Small Business Grants

An important goal of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) is to encourage Massachusetts small businesses to reduce their use of toxic chemicals. TURI offers grants to qualified Massachusetts small businesses to change their processes or replace their toxic chemicals with safer alternatives that may not otherwise be economically feasible.

For a small business wishing to reduce or eliminate its use of toxic chemicals by researching the technical and economic feasibility of TUR options, or using an alternative material or changing its process

Small Business Grants of up to $10,000 are available.

Small Business Sector Eligibility

Massachusetts small businesses that may be eligible for this grant, and are of particular interest to TURI include, but are not limited to:

- Dry cleaners
- Nail or hair salons
- Auto repair, body or tire shops
- Car or truck washes
- Mortuaries
- Bathtub or furniture refinishers
- Restaurants
- Janitorial/house cleaning groups
- Gymnasiums
- Child care facilities
- Microbreweries

Who’s Eligible?

Both for-profit businesses and not-for-profit entities based in Massachusetts and:

- Are small (typically less than 10 employees)
- Provide services directly to the community and consumers
- Are interested in researching TUR options or are prepared to purchase and install new equipment or materials to reduce their use of toxic chemicals
- Will allow TURI to collect data on their materials usage or processes.

Past small business grant projects include:

- Converting solvent-based dry cleaning to dedicated wet cleaning
- Replacing solvent-based paint gun washers with water-based alternatives
- Reducing caustic cleaners and acid rinses in clean-in-place processes
- Using green-certified cleaners at child care facilities to replace conventional cleaners

Microbrewery equipment cleaned with safer chemicals and processes
Applying for a Small Business Grant

Applying for a Small Business Grant is intended to be a competitive yet simple process for Massachusetts small businesses. The application process begins with the submission of the application form. Following receipt of the application, TURI will contact the company’s primary contact directly to gather additional information needed to make a decision. This typically includes an on-site visit to better understand the proposed project and its potential benefits. Program funding is limited and submitting an application is no guarantee that a grant will be awarded. Should you be awarded this grant, you will be supplied with a contract to sign.

Successful Small Business Grants:
- Have specific benefits that can be measured and demonstrated;
- Are related to process or material changes that are relevant to other Massachusetts small businesses; and
- Are designed to enhance the competitive advantage of the facility.

Small business grants are NOT appropriate for projects focused on controlling exposure or emissions (such as ventilation) from a process that uses toxic chemicals, or recycling of waste once generated.

Case Studies

Case studies are a valuable resource for other small businesses considering similar process or material changes in their facilities. As part of the Small Business Grant, the grantee is required to provide adequate information and insights from which TURI can craft a case study about the project. TURI will work collaboratively with the grantee to create the final document. The case study will be made publicly available via TURI’s website (www.turi.org).

To apply for a Small Business Grant, go to www.turi.org/Grants

Demonstration of a paint gun cleaner in an auto body shop