

Connected & Online

Technical Assistance

October 15, 2025, at 11 am

Webinar Conference Guidelines

- This webinar is being recorded.
- This presentation provides participants with an overview of Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (“MassTech”), Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (“MBI”), and the Connected & Online Program.
- All microphones are muted on entry; please stay muted throughout the presentation.
- Please set your screen name as your full name and affiliated organization.
- There will be time allocated after the presentation for Q&A with attendees.
- Written Questions must be submitted electronically to through this [form](#) on or before **October 15, 2025 @ 5:00 PM. Q&A form is also linked on the C&O program page.**
- Answers will be posted on MassTech’s website under the FAQ tab.
- If you have questions during this Technical Assistance session, please type them in the Q&A Chat.
- MBI will be the only ones who see your posted questions and MBI will read as many questions as time permits.
- MBI reserves the right to mute or dismiss participants that behave in an inappropriate manner.

Agenda

1. MassTech Collaborative / MassBroadband Overview
2. Timeline
3. Program Overview and Goals
4. Equipment Details
5. Application Details
6. Questions

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a complex, abstract network pattern. This pattern consists of numerous small, light blue dots (nodes) connected by thin, light blue lines (edges), creating a web-like structure that is denser in some areas and sparser in others. The overall effect is a sense of interconnectedness and digital technology.

01

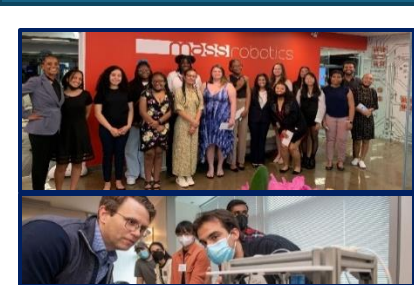
Introduction



MASSACHUSETTS
TECHNOLOGY
COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION:

We strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights that harness the talent of Massachusetts.



Established in 1982 by Legislative Statute

Timeline



Activity	Date
Program Launch / Applications Open	Monday, October 6 th
Q&A Period Begins	Monday, October 6 th , 2025
Technical Assistance Session	Wednesday, October 15 th , 2025
Q&A Period Closes	Wednesday, October 15 th , 2025
Q&A Posted	Wednesday, October 22 nd 2025
Early Application Deadline	Friday, October 31 st
Application Closes	Friday, November 7 th , 2025
Award Notification	Anticipated Late November or Early December 2025

A background network diagram consisting of numerous blue dots (nodes) connected by thin blue lines (edges), forming a complex web-like structure. The nodes are more densely packed in the center and become sparser towards the edges of the frame.

02

Program Overview

What is C&O?

Overview

The Connected and Online Program channels a combined \$23.08 million in Capital Projects Fund resources—\$20.46 million for fleets of internet-connected devices and \$2.62 million for supporting equipment—into a statewide effort to close Massachusetts' device gap.

Objectives

The program provides **laptops, tablets, and desktops** to eligible organizations **for use in on-site public computer stations or free-to-borrow lending programs.**

Funded projects **must advance education, workforce development, and healthcare access** by enabling remote learning, work, and virtual health services.



Project Focus Areas

The Connected & Online Program will focus on three priority areas —Education, Workforce Development, and Healthcare Access. **Proposed projects must enable all three priority areas to be eligible. Some examples are:**

Education

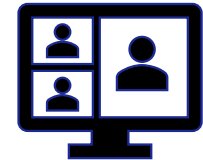
- Devices for classrooms, libraries & learning centers
 - Supports: virtual coursework, homework help, adult education, credential programs
- **Connection:** Builds digital literacy that carries into workforce training & healthcare use

Workforce Development

- Devices for community career hubs
 - Supports: résumé building, training, remote work
- **Connection:** Digital confidence transfers to supporting children's learning & navigating healthcare tools

Healthcare Access

- Devices & connectivity for telehealth, patient portals, remote monitoring
- **Connection:** Confidence with telehealth platforms reinforces skills for online education & remote work



Device Deployment Models

Organizations may deploy devices through:

- **Onsite Public Computer Stations**
 - Located in classrooms, libraries, career hubs, health centers or other publicly accessible locations.
 - Provide consistent, reliable access in community spaces
- **Free-to-Borrow Lending Programs**
 - Residents can take devices home for education, work, or healthcare needs
 - **Flexible Loan Periods:** MBI allows agencies to set their own lending timelines to best serve community needs

Who Can Apply?

Eligible applicants include:

- Municipality or municipal entity/authority
- State agency
- Tribal Nations
- Nonprofit Organizations, including community-based organizations
- Philanthropic Foundations
- Educational Providers
- Healthcare Providers
- Community Action Agencies
- Career Centers
- Libraries
- **Other organizations that can publicly deploy devices**

Applicants must:

- Be physically located in Massachusetts
- Serve individuals strictly in Massachusetts
- Make devices available to the public at no cost, via **onsite access** or **lending programs**

Contracting Requirements

Public Benefit & Use

- Devices must support **education, workforce, AND healthcare access**.
- Must be available for **public use or lending** (not for admin/internal use).

Deployment Timeline

- Deploy devices within **3 months** of *contract execution*.
- Report any delays/unutilized equipment; MBI may recapture devices.

Ownership & Restrictions

- Awardee retains ownership through **Dec 31, 2026**.
- No resale, transfer, or disposal without **MBI approval**.
- Maintenance/support plan required to ensure continued **public access**.

Federal Compliance

- Must follow Treasury CPF guidance.
- Maintain proof of purchase, deployment logs, and service records.

Reporting Requirements

Capital Projects Fund 1B Digital Connectivity Program

Quarterly Reporting

- **Inventory Narrative** – devices in circulation, usage counts, device impacts, lost/retired units.

End-of-Program Reporting

- **Program Impact Report** – due **Dec 31, 2026**; highlight outcomes, challenges, and success stories.

Close-Out Package – Asset Disposition Log (refurbished, donated, recycled).

Process & Confirmation

- Awardee must confirm **all serial numbers** via activation form before use.
- **No administrative reimbursements** – incidental costs covered by awardee.

A complex network diagram with numerous blue nodes and connecting lines, creating a web-like structure across the dark blue background.

03

Equipment Details

Device Distribution & Requirements

MBI's Role

- Purchases devices & ancillary equipment
- Prepares devices with productivity + security software
- Ships directly to approved applicants at no cost
- Oversee sub-recipient reporting and overall program success

Grantee Responsibilities

- Assume ownership upon delivery
- Keep devices in public service **through Dec 31, 2026**
- Complete quarterly reporting on device usage and impact per CPF requirements
- Note: **No direct funds** provided to organizations

Core Device Bundles

Device Bundles

- **Laptop:** Dell Pro 14 (8GB RAM)
- **Chromebook:** Dell 3120 2-in-1 Touch (8GB RAM)
- **Tablet:** Dell Latitude 3140 2-in-1 Touch (8GB RAM)
- **Desktop (Standard):** Dell Pro Micro + 24" Monitor (16GB RAM)
 - Wired mouse, keyboard, and headset included
- **Desktop (Graphics):** Dell Pro Slim (RTX) + 24" Monitor (16GB RAM)
 - Wired mouse, keyboard, and headset included

Software & Security

- Microsoft 365 Business Basic (desktop and laptops only)
- Acronis Cyber Protect AV (desktop and laptops)
- Deep Freeze (desktops only)
- Optional assistive software: JAWS, TD Snap

Warranties

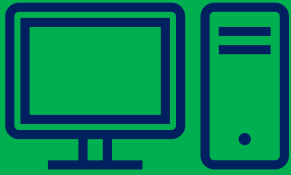
- 3-year accidental damage protection
 - For laptops, tablets, & Chromebooks
- 2-year Dell Limited Hardware Warranty
 - For laptops, tablets, & desktops
- 1-year Dell Limited Hardware Warranty
 - Chromebooks



Ancillary Equipment

User Support	Assistive & Healthcare	Network Infrastructure
Charging Cart (36 devices)	iBloodpressure Classic (RPM Kit)	Ruckus R370 Indoor AP
Dell Pro Dock (WD25)	Freestyle Libre 3 Glucose Monitor (RPM Kit)	Ruckus One Mgmt. License
HP Color LaserJet Multifunction Printer	X-keys L-Trac Trackball	Ruckus 1 GbE PoE+ Switch
Epson Projector + Whiteboard Set	Logickeyboard XLPrint / Braille	Ruckus 10 GbE Core Switch + SFP+ Optic
SMART Board (75")	X-keys XK-12 USB Switch Interface	Ruckus Power Cord
	CST Vertical Wireless Mouse	Ruckus Unleashed (is a free controller-less software solution that allows you to manage a wireless network using only Ruckus Access points)
	Ergonomic Large Print Keyboard	
	Echo Dot	

Request Guidelines

Main Device Requests 	Ancillary Equipment Requests 
Request between 30 (min) and 500 (max) devices per organization	Ancillary requests are an add-on to a main device request.
Final allocations are determined by your demonstrated capacity manage devices and meet community needs.	An application for ancillary equipment cannot be submitted on its own.
MBI reserves the right to adjust final award amounts.	Ancillary requests must be proportional with main device requests.

A complex network diagram with numerous blue nodes and connecting lines, creating a web-like structure across the dark blue background.

04

Application Process

Program Narrative

The narrative is the core of your application. It must clearly describe your project.

- **For the Main Device Program, you must address:**
 - **Scope & Schedule:** A clear scope of work and a timeline for device deployment.
 - **Justification:** The reason for the number and type of devices you are requesting.
 - **Program Alignment:** How devices will support education, workforce, and healthcare access.
 - **Public Access:** Your plan for onsite use or a lending model for the community.
 - **Outcomes:** Your strategy for measuring usage and providing ongoing support.

If requesting Ancillary Equipment, you must *also* describe:

- How the equipment supports and enhances the main devices.
- How it will be integrated with existing services to improve accessibility.

Application Pathways

Umbrella Organization (One org applying on behalf of all sites)

One application per umbrella entity (**max 500 devices total**).

Must describe **each site's unique scope of work** within the single application. Application should also **include the addresses of where the devices will be deployed**.

Example: ABC Downtown – 50 laptops for after-school program; ABC Eastside – 30 tablets for ESL classes.

Devices shipped to **one main contact/location** for distribution. Umbrella Organization will **retain ownership of all devices** and be **responsible for reporting on behalf of all sites**.

Individual Site

Each site is treated as its **own applicant** (30–500 devices each)

Each application must reflect the site's **specific scope of work**.

Applications are reviewed **individually**, even if part of the same network.

Sites may use similar wording, as long as it's accurate for their activities.

Solely responsible for receiving devices, ownership, and reporting

Main Device Application Scoring

Scoring Overview

- **Maximum Score:** 120 points (100 Base + 20 Bonus)
- **Minimum for Consideration:** 50 points (from base score)

***Note:** A detailed scoring rubric is available on the program page.*

Core Categories (20 pts per category, up to 100 pts total)

Bonus Points (Up to 20 pts)

1. Project Impact: How the project supports education, workforce, and telehealth for high-need groups.

Awarded for added community benefits:

2. Feasibility & Readiness: Your implementation plan, timeline, partnerships, and staff capacity.

+5 for projects in a Gateway City or designated Rural Community.

3. Community Engagement: Your outreach plan for reaching underserved communities and ensuring public access.

+5 for serving $\geq 75\%$ Treasury-defined Impacted Households.

4. Equipment Effectiveness: Clear justification for the number and type of devices requested.

+5 for integrating digital skills training or Lifeline/ACP support.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation: How you'll measure outputs and outcomes to track digital inclusion goals.

+5 for committing to responsibly refurbish, donate, or recycle devices.

Ancillary Equipment Add-On Scoring

Scoring Overview

- **Maximum Score:** 50 points

Priority: Given to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), community health centers, and disability-serving organizations.

Scoring Criteria (50 points total)	Max Points
1. Public Access & Integration Readiness: <i>Equipment clearly complements device use.</i>	10 pts
2. Organizational Experience: <i>Strong track record in health, education, or workforce.</i>	10 pts
3. Operational Readiness: <i>Clear plan for staffing, infrastructure, and deployment.</i>	10 pts
4. Empowerment-Centered Implementation: <i>Equipment reduces barriers for disabled, LEP, rural, or elderly users.</i>	10 pts
Priority Organization Bonus: <i>Awarded to FQHCs, CHCs, or Disability-Service Orgs.</i>	10 pts

Assemble & Submit Your Application

Gather the following required documents and upload them via Submittable on the MBI website.

- **Required Documents Checklist:**

- W-9 Taxpayer ID Form
- UEI & TIN Number
- Submittable Application

A background network diagram consisting of numerous blue dots (nodes) connected by thin blue lines (edges), forming a complex web-like structure. The nodes are more densely packed in the lower right and upper right areas, with some nodes highlighted in a slightly brighter blue.

04

Submitting an Application

How to Submit an Application

1. Go to the Application Portal

- Visit the [Connected & Online Submittable page](#)

2. Sign In or Create an Account

- **New users:** Click "**Sign Up**" and create a free Submittable account.
- **Returning users:** Log in with your existing credentials.

3. Complete the Application Form

- Fill out all required fields, upload supporting documents, and review entries carefully.

4. Save & Review Your Work

- Use the "**Save Draft**" feature if you need more time before submission.

5. Submit Your Application

- Click "**Submit**" when ready. You'll receive a **confirmation email** upon successful submission.

6. Track Your Application

- Log into Submittable anytime to check your status or respond to requests for additional information.

Need More Help? Watch the step-by-step guide here: [Submittable Help Center](#)

A complex network diagram with numerous blue nodes and connecting lines, resembling a molecular structure or a data network, set against a dark blue background.

05

Questions