



Date: April 27, 2026

To: Massachusetts Councils on Aging Members

From: Elizabeth Connell, Executive Director

Re: FY27 Direct Grant Opportunities for Field Demonstration Projects

MCOA is pleased to announce that it intends to award state Service Incentive Grant (SIG) funds in FY27 to provide direct grants to COAs for Field Demonstration Projects (FDPs), under the following project areas that have been approved by the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE), **contingent upon final approval by the Governor of the state budget.**

Please be advised that this request for funding proposals/applications should not be considered an assurance that funding will be awarded. Funding levels and funding disbursement timelines are contingent upon state appropriation and availability of other funding from or through AGE. AGE and MCOA reserve the right not to award funding, or to award partial funding, or to award funding on different timelines, contingent upon the amount and timeline for availability of funds. AGE recommends that COAs take no action that would incur financial liabilities in reliance on funding not yet received.

Grant opportunities are available to all eligible COAs/consortia of COAs. **Eligibility to apply, be awarded, and to receive grant funds requires active MCOA membership with dues paid for all applicable fiscal years during the grant period.**

To be considered for funding, eligible bidders must complete a responsive proposal(s) and submit it by the due date, in accordance with the instructions provided below. **Bidders may apply for up to three (3) project areas, limited to one proposal per project area, up to the maximum amount allowed under each project area. A separate application must be submitted for each project area. FDP funds are for one-time projects or programs and not intended to cover ongoing operational or programmatic costs.** Bidders can view examples of previously funded field demonstration projects [here](#).

MCOA will award grants through an open competitive application process. This RFP is for the **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**, fiscal year project period. **Responses are due to MCOA no later than 4:00 PM on June 5, 2026.** Award announcements will be made by July 10, 2026, and projects will begin no sooner than July 31, 2026. Contracts will be executed once awards have been made.

Proposals must be submitted through MCOA's [online grant portal](https://mcoa.grantplatform.com/) - <https://mcoa.grantplatform.com/>. Please read the RFP instructions thoroughly and review your proposal before submitting, as no changes will be permitted once a proposal has been submitted.

I. RFP Project Areas:

PROJECT AREA	PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION
Age & Dementia Friendly (up to \$20,000)	Support the efforts of COAs to advance age and dementia friendly initiatives within their communities through capacity building, including conducting community needs assessments, convening stakeholder engagement sessions, development of an age and

	dementia friendly action plan, and public messaging to promote awareness of age and dementia friendly efforts.
Caregiver Respite (up to \$10,000)	Increase community support for people living with dementia and their caregivers by building capacity and expanding access to respite programs, such as Supportive/Social Day Programs (SDPs), Memory Cafés, and other caregiver respite services or financial assistance. For projects that provide caregiver respite services or financial assistance, applicants can choose from one or all of the following categories: - Providing reduced-hour supportive day program to offer affordable options of respite care for older adults and their care partners. - Providing onsite individual respite for older adults and their caregivers. - Providing caregiver respite financial assistance for person-centered respite provided by a friend, relative, neighbor, etc. or to local respite services providers/organizations for older adults and their caregivers. For the purposes of this grant opportunity, caregivers are defined as family members, friends, or loved ones, not professional caregivers. Caregiver respite financial assistance indicates stipends provided to the caregiver for the purpose of purchasing either self-directed respite services procured and overseen by the caregiver or care recipient, which may be provided by a friend, family member, neighbor, etc., or formal respite services procured through the regional Aging Service Access Point (ASAP) or another health and human service agency.
Healthy Aging Innovations (up to \$10,000)	Support the development of innovative healthy aging programs that will positively benefit older adults and serve as promising practices that can be replicated throughout the COA network. Examples include but are not limited to: fostering social connection and reducing isolation among older adults, including intergenerational and multicultural programming; enhancing digital equity such as digital literacy training and hybrid programming; building capacity to better support behavioral health needs of older adults; end of life education and planning; solo aging programs; strengthening connections with public health departments and community organizations; programs that provide civic engagement/volunteer opportunities; programs that enhance physical activity and wellness for older adults; pop-up programming to expand COA activities/events beyond the senior center.
Nutrition (up to \$20,000)	Enable COAs to create or strengthen nutrition programs to support the food security of older adults and deepen engagement in their community. With one in three older adults experiencing food insecurity, COAs can play a critical role in providing nutrient-rich foods that promote healthy aging and disease prevention. Examples include establishing innovative meal programs that also promote social connection, culturally competent meals, refrigerated equipment for perishable food distribution, materials needed to create a dedicated on-site food pantry, garden, etc. Raw materials and labor can be covered to create shelves in an unused storage or kitchen area for pantry goods or to construct garden beds/irrigation systems.
Outreach (up to \$20,000)	Development and implementation of outreach programs to support the economic security of older adults, strengthen the safety net, and provide enhanced social services support, including LGBTQIA+ older adults and members of underserved and vulnerable populations. Outreach plans and strategies should focus on expanding relationships and increasing the number of older adults reached in your community, incorporating a variety of methods. Efforts to increase and improve outcomes for older adults should also focus on collaborations with other departments within your organization or outside partners.
Senior Center Modernization (up to \$25,000)	Support the modernization of senior centers across Massachusetts to encourage broader participation by older adults and connect them to vital programs and services. Funds may be used to help update/renovate a senior center facility to make it a more

	welcoming and inclusive environment for multiple generations of older adults, including people with dementia, and/or enhance safety and accessibility such as a loop system, hardware/software to allow for more accurate and efficient data tracking, integrate technology to enhance virtual and/or hybrid connections for homebound older adults, expand programming to attract younger older adults, and help build operational capacity. Please read NCOA's report on The State of Today's Senior Center: Successes, Challenges and Opportunities and Age and Dementia Friendly Design Considerations for Physical Infrastructure as suggested guides.
Transportation (up to \$25,000)	Transportation options should address the needs of older adults to connect them within and outside their communities and to support them in maintaining their independence. Older adult transportation services should consider all aspects of independent living. Service delivery may include but is not limited to: volunteer drivers, ride share options, public transportation training, connections to bus/train stations, taxi vouchers, COA vans, transportation scheduling software, partnerships with RTAs, and contracts with bus/ambulance/school transportation service.

II. RFP Timeline:

1. RFP released on **April 27, 2026**. A bidders conference call will be held via zoom on **May 11, 2026** at 1:00 PM. Register [here](#).
2. Questions submitted in writing and those posed during the bidders conference, along with the answers, will be posted in the [SIG Grant Info folder](#) in the Resources section of the [Infohub](#) by **May 18, 2026**. Written questions must be submitted by email, **with the subject line FY27 FDP**, to Maddie Noonan at madeline@mcoaonline.org by 4:00 PM on **May 11, 2026**.
3. **Completed applications must be submitted to MCOA no later than 4:00 PM on June 5, 2026**. Applications must be submitted using the [online grant portal](#). **Applications submitted via any other method or after the RFP deadline has passed will not be accepted under any circumstances.** The online grant portal will automatically prevent application submission after the deadline.
4. The Field Demonstration Project Review Committee will review all eligible applications submitted by the deadline. During MCOA's application review period, please reply promptly should we contact you with any questions via email or telephone.
5. Award notifications shall occur by **July 10, 2026**. MCOA will notify the primary contact of the outcome via email.
6. A formal contract will be emailed to the primary contact identified in the application of the successful bidders. The contract must be signed and returned promptly to MCOA, **prior to incurring any program costs**.
7. The project period will begin on or about **July 31, 2026**, and shall continue through **June 30, 2027**.

RFP release date:	April 27, 2026
Bidders conference call/Written inquiries due by email:	May 11, 2026
Responses posted on MCOA Infohub:	May 18, 2026
Proposals due:	June 5, 2026
Award announcements by:	July 10, 2026
Signed contracts returned to MCOA:	July 31, 2026

Grant start date:	July 31, 2026*
Projects must be completed:	June 30, 2027
Reports due:	July 31, 2027

***contingent upon final approval by the Governor of the state budget**

III. Application Instructions:

Proposals must be submitted through MCOA's [online grant portal](#). A video tutorial and step-by-step guide of the grant portal can be accessed in the [SIG Grant Info folder](#) in the Resources section of the [Infohub](#). The online portal allows you save your work in progress and return to complete it before submitting. **Bidders may apply for up to a maximum of three (3) project areas, up to the maximum award limit for each project area.** If applying for more than one FDP grant, bidders must submit a separate application for each project area. Proposals submitted by a consortium must specify in the application the municipalities that will be served by the consortium. COAs may also partner with non-profit community organizations, however the COA is required to submit the application and manage the grant, if awarded.

All applicant information and project narrative questions must be answered fully and completed proposals must adhere to the stated word counts. Please ensure that your contact information is entered correctly, as we may need to contact you with questions regarding your application and to notify you of your application status. Bidders may submit up to three (3) supplemental attachments via the [online portal](#), not including the project budget. Supplemental attachments should contain information that is pertinent to your project, such as letters of support, agreements with partner organizations, architectural drawings, photos, etc.

IV. Budget Requirements

Using the [attached](#) budget template, which is located in the [SIG Grant Info folder](#) in the Resources section of the [Infohub](#), and can also be downloaded in the [online portal](#) under the "Project Budget" tab, include a brief description and relevant calculations for each line item. Budgets must also show in-kind support and other funding sources, if applicable. Allowable costs include salary, fringe benefits (capped at 30% of salary), mileage reimbursement, and rent/utilities/phone (capped at 2% of contract value). Project budget must be uploaded in excel format through the [online portal](#). All contracts are "cost reimbursement" contracts, i.e., COAs must incur costs and submit invoices with back up for reimbursement to MCOA during the project period. For any questions regarding the project budget, please contact Lisa Yane at lisa@mcoaonline.org or (617) 775-0116, **with the subject line FY27 FDP.**

V. Accountability Requirements:

Grantees must agree to comply with the following:

1. To incur all project costs before **June 30, 2027**. All contracts are "cost reimbursement" contracts, i.e., COAs must incur costs and submit invoices with back up for reimbursement to MCOA during the project period.
2. To provide a final report by **July 31, 2027**, containing supporting documentation of work activities conducted through the grant, including number of events/activities/services conducted, number of individuals served, what your organization learned, as well as how you plan to utilize that knowledge to advance your organization's field demonstration project efforts. This report shall also contain the best practices identified through this project, as well as the grantee's evaluation of the project's impacts and outcomes. Grantees may be invited to participate in a SIG Learning Collaborative workshop at MCOA's fall conference.
3. To include the following statement in all funded project descriptions, products, and related publicity: ***"This field demonstration project is funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence."***

VI. Questions

If you have questions on the application requirements or permissible uses of funding, we encourage you to attend the bidders conference on May 11, 2026 or contact Maddie Noonan at madeline@mcoaonline.org or 413-326-6479, **with the subject line FY27 FDP.**