



**Non-Binding Notice of Intent to Issue
Solicitation OSW-2023-04:
Offshore Wind Works:
Offshore Wind Workforce Grants**

August 15, 2023

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (“MassCEC”) intends to issue a competitive solicitation for funding entitled: Offshore Wind Works: Offshore Wind Workforce Grants. The expected amount of funds to be available is Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000). MassCEC reserves the right to increase or decrease funding for this solicitation.

Under this Offshore Wind Works opportunity, eligible organizations could apply for grant funding to develop and/or implement workforce training opportunities in the Commonwealth. MassCEC intends to award applicants across three distinct tracks, each with a different source of funding and maximum award amount.

Track 1: Workforce Development Programming. Proposals for new workforce training initiatives, expansion of ongoing initiatives, or a workforce-related study. MassCEC encourages proposals to incorporate project elements that advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (“DEIJ”) principles. There will be a maximum award amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for proposals under Track 1.

Track 2: Workforce Infrastructure. Proposals for the construction, purchase, expansion, or upgrade of workforce- or training-related equipment, technology, and/or facilities to better meet the needs of the offshore wind industry. There will be \$5 million dollars total available under Track 2 and the maximum award amount will be \$2 million. Awards under this track will be supported by federal funds authorized under the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”). Given the source of funding, there will be federal reporting and compliance requirements associated with awards made under Track 2. Additionally, MassCEC will be required to expend all funds awarded under Track 2 prior to December 31, 2026 to comply with ARPA, and therefore will require final invoices to be submitted to MassCEC for these funds well in advance of the December 31, 2026 deadline.

For examples of Track 1 and Track 2 projects awarded under past rounds of offshore wind workforce development grants, please see [MassCEC’s Offshore Wind Works webpage](#).

For Track 1 and Track 2, as currently planned, grant funds will have to be matched as follows: (i) for private entities, funds must be matched on a 100% basis (i.e., for every \$1.00 of grant funding, \$1.00 of private monetary investment must be provided); and (ii) for municipal or public entities, funds must be matched on a 25% basis (i.e., for every \$1.00 of grant funding, \$0.25 of local monetary or in-kind investment must be provided). MassCEC’s grant funding would be advanced to grantees as critical milestones are met.

MassCEC anticipates an additional round of funding for Track 1 and Track 2 of this initiative to be made available by Q1 2024.

VINEYARD WIND 1

Track 3: Vineyard Wind Sponsored Port Workforce Training Initiative. Proposals for workforce development initiatives that specifically target maritime workers to ensure the Massachusetts labor pool is adequately prepared to work within an offshore wind terminal.

The specific goals of this initiative are:

- To advance the training, certification and capabilities of the port/longshoremen workforce and supply chain in key communities for offshore wind;
- To support the localization and diversification of workforce development initiatives by companies who perform stevedoring operations and/or operate terminals in offshore wind ports;
- To establish a culture of Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) excellence within port facilities; and
- To support growing a workforce that is local, diverse and representative of the communities in which they work.

Certain qualification criteria will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Proposals shall advance the training and certification needs of the port/longshoremen workforce and supply chain in key communities for offshore wind, with priority given to Massachusetts workforce entities and companies registered to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Proposals are encouraged and accepted by companies who perform stevedoring operations and/or operate terminals in offshore wind ports.
- Partnerships or joint ventures seeking to meet this workforce need will be welcome to apply.

Awards under Track 3 are being funded by Vineyard Wind through MassCEC. There will be a maximum award amount of \$1 million. For Track 3, there is no minimum cost share requirement, however applicants are encouraged to provide for cost share and proposals containing cost share elements will be reviewed favorably.

Additional general terms for the provision of workforce development initiatives will be articulated in the forthcoming solicitation.

Purpose

The purpose of this Non-Binding Notice of Intent is to notify interested public and private sector entities of the funding opportunity. This is solely a Non-Binding Notice of Intent and not a solicitation for applications. Nor is this a request for information or comment on preferred approaches or provisions for a forthcoming solicitation. MassCEC is not accepting applications at this time. This Non-Binding Notice of Intent does not commit MassCEC to conduct a solicitation seeking applications for the above listed tracks; MassCEC retains sole discretion regarding whether to conduct such a solicitation.

If issued, MassCEC anticipates the Offshore Wind Works solicitation process to proceed along the following estimated timeline (subject to change):

Issue Solicitation*	September 11, 2023
Proposals due	November 10, 2023
Awards announced	January 2024
Contracting	Winter/Spring 2024
*As part of the solicitation process, there will be a formal opportunity for potential respondents to submit questions and MassCEC will provide answers and responses.	

Background

MassCEC works to advance the Commonwealth’s goal to responsibly develop cost-effective offshore wind and reduce project risk, increase market confidence, and maximize the associated climate, workforce, and economic benefits of this new industry. MassCEC leads a wide portfolio of initiatives in close collaboration with industry, government agencies, academia, and many other stakeholders. These initiatives are grouped in three (3) primary areas:

- Sector Development – Generate and grow local manufacturing, suppliers, service providers, and infrastructure and develop a well-trained, highly-skilled, safe, and diverse workforce.
- Planning, Analysis, and Engagement – Address identified gaps and needs through the support of technical studies, planning processes, projects, and stakeholder engagement on fisheries, wildlife, wind/ocean conditions, and transmission.
- Research and Innovation – Support and collaboration to expand offshore energy research, foster technology innovations, advance commercialization, and learn from early deployments.

To inform strategic, evidence-based workforce development initiatives and activities that meet the needs of both the emerging offshore wind industry and jobseekers, MassCEC conducts targeted research and analysis. The [2018 Massachusetts Offshore Wind Workforce Assessment](#), developed in partnership with Bristol Community College, UMass Dartmouth, and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, examined the workforce needs and economic impact associated with 1,600 MW of offshore wind development. Building upon this report, MassCEC commissioned the [2021 Offshore Wind Workforce Training & Development in Massachusetts Report](#), developed by BW Research Partnership. The 2021 Report provided a deeper examination of the capabilities and opportunities in the offshore wind workforce. In 2022, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (“NREL”) released the [U.S. Offshore Wind Workforce Assessment](#) which evaluated the current and future offshore wind workforce needs on a national scale and recommended actions to bridge gaps in training programs.

Contact

To contact the MassCEC offshore wind team, please email us at OffshoreWind@masscec.com.