



***Potential Changes to the Guidelines for the
2017 Community Mitigation Fund (“CMF”) from the 2016 Guidelines***

1. The Commission may place an overall limit of \$4 million on grants for the 2017 CMF subject to the ability of the Commission to determine funding limits above or below this amount. The Commission will reserve the ability to fund only portions of requested projects and to fund only a percentage of amounts requested. The Commission will also continue to reserve the ability to place conditions on any awards as additional contributions to the Community Mitigation Fund will not be made until Category 1 gaming facilities are operational.
2. The Commission may continue to allocate 20% of funding grants for transportation planning grants. With a new limit of \$4 million in 2017 CMF grants, this new limit would result in \$800,000 for transportation planning grants. The Commission may require that no more than \$150,000 per grant be authorized. [In the event the Commission chooses to allocate less than \$4 million in 2017, the Commission could potentially increase the percentage allowed for transportation.]
3. The Commission may place a per grant limit for the 2017 Specific Impact Awards of \$400,000.
4. The Commission may specify factors that it and staff will utilize in evaluating competitive grants. The following are factors that may be used when the Commission and staff evaluate competitive grants: (i) a demonstration that the impact is being caused by the proposed gaming facility; (ii) the significance of the impact to be remedied; (iii) the potential for the proposed mitigation measure to address the impact; (iv) the feasibility and reasonableness of the proposed mitigation measure; (v) that any programs to assist non-governmental entities is for a demonstrated public purpose and not for the benefit or maintenance of a private party; (vi) the significance of any matching funds; (vii) regional benefits from a mitigation award; (viii) funds from host or surrounding community agreements are not available to fund the proposed mitigation measure; and (ix) that such mitigation measure is not already required to be completed by the licensee pursuant to any regulating requirements or pursuant to any agreements between such licensee and applicant.
5. The Commission may state that the CMF will fund no application for more than two years for any municipal employee and the CMF will not pay the full cost of any municipal employee. The municipality would need to provide the remaining amount of any employee



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

cost and certify that all such expenses are casino related. For non-personnel costs, municipalities would still be required to demonstrate an in-kind match.

6. The Commission may not provide grants involving private parties without significant matching funding from either the community or the licensee. As in the 2016 program, private non-governmental parties would not be able to directly apply for Community Mitigation Funds. However, governmental entities may apply to the Commission for funds to mitigate impacts to private parties provided that such funding is for a “public purpose” and not the direct benefit or maintenance of the private party; the governmental entity provides a program that ensures that funding will be made only to remedy impacts; and provided that the governmental entity will be responsible for overseeing such funding and complying with all applicable state and municipal laws including but not limited to Art. 46, §2, as amended by Article 103 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. The Commission may require that host communities or licensees match dollar for dollar any and all grants involving private.
7. The Commission may not authorize fund requests related to utility outages, such as the mitigation of business interruptions from the CMF.
8. The Commission may make available no more than \$200,000 in technical assistance funding to assist in the determination of potential impacts that may be experienced by communities in proximity to the potential Tribal Gaming facility in Taunton. Said technical assistance funding may be made through Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (“SRPEDD”), the regional planning agency that services such communities. Such funding would only be made available, after approval of any application by SRPEDD or a comparable regional entity, if it is determined by the Commission that construction of such gaming facility will likely commence prior to or during Fiscal Year 2018. Any such application by SRPEDD or a comparable regional entity must demonstrate that any studies of impacts will address the technical assistance needs of the region which may include but not be limited to the communities that are geographically adjacent to Taunton. Such funding shall not be used to study impacts on or provide technical assistance to Taunton, as funding has been provided in the Intergovernmental Agreement By and Between the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the City of Taunton. Any such program of technical assistance may be provided by SRPEDD or a comparable regional entity or through a contract with SRPEDD or a comparable regional entity.
9. Commission may provide funding of \$200,000 for two pre-employment programs, one in Region A and Region B for work readiness Pilot initiatives. By the February 1st deadline, a governmental entity would need to indicate to the Commission the purposes of such assistance and how it would refine its program prior to initiation. Such refinement would include a demonstration of the entities and agencies that would be necessary to help with

pilots such as the licensee, communities, and other workforce development and educational agencies. Such refinement would need to occur prior to execution of a grant contract and release of any funds.

10. The Commission shall extend the previously authorized reserves for the 2017 Community Mitigation Fund program. Communities may continue to access whatever portion of the original \$100,000 that remains unexpended.
11. The Commission may state that the cost of the preparation of a grant application cannot be funded by the Community Mitigation Fund.