



**Request for Information
For a Community-Oriented Residential Summer Internship
Program for Tech Sector Interns**

**Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581-3340
<http://www.masstech.org>**

RFI No: 2026-JAII-03

Issued: January 9, 2026

Responses Due: February 20, 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview and Vision

For more than a decade, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (“MassTech”) has provided company stipends for college students pursuing summer technology internships across the Commonwealth through the MassTech Intern Partnership (“MTIP”) program. Our core mission with this talent initiative has always been to increase the “stickiness”—the likelihood that talented college students will choose to start and build their careers in Massachusetts after graduation. This Request for Information (“RFI”) is seeking information to inform an anticipated pilot initiative focused on testing the proposition that providing state-subsidized, **community-oriented summer housing** in Greater Boston/Cambridge—paired with structured cohort-based programming and potentially inclusive meal support—can improve long-term retention of early-career tech talent.

This anticipated pilot will be specifically targeted at students seeking an opportunity to participate in a summer 2026 internship within the technology and innovation economy in Massachusetts. MassTech is prepared to provide financial support to selected partner(s) to execute this pilot initiative.

We believe that a sense of community can be galvanized through a novel approach to improve the conditions for interns in Massachusetts that face the challenges of the cost and scarcity of summer housing and access to shared innovative programming opportunities that would be transformational for many students. By creating a community-oriented residential environment where interns live and share experiences, we aim to foster lasting personal and professional relationships, thereby forging a stronger, more enduring connection to the Massachusetts tech and innovation ecosystem.

2. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

2.1 Program Overview and Parameters

MassTech invites universities and non-profit organizations to provide information and ideas on how to design and implement a new, pilot residential summer internship program beginning in 2026. This RFI is intended to be an open canvas for partners to showcase their assets, expertise, and innovative ideas. While the pilot’s overall target is a cohort of **100 interns**, MassTech is open to ideas supporting a smaller group (e.g., 40+ students).

Key parameters include:

- **Timeline:** Cohort based programming should last approximately 10-12 weeks, with participating interns agreeing to live in the housing for the duration of their internship. To

accommodate a range of company internship timelines, it is recommended that internship housing is available from late May through September 1st.

- **Target Cohort:** The summer Residential Internship Program is targeted for students engaged in an “in-person” or hybrid company internship within the technology sector in Massachusetts. The preference is for students to be engaged in company internships, although work in nonprofit institutions would be acceptable. The program will target graduate students and undergraduates who have at least completed their second year of post-secondary education.
- **Scale:** Total program capacity of 100 students
- **Location:** Residential facilities must be in the Greater Boston/Cambridge area with convenient access to public transportation, allowing interns to easily commute to their respective internships across the region.

Additional information to consider:

- **Company Internship:** MassTech is exploring the creation of a digital platform that will facilitate matching between tech-firms seeking student interns with students who are seeking a summer internship opportunity with tech-firms. This platform can be utilized to enroll students in the Residential Internship Program along with other methods to enroll interns for residential housing.
- **Internship Stipends:** Students in the residential internship program may also be eligible for their company internship to be subsidized through the [MassTech Intern Partnership](#) and other state internship programs such as the [Mass Life Sciences Internship Challenge](#) or the [Clean Energy Internship Program](#).

2.2 Program Components, Questions for Respondents, and Cost Estimates

MassTech is seeking detailed concepts on how potential partners would address the following components. These prompts are provided to guide your response; respondents may introduce additional ideas as appropriate.

A. Residential and Community-Oriented Model

- **Housing Plan:** What facilities (e.g., dormitory, apartment-style) are you offering? What sort of collaborative spaces will be available for participants to convene?
- **Meals:** Please describe meal programs/options and associated cost (e.g., full meal plan, shared community meals).
- **Community Building:** Describe the innovative programming you will design to encourage interns to interact and build strong peer relationships/networks? Ideas may include shared meals, weekly gatherings, common spaces, or structured cohort activities (I.e. hackathons, pitch contests, team building, etc.). MassTech is ready and willing to leverage its network of leaders from within the Innovation community in Massachusetts to contribute to this programming. What sort of collaborative facilities will these activities take place in?
- **Administrative Capacity:** What administrative and residential-life resources—such as security, residence managers, or student-life coordination—will your institution provide for the duration of the program?

B. Cross-Disciplinary Bonding Experience

A central objective of this pilot is to give interns a shared experience outside of the technical domain—one that pushes them to collaborate, take small personal risks, and form lasting connections that increase development and retention of talent within the Massachusetts technology and innovation ecosystem.

- **Concept:** What immersive experience would you design? Options may include an intensive public-speaking workshop, a design challenge on a non-technical theme, an outdoor experiential program, or another model that promotes vulnerability and group cohesion.
- **Disciplinary Lens:** Which fields (Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Policy, Design) would you propose to frame this experience, and how will this approach deepen bonding among interns?
- **Time Commitment:** What level of engagement (single weekend, recurring workshop sessions, multi-day module) do you recommend?

C. Student Recruitment and Program Accessibility

- **Partner's Role in Recruitment:** How will your institution conduct student outreach and recruitment in collaboration with MassTech to ensure that this pilot enrolls a full cohort of highly engaged interns excited to participate?
- **Access Requirement:** MassTech would like to see each student cohort comprised of students from multiple colleges and universities in the region. Consequently, MassTech would not want selected partners to allow for more than 25% of students enrolled in their residential internship program to be from their own institution. How will your recruitment plan support and reinforce this accessibility goal?

D. Program Evaluation and Budget

- **Evaluation:** What metrics or methods would you use to measure the impact of the residential-cohort model on the interns' stated interest in remaining in Massachusetts after graduation?
- **Preliminary Budget Estimate:** Please provide a rough, high-level estimate of the per-student cost of your proposed approach, including housing, dining or community meal facilitation, and the cross-disciplinary bonding experience. Please note MassTech plans to provide up to 50% of room and board expenses with students responsible for the remaining balance. Your cost estimates will be used for planning purposes only.

3. PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE TO THIS RFI

3.1 Submission Instructions

- a. Interested respondents are invited to submit a concept paper of up to **five pages** responding to the components and questions listed above. Please do not exceed the five-page maximum.
- b. **Responses to this RFI are requested no later than 5PM EST on Friday, February 20, 2026**, and should be submitted via email to Pat Larkin (email: larkin@masstech.org). Please feel free to reach out for additional information to this same email address.
- c. Any and all responses, data, materials, information and documentation submitted to MassTech in response to this RFI shall become MassTech's property and shall be subject to public disclosure. As a public entity, MassTech is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (set forth at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66). There are very limited and narrow exceptions to disclosure under the Public Records Law. If a respondent wishes to have MassTech treat certain information or documentation as confidential, please reach out to MassTech's General Counsel, Jennifer Saubermann, at saubermann@masstech.org **before** submitting any materials considered confidential or proprietary. The General Counsel will determine the applicability of any exemptions to the Public Records Law and issue a written determination before the response to the RFI is due.

3.2 Other

By executing the Authorized respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form and submitting a response to this RFI, respondent certifies that it (1) acknowledges and understands the procedures for handling materials submitted to MassTech, as set forth in Section 3.1.c; (2) agrees to be bound by those procedures; and (3) agrees that MassTech shall not be liable under any circumstances for the disclosure of any materials submitted to it pursuant to this RFI.

This RFI does not commit the MassTech to select any firm(s), award any work order, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, award any grants, or procure or contract for any services or supplies. MassTech reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to accept or reject any or all submittals received, discuss the contents of a response (or a proposed response prior to submission) with any or all qualified respondents (or potential respondents), and request modifications to responses in accordance with such discussions; request supplemental or clarifying information from respondents; or cancel, amend or modify the RFI in part or in its entirety.

MassTech may provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of materials in an alternative format, for Respondents with disabilities or other hardships. Respondents requiring accommodations shall submit requests in writing, with supporting documentation justifying the accommodations, to the Procurement Team Leader. MassTech reserves the right to grant or reject any request for accommodations.

Attachment A
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form

The undersigned is a duly authorized representative of the Respondent listed below. The Respondent has read and understands the RFI (No. 2026-JAII-03). The Respondent specifically acknowledges the application of the procedures regarding submission and disclosure of sensitive information as set forth in Section 3.1.d of the RFI, and specifically agrees that it shall be bound by those procedures.

I certify that the information provided in response to the RFI is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name:

(Printed Name of Respondent)

Signature:

(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Title:

Date:
