



## **Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to Launch Capital Project Solicitations May 27 & May 31**

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Press Contact: Angus McQuilken, Vice President for Communications & Marketing  
Phone: (617) 921-7749 Email: [amcquilken@masslifesciences.com](mailto:amcquilken@masslifesciences.com)

**WALTHAM, MA** – The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) announced today that the agency will launch an open solicitation for life-sciences-related capital projects on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and an open solicitation for high school and middle school equipment & supply grants on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Funding for both programs was included in the Baker/Polito Administration’s capital plan that was released yesterday. The Administration’s Fiscal Year 2017 capital plan provides \$63.6 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, a 15% increase over the Center’s projected spending of \$55 million in FY16.

“We are committed to the continued growth and support for our life sciences ecosystem and the infrastructure necessary to support innovation, workforce training, job creation and economic growth,” said Governor Baker. “We look forward to the launch of this year’s Massachusetts Life Sciences Center capital programs, and the increased activity and growth to come.”

“Our administration is harnessing innovation to drive job creation in every region of Massachusetts,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “These competitive capital grant programs will help create more vibrant communities, by unlocking new startup activity, business growth, and workforce development.”

“The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center provides building blocks for the innovation economy, enabling groundbreaking research advancements and dynamic private sector job growth,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash. “I look forward to this year’s capital rounds, as we work to deepen Massachusetts’ global leadership in the life sciences, and build prosperity across the Commonwealth.”

“The capital projects and school equipment grants align with our strategic focus on maintaining and modernizing existing assets and making targeted investments for the future.” said Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, Kristen Lepore. “These funds will help build a workforce to meet employers’ needs across the Commonwealth.”

“Infrastructure investments made by the MLSC are supporting life sciences growth across the entire Commonwealth,” said Travis McCreedy, President & CEO of the MLSC. “Through these investments we are creating cutting-edge research centers, strengthening our workforce development programs from K–postsecondary school, and providing vibrant locations for start-up companies to operate and grow. We appreciate the Baker Administration’s support, and we look forward to receiving innovative proposals from the academic and education communities through this year’s solicitations.”

## **Competitive Capital Program:**

The competitive capital program solicitation will cover capital projects for academic/research institutions (including two- and four-year colleges), business incubators and other not-for-profit organizations in the Commonwealth. The MLSC will invest in high-potential economic development projects across the state that promise to create jobs and make a significant contribution to the state's life sciences ecosystem. The MLSC will allocate up to \$35 million in capital dollars for this solicitation which will be available on May 27, 2016. The on-line applications will be available this summer and the Phase I application deadline will be July 15, 2016.

UMass Lowell's Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center (M2D2) was awarded \$4 million in 2014 through the MLSC's capital program to support the expansion of their service footprint through the construction of an 11,000 sq. ft. shared wet lab and biotech facility in Lowell's Hamilton Canal District. These funds were supplemented with an additional \$1 million award to create the UMass Lowell Innovation Hub (another 11,000 sq. ft. facility in the same building as the M2D2 expansion). This combined investment by MLSC can support a range of medical device, biotech and other tech sector startup and supply chain companies as they partner with the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the design, development and commercialization of new life science technologies. The new facilities opened in June 2015. As of March 2016, M2D2 is home to 25 medical device and life science companies, while the Innovation Hub supports 15 tech startups and related companies. In 2014, the M2D2 companies raised \$22 million in private equity along with additional grant and loan funding. These companies employ approximately 75 people and have a combined economic impact of \$75 million on the region's economy.

"The University is very grateful for the ongoing support of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, said Dr. Steven Tello, Associate Vice Chancellor, Entrepreneurship & Economic Development for the University of Massachusetts Lowell. "The MLSC funds that supported the expansion of M2D2's mission to include biotech companies means that medical device and biotech inventors and entrepreneurs can now work together in the Gateway City of Lowell to bring new therapies to market while creating new ventures and new jobs."

## **STEM Equipment & Supplies Grant Program**

Funding from this program will enable the purchase of equipment and supplies to train students in life sciences technology and research at public high schools and middle schools across Massachusetts, addressing a funding gap in capital dollars for public and not-for-profit workforce training and educational institutions. The program seeks to increase student achievement and student interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), and support the implementation of state STEM standards. The MLSC will allocate up to \$4 million in capital dollars for this solicitation, which will be available on May 31, 2016. The online application will be available via the MLSC website this summer and the application deadline will be October 6, 2016.

Recent awardee Brockton High School's four year biotechnology program arranged a phylogenetic tree to show their sophomore students their personal evolutionary relationships. After reading "*The Seven Daughters of Eve*" by Bryan Sykes, students determined their own maternal ancestry. Using equipment funded by the MLSC grant, they used Polymerase Chain Reaction to amplify a non-coding portion of mitochondrial DNA from their own cheek cells and then sent the samples away for DNA sequencing. Students used bioinformatics to determine

their own haplotype, the “daughter” from whom they descended. Students assembled themselves into a human family tree to visualize these relationships. As a result of this process, the students gained a much deeper and more personal understanding of genomics and bioinformatics, life sciences technology, relationships in a community and literacy.

“Ongoing investment in our innovative research centers, incubator spaces and workforce development infrastructure across the state is vital to the future growth of the life sciences industry in Massachusetts,” said Alison Taunton-Rigby, Ph.D., OBE, a Boston area biotechnology and healthcare executive, and a member of the MLSC’s Scientific Advisory Board. “We are pleased that the Baker/Polito Administration has made funding available for these programs, and the MLSC SAB looks forward to advising on the best scientific use of these capital resources.”

“The MLSC’s capital programs have played an important role in building our vibrant life sciences ecosystem in Massachusetts, strengthening both the research capabilities of our world-class academic institutions and hospitals, and the depth of our workforce” said David Walt, Ph.D., a member of the MLSC Scientific Advisory Board. “Members of the SAB appreciate the Baker/Polito Administration’s allocation of capital funding for this next round. We look forward to the launch of this year’s solicitation, and to reviewing the exciting projects that we anticipate will be submitted for consideration.”

### **About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center**

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a 10-year, \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being. The MLSC offers the nation’s most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information visit [www.masslifesciences.com](http://www.masslifesciences.com).

### **About the Capital Program**

Through the Capital Program, the MLSC invests in high-potential economic development projects that promise to make a significant contribution to the state’s life sciences ecosystem. Funding is awarded to Massachusetts legally organized not-for-profit entities, such as academic/research institutions, hospitals engaged in research, disease foundations and business incubators.

### **About the STEM Equipment & Supplies Grant Program**

The STEM Equipment and Supplies Grant Program enables the purchase of equipment and supplies for high schools and middle schools in the Commonwealth in order to train students in life sciences technology and research. The Program addresses a funding gap in capital dollars for public and not-for-profit workforce training and educational institutions. The program also seeks to increase student achievement and student interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), as well as support the implementation of state STEM standards. To date, the program has awarded more than \$12 million to more than 100 different high schools, middle schools, and organizations throughout Massachusetts and leveraged more than \$1 million in matching funds from the life sciences industry.

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