**Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership**

**ASOST-S Summer 2024 Grant FAQs**

Per DESE’s guidelines, the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership (MAP) is designated to award ASOST-S Grants to programs in [Region 1](https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/eohhs_regions/region_one.html) (Western MA) and [Region 5](https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/eohhs_regions/region_five.html) (Southeast, the Cape and Islands), **excluding YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and programs located in Springfield.** YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs operating in partnership (not the primary applicant) with school districts may be eligible. Other organizations designated to award ASOST-S Grants by DESE are **operating on different timelines and have separate RFP processes than MAP,** so you will need to contact them to see what will be required to submit your application.

Note: [**Please download questions from our website and save them to your desktop.**](https://www.massafterschool.org/asostgrant) **Fill out the form and save it to your computer, and upload your application in one go. Formstack is unreliable in saving applications that are in-progress for you to return to.**

If you would like to review DESE’s Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Subgrant (ASOST-S) information directly, [click here.](https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2025/0523-0527-0528/)

If you’d like to review DESE’s Guidelines for Quality Enhancements for ASOST Programs, [click here.](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fgrants%2F2024%2F528-530%2Fguidelines.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

Application and Timeline

1. When is the deadline to apply? The deadline to apply is April 12th at 5 p.m. There is no priority given to programs who apply first.
2. When will awards be announced? MAP expects to announce awards on **May 1st, 2024.** This date may change based on additional factors.
3. When are funds dispersed? Funds will be dispersed after **July 1st.**
4. Is this grant for summer and the school-year, or just the summer? Will funds be available for the upcoming school year? This round is only for summer of 2024. Another grant process will occur for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. Can I download a copy of these questions to work on answers ahead of time? Yes. MAP has a list of all questions on the grant webpage at https://www.massafterschool.org/asostgrant. We recommend you fill out your answers in a word doc and save to your computer, as Formstack is unreliable when saving and returning to in-progress applications.
6. If our total program budget is $80,000 and we want to apply for $60,000, do we fill in the budget form with the $80K or the $60K expense that we are hoping to get covered? Only submit a budget for the purposes of this grant, not a full program budget.
7. If we are from different regions, is the application deadline the same? No. You will need to contact the organization through which you are eligible to find out their deadline for applications.
8. Are the evaluation criteria for proposals consistent across regions? There is an overlap in evaluation criteria, but it will not be 100% consistent across all regions.
9. What is total ASOST-S funding available for this summer? MAP’s total funding to disperse through ASOST-S is approximately $1M for the summer of 2024.
10. Are demographics requested in the application to describe students served over the summer or the full-year? Demographics are for students served in the summer.
11. If my program serves both school-aged children and preschoolers, do I fill in demographics about all children our program serves or just those impacted by funds? MAP is only collecting data on those that will be impacted by the ASOST-S grant (school-aged children).
12. What should we put for the fund code on the budget? MAP will fill this part in; you are not required to. If you’d like to fill it in, the budget code is 0527.
13. What are FTEs (full-time equivalent) on the budget and how do we fill those out? If you’re using the grant funds to pay for half an employee’s salary, put in 0.5. If you’re using it to pay for a quarter of a person’s salary, put in 0.25 (and so on).
14. What does rate type mean on the budget? DESE includes information on rate types for flat or hourly rates. For example, if a contractor charges a flat fee of $1,000, you would write “flat” in the rate type. If they charge $30 per hour, write that in.
15. Is this grant being funded through federal ESSER dollars? MAP is not issuing federal funding. There were two funding streams for summer funds and DESE had some grantees get money through the federal ESSER/ARPA while some (like MAP) got state funds to distribute.
16. Can you apply for less than $60,000? Yes.

Eligibility, Priorities, and Requirements

1. If my program is license exempt, do we still qualify? Yes.
2. What is the eligible age range for services under the ASOST-S Grant? School aged children are eligible (K-12).
3. Are for-profit programs eligible? No, only school districts and CBOs/non-profits are eligible.
4. If we already were awarded funding through the regular ASOST grant or Rebound grant for summer 2024, how does that impact our application? You are still eligible to apply. ASOST-S is a separate application and award process.
5. Is a CBO that serves girls only eligible to apply? Yes.
6. How many hours of daily activity is required as a minimum for summer programs? DESE prioritizes programs that offer 3-5 days of comprehensive services or 150 hours per summer. Please note this is only one priority area.
7. Is each child required to participate in 3-5 days of programming a week, or must the program operate 3-5 days a week or 150 hours? The program should operate 3-5 days of comprehensive services or 150 hours. Each child does not have to participate for that amount of time.
8. If the program operates 3-5 days a week, do those days have to be full 8-hour days? No, they do not.
9. What are the requirements around partners? Must you have a partner? You are not required to have a partner, but it is encouraged.
10. If a program is funded by EEC are they eligible to apply? If your program provides services to school-aged children, yes.
11. Is there a minimum and maximum number of students required to participate in summer programming? No.
12. Some grants give priority to programs that enroll a large % of subsidized/low-income families. Will that be the case with this grant or is it even across all programs? There will be priority given to programs that serve special populations, including low-income families. This is one population, but other populations will also be given special consideration (please see RFP for the list).
13. We do not collect demographic data. Is this a requirement or will it influence the grant decision? Demographic data will be influential in decision making, as programs that serve special populations (listed in the RFP) will be prioritized.
14. Does this grant process replace ASOST funding and/or Rebound funding? Yes.
15. How will funds be disbursed? You will need to request reimbursement from MAP. MAP will then issue your payments after requesting and receiving funds from DESE. MAP will provide more information on this process after grants have been awarded.

Grant Uses

1. If our program starts in June, can we only apply for activities beginning in July? Yes, the grant period starts on July 1st, 2024.
2. Can this grant be used for kids that are currently enrolled or can funds be used to expand access? Yes, funds can be used to expand access and to increase program quality.
3. Is hiring new staff an allowable cost? What about bringing half-time staff to full-time? Yes, hiring staff or increasing hours is allowable.
4. Can this grant be used to pay part of our counselor salaries? Yes.
5. Can grant be used to fund stipends for paid student internships? Yes, grants can be used to fund stipends for students, including scholarships and help with tuition costs.
6. Would improvements to our outdoor area to enhance an outdoor classroom to assist with children's learning and gross motors activities? Capital improvements and equipment costs are not allowed under this grant.
7. Can you buy a vehicle to provide transportation? Equipment costs are not allowed under this grant. You can, however, contract with a company or rent a bus and driver to provide transportation.
8. Are indirect costs allowed? No.
9. Would signing, referral, and retention bonuses to address staffing shortages be allowable? Yes.
10. Can this funding be used for family engagement events, including purchasing food and outdoor games? Yes.
11. FC523-527 gave funds towards community partnerships such as the YMCA. Will this grant do the same? Yes, this grant will provide funds to support community partnerships.

Separate Programs/Regions

1. Can one organization apply for multiple grants in different cities/towns/program locations? Yes, though please take into consideration that this is a competitive grant and funds are limited!
2. If we operate three camps within the region, are those considered separate programs? For the purposes of this application, this is up to you. When applying, take into consideration that this grant is competitive, and funds are limited. If all three camps are included in the same application, the application cannot exceed $60,000.
3. If we are writing a grant application for multiple sites, is the grant award a max of $60,000 per organization or per site? You can apply for $60,000 per site, but in this case, please submit separate applications for each site. And note that the RFP process is competitive with very limited funds, so each site may not be awarded funds.
4. If we have multiple ASOST programs in a region, can we apply for all 5 in one grant (shared programming goals and activities) or must they be separate grants? If there are shared program activities and goals, you can apply in one grant application. If the programming goals and activities are separate, submit a separate application.
5. I have 4 programs in 4 different schools in our school district. Do I apply for each school or as a whole? This is up to each school district/program. Take into consideration that the RFP process is competitive and there are limited funds.
6. Can we allocate these funds to more than one community in the region? Yes, but please note this in your application.
7. We run multiple programs in multiple regions, and within those, many programs in each one, not all of the same type (e.g. summer programs, after school, teen, elementary). Should we apply separately for each one? Consolidate by program type? Or by geographic range? This is up to the applicant. Take into consideration that the RFP process is competitive and there are limited funds.

**If you have additional questions, please contact Chloe McElligott,**

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