Technical Assistance Program

October 20, 2026

RE: FY27 Technical Assistance Program – Call for Project Concepts

Dear MAPC cities and towns:

I am thrilled to invite you to apply for MAPC's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). This resource allows municipalities like yours to access MAPC's extensive expertise in planning, policy, municipal management, and data analysis to advance local, regional, and state goals. TAP offers a unique benefit for cities and towns to undertake innovative projects and initiatives alongside MAPC to work toward a more equitable, sustainable, collaborative, and climate-resilient future. Each fall, MAPC releases a call for project concepts, and **I am writing today to invite you to submit project ideas for work that MAPC can undertake to benefit your community and the region.** Projects awarded through this cycle will begin in early 2027.

Each year, MAPC identifies funding priorities to guide the TAP project review and selection process. MetroCommon 2050, the regional plan, the agency's strategic priorities, and the 2018 State of Equity Policy Agenda serve as guiding sources for identifying priorities. MAPC also works to advance certain Commonwealth priorities by supporting implementation at the local level. TAP presents a unique opportunity for MAPC to partner directly with municipalities and work toward our vision of a region where everyone feels welcome and can thrive.

As in previous years, priority will continue to be given to projects that involve and benefit multiple communities, remove barriers to racial and social equity, and advance our regional goals. **In addition, MAPC will be continuing our effort to support funding for projects that increase the supply of affordable housing through zoning, local policy, and other systemic changes.** Our aim is to make progress on the Strategic Plan outcome: "*Resources and policies allow for more stable and affordable housing choices that meet high housing need and minimize displacement of low-income households and people of color.*" We are also particularly interested in working with communities to address issues related to water supply as they plan ahead for growth.

In recognition of the unique circumstances facing municipal governments this year, we are expanding the funding priorities to another outcome of our strategic plan: "*Municipalities increase local and regional revenue so they can provide better, more reliable services.*" In addition to the housing crisis, municipalities in our region have experienced growing challenges with local revenue. Many of these conversations are related to housing, as residential property tax comprises a large portion of municipal budgets.

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We hope you consider submitting a project idea to advance the economic well-being, health, and safety of our communities; advance equity; regional collaboration; and other MetroCommon goals. We would be honored to work with your community. If you need assistance developing project ideas, MAPC is here to help. Please reach out to your MAPC partners, our department directors, or your subregional coordinator to co-create project concepts for funding consideration. You can also see the TAP Project Map for a sample of the types of projects we worked on across the region.

How to Apply

The attached Call for Project Concepts details how to apply for TAP funding, including the link to the online application submission form. This year, we are requesting applications by December 7, 2026. Submitting an application by this initial deadline, when the most funds are available, can make your application more competitive. We encourage you to reach out to Gloria Huangpu, the TAP Coordinator, at TAProgram@mapc.org, or individual MAPC staff members to help refine your project ideas prior to applying. You can find the application and other resources on the TAP webpage (https://mapc.ma/TAP). We look forward to working with you to undertake innovative projects that will benefit your community and the Greater Boston region.

Sincerely,

Lizzi Weyant
Executive Director

cc: MAPC Representative and Alternate

Technical Assistance Program

FY27 Call for Project Concepts

The MAPC Technical Assistance Program is funded by the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program, which is appropriated by the State Legislature and Governor in the annual state budget, funds from the annual assessment paid by member cities and towns, and private foundation funds awarded to MAPC for specific planning activities.

Initial Deadline to Apply: December 7, 2026

Applications may be submitted any time throughout the year. However, to have a project be considered when the most funding is available, MAPC recommends submitting an application by December 7, 2026. Initial funding decisions are expected to be announced by early 2027. If all funds are not allocated in this initial round, additional awards may be made on a rolling basis later in the calendar year.

Program Requirements

- The 101 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Boston area served by MAPC are eligible to apply. Multi-municipal collaborations and partnerships with non-profits and community-based organizations are strongly encouraged.
- Municipalities can submit concepts for individual community-specific projects and for multi-community projects. Project concepts must be endorsed by the CEO of the municipality, or by a designated member of the municipality's leadership team (e.g., Planning Director, Assistant Town Manager, etc.).
- The municipality, or the lead municipal applicant in the case of a multi-municipal project, must have an appointed representative to the MAPC Council. Under state law, all 101 municipalities in the MAPC region are entitled to appoint a representative to the Council, our governing body. To determine the status of your appointments or to appoint a new Council member or alternate, please contact Emma Koontz at ekoontz@mapc.org.

Funding Priorities

MAPC funds a diverse range of projects through TAP. Each year, MAPC sets priorities for funding based on *MetroCommon2050* goals, the agency's strategic priorities, the *State of Equity for Metro Boston Policy Agenda*, and the investment priorities of partner funding sources (e.g., the State's District Local Technical Assistance program). In 2027, projects that include one or more of the following priorities will be prioritized for funding.

- Advancing racial and social equity by breaking down barriers to housing, economic mobility, positive health outcomes, emergency preparedness, and public safety. Projects that demonstrate strong partnerships between municipalities and community anchors or organizations are preferred.

- Multiple communities working together to better understand and address shared challenges. This also includes projects that can serve as a model for other communities. Projects that include documenting and evaluating the process for the purpose of sharing lessons, implementation tips, and other best practices will be prioritized.
- Projects that advance *MetroCommon2050* goals and MAPC's Strategic Plan, especially those projects that demonstrate meaningful advancement to achieve outcomes from the Strategic Plan.
- Projects that advance the following Strategic Plan outcomes, which MAPC seeks to take a concerted effort at advancing in 2027:
    - Strategic Priority 1, Outcome A: Resources and policies allow for more stable and affordable housing choices that meet high housing need and minimize displacement of low-income households and people of color.
    - Strategic Priority 5, Outcome C: Municipalities increase local and regional revenue so they can provide better, more reliable services.

We encourage you to reach out to Gloria Huangpu, the TAP Coordinator, at TAProgram@mapc.org, or MAPC department directors to help refine your project ideas prior to submitting an application.

How to Apply

Complete the Project Concept Application Form (available on the TAP Webpage). MAPC staff are available to help identify and refine project concepts prior to submitting your application.

Resources

- MAPC Contact List
- TAP Projects Map
- Examples of Eligible Projects by Practice Area
- TAP Webpage

Funding Sources

TAP is funded through various sources, including:

- District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA), which originates from funds appropriated by the Legislature and Governor;
- Planning for MetroCommon2050 Technical Assistance (PMTA), which originates from municipal assessments that all MAPC municipalities contribute to cover MAPC's regional activities; and
- Grants from private foundations.

MAPC frequently leverages TAP funding to serve as matches for state-administered grant programs, including but not limited to the Community One-Stop for Growth, ECO One-Stop Grant Program, MassHousing, Mass Housing Partnership, and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). If you are interested in working with MAPC on a project, MAPC is available to assist with preparing grant applications for additional project funds.

Questions? Contact taprogram@mapc.org.

Technical Assistance Program Application Form

Applicant Information

Lead Municipality: _____

Project Manager Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Note: The Project Manager is the person who will be the day-to-day contact for the project and who will represent the municipality/project team in regular communication with MAPC.

(A) Project Concept

Project Name: _____

1. Briefly describe the project, including the intended community impact, geographic location, and project deliverables. *Limit 2,000 characters.*

2. Briefly describe how the project addresses community needs. Note any previous or current planning efforts that this project may advance. Reference any local plans, data sources, or studies that identified racial or social disparities, which this project works to diminish. *Limit 1,000 characters.*

3. Does this project involve multiple municipalities? Yes □ No □

If yes, please list the municipalities who will partner with you on this project. *Limit 500 characters.*

4. Does this project involve other organizations (e.g., additional municipal departments or non-municipal partners such as community-based organizations, Chamber of Commerce, state or other public entities)? Yes □ No □

If yes, please list the organizations you anticipate working with. For each organization, include their anticipated role on the project and any past partnerships, collaborations, or relationships your municipality has with the organization. *Limit 500 characters.*

5. Which of MAPC's Strategic Priorities (based on MetroCommon2050) are advanced with this project? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Advance the economic well-being, health, and safety of our region's residents.
- ☐ Accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to help achieve the Commonwealth's goal of net zero emissions by 2050 while improving the region's resilience to climate change.
- ☐ Encourage sustainable development and mobility with a focus on affordable homes, good jobs for low-income workers, a healthy environment, and non-auto transportation options throughout the region.
- ☐ Expand our region's commitment to support artists, advance the arts, and celebrate our region's diverse cultural heritage.
- ☐ Assist local governments to become more effective, efficient, and inclusive through capacity building, convening and collaboration, and community engagement.

(B) Community Context

Projects that promote racial and social equity are prioritized during the project selection process. Responses to the following questions help MAPC assess how your project can advance equity.

1. Describe any social or racial inequities relevant to this project that you are aware of in your municipality, referencing any data sources that inform this understanding. *Limit 1,000 characters.*

2. Describe any Environmental Justice communities that may be served with this project. Describe the location and characteristics of the community (e.g., linguistically isolated, low- income, BIPOC, etc.). Please describe how the proposed project will directly benefit these groups. *Limit 1,000 characters.*

3. How will you involve historically underrepresented groups (people of color, people with lower incomes, youth, people with disabilities, tenants, seniors, recent immigrants, linguistic minorities, minority- and women-owned small businesses, etc.) in the project? Please describe language access needs in your community and how you currently address them in your work. How will you ensure that all project materials, meetings, and communications are accessible to individuals with disabilities, non-English speakers, and others with specific needs? *Limit 1,000 characters.*

(C) Municipal Capacity

1. Please describe the local capacity and support to advance the project. *Limit 1,000 characters.*

2. What is your anticipated timeline for completion of this project? Are there specific milestones or phases that should be noted (e.g., key dates for adoption or other key decisions)?

3. If this is an initial planning project, how do you plan to ensure the continuation and sustainability of this project after its completion? For example, will you establish an implementation committee or similar entity to oversee its ongoing progress and impact, if applicable? How do you anticipate working with community partners following the completion of the project to sustain momentum? *Limit 800 characters.*

4. MAPC does not request a budget proposal. If projects are selected, MAPC will work with the applicant to develop a scope of work and budget to carry out necessary tasks to complete the project. It is helpful to understand if there any in-kind contributions included in the project or additional funding sources, beyond the requested TAP funds. Does your proposed project have additional funding sources? *Note: A cash match is <u>not</u> required but may help both MAPC and the municipality to prepare and execute a more comprehensive scope of work. Example: X dollars towards direct costs (e.g., space rental cost, printing, or translation costs, etc.)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what is the source of this additional funding? Has this additional funding been secured, or do you plan to file an application for grants or seek a commitment of municipal resources at the future town meeting/city council meeting? Please explain. *Limit 500 characters.*

5. Did you work with a MAPC staff member to develop this project concept? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what staff member or department? _____

6. Do you have a MAPC Council representative? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐

If no, will you be able to appoint a representative prior to starting project work, if TAP funding is awarded? Yes ☐ No ☐

7. How did you hear about MAPC's TAP program?
   - ☐ MAPC website
   - ☐ MAPC social media
   - ☐ MAPC Matters newsletter
   - ☐ MAPC staff (please state who, if possible) _____
   - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Attachments

Please attach a letter of support for the project from the lead municipality's CEO. For multi-community projects, preference is given to projects that have letters of support from all (or at least some) participating municipalities and organizations. Priority will be given to letters of support that demonstrate municipal commitment to advancing project outcomes.

Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement (REDIS) Acknowledgement

By submitting this application, you are committing to carry out project work in alignment with MAPC's Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement and commit to inclusive community stakeholder outreach. If your project is awarded, MAPC will work with you to develop a scope of work that considers how equity can be advanced through community engagement and through other aspects of planning and implementation.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Title: _____

Date: _____