

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

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY26 Technology Ecosystem Fund Grant Program

Request for applications (RFA) Release Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

Grant Identification No: DMPED-FY26-BD-LO-TEF

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 Technology Ecosystem Fund (“**TEF**” or “**Program**”).

The purpose of the Program is to grant funds to entities that provide support for entrepreneurs to establish, develop, and grow technology companies within the District or provide training to District residents to work in the technology sector. DMPED is ultimately seeking to support Projects that can successfully support and scale the number of high growth technology companies and the number of technology jobs in Washington D.C.

The Program will provide grants to support the creation, incubation, acceleration, relocation, and growth of technology companies in the District of Columbia. The Program also aims to support organizations and projects that have a direct or indirect effect on the District’s technology ecosystem. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting increased access to capital networks for Washington D.C. based technology companies, providing support services to companies and entrepreneurial ecosystem intermediaries, and hosting events that bring together technologists, founders, startups, and entrepreneurs.

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: The total amount of funding available for this Program is **\$2,000,000.00**. DMPED anticipates making multiple awards in line with the following funding areas and contingent on the availability of an appropriated budget in such amount. The amounts and number of awards in each category are subject to change in DMPED’s sole discretion.

Funding Area	Number of Awards	Grant Funding Allocated
Incubators, Accelerators & Venture Studios	1	\$1,250,000
Events, Summits & Convenings	3-4	\$500,000

Innovation Ecosystem Support	1	\$250,000
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Applicant Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be considered for a grant under the Program.

1. 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), Businesses not currently located in Washington, D.C. may not need to demonstrate compliance at the time of application, but will need to demonstrate compliance prior to award. Applicants must maintain their good standing status with the aforementioned entities throughout the pre-award process and the period of grantee’s performance under the grant agreement.
2. Applicants may be for-profit or nonprofit entities, colleges, or universities.
3. Applicants must demonstrate a minimum of a 1:1 match for all grant funds requested. Match funding can include direct and in-kind support that the applicant has secured or expects to secure by the end of the period of performance as a condition of receiving an award. DMPED may rescind or terminate funding if awarded applicants are unable to secure the matching funds. For each funding commitment, applicants should clearly specify whether the financial support 1) has been received, 2) is anticipated to be received by the end of the period of performance 3) source of funding. Priority will be given to applications that include cash commitments in-hand and demonstrate a higher than 1:1 match of private investment to public funding for project-specific costs.
4. Applicants should have an existing presence or plan to establish a physical presence in the District of Columbia.
5. Applicants must be focused on seeding and building an entrepreneurial ecosystem not increasing the size and scale of an individual business entity.

Project Eligibility:

Projects proposed by applicants must fall into one or more of the following funding streams.

- **Incubator, Accelerator, or Venture Studio Programs**
Projects in this funding stream consist of programs that seek to grow local technology companies through targeted programming. Eligible Projects may include programs that provide mentorship, technical assistance, office or development space, access to capital networks, and other forms of support designed to support early-stage or growth-stage companies.
- **Events, Summits, Convenings, and Sector-Related Programs**
Projects in this funding stream consist of events, convenings, workshops, and other technology sector focused programming. Eligible Projects in this category will consist of activities and events that strengthen and amplify the local ecosystem, foster

collaboration, highlight industry advancements, or build community among entrepreneurs, investors, and other aligned stakeholders.

- **Innovation Ecosystem Support**

Projects in this funding stream consist of activities or support mechanisms that do not fit squarely into the two categories above. This category is designed ensure that high impact proposals are not excluded due to categorical limitations. Eligible Projects in this category may consist of workforce development programs, upskilling initiatives for Washington D.C. residents, training or technical assistance for funding institutions or angel networks, or other programs that may benefit local entrepreneurs and the technology ecosystem broadly.

The Program objectives are to fund projects that will create a thriving technology ecosystem by providing support to technology companies and strengthening tech talent pipelines. Applicants must clearly delineate in their application which of the funding streams their Project supports.

Project programming, regardless of funding stream, must support entrepreneurs, founders, technologists, researchers, or companies in one or more of the following high-growth technology sectors

- Defense and national security technologies, with a preference for technology areas that have scalable private market opportunities
- Healthcare, preferably life sciences or medical technology companies
- Aeronautics or space applications including launch and non-launch technologies
- Financial technology companies
- Advanced and emerging technology sectors, including but not limited to:
 - Advanced computing
 - Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning
 - Cyber Security & Data Protection
 - Communications and Networks
 - Clean Energy Technologies

Applicants must demonstrate project partner support to encourage a coordinated, multi-institutional approach to advancing the District's technology and innovation ecosystem. Applicants may provide Letters of Commitment and intended plans for organizations that the applicant plans to engage to deliver the project. Applicants should specify each partner's defined role, potential resource contributions (e.g., funding, staff time, facilities, data, networks) and governance responsibilities. Applications must clearly articulate the ecosystem challenge being addressed and explain why cross-sector collaboration is necessary to achieve measurable, system-level impact. Preference will be given to proposals that show aligned incentives, shared accountability, and a plan for sustained collaboration beyond the grant term.

Contact Information: bizdev@dc.gov and adam.lattimore1@dc.gov

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be released on Friday, March 27, 2026 and posted at <https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities>.

Grant Application Submission Deadline: Eligibility Intake Forms will be accepted until Friday, April 24, 2026 at 4:00PM ET. Applications will be accepted until Friday, May 27, 2026 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 eligibility screening of prospective applicants, a pre-screening of applications, application submissions scoring by an internal review panel, and a final approval of funding by the Deputy Mayor.

Final Determination of Award: DMPED anticipates a timeline of forty-five 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.