



ORGANIZER GRANT PROGRAM

MASSACHUSETTS OVERVIEW

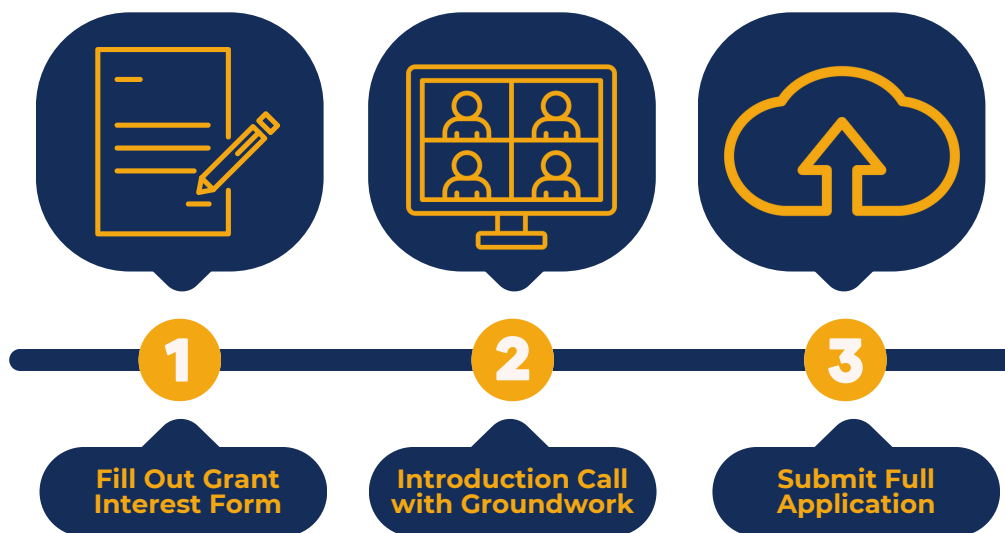
In Massachusetts, the Groundwork Organizer Grant Program (OGP) supports local, grassroots organizers in Gateway Cities, communities of color, and other historically excluded and civically under-resourced areas of our state. We are looking for the movement-makers, base-builders and progress-seekers who are doing the work year-round in the most under-resourced and overlooked cities and towns, with little to no recognition or funding to sustain their work.

Through the OGP, Groundwork offers unrestricted, *multi-year* general operating grants to these emerging leaders to support and scale their efforts.

The foundation of the OGP's grantee experience is *capital, community and capacity*. Along with financial assistance, all of our grantees have access to wrap-around support from our team, as well as the opportunity to build community and share best practices through an active, cross-state grantee network.

We believe it is these organizers and their work that create the essential civic and political infrastructure needed to remedy our state's historic inequities and build a more equitable, representative and democratic Commonwealth.

Groundwork is running one more OGP grant round in Massachusetts in 2023. The fall round will be open from August 21 – September 25, 2023. Please stay tuned via our website and social media channels for additional information.





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MASSACHUSETTS CRITERIA

In choosing our Massachusetts grantees, Groundwork Project refers to the following criteria. It is not necessary for a grantee to meet all, but the more your mission and work aligns with this criteria, the better fit you'll be for our program:

OPERATIONS:

- Based in OR actively/year-round organizing within at least one of the ten communities with the lowest voter turnout in 2022: Lynn, Holyoke, Southbridge, Brockton, New Bedford, Fall River, Chelsea, Lowell, Springfield, or Lawrence”
- Full-time staff sizes of <5;
- Operating budgets of <\$300,000;
- 501c3, 501c4 or PAC status or established fiscal sponsorship;
- BIPOC, women or queer organizational leadership;
- Hyperlocal groups focused on a specific region, city, town or neighborhood;
- Enthusiasm to take advantage of Groundwork’s wraparound support services and contribute to the grantee community of grassroots organizers;
- Ability to absorb and effectively utilize multi-year funding.

PROGRAMMING:

- Commitment to civic engagement and grassroots organizing as a vehicle for powerbuilding in disenfranchised communities;
- Year-round community organizing programs, networks and footprint;
- Core organizational programming focused on civic engagement, direct voter contact and mobilization, community and movement building, issue advocacy or electoral work;
- Organizing activities to build and use power include but are not limited to: base-building, political education, leadership development, canvassing, issue campaigns, narrative change, direct action, digital organizing;
- Programming that supports and/or is complementary to long-term, statewide efforts to build durable political infrastructure and secure a more progressive future for the state;



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PROCESS

Groundwork's application process is based on relationship cultivation with prospective grantees, an ongoing landscape analysis of the most acute civic and political needs on the ground, and an assessment of where our support can be most impactful.

We operate several granting rounds each year. Please [visit our website](#) for the latest information on this year's grant rounds, to see current grantees, and what opportunities are open. Organizations wishing to be considered must first [fill out our grant interest form](#) to set up an introductory conversation with our team.

During this conversation, we will get to know you and your work, your eligibility for the Organizer Grant Program, as well as share more about Groundwork and the program.

After our introductory conversation we will provide organizations who might be good fits for the Organizer Grant Program the brief application. Groundwork may request to see additional, existing materials related to your organization to help us get a better understanding of your budget, work to date, and strategic plans.

From there, the Groundwork team makes granting decisions based on the criteria above and a collaborative assessment as to whether an organization is a good fit for our unique program. Grantees who are not selected for a particular granting round will remain eligible for consideration for the remaining grant rounds of the calendar year, with no additional application required.

Please note: Applications are rolled over within a calendar year. If you applied in the Spring 2023 round, you will automatically be considered in Fall 2023.

As a young organization, we have a limited number of grants to award each year and have to make difficult choices between many well-deserving organizations, all of whom have suffered from profound underinvestment. As our internal capacity and budget grow, so will our granting program, allowing us to constantly increase the resources we are able to provide and organizations we are able to support.