

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research**



**State Fiscal Year 2026
Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training
Grant Program**

Report to the Massachusetts General Court
Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means

August 2026

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Introduction

Legislation – 8000-0605

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY26 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

OGR is a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research

In addition to managing and administering state-funded criminal justice, homeland security, and traffic safety grant programs, OGR is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grant funding received by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In total, the agency manages more than \$279 million in grant funds annually. Additionally, OGR's Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which houses the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;
- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and

- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report authored by OGR regarding the FY26 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) inviting district attorney's offices to apply for funding in support of their efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance their capacity to identify, assist, and provide referral services to those most impacted. The relevant appropriation language states:

8000-0605: For efforts to combat human trafficking, including a competitive grant program to be administered by the executive office of public safety and security; provided, that not later than March 2, 2026, the executive office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing expenditures from this item, including a list of grant recipients.

Applicant Eligibility

Only Massachusetts District Attorney's Offices were eligible to apply. Preference was given to previously funded District Attorney's Offices who provided data showing evidence of success.

Allowable Funding Purposes

Eligible activities include but not limited to staffing a Human Trafficking Special Prosecutor, enforcement and/or investigative efforts, prevention and/or intervention services, and training.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs fall into the following categories:

- Personnel costs (including overtime for sworn law enforcement personnel)
- Consultants and contractors
- Subawards to program partners (including law enforcement and community organizations)
- Travel directly related to the purpose of the grant
- Equipment and technology
- Supplies

Application Process

OGR conducted a competitive application process according to the following timeline:

Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) Posted: August 27, 2025

Application Due: October 1, 2025

Award Notification: November 2025

Performance Period: December 2025 – June 30, 2026

As a result of this solicitation, OGR received applications from six District Attorney's Offices. Five applicants were recipients of FY25 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant funds. One applicant, the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, was a new applicant.

Review Process

Each application was reviewed by three members of the review committee. Applications were assessed and scored on the following criteria:

- Clear and adequate responses for Applicant Information and Project Summary. (5 points)
- A needs assessment, including the use of data to demonstrate need and a description of how requested programming addresses the stated need. (25 Points)
- A narrative that clearly describes the programming to be implemented and the expected outcome and benefits to the department and/or community. Preference will be given to previously funded District Attorneys who provide data showing evidence of success with prior Human Trafficking award. (30 Points)
- Implementation plan and timeline that are feasible and ensure the initiative will be implemented and completed within the anticipated grant period. (15 Points)
- A detailed, reasonable, and cost-effective budget. (25 Points)

Awarded Funds

Funding for this program was reduced by approximately 75% in the FY26 budget. OGR was able to utilize \$111,500 from the federal Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to partially mitigate this reduction. This allowed OGR to award a total of \$205,240 in grants. All applicants received full or partial funding. Funds were awarded as follows:

Award Recipient	Total Award	State Funds Awarded	Federal Funds Awarded
Berkshire County District Attorney's Office, Pittsfield	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office, Barnstable	\$28,500	\$28,500	\$0
Hampden County District Attorney's Office, Springfield	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
Worcester County (Middle) District Attorney's Office, Worcester	\$36,500	\$0	\$36,500.00
Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, Brockton	\$30,240	\$30,240	\$0
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Boston	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000

Contracting & Disbursement

As all recipients are state agencies, OGR funding was disbursed via Interdepartmental Service Agreement.

A total of \$5,000 was initially set aside for OGR administration but subsequently reduced to \$4,000.