

Q: Will a recording of this webinar be made available?

A: Yes, you can review the webinar here: <https://innovation.masstech.org/ma-tech-connect>

Q: Will you share the slides from the webinar?

A: Yes, the slides are available here: <https://innovation.masstech.org/ma-tech-connect>

Q: Can students in the certificate programs be included?

A: Proposals centered on students who are receiving an industry recognized credential below the associates degree level are eligible. Industry recognized credentials do not need to be credit bearing.

Q: Could you share some examples of tech sector clusters?

A: While MassTech is focused on a variety of clusters ranging from AI and Advanced Manufacturing to Cybersecurity and Robotics, MA Tech Connect proposals are free to define their own tech & innovation clusters. They do not need to be current focus areas for MassTech.

Q: Can an established program apply if they are looking to expand?

A: Yes, expansions of existing internship programs are an eligible use of funds.

Q: Are particular majors being targeted?

A: No, as long as the students are being placed in a coherent tech & innovation sector, they can come from any major.

Q: Do industry partnerships need to be in place before applying for the grant?

A: No, forming new industry partnerships is an activity that could be supported by an MA Tech Connect grant.

Q: What is the timeline for expending the funds?

A: Funds are anticipated to be spent over a two-year time period, with the start date to be determined in the grant agreement. MassTech is open to discussion as to the spending timeline.

Q: Do you have a definition of what qualifies as an internship?

A: No, given the different student populations and employers that could be served by MA Tech Connect, the definition of what qualifies as an internship is up to the applicant. Please note that applicants are solely responsible for ensuring their institution is in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards requirements for interns. See [Volunteers and Interns](#)

Massachusetts Tech Connect Internship Program 2025-JAII-05 Q&A

Q: Would a local government (partnered with a 2-year college) be eligible to apply for internships placed with tech-related government departments?

A: Yes, as long as the internships can all be categorized as part of a tech & innovation sector. Municipalities are eligible to apply as long as they are partnered with a community college or other associates degree granting institution.

Q: Can incubators or other types of entrepreneurship support organizations (ESOs) hire interns?

A: It depends on what the interns are doing and whether or not the internships fall under a coherent tech & innovation sector. Internships focused on helping a variety of companies with similar technical challenges would be considered.

Q: How competitive is the program?

A: Two to three MA Tech Connect grants are expected to be made, depending upon the amounts requested in the submitted proposals. MassTech has no information as to the number of proposals expected.

Q: Are there any restrictions for layering this grant onto another one that we already have?

A: MA Tech Connect grants are intended to support activities that would not otherwise happen, but can be paired with additional funds from any source.

Q: Are personnel expenses allowed?

A: Yes, if they are directly supporting the activities described in the proposal.

Q: Is there a strong preference or a requirement for partnerships that involve more than one college?

A: No, while a strong network of partners would be advantageous, we recognize that in some cases including more than one college may not be feasible due to geographic factors.

Q: We are not at the implementation stage yet and would like to request funds to hire a consultant to conduct a needs assessment and design a program for us in 2025. Then we would like to apply for funds to implement the program in 2026. Is this allowable?

A: Implementation only grants are not eligible for MA Tech Connect, however MA Tech Connect funds may be spent on activities to develop the relationships and programmatic infrastructure to place interns. Internship placements are expected, but the timeline in which this happens within the proposed two-year grant term is up to the applicant. MassTech encourages applicants to submit proposals detailing their specific needs and anticipated timelines. Please note no additional funding rounds for this program are currently anticipated; this, however, is subject to review by MassTech.