

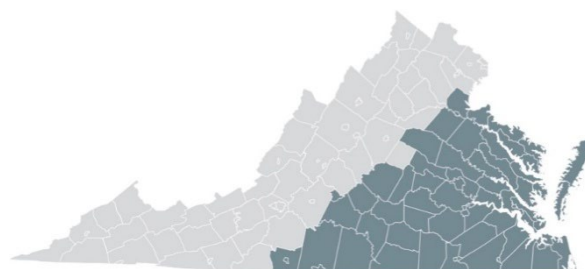
Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center Community Grant Initiative

Letter of Intent (LOI) | Cultivate Grant (2026-2027)

Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center's Seed to Harvest Community Grant Series creates community-academic partnerships to reduce the cancer burden for all Virginians, particularly for those most impacted communities. Following on the community engagement driven by the seed grants, the CULTIVATE award (**\$20,000 over a 12-month period**) will provide an opportunity for community partners to *cultivate* research skills as well as a working relationship with a Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center (MCCC) investigator. *Cultivate* award recipients will participate in a tailored training curriculum to help community partners expand their capacity to participate in community-academic partnered research that aligns with Massey's mission and priorities.

The Cultivate grants are training grants meant to prepare community partners to co-lead a cancer research project. During the year of funding, *Cultivate* grant recipients will participate in training on topics such as understanding research, developing research questions, identifying grant opportunities, writing grants, preparing a budget/ensuring fair compensation when participating in research, and more. In addition to the training activities, *Cultivate* award recipients will be matched with a Massey Cancer Center investigator working in the same priority area. The newly cultivated community-academic partnership will work together to co-develop an MOU/partnership agreement and generate a list of priority area research questions. These questions will serve as a focus for use in future academic-community research proposals, such as Massey's HARVEST grant or grant from other funders, such as American Cancer Society.

The **mission** of the Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center is to reduce the burden of cancer for all Virginians through community integration and person-centered care. Our **priority cancers** are breast, colorectal, lung and prostate cancer. The MCCC catchment area



Massey catchment area (outlined in dark gray)

Eligible applicants include: Non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and other community advocacy groups operating in Virginia and focused on the challenges facing residents living in [Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center catchment area](#).

Applications proposing to serve communities outside of the Massey Cancer Center catchment area will not be competitive for this funding and training opportunity.

Additional guidance for preparing the LOI is found below.

If you are ready to submit a letter of intent for a
CULTIVATE Award: [**APPLY HERE**](#)

Letters of Intent (LOI) for the CULTIVATE Grant must respond to the following prompts:

Please summarize the organization's eligibility and interest in receiving the Cultivate Award. In the LOI, please address the following questions (page limit: 1 page, single spaced, 11-point font, submitted in PDF format)

1. Describe the applicant organization

- a. When was the organization established?
- b. What is the organization's mission?
- c. What geographic area does the organization serve?
- d. How many staff work (full and part time) for the organization?
 - i. Are there enough staff to continue the organization's daily work while others participate in training sessions (6 sessions; 2-4 hours each over 12 months)?

2. What is the organization's experience with the following:

- a. Participating in training for research
- b. How the organization identifies funding opportunities (contracts, grants, etc.)
- c. Whether the organization has dedicated grant writing/development personnel
- d. Collaboration with academic institutions/cancer centers, including VCU or Massey for research funding
- e. Collaboration with other entities (clinics, private business, pharma/industry) for cancer research and other activities

3. Briefly describe the cancer-related health problem in the community served by the applicant organization (this will help Massey identify potential academic partners for collaboration).

Key Dates:

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is due on **November 6, 2025 by 11:59pm.**

Successful LOI's will receive an invitation for full application on/around **November 19th, 2025**

Full applicant workshop (mandatory for those invited): **December 3, 2025, 10-11am on zoom**

Full applications are due **March 2, 2025 at 11:59pm**

2026-2027 Cultivate Grant Detailed Timeline

Date	Activity
November 6, 2025 (by 11:59pm)	Letter of Intent (LOI) submission due
November 19, 2025	Organizations notified of invitation for full proposal
December 3, 2025 (10-11am via Zoom)	Proposal development workshop
December 3, 2025-March 1, 2026	Collaboration with Massey researchers
March 2, 2026	Full application due
April 15, 2026	Award notification
June 1, 2026	Grant Initiation Date
December 15, 2026	6-month progress report due
May 31, 2027	Project completion date
June 15, 2027	Final written report due

Questions?

For more information, contact the Massey grant administration at engagemassey@vcu.edu or (804) 628-0896.

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CULTIVATE GRANT: [**APPLY HERE**](#)