



## **Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT)**

### **Sports and Entertainment Events Fund Grant Program Monthly Report to the Legislature May 2026**

#### **Background of Grant Program**

The Sports and Entertainment Events Fund (“the Fund”) was established by Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025 (“the Act”) to support major sports or entertainment events through a competitive grant program. The Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT). The same Act funded the grant program with \$10 million to support costs related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This is the first round of grants for this new program.

By law, no more than 50% of the balance of the fund may go to one recipient in a calendar year. Priorities of the Fund include direct and economic impacts on the Commonwealth’s tourism industry, promotion of the Commonwealth in national and international media, and geographic equity.

This report is submitted pursuant to the reporting requirement in the Act to report on expenditures from line item 1595-0605.

#### **Status of Expenditures Through May 31, 2026**

With the FIFA World Cup 2026™ kicking off next month, grantees are hard at work planning transportation, public safety, celebrations, and more. Almost all grantees are under contract, and expenditures are starting to come in for reimbursement.

Please note: Round 2 awards of this grant program were announced on May 27, using a different funding source (transfer from Executive Office of Administration and Finance reserve fund transfer): six municipal public safety awards related to the World Cup were awarded totaling \$1.757 million. A third round of this program, dedicated to public safety support for Round 1 watch parties, using \$40,000 from a declined Round 1 grant and \$243,000 from the A&F reserve transfer, is currently under evaluation after applications were due on May 19.

## Grant Awards and Expenditures

Awardees have until August 31, 2026 to make grant expenditures and spend matching funds. They have until September 30, 2026 to demonstrate proof of payments and matching funds, as well as submit a final report.

Awardee	Grant Award	Locations	Project Name	Expenditures reimbursed as of May 31, 2026
Boston Soccer 2026	\$4,225,000.00	Boston and Foxborough	FWC26 Boston Host City Authority events delivery	\$1,832,167.81
City of Boston	\$100,000.00	Boston	City of Boston Celebration & Neighborhood Activation Proposal	
City of Brockton	\$175,000.00	Brockton	City of Champions Fan Zone	
City of Cambridge	\$65,000.00	Cambridge	Cambridge United - Where the World Comes Together	
City of Chelsea	\$175,000.00	Chelsea	Fiesta Fútbol '26 Chelsea	
City of Easthampton	\$100,000.00	Easthampton	Millside Park Watch Party & USA250 Festival	
City of Everett	\$10,000.00	Everett	Everett Community Watch Party	
City of Greenfield	\$10,000.00	Greenfield	Greenfield Watch Party	
City of Worcester	\$120,000.00	Worcester	Worcester Watch Parties	
Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association	\$120,000.00	Barnstable, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg, Lawrence, Leominster, New Bedford, Northampton, Pittsfield, and Worcester	2026 Mass Youth Soccer Festivals	
Meet Boston	\$4,600,000.00	Boston	FWC26 Boston Event Production Costs	\$1,909,073.51
MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau	\$120,000.00	Franklin and Marlborough	MetroWest Regional Fan Zone	\$75,527.50

Revolutionary Valley Regional Tourism Council and the Latinx Center of Lowell	\$75,000.00	Lowell	The Lowell-Watch Party Series	
Town of Burlington	\$15,000.00	Burlington	Gather on the Pitch: Community Watch Party 2026	
Town of Lexington	\$25,000.00	Lexington	Lexington Watch Party	
Town of Weymouth <sup>1</sup>	\$40,000.00	Weymouth	Weymouth Watch Party	
U.S. Haitian Chamber of Commerce	\$25,000.00	Boston, Canton, Everett, and Randolph	Massachusetts Haitian Community-Multi-Game Watch Party Series	
Total	\$10,000,000.00			\$3,816,768.82

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<sup>1</sup> The Town of Weymouth has decided not to move forward with watch parties and declined its grant award. This \$40,000 will be made available for the next grant round.