**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

**FY26 Washington, DC Global Soft Landing**

**Request for applications (RFA) Release Date:** Friday, May 22, 2026

**RFA ID No**: DMPED –FY26 – BD – LO – GSL

**Introduction:** The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development ("**DMPED**") invites the submission of applications from qualified organizations for a grant under the Washington, DC Global Soft Landing ("**GSL**") initiative (the "**Program**"). The purpose of the GSL Initiative is to support international entrepreneurs, startups, and companies seeking to establish operations in the District of Columbia ("**District**").

The GSL initiative connects international entrepreneurs and startups to a network of economic developers, local government, universities, chambers of commerce, and business service providers to support a successful market entry into Washington, DC. Through the Program, DMPED intends to award funds toa Program Operator to manage and coordinate a comprehensive suite of services for international companies navigating the U.S. market entry process ("**Project**"). Grant funds are intended to support the day-to-day operations of the GSL initiative, as further outlined in the RFA

**Authority:** The Program will be funded pursuant to The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012, effective September 20, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-168; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.04(jj)(3) and D.C. Official Code §2-1225.21(d-3)(1).

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** DMPED expects to make one award under the Program, in an aggregate amount of up to **$250,000.00**, contingent on the availability of an appropriated budget in such amount.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for an award under the Program:

1. Applicants must be an organization capable of serving as the Program Operator for the Washington, DC GSL initiative. Eligible entity types include:
    - Nonprofit organizations (501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6))
    - For-profit entities (ex: Business support organizations, incubators, or accelerators)

2. Applicants must demonstrate relevant experience delivering technical assistance, advisory services, or business support to international companies, startups, or small businesses. Qualifying experience may include:

- Managing or delivering a soft landing program or international business development program;
- Providing market entry, incubation, or acceleration support to international companies;
- Delivering entrepreneurial or small business technical assistance programs; or
- Managing multi-partner collaborative programs involving government, nonprofit, and private sector entities

3. Applicants must demonstrate sufficient capacity to manage a multi-partner initiative, including coordinating with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private sector partners.

4. Applicants must be licensed businesses in good standing with the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), the Office of Tax Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Organizations not currently located in the District may not need to demonstrate compliance at the time of application but will need to demonstrate compliance prior to award and throughout the period of performance.

5. Applicants must have an existing physical presence in the District or provide a plan to establish a physical presence in the District.

6. Applicants must demonstrate their approach to financial sustainability and how they will continue operating the GSL initiative and maintain support services beyond the grant term.

7. If awarded the grant, applicants must demonstrate how their organization will achieve the Program's objectives and goals as set forth in this RFA.

**Grant Information Session:** DMPED will host a virtual information session for interested applicants. Please check DMPED's website for more details: https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities.

**Contact Information:** bizdev@dc.gov

**Availability of RFA:** The RFA will be released on Friday, May 22, 2026 and posted at https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities.

**Grant Application Submission Deadline:** Applications will be accepted through Monday, June 22, at 4:00PM ET. All applications must be submitted electronically, according to the instructions contained in the RFA. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Application Process:** The grant application process will include an initial screening of applications to evaluate the completeness of the application, followed by scoring by a review panel, and a final approval of funding by the Deputy Mayor.

**Final Determination of Award:** DMPED anticipates a timeline of forty-five (45) days after the submission deadline to complete all application reviews. Award and funding determinations are final and cannot be appealed. The Deputy Mayor will make the final funding decision, based on a review panel's recommendations, the Mayor's budget priorities, the available resources, the goal of achieving a balance as to communities served, and the goals of the Program.

**Reservations:** DMPED reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the NOFA or RFA or it may rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time in its sole discretion.