



LCMAC Region A

Date/Time: October 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Place: VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 6467415293
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 082 1851 **Passcode:** 018321

Present: Keith Slattery, Everett
Gail Hackett, Boston
John DePriest, Chelsea
Ron Hogan, Malden
Richard Caraviello, Medford
Brad Rawson, Somerville
Vincent Panzini, Chamber of Commerce
David Bancroft, Eco Dev. Organization
Joseph Delaney, MGC
Mary Thurlow, MGC

Mr. Delaney asked for a roll call to start the meeting. Mr. Delaney welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

Mr. Delaney then reviewed the FY 2025 Guidelines using the aid of PowerPoint to summarize the Guidelines. He went over key changes to the structure of the program, the Guidelines and the proposed grant formula. He noted that MGC was going to have two different programs – the Municipal Block Program and the Regional Agency Grant Program. He noted the change from a calendar year to a fiscal year and highlighted the new feature of administrative costs being able to be covered.

Five categories of grants from previous years are remaining: Community Planning, Transportation, Public Safety, Gambling Harm Reduction and Specific Impact. Only one application per community will be allowed. He covered minimum spending per category and noted that MGC would like to see the spending spread around to address as many impacts as possible.

Mr. Delaney then described the Regional Agency Grant Program. \$250,000 is available for each Regional Planning Agency that provides services for the casino's Host Communities, which include MAPC, PVPC and SRPEDD. Regional Public Safety Grants are available for the District Attorneys in Suffolk, Middlesex, Hampden, and Norfolk counties for up to \$100,000. Workforce Development grants have been increased to up to \$750,000. The Commission has not made a determination regarding the Hampden Sheriff's office.

Mr. Delaney noted that other regional agencies could apply for funds, but they would need to contact Commission staff to ensure that they are eligible for funding.

Mr. Delaney described how the Guidelines have provided additional guidance to communities and regional agencies by identifying a list of impacts that the Commission agrees are associated with casinos, a list of eligible projects under each category and identification of projects ineligible for funding.

Mr. Delaney explained how the change from a calendar year to a fiscal year should have no material impact on the program. It facilitates coordination of the municipalities calendar.

He then explained that administrative costs of 7.5% of the grant up to a maximum of \$50,000 would be allowed and that the formula for calculating the grant subsidy for Transportation Construction projects was modified resulting in a higher percentage of subsidy for smaller projects.

Next, he discussed the final Grant formula which includes several factors: a base grant amount; additional funds for designated host and surrounding communities; a percentage of the grant based on the proximity of the community to the casino, and a percentage of the grant based on traffic impacts.

He explained the use of Waivers for requesting funding or timeline changes. With that Mr. Delaney stopped the PowerPoint to hear comments:

Mr. Panzini asked whether the eligible vs. ineligible language was contained in the Guidelines. Mr. Delaney answered that each category will have a list of impacts, eligible projects and a list of ineligible projects.

Mr. Hogan: Melrose, Lynn, Saugus those three applied for SCA status and were not granted it so placeholder for this funding.

Mr. Delaney: We started to look at eligibility and decided to revisit that in future years. MGL 23K does not limit CMF to only those communities that were designated Host and Surrounding Communities. The Commission made that determination in 2015 when they were determining who would be eligible for reserves.

Mr. Hogan: asked if Wakefield made a strong case could they be eligible? Mr. Delaney answered that the reserves we gave to each community so the Commission was saying early that there were impacts caused by the casino.

If a community cannot identify projects to use the entire amount communities can apply for less. They would forfeit the rest.

Mr. Panzini asked at what point in time will this go into effect?

Mr. Delaney said that there is a public hearing next Thursday, and unless something drastic happens the Commission will take a vote for November 16th. Guidelines would then become final at that meeting and the final proposed grant amounts would be approved. Our goal is to have it out on the street by Thanksgiving.

Workshops will be held the first week of December. We will walk through a sample application with participants.

Mr. Rawson thanked staff for listening and continuing to think creatively. Helpful to have reduced barriers.

David Bancroft stated that waivers for transportation projects will be helpful. Mr. Bancroft asked if multi-year grants could be considered. Mr. Delaney explained that we thought about that but decided to postpone it until next year. For the first year of the revamped program, we did not want things to get too complicated. The waiver provides for those circumstances that may not be fully accounted for in the Guidelines.

Mr. Delaney explained that the public hearing is designed to get input from the people in the communities.

Mr. Panzini asked if everything gets approved, would there be a significantly less available next year. Mr. Delaney explained that the municipal grants will come from newly generated funds and that Regional Agency Grants and any waiver requests will use unspent money from previous years, so there should be no reduction in funding.

Mr. Panzini asked if the budget for this year will remain consistent for a few years. Mr. Delaney stated, "Yes". Mr. Delaney noted further that if we get full complement of applications, we could drop the surplus down around \$3M this year if all communities receive what was allocated.

There being no further comments,
Motion to Adjourn by John DePriest and seconded by David Bancroft.

Mary Thurlow called a roll call to close the meeting.

Mr. Delaney thanked members for attending.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice and agenda for October 17, 2023 Meeting
2. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines
3. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Formula
4. FY 2025 CMF Changes PowerPoint

/s/ Mary Thurlow
Secretary