

MassCEC Quarterly Funding Opportunities Update 8/23 – Catalyst

Catalyst Q&A:

- 1) If I am studying at an out-of-state institution, but I'm an MA resident, am I eligible to apply? Or, if I'm studying at an out-of-state institution, but my start-up has founders that are MA residents, can we apply?
 - a) All companies and research institutions must be MA-based for the Catalyst Program. If you were going to start a company in MA and license the technology from an institution outside of MA, that would be acceptable. The award contract needs to be with a MA entity – either MA company or MA research institution. The address of the company matters, but your address of residency does not.
- 2) Do solar applications count as clean energy?
 - a) Yes, but we want to see projects that are going to reduce emissions compared to business as usual. For example, if your proposal is along the lines of putting solar panels in a place where in the people were not previously able to access electricity, then that is not necessarily a compelling emissions reduction case--- because these types of projects do not avoid GHG emissions that otherwise would be released. A strong applicant demonstrates emission reductions compared to business as usual.
- 3) What level of confidential information should I share with MassCEC?
 - a) MassCEC and MTTC are public agencies subject to public records laws. If we receive a public record request, we are obligated to share anything we have received via email or have on file. In general, we do not enter into non-disclosure agreements. Applicants should do their best to explain their technology as clearly as possible so that we understand the full scale of technical merit each proposal entails but should refrain from sending us confidential or proprietary information.
- 4) Does the title page count towards the page limit for the application?
 - a) No, the first page does not count. The proposal text should not extend 11 pages and the attachments should not exceed 5 pages.
- 5) Is it possible for someone at MassCEC to review my application prior to the due date?
 - a) No. In order to maintain a fair program process, we cannot allow any applications prior to the due date. If you have a specific question we are more than happy to talk to you about it via email or at our Catalyst Program office hours (see "How Do I Apply" section on our website).
- 6) Can two groups submit an application together? Do all partners need to be based in MA?
 - a) We encourage partnerships and collaborations and not all partners/team members need to be based in MA. However, the primary applicant does need to be MA-based. You also still need to follow all of the other program guidelines. For example, companies need to have less than 4 members on the team and would still have to have less than an acquired \$1 million in financing and revenues.
- 7) Does all the grant money have to be spent within the state of MA?
 - a) No, although that is our preference. All checks have to be sent out to a MA-based entity. But it is acceptable to have a special testing or manufacturing center that is outside of MA or outside of the country.

- 8) Can I submit an application for the same project under multiple MassCEC programs (i.e. Catalyst and Amplify)?
- a) Yes, you are welcome to submit the same project to multiple MassCEC programs as long as that project is eligible for each of those programs. However, it is very rare for MassCEC to give multiple grants to the same entity concurrently. Indicate which one is your preference otherwise it is up to us to decide what we think is the best fit.