

MassHousing

Housing Stability Department **Focus Grant: *Building Community through*** ***Arts and Culture***

Information Session
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
1-2pm

Agenda



Welcome & Introductions



Proposal Guidelines



Proposal Forms



Schedule



Q&A

Introductions

Housing Stability Department

Gloria Brand, Housing Stability
Specialist, Impact Initiatives

Libby Hayes- Director of Housing
Stability

Proposal Guidelines: General

Total amount of \$150,000 is available for the Focus Grants.

There are two tracks for this award:

Track 1: Activation and Expression (\$5,000–\$20,000)

Track 2: Transformative Placemaking (\$20,000–\$40,000)

Funds will be allowed for the period of Feb 2026- August 2027 (18 month period)

Program Requirements

Funding is available exclusively to properties that have received MassHousing financing.

For the purpose of this NOFA, “**properties that have received MassHousing financing**” may include housing developments with multiple phases where MassHousing is financing at least one of the phases, as long as the space is accessible to residents of the phase financed by MassHousing.

Projects should:	Funding cannot be used for:
• Improve the physical environment and safety of shared spaces • Reflect and celebrate the diverse cultures and histories of residents • Foster resident collaboration and pride through co-designed or resident-led efforts • Advance social connection and a sense of belonging among residents	• General operating costs or staff salaries • Duplication of existing resident engagement programming • Activities not located within a MassHousing-financed property • Projects that do not result in a visible or lasting impact on the housing environment

MassHousing Sites/Developments

To confirm MassHousing developments, please review the
MassHousing Rental Housing List:

<https://www.masshousing.com/en/programs-outreach/housing-stability/communities>

The screenshot shows the MassHousing website's 'Multifamily Communities' page. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links for 'Español', 'Português', and '中文'. Below this is a red navigation bar with links: 'Home Ownership', 'Renters', 'Rental Developers and Owners', 'Property Managers', and 'Programs and Outreach'. The main content area is titled 'Multifamily Communities' and includes a sub-header 'A reference for Housing and Social Service Providers'. It states that the searchable list includes all multifamily rental properties financed by MassHousing or developments where the Agency manages affordable housing programs. There are three input fields: 'Enter City/Town or Neighborhood', 'Enter Development Name', and 'Enter Management Company'. Below these is a dropdown for 'All Beds' and a section for 'Must Have Features' with checkboxes for 'Accessible', 'Elderly', 'Workforce Housing', and 'Section 8'. A 'SEARCH' button is located below the checkboxes. At the bottom, there is a map of Massachusetts with various locations marked.



Or Confirm via email: Housingstabilitygrants@masshousing.com

Evaluation Criteria



Alignment with grant goals- Creativity, feasibility, and clarity of proposed design concept

Resident involvement and collaboration

Potential for long-term community benefit

Clear sustainability and evaluation plan

Reporting Requirements



Selected grantees must complete a grant agreement outlining deliverables and reporting expectations.

An interim report will be requested after 90 days of the award.

A final report summarizing outcomes, resident feedback, and project photos must be submitted within 30 days of project completion.

Projects must be completed within 18 months of the award.

1. One Application Form: Includes Site Information Narrative Questions
2. One Excel Budget Form

[illegible]

Application Questions

Site Information



- Site Name
- MassHousing Identification Number
- Management Company
- Owner
- Contact Person – email and phone number
- Project Title
- Estimated start/end dates

Application Questions Continued

Funding Request

- ☐ Track 1: Activation and Expression (\$5,000–\$20,000) - Funding Request: _____

Temporary and semi-permanent activations or installations that enliven shared spaces, such as murals, planters, community-designed seating areas or small public art displays co-created by residents.

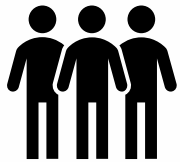
- ☐ Track 2: Transformative Placemaking (\$20,000–\$40,000) - Funding Request: _____

Large-scale design projects that permanently enhance outdoor or indoor common areas—such as redesigned courtyards, lighting improvement, wayfinding art, or collaborative artist residencies.

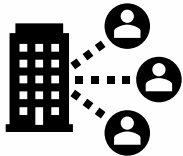
Application Questions Continued



Project Summary: Describe your proposed idea and intended outcomes. Please include relevant history or connections to the broader community.



Resident Engagement Plan: Explain how residents will be included and encouraged to participate. Please include any plans to accommodate cultural differences, disabilities, and other barriers.



Community Description: Briefly describe the space being utilized including surrounding area, neighborhood or environment if applicable. Please include current size, amenities, and programming.

Application Questions Continued



Authorization, Permitting and Compliance:

Do you have the necessary authorization, permits or approvals to carry out the proposed project?

Yes No Not Applicable

If yes, please provide any permits obtained or pending and provide documentation if applicable.

If no, please provide which authorizations or permits are needed, the steps you are planning to obtain them, and your anticipated timeline for approval.

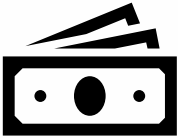
Application Questions Continued



Program Partnerships: Provide the names of artists/organizations you propose to partner with on this initiative, along with a brief summary of their background and/or expertise areas. If you have not selected an artist or organization partnership yet, please provide your outreach plan.



Implementation Plan: Provide a timeline and brief description of activities



Budget Narrative: Provide a brief overview of your spending plan. Please also list any additional funding sources.

Budget Outline

Contractor Costs

- include artist or art organization and/or other contracted work expenses.

Materials and Supplies:

Resident Engagement Expenses

- include any resident stipends, food, child care, or other expenses to reduce barriers to participation.

Additional Expenses

10% may be used for Administrative and Overhead costs

Application Questions Continued



Diverse and Local Business Engagement: Provide any commitments and plans to utilize services from local and diverse partners or businesses.

Capacity and Experience: Provide details about your experience, team members, and other information that demonstrates your readiness and capacity to implement your proposed project and how you will sustain the initiative going forward.

Sustainability and Evaluation Plan: Provide a plan for monitoring and evaluating the impact of the project and a plan for sustaining project and funding required to continue.

Application Questions Continued

Adverse Actions: Please include a description of any insurance claim, criminal investigation or material litigation against your firm or members of your firm in the last ten (10) years, any instances in which your firm has been debarred by state or federal government and the circumstances for the debarment, as well as a summary of any formal complaints filed against your firm or members of your firm containing allegations of discrimination in the last ten (10) years.

Conflicts of Interest: Please describe any facts you are aware of that would result in a conflict of interest with MassHousing if funding was awarded to your organization.

Optional Attachments: You are welcome to attach any pictures of the proposed site for the project and other supporting documents.

Submission Information



- All responses should be sent via email to: housingstabilitygrants@masshousing.com **before 5:00 pm on Friday January 09, 2026.**
- Please write on the subject heading line "Building Community Through Arts and Culture Application" **Proposals received after the response deadline may not be considered.**

- Arts and Cultural Webinar: Thursday, **December 11, 2025, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**
- Informational Session 2: **Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 1p.m. -2 p.m. - Arts and Culture Organizations and Resources**
- **APPLICATION DUE DATE: Friday, January 9, 2026 by 5 p.m. EST**
- Final Selections: **Monday, February 9th**

Anticipated Schedule



FOR MORE INFORMATION



Visit our Impact Initiatives webpage - www.masshousing.com/programs-outreach/housing-stability/impact-initiatives



Download application forms through the Rental Portal or email housingstabilitygrants@masshousing.com



Email questions to housingstabilitygrants@masshousing.com



Attend the virtual info session on 12/16 from 1-2pm to hear from arts organizations

Q&A