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The Massachusetts Gaming Commission Awards \$10.2 Million in Grants from Community Mitigation Fund

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) recently approved the award of over \$10.2 million in Community Mitigation Fund grants to numerous municipalities and other eligible entities across Massachusetts.

Since 2015, the MGC has awarded approximately \$47.9 million in grants from the Community Mitigation Fund. The fund, established by the gaming law helps host and surrounding communities and other qualified applicants to offset costs related to casino construction and operation. Grant awards support a range of community needs including education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, environmental issues, public safety, and emergency services. This year the Commission approved two new categories to allow communities to seek funds for regionally significant projects and for community-based research projects.

“The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is proud to continue to support our local communities through the Community Mitigation Fund program as they seek to advance needs in road safety, public safety training and personnel, job readiness programming, and tourism marketing,” said [MGC Chair Cathy Judd-Stein](#).

“We congratulate the 2023 grant recipients and eagerly await the implementation of these innovative and tangible initiatives, which help strengthen Massachusetts communities and uphold the Commonwealth’s commitment to maximizing the benefits of the state’s gaming industries while mitigating any unintended impacts that may be associated.”

The Community Mitigation Fund review team conducted a comprehensive review of all applications to ensure compliance with the 2023 Guidelines and made recommendations to the Commission over the course of several public meetings throughout the spring of 2023. After deliberation on those recommendations, the Commission voted to award the following grants:

Community Planning

Applicant	Description	Award Amount
Region A		
Everett	Funding for a feasibility study to restore the seawall and Charlestown Pumping Station and the extension of the Mystic River Harborwalk.	\$199,100
Malden	Funding for a Transit Oriented Development Opportunities Study for the Malden Center MBTA Station.	\$100,000



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Region B		
Holyoke	Tourism funding to develop local resources and identity ways to offset regional investment lost to competition with Springfield.	\$200,000
Holyoke	Funding for the development of a Wayfinding program in multiple languages.	\$200,000
Category 2		
Foxborough (Plainville & Wrentham)	Continued and expanded implementation of the strategies outlined in the Regional Destination Marketing plan (Phase 1).	\$272,000

Gambling Harm Reduction

Applicant	Description	Award
Region B		
Springfield	Study to engage youth 18-24 in identifying problem gaming issues that need further investigation.	\$19,600

Public Safety

Applicant	Description	Award
Region A		
Boston Police	Training for Human Trafficking Unit, and Traffic Safety Patrols.	\$65,000
Everett Fire	Training for high rise and below grade firefighting, crowd management and lithium-ion battery fires.	\$45,000
Everett Police	Overtime funding for Encore area police patrols due to increased activity.	\$104,100
Everett Police	Outfitting Conex storage unit with video surveillance, interoperable radio system, Everett Police paint and graphics.	\$18,700
Malden Police	Speed Alert Radar Message Board.	\$17,900
Medford Police	Speed Alert Radar Message Signs, 2 Message Display Signs and associated equipment and software.	\$130,000
Revere Police	Lease of 8 FLOCK solar powered License Plate Recognition Cameras.	\$64,000
Region B		
Hampden Police	Funding of special 4-hour traffic enforcement shifts and purchase of two pole radar units and a handheld radar unit.	\$15,300
Longmeadow Police	Speed Alert radar message signs with data management system.	\$192,400



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Applicant	Description	Award
Ludlow Police	Trainings including Anti Bias/De-escalation.	\$31,800
Springfield Fire	Purchase of Defibrillator Units for the apparatus that responds to the Casino area.	\$19,800
Springfield Police	Funding for Overtime costs in the amount of \$50,000; sexual assault training \$12,000; interlocking steel barricades \$4,800; a Metro Division drone and training \$8,800.	\$135,200
Springfield	A problem gambling focused Community Health Worker; Research funding related to casino gambling and OUIs; Program consulting fees to Massachusetts Council on gaming; costs for associated program implementation and advertisement.	\$191,200
West Springfield Fire & Police	Additional funding for Police, Fire and EMS.	\$200,000
Wilbraham Fire and Police	Update of 10 Police vehicle radios, 5 fire vehicle radios and one police portable radio.	\$42,800
Category 2		
Foxborough Police	Police training costs \$42,400 and for issues related to hotel calls for service \$19,000.	\$61,400
Plainville Police	Force Science Certification to prepare law enforcement professionals.	\$123,750
Plainville Fire	Purchase of four Electric Vehicle Fire Blankets.	\$13,180
Wrentham Police	Purchase two Speed Alert 24 radar message signs.	\$44,900

Projects of Regional Significance

Applicant	Description	Award
Region B		
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)	Funding for the development of a Regional Business Ecosystem Network \$360,000; data collection and gap analysis of small-and micro-businesses; development of a regional equity working group; direct outreach efforts to BIPOC and in underserved communities, and administrative costs \$125,000.	\$485,600

Specific Impact

Applicant	Description	Award
Region A		
Boston	Funding for a development and communications manager and an engagement coordinator; funding to	\$283,000



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	cover programmatic expenses and program evaluation to provide culturally relevant programming for Pao Arts Center.	
Saugus	Funding for the selection and mobilization of a contractor to develop a tree planting plan and then funds to cover the cost of the tree planting and care.	\$100,000
Region B		
Hampden DA	Continued funding for DA personnel to handle casino-related prosecutions.	\$75,000
Hampden County Sheriff	Lease Assistance for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center.	\$400,000

Transportation Planning

Applicant	Description	Award
Region A		
Cambridge	Funding for a consultant to coordinate the planning and design of an off-road, multi-use path connection between the Grand Junction Path and the Community Path Extension in Somerville.	\$249,900
Everett	Funding for the design of a shared use path connecting the Northern Strand to Alford St. including data collecting and related design work.	\$248,000
Malden – Broadway	Awarded partial funding to advance design of the Broadway Corridor to 25% design stage.	\$250,000
Malden – Spot Pond	Awarded partial funding for the final design of the Spot Pond Brook Greenway connecting Malden’s Oak Grove Neighborhood with the Northern Strand Trail and Malden River.	\$250,000
Region B		
Hampden	Funding for the design of a sidewalk on Main Street.	\$203,100
Holyoke	Fund the initial design of Main Street Complete Streets Reconstruction Project for inclusion in the State’s TIP.	\$82,300
Springfield	Funding for the design of traffic control improvements for the Union Street and Maple Street Intersection.	\$250,000

Transportation Construction

Applicant	Description	Award
Region A		



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Everett	Funding for the construction of the Wellington Connector trail which connects the Northern Strand bike path to the Woods Memorial Bridge.	\$336,700
Everett	Supplemental funds for construction of the Northern Strand Bike Path extension.	\$335,260
Malden	Funding for two additional Blue Bike Stations.	\$113,000
Malden	Funding for the construction of a portion of the Malden River Works Park project and the Malden River Greenway which will allow public access to the Malden River.	\$542,400
Region B		
Springfield	Funding for the reconstruction of Dwight Street from Worthington to State Street.	\$966,700
Springfield	The Central Mixed-Use Parking Infrastructure Project seeks to solve for area parking deficiencies, improve traffic flow, and assist new economic development in the MGM Springfield and MassMutual area.	\$1,500,000

Workforce Development

Applicant	Description	Award
Region A		
MassHire	MBRHC is a regional project aimed at addressing the workforce needs of the hospitality sector. Partners will provide English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training, occupational skills training, job readiness training, digital literacy training, and career counseling.	\$500,000
Region B		
Holyoke Community College Region B	WorkReady 2023 is a collaborative effort of HCC, STCC, and SPS to provide ESOL Training, Job Readiness training, Occupational Skills Training, Digital Literacy Training, Career Counseling and Support Services.	\$350,000
Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)	See above.	\$185,000

Visit [MassGaming.com](https://www.massgaming.com) to learn more about the 2023 applications and guidelines.



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About MassGaming

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in November 2011. In creating that process, the Commission will strive to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, and that they provide the greatest possible economic development benefits and revenues to the people of the Commonwealth, reduce to the maximum extent possible the potentially negative or unintended consequences of the new legislation, and allow an appropriate return on investment for gaming providers that assures the operation of casino-resorts of the highest quality. For more information on MGC, please visit MassGaming.com or connect and share on Twitter (@MassGamingComm) or Facebook www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm.

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