benefits offered by the project
- Whether the applicant is an emerging company with high-growth potential for significant and rapid job creation
- Whether the project would establish primary business operations, including executive management and support staff, in Massachusetts, and create a significant number of new jobs in a short period of time
- Other competitive circumstances, such as the project having regional or statewide significance or benefiting the state at large.

Please see the [Request for Proposals](#) for more detailed guidance.

Bonds

MassDevelopment Tax-Exempt Bonds

[Website](#)

MassDevelopment offers tax-exempt bonds, which are exempt from federal taxes and, in certain situations, state taxes. Tax-exempt bonds offer low interest rates for real estate and new equipment. These bonds are able to be sold to your bank, another financial entity, or in capital markets, and can be “structured as leases issued by MassDevelopment and purchased by financial institutions which engage in lease financing”.

Eligible projects include:

- 501(c)3 nonprofit real estate and equipment
- Affordable rental housing
- Assisted living and long-term care facilities
- Public infrastructure projects
- Manufacturing facilities and equipment
- Municipal and governmental projects
- Solid waste recovery and recycling projects

Programs with closed application periods

Massachusetts Manufacturing Accelerate Program

Expected to reopen
in fall 2025 | [Website](#)

The Massachusetts Manufacturing Accelerate Program offers up to **\$200,000** in grant funding primarily to small to medium-sized manufacturers (defined as having 500 employees or less, but large companies are not excluded from applying) in Massachusetts engaged in new technologies, such as “robotics and automation, additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, or **sustainable manufacturing processes**”. While all industries are considered, this program prioritizes industries in microelectronics, defense, and aerospace, and electrification technologies. Manufacturers must partner with a nonprofit organization, higher education institutions, or quasi-public entities that are based in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts TechHubs Program

Expected to reopen
in 2026 (dependent
on available state
funding) | [Website](#)

The Massachusetts [TechHubs Program](#) was created as part of the State’s 2024 economic bill, the Mass Leads Act, which was designed to give awarded entities in a particular region a designation of “Tech Hub” for displaying innovation capacity. TechHubs are granted funds to “develop, build, or scale dynamic, place-based innovation ecosystems that leverage regional strengths in emerging technologies or industry clusters.” The program seeks to “enhance regional competitiveness, support scaling companies, and drive inclusive and equitable job growth” and offers grants of **\$100,000 to \$5 million**.

The program has a partnership requirement, which stipulates that the primary applicant must be a Massachusetts nonprofit organization, economic development agency, local government, colleges, universities, incubators, and accelerators. The primary applicants then must partner with other stakeholders, including private companies, which include “startups, scaling companies, small-to-medium-sized enterprises, supply chain and service organizations, and large corporations.” Please see the “MA TechHubs Q&A” document [here](#) for more information.

Resources

- [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative \(“MassTech”\)](#)
 - [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Procurements and Grants](#)
 - [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s Innovation Institute](#)
 - [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative’s Center for Advanced Manufacturing](#)
- [MassDevelopment](#)
 - [MassDevelopment Business Resources](#)
 - [MassDevelopment Small Business Resources](#)
- [Agriculture Grants and Assistance Programs](#)
- [Massachusetts Business Tax Credits](#)
- [The Foodtech Engineering for Alternative Sustainable Technologies \(FEAST\) Center at Tufts University Center for Cellular Agriculture](#)
- [Massachusetts EOED \(Executive Office of Economic Development\) Programs and Grants - Business and Innovation](#)
- [MassVentures](#)

About GFI

The Good Food Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working internationally to make alternative proteins like plant-based and cultivated meat delicious, affordable, and accessible. GFI advances open-access research, mobilizes resources and talent, and empowers partners across the food system to create a sustainable, secure, and just protein supply. GFI is funded entirely by private philanthropic support.



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