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Massachusetts Gaming Commission Awards \$22.8 Million in Grants from Community Mitigation Fund
Annual Grants Support Essential Projects in Communities That Host or Surround Massachusetts Casinos

Following approval during a series of public meetings, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) announced that nearly \$22.8 million in Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) grants have been awarded to various municipalities and other eligible entities across Massachusetts.

Since its inception in 2015, the MGC has awarded approximately \$79.5 million in grants from the CMF. Established by the gaming law, this fund assists host and surrounding communities, along with other qualified applicants, in offsetting costs related to casino construction and operation. Grant awards support a broad spectrum of community needs including education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, environmental issues, public safety, emergency services and gambling harm reduction.

“The Massachusetts Gaming Commission is committed to maximizing the value and minimizing the harms of legal gambling, and this includes the impacts on the host and surrounding communities,” said MGC Chair Jordan Maynard. “On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, we are proud to support projects across the Commonwealth that seek to improve public safety, assist with community planning, reduce gaming harms, enhance workforce development initiatives, and mitigate traffic and road safety issues. We have seen firsthand the impact of the Community Mitigation Fund and look forward to the completion of each project.”

The CMF review team conducted a thorough evaluation of all applications to ensure compliance with the FY2026 CMF Guidelines, making recommendations to the Commission during several public meetings throughout the spring of 2025. Following deliberation on those recommendations, the Commission voted to award the following grants:



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Region A - Municipal and Regional Grants

MUNICIPAL GRANTS	
Everett	Award: \$2,453,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Rise Fire Training - This project funds high-rise emergency response training for personnel, with backfill and overtime support, to ensure readiness for complex incidents. • LAN Tel Video and Police Radios - This project funds additional video cameras along the Riverwalk and dock behind the casino, and 10 dual-band radios for coordination with the Gaming Enforcement Unit. • Land & Water Police Patrols - This project funds additional overtime for land-based public safety near the casino during peak times and for maritime operations between Memorial Day and Labor Day. • Fireboat Training - This project provides Fire Boat Operator training, covering boat readiness, personal survival, in-water skills, maritime fire suppression, and a full-scale exercise. • Analysis/Design of Mobility Networks and Infrastructure - This project supplements a \$1.5 million MassWorks grant to assess infrastructure, including roads and sidewalks, and to design and permit upgrades for current and future development. • Everett Square Sidewalk and Street Reconfiguration - This project provides additional funding to reconfigure Everett Square's roads and sidewalks, enhance pedestrian and signal infrastructure for better transit service, and improve green and open space. • Lower Broadway Bus Priority RAISE Grant Support - This project funds data collection and property research to identify Right-of-Way needs for Everett's \$22 million RAISE Grant project to build transit priority lanes on Lower Broadway. • Reuniting Neighborhoods and Communities - This project provides matching funds for a \$1.5million federal grant to develop concept designs for transit and roadway improvements around Sweetser Circle, reconnecting Everett's upper and lower Broadway neighborhoods. 	
Boston	Award: \$2,607,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Training and Strategy - This project supports Boston Police Department's public safety strategy for casino-related impacts, funding personnel, overtime for specialized units, training, surveillance equipment, and administration costs. • Bikeshare Expansion in Charlestown - This project is for the purchase and installation of four additional bikeshare stations in Charlestown to improve alternative transportation modes to the casino. • Boston Harborwalk Extension Construction - This project is for the construction of a missing section of the Boston Harborwalk which will help improve bicycle and pedestrian access in Charlestown and to the Encore casino. • Cambridge Street Bridge Design - This project is for the design of improvements to the Cambridge Street bridge in Sullivan Square, which carries a significant amount of traffic to/from Encore Boston Harbor. 	
Cambridge	Award: \$704,800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Events Support for Commercial Districts - This project supports existing and new cultural events in Cambridge's commercial districts, including Taste of Cambridge and East Cambridge Rib Fest, with marketing efforts to boost visitor attendance in 2025–2026. • Training Program for Safe Biking to the Casino - This project establishes a training program to teach adults safe cycling skills, with a focus on riding urban streets between Cambridge and the Everett casino. 	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge Public Health & Arts Proposal - This project develops a gambling harm reduction program using videos, social media, print materials, and artist-led workshops to share real stories and support those affected by addiction. • De-Escalation Training - This project provides de-escalation training to officers to reduce violence, enhance safety, build community trust, and limit the use of excessive force. • Electric Vehicle Fire Blankets - This project funds 12 electric vehicle fire blankets to equip all front-line ladder trucks and engine companies for safely extinguishing EV fires. • Tactical Training - This project funds additional training for Cambridge Fire Tactical Medics, who support the Police Tactical Response Team during incidents in Cambridge and across Metro Boston. • Traffic Enforcement - This project funds high-visibility traffic education and enforcement during peak hours near the Encore Casino. • Traffic Safety Improvements (Bike Lanes) - This project funds traffic safety upgrades on Prospect Street, including separated bike lanes near the Broadway and Cambridge Street intersections. 	
Chelsea	Award: \$1,027,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunker Hill Enterprise Center for Entrepreneurship and Training (ECET) - This project provides training for local entrepreneurs and small business owners, focusing on hospitality skills, talent recruitment, career readiness, business planning, and innovation to boost local economic participation. • Discover Chelsea Campaign - This project continues the Discover Chelsea Tourism Campaign, using strategic ads, pop-up events, and professional marketing to attract visitors and boost community pride. • Traffic Patrols and Equipment - This project funds weekend and holiday traffic enforcement on main casino routes and provides equipment including a signboard, traffic barriers, and license plate readers. • Fire Department Personnel - This project funds two firefighter positions for two years to support the city's plan to add a new fire company, matching the planned hiring of four additional firefighters. 	
Lynn	Award: \$200,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding Signage - This project funds design and bid-ready specs for wayfinding signs to help visitors navigate downtown Lynn. • Citation Printers - This project funds six citation printers for Lynn Police cruisers. • City Cameras - This project funds the purchase of 15 strategically placed cameras in the city. • Drone Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) - This project is for the purchase of 2 Drones/UAVs as well as pilot training, tech support and insurance. 	
Malden	Award: \$882,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan - This project develops a new Comprehensive Plan to guide Malden's future growth and vision. • Gaming & Gourmet Tourism Initiative - This project launches a tourism initiative to promote Malden's food scene and gaming hub alongside the casino. • Snowplow for Bike Path - This project is for the purchase of a snowplow for the Northern Strand Bike Trail to address issues of safety and access to the path during the winter. • Traffic Enforcement Equipment & Training - This project funds extra traffic patrols during casino peak times, ARIDE training for impairment detection, and the purchase of traffic control equipment. • Safety Improvements on Main Street - This project funds safety and congestion improvements on Main Street between Cross, Madison, and Centre Streets. 	
Medford	Award: \$1,046,800



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Gambling Strategic Plan and Design of Prevention and Intervention Strategies - This project develops a data-driven strategic plan to address problem gambling, engaging community partners to identify priorities and select evidence-based strategies. • Emergency Vehicle Operator Course - This project funds Emergency Vehicle Operator training focused on defensive driving during routine patrols and emergency responses. • Tactical Communication and Leadership Training - This project provides Tactical Communication and Leadership training to improve de-escalation skills and reduce the need for force while maintaining control. • Chevalier Theatre Repainting of Interior Building - This project is for the interior painting of the Chevalier Theater. • Salem Street Pedestrian Safety & Sidewalk Improvements (Construction Phase 1) - This project funds construction of pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements identified in the FY25 Salem Street Study. • Salem Street Pedestrian Safety & Sidewalk Improvements (Design) - This project funds the final design for pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements on Salem Street, continuing work from a prior FY25 CMF Grant. 	
Melrose	Award: \$166,800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-Up Shopping Experience - This project funds a downtown holiday pop-up market, giving small businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs without storefronts a chance to showcase their products in a rotating mobile retail space. • Identifying At-Risk Populations - This project advances the Gambling Prevention and Education Program by expanding outreach, refining interventions, and promoting responsible behaviors to reduce gambling-related harm. • Equipment - This project funds trauma kits for police vehicles and 10 radios to enhance department communication. • Senior Activities - This project funds non-gambling programming and transportation for older adults, expanding access to activities, trips, and local entertainment through the Senior Center. 	
Revere	Award: \$862,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadway Zoning Analysis - This project funds a zoning analysis of Broadway to support smart growth through collaborative planning over by-right development. • Squire Road Master Plan - This project funds a Master Plan for Squire Road to define a community-driven vision and guide short- and long-term improvements to the corridor. • Wayfinding for Broadway - This project funds the purchase and installation of branded wayfinding, directional, and parking signs in the Broadway District. • City of Revere Gambling Harm Reduction Outreach Program - This project continues the work of Harm Reduction Specialists to support at-risk individuals and strengthen gambling harm reduction efforts. • Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) - This project funds AEDs for all Revere Fire Department vehicles to enable rapid response to cardiac emergencies. • Revere Beach Connector 25% Design - This project provides funding to advance the Revere Beach Connector design from 15% to 25% completion. • The Revere Bypass Traffic Study - This project funds a transportation analysis of casino-related traffic impacts on Copeland Circle and Route 60, including how navigation apps reroute drivers to Encore. 	



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Somerville	Award: \$1,110,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somerville Small Business Commercial District Ad Campaign - This project funds a bus ad campaign (“It Takes All Shapes to Make a Square”) to promote East Somerville small businesses along routes connecting to Everett and the casino. • Traffic Enforcement Patrols - This project funds directed patrols Thursdays to Saturdays, 4 PM–12 AM, on major roads impacted by Encore Boston Harbor traffic: Broadway, McGrath Highway, and Washington Street. • Union Square Plaza and Streetscape Design - This project designs Phase I improvements to Union Square Plaza, including safer pedestrian crossings, better bus travel, and accessible bike routes to the Green Line station. 	

Category 2 – Municipal Grants

MUNICIPAL GRANTS	
Attleboro	Award: \$49,900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed Radar Traffic Trailers – This project funds the purchase of two Speed Radar Trailers to help control speeds on Routes 1 and 1A. 	
Foxborough	Award: \$497,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Destination Marketing Initiative - This project continues the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville, and Wrentham to boost tourism ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup through digital marketing, influencer campaigns, and partnerships with major attractions. 	
Mansfield	Award: \$147,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Call Reduction - This project funds continued supplemental police patrols at local hotels, using a collaborative approach with hotel management to reduce repeat calls for service and deter illegal activity. • Officer Training - This project funds police training in de-escalation, implicit bias, use of force, and crimes like human trafficking and cybercrime, supporting the Hotel Call Reduction initiative. • Automatic External Defibrillators - This project proposes to purchase AEDs to equip each cruiser/specialty vehicle with an AED for quick response in medical emergencies. 	
North Attleboro	Award: \$1,572,350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Traffic Mitigation - This project funds Flock license plate cameras, radar speed signs, and police training in use of force, de-escalation, and implicit bias. • Route 152/Route 106 Intersection in North Attleboro and Plainville - This joint project with Plainville improves Route 152, including widening and signal upgrades at the Route 152/106 intersection, pedestrian enhancements, and resurfacing. 	
Plainville	Award: \$131,900
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Destination Marketing Initiative - This project continues the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville, and Wrentham to boost tourism ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. 	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR/ALERRT) Training and Equipment - This project is for training for police, fire, and EMS responding to an active threat, and procurement of protective gear. • Distracted and Impaired Driving Safety Education Initiative - This project uses workshops, simulators, and a public awareness campaign to educate adolescents and adults on the dangers of impaired, drowsy, and distracted driving. • License Plate Reader - This project funds the installation of eight solar-powered license plate reader (LPR) cameras at key entry and exit points in Plainville. 	
Wrentham	Award: \$78,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Destination Marketing Initiative - This project continues the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville, and Wrentham, led by Foxborough, to boost tourism and economic activity ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. • Wrentham Police - This project funds two mobile license plate readers, two mini message boards, and targeted police traffic enforcement on main routes to the casino. 	

Region B - Municipal and Regional Grants

MUNICIPAL GRANTS	
Agawam	Award: \$321,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial Truck Response Training – This project funds four weeks of specialized aerial ladder training to prepare Agawam firefighters for high-rise emergencies at the casino and nearby infrastructure. • Elevator Rescue Operations Training – This project funds multiple four-hour sessions on technical training in elevator rescue operations to improve emergency response and safety. • Fire Department EMS First Response Vehicle – This project partially funds a new EMS response vehicle with advanced life support capabilities to expand resources for high-priority incidents, including traffic, medical, and casino-related emergencies. • Flock Cameras – This project leases six Flock cameras to monitor traffic on routes to and from the MGM casino to help analyze traffic patterns and identify suspects. • Advanced Vehicle Extrication Equipment – This project funds the advanced battery-powered extrication tool to improve mobility, response times, and safety during rescues. • Suffield-Cooper-Rowley Intersection – This project funds the reconstruction of the Suffield-Cooper-Rowley intersection. 	
Chicopee	Award: \$341,100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating Adverse MGM-Related Public Safety Events – This project funds surveillance cameras, license plate readers, and infrastructure upgrades to support investigations, improve traffic safety, and reduce impaired driving. • Chicopee Center Streetscapes Phase 2 – This project funds the continuation of work to advance the improvements to the Center St. – I-391 – Hampden St. – West St. – Abbey St. – South St. interchange to the 75% design level. • ValleyBike Bikeshare - Continued operation of the ValleyBike bikeshare to reduce traffic congestion, ease public transit strain, and improve access for casino employees and local businesses. 	
East Longmeadow	Award: \$347,200



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual Design of Center Town District - This project funds conceptual planning for Center Town District to boost economic development, expand local housing options, and create a walkable, mixed-use community with safer roads and new public spaces. • Ambulance Equipment Improvement - This project funds hydraulic rescue tools to improve the Fire Department's ability to perform rapid extrications during serious vehicle crashes. • Lifepak35 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator - This project funds two Lifepak35 cardiac monitor/defibrillators for advanced life support ambulances to improve patient outcomes during cardiac and serious medical emergencies. • Lighted Mobile Sign Trailer - This project funds a lighted mobile sign trailer to inform the public about traffic disruptions, construction activity, and detour routes. • Radar Units - This project funds new radar units for patrol vehicles and one portable handheld radar unit. • Traffic Cameras - This project funds three traffic cameras at key East Longmeadow intersections to monitor congestion and assist in investigating crashes and crimes. • Rotary Redesign Feasibility Study - This project funds a feasibility study to redesign the East Longmeadow Rotary to reduce congestion, improve safety, and enhance pedestrian and bicycle access. 	
Hampden	Award: \$75,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampden Outdoor Marketing Plan - This project develops a branding and marketing plan to promote Hampden's outdoor spaces, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses. 	
Holyoke	Award: \$294,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExploreHolyoke.com - This project funds ongoing maintenance of exploreholyoke.com, including a marketing video archive, updates, and a social media plan to promote local businesses and events. • MGM Promotions - This project is to help strengthen promotion of Holyoke at the MGM casino, including printing costs of materials, video production, and other marketing materials. • MGM Shuttle - This project funds increased the shuttle service between MGM Casino and Holyoke during special events to enhance collaboration and improve access for locals and visitors. • Public Art - This project expands Holyoke's public art scene by supporting local artist education, mural creation, and guidance on large-scale public art projects. • Puerto Rican Cultural District - This project is to help support staff and programming for the recently designated Puerto Rican Cultural District. • Race/Main Street Placemaking - This project supports activating and maintaining a vacant lot in a high-tourism area as a hub for artist info, mural tours, and the Puerto Rican Cultural District. • Harm Reduction (Action Plan) - This project creates an action plan to address gambling addiction and related concerns, based on harm reduction survey results. • Traffic Software Fees - This project funds traffic signs and software to manage radar speed and message signs for traffic and speeding mitigation. • Bike Share Program - This project supports continued participation in the ValleyBike bikeshare network, covering administrative fees, bike education, events, and community rides. 	
Longmeadow	Award: \$292,800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Rescue Capabilities - This project funds new rescue and EMS equipment to enhance Longmeadow Fire Department's response capabilities and coordination with mutual aid along the I-91 corridor. • Traffic Camera Project - This project funds traffic cameras on main roads linking Longmeadow to Springfield to monitor traffic flow and enhance safety. 	



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Equipment and Training - This project funds public safety equipment and training, including three electronic message boards, a Lidar unit for traffic patrols, and active shooter training. 	
Northampton	Award: \$75,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northampton Digital Marketing Campaign - This project expands Northampton's digital marketing to attract more visitors and boost the local economy, building on <i>Northampton.Live</i> with modern tools and strategic outreach. 	
Springfield	Award: \$2,783,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and Regional Traffic Study (w/PVPC) - This project funds a regional traffic study on MGM Springfield's impacts, conducted in partnership with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. • Springfield Regional Visitors/Events Center - This project funds an adaptive reuse study of the Old First Church to develop a regional visitor and events center with space for exhibits, performances, and tourism agencies. • Gambling Awareness Research Initiative (GARI) - This project advances the Gambling Awareness Research Initiative by translating research findings into actionable insights for policies, programs, and services. • Regional Attraction Improvements: Symphony Hall - This project funds capital improvements to Symphony Hall, including plaster and curtain restoration and upgrades to audio-visual systems. • Springfield Downtown Public Realm II (Construction) - This project funds Phase II streetscape improvements in the Main Street and Convention District near MGM, including State/Main, Willow, and Union Streets. • Central Mixed Use Parking Infrastructure Project - This project is for additional funds to support construction costs for Springfield's Central Mixed-Use Parking Infrastructure Project. 	
West Springfield	Award: \$518,300
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding (Downtown West Springfield) - This project is for the purchase and installation of community signage in accordance with a Wayfinding study completed by the town in 2024. • Fire Training/Overtime - This project is for a one-day specialized Standpipe Operations training course for 25 Firefighters and Lieutenants. • Police, Fire/EMS, and Dispatch Support - This project funds continued staffing for 8 firefighters, 8 police officers, and 3 dispatchers hired to support public safety needs related to the MGM Springfield casino. • Prisoner Transport Vehicle - This project is for partial funding for the purchase of a prisoner transport van for the police department. • Traffic Enforcement - This project is for dedicated police patrols for traffic enforcement, two new Lidar Units for use in traffic enforcement and one Traffic Trailer Message/Sign board. • Bike Share Program Expansion - This project is for the partial funding of the purchase and installation of 2 bike share stations. 	
Wilbraham	Award: \$517,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield St-Stony Hill Rd Intersection - This project is for the reconstruction of the Springfield Street/Stony Hill Road intersection with signal upgrades, realignment, widening, and new sidewalks. 	



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Regional Agency Grants

REGIONAL AGENCY GRANTS	
Hampden County District Attorney Office	Award: \$75,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Assistance - This project is to partially fund staff who manage, process, and support casino-related cases, including administrative duties and victim outreach, easing the added workload on the District Attorney's Office. 	
Hampden County Sheriff's Department	Award: \$400,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDH Regional Public Safety FY2026 - This project is to offset lease costs for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center. 	
Holyoke Community College	Award: \$448,750
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holyoke Community College – WorkReady25 - This project funds the continuation of the WorkReady program by HCC, STCC, and Springfield Public Schools, offering high school equivalency, ESOL, job training, and digital literacy. It includes line cook and hospitality cohorts with MGM Springfield engagement, support for low-income adults seeking casino-related careers, and workforce readiness with bilingual and hospitality-focused instruction. 	
MA Attorney General	Award: \$280,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Sexual Assault - extend a full-time Assistant Attorney General focused on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; fund a part-time Victim Witness Advocate; support State Police overtime; and cover costs for a related conference. 	
MassDOT	Award: \$460,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBTA Assembly Station Headhouse Design - This project funds the design of the Assembly Station Headhouse Expansion to provide direct access to Draw 7 Park and the future Mystic River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge. 	
MassHire Metro North Workforce Board	Award: \$750,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium - This project funds MassHire Metro North to continue the Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium, delivering ESOL, job readiness, digital literacy, and hospitality training to at least 1,700 residents through nine partner organizations. 	
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Award: \$300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chelsea Everett Greenway Connector Preliminary Design - This project funds preliminary design for a shared-use path connecting the Chelsea Greenway to Encore Casino and the Northern Strand Trail, promoting safe, traffic-free access for employees and patrons. 	
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)	Award: \$200,000 with an additional \$120,000 from Springfield – total \$320,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Study Evaluation MGM – Springfield and Surrounding Communities - PVPC was awarded \$200,000 with an additional \$120,000 transferred from Springfield for this project, which will collect and analyze updated traffic data to assess the impacts of MGM Springfield on surrounding communities and identify potential solutions. 	



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Southern Regional Planning & Economic Development (SRPEDD)	Award: \$235,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plainridge Park Regional Mobility Network Analysis - This project conducts a mobility and transportation analysis to better understand travel patterns to Plainridge Park Casino and their local impact on nearby communities. 	
Springfield Technical Community College	Award: \$358,850
<p>Springfield Technical Community College was awarded \$358,870 for Regional Workforce Development grant as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield Technical Community College – WorkReady25 - This project is a Work Ready Program offering ABE, Spanish HiSET/GED, Digital Literacy, and ESL courses for 100–150 participants. 	
Suffolk County District Attorney Office (SCDAO)	Award: \$100,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Regional Public Safety Through Targeted Prosecution - This project funds a Safe Neighborhoods Initiative prosecutor in Chelsea District Court to prioritize cases involving drugs, violence, and firearms issues linked to casino-related impacts. 	



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