

Two ways the Commonwealth pays for your team's AI training

Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund - Express and General Programs. Every for-profit employer in Massachusetts already pays into the Workforce Training Fund through a surcharge on unemployment insurance. Commonwealth Corporation returns that money as training grants through two programs. Both pay for the cost of instruction only - never consulting, coaching, one-on-one work, wages or travel - and since April 1, 2026 an employer may use both at the same time.

	Express Program	General Program
Who qualifies	100 or fewer Massachusetts W-2 employees; a physical MA location the company owns or leases; current with DOR and DUA; non-profits only if they pay UI by the contributory method	Massachusetts employers of any size that contribute to the Fund (same non-profit rule); no government entities
What you get back	100% of the course cost , up to \$3,000 per employee per course and \$15,000 per company per calendar year	\$10,000 to \$200,000 per grant, against a \$1-to-\$1 match - and wages you pay employees while they are in training count toward the match
Cost limits	\$300 per instructional hour	\$300 per hour of instruction; average cost per participant may not exceed \$3,000
What training	Any course listed in the Express Course Directory	A training plan you design, with the vendors you name
How to apply	Online, at least 21 days before the first session, with three documents: DOR Certificate of Good Standing (within 6 months), DUA Certificate of Compliance, W-9	Online, rolling, subject to available funds
Decision	Days; the agreement start date is set 21 days after you submit	"Generally within 60 days"
Timing	Course starts within 6 months of applying; all training done within 12 months	Complete within two years
Rules that matter	Training on paid time at regular pay; full listed hours must be delivered; no employee may repeat the same or similar funded training within 5 years	Training on company time at normal pay; no employee wages, consulting, coaching, exam fees, tuition reimbursement or one-on-one training
Best fit	Companies of 2-100 people who want a team trained this quarter	Larger employers, or a multi-course program across the year

Which one is yours

100 or fewer Massachusetts W-2 employees, with an owned or leased Massachusetts location: Express for any team course you want run this quarter - fastest path, 100% back, decision in days. Add General only if you want a larger, multi-course plan over the year; since April 2026 you may hold both at once.

More than 100 Massachusetts employees: General only. Plan the training program you want for the year, request \$10,000 to \$200,000, count the wages you pay during training toward the match, and expect a decision within about 60 days.

Payroll outside Massachusetts, government entity, or no W-2 staff: neither program applies.

In both programs the grant pays for a course - standardized instruction delivered to your employees on paid time. It does not pay for consulting, coaching, one-on-one work, or applying the material to your own systems; those remain ordinary business expenses.

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Program terms summarized from Commonwealth Corporation's published guidelines (commcorp.org/express, commcorp.org/subprogram/wtftp-general-program-guidelines) as of September 17, 2026; the program's own guidelines govern and caps can change with funding. Support Forge is not affiliated with or endorsed by Commonwealth Corporation or the Workforce Training Fund.
Program questions: express@commcorp.org.