



FY 2025 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2025 grant round.
- II. Each Agency may only submit ONE application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. The application must be signed by the agency’s CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- VI. The Regional Agency Grant is broken into three segments. Please only fill out the section relevant to your application.
 - a. Part A – Regional Planning
 - b. Part B – Regional Public Safety
 - c. Part C – Regional Workforce Development
- VII. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID- BD24-1068-1068C-1068L-95061.

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2025 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
Vendor Code: MMARS Alpha Department Code: AGO
Name: Nathan Gardner
Title: Director of Grants Management
Email Address: Nathan.Gardner@mass.gov
Telephone: (617) 963-2150
Address: One Ashburton Place, 20 th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

Budget Summary

Use the below space to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting “add row”). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item. Please use the appropriate category below for your agency.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning			
B. Regional Public Safety	Addressing Casino-Linked Domestic Violence in Massachusetts	The Gaming Enforcement Division at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office will add resources to address gaming-related domestic violence and sexual assault cases while building capacity to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes.	\$249,083.78
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			\$249,083.78

- I. Are you requesting a waiver for any program requirement?
 Yes
 No

- II. If yes, you must fill out a CMF Regional Agency Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix F to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

For full guidelines please see www.massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/application-guidelines/

Applicant Certification

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.



Signature:

1/31/2024

Date:

Nathan Gardner
Director of Grants Management
Name and Title of Signatory:

Part A-Regional Planning

Project Name:			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact		Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Title:		Title:	
Department:		Department:	
Email Address:		Email Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
Address:		Address:	
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>			
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed MGC Grant Budget</p> <p>Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.</p>			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
	TOTAL:		

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Part B-Regional Public Safety

Project Name: Addressing Casino-Linked Domestic Violence in Massachusetts	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
Project Contact	Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>
Name: Nathan Gardner	Name: Kathleen Celio
Title: Director of Grants Management	Title: Chief, Gaming Enforcement Division
Department: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office	Department: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
Email Address: Nathan.Gardner@mass.gov	Email Address: Kathleen.Celio2@mass.gov
Telephone: (617) 963-2150	Telephone: (617) 963-2499
Address: One Ashburton Place, 20 th Floor, Boston, MA 02108	Address: One Ashburton Place, 19 th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., casino related crime statistics, other relevant data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>The Gaming Enforcement Division (GED) of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) investigates and prosecutes criminal conduct related to expanded gaming in the Commonwealth and criminal conduct related to the gaming facilities, such as financial crime, organized crime, corruption, and money laundering, investigates. GED also monitors the fairness and integrity of the gaming industry, aids the Massachusetts Gaming Commission in consideration and promulgation of rules and regulations, and participates in generating a list of persons to be excluded from licensed gaming facilities. One of GED's primary responsibilities is to respond to cases resulting from activity at Encore Boston Harbor and MGM Springfield. Since 2021, an average of 22% of GED cases related to Encore Boston Harbor heard in Malden District Court involve charges relating to domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA). During the same period, 14% of GED cases related to MGM Springfield heard in Springfield District court also involve charges relating to DV and SA.</p> <p>The significant proportion of GED's caseload devoted to DV and SA cases in these two courts demonstrates a clear increase in criminal cases due to the establishment and operation of Massachusetts casinos. GED investigates and prosecutes criminal conduct related to expanding gaming thereby establishing a causal linkage between the presence of casinos and these crimes.</p> <p>Additionally, the AGO's law enforcement partners have indicated that human trafficking (HT) occurs in Massachusetts casinos although quantitative data on its prevalence is scarce. Resources devoted to SA investigations, which may relate to HT criminal activity at casinos, will allow the AGO to explore, and potentially begin to measure, the prevalence of HT at casinos.</p>	

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II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

With a Regional Public Safety Grant, GED intends to hire a full-time Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who will specialize in DV/SA investigations and prosecutions stemming from the establishment and operation of casinos. GED's current staff does not currently maintain specializations in DV or SA. Given the unique needs of survivors of DV and SA crimes, an AAG with prior DV/SA litigation experience or with the charge to specialize in both will add necessary capacity and improve outcomes in these cases. With the grant-funded AAG undertaking DV/SA cases, GED will also be able to increase its workload of gambling offenses and other serious crimes relating to gaming facilities.

The grant-funded AAG's DV and SA specializations will also allow them to investigate and develop HT cases as workflow allows. Cases will be investigated and prosecuted with assistance from the AGO's Human Trafficking Division (HTD). The AGO maintains a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that responds to human trafficking through law enforcement efforts, policy development, and community partnerships. HTD's expertise and MDT model are critical to successfully investigate and prosecute these complex crimes and is vital to appropriately assisting survivors who may have experienced significant trauma.

Data on HT crimes, both broadly and specific to the impacts of gaming establishments, are not well measured. However, the AGO's law enforcement partners see evidence indicating HT crimes occur due to the presence of casinos. This is in addition to general recognition from the casino industry that hospitality-related businesses can attract human traffickers. It is necessary to begin an investigation and initial measurement process in order to determine the extent of the problem. The AAG's grant-funded work and data collected from these efforts is expected to inform future requests for Regional Public Safety Grants and better support the Commonwealth's efforts to determine the scope of casino-related HT crimes.

With assistance from HTD, the grant-funded AAG will undertake initial efforts to review the scope of HT crimes potentially occurring at Encore Boston Harbor, Plainridge Park Casino, and MGM Springfield. The grant-funded AAG will receive training and oversight from HTD when working on HT cases in order to effectively pursue justice for survivors. Upon notification of a grant award, GED will begin a hiring process that prioritizes onboarding the AAG at the beginning of FY25.

The grant will also use subcontracts to directly support personnel and increase GED's capacity to address DV, SA, and HT crimes. GED will use grant funds to obtain translation services for interviews, evidence review, and communication with both survivors and witnesses. Language barriers are costly impediments to casework which can only be overcome with professional translations services. Additionally, the AGO's focus on equitable outcomes for survivors necessitates effective engagement with communities speaking languages other than English. GED will review procurement of translations services upon receipt of a grant award and will subcontract for services in FY25 as early as possible.

Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Troopers are critical components of AGO criminal investigations. Casino-focused investigations often require Troopers to work beyond normal hours (Monday – Friday, 0830-1700) and require additional resources to appropriately staff. Complex cases requiring wiretaps are not possible without significant overtime allocations and outcomes are jeopardized when overtime budgets are not available. Grant-funded overtime will be approved by GED and the AGO's State Police Detective Unit for DV/SA/HT cases pursued under this grant. Upon receipt of a grant award, GED would

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develop and negotiate a payments agreement with MSP for overtime incurred under the grant in FY25.

GED will use grant funds to send five staff to the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) in Dallas, TX. The annual conference is expected to be held in May 2025. CCAW is a critical skill-building opportunity for GED staff, including the grant-funded AAG, to develop expertise in DV, SA, and HT. Given increased caseloads and the finite term of the grant, the grant-funded AAG will not be able to handle all DV, SA, and HT in perpetuity. Training additional GED staff in DV, SA, and HT is critical to ensure they are equipped to handle the unique nature of these cases in the long term while establishing sustainability for the DV/SA/HT capacity-building goal of GED’s grant program. The staff being trained are directly tied to increased caseloads associated with casinos.

The AGO contributes significant financial and administrative resources to ensure the success of its grant-funded programming. A modest administrative rate of 7.5% is charged to support expenses related to grant management, compliance, internal program evaluation, and data collection (either required for reporting or potential opportunities to review HT issues in casinos). Administrative expenses would be incurred against direct costs in FY25 only.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
AAG – Salary Direct Cost AAG position necessary to investigate and prosecute DV, SA, and HT cases.	Full FY25 term	1	\$102,176.00
AAG – Fringe Direct Cost Projected FY25 rate @ 46.50%. Massachusetts employee fringe rate charged on Salary expenses.	Full FY25 term	1	\$47,511.84
Subcontract – Translation Direct Cost Translation services needed for recorded interviews, evidence review, and communication with survivors/witnesses. Total contract amount based on prior needs for similar investigations in an FY. Rates may vary by service type requested. Line item directly supports personnel.	Full FY25 term	1	\$20,000.00
Subcontract – MSP Overtime Direct Cost Overtime for AGO-approved MSP investigations occurring beyond normal hours	Full FY25 term	710	

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<p>(Monday – Friday, 0830-1700). Average Trooper overtime hourly rates vary significantly by individual. The average rate of \$70.80/hour for Troopers working on AGO fentanyl investigations is used. An estimated 706 hours of Trooper overtime will be funded. Line item directly supports AGO personnel and will fund MSP personnel via subcontract or memorandum of understanding.</p> <p>\$70.80/hour x 710 hours = \$50,268.00.</p>			
<p>DV/SA/HT Training/Conference – Registration Fee Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG will attend CCAW in Dallas, TX to build necessary capacity in DV/SA/HT and support the grant program. Line item is for the conference registration fee and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Conference registration: \$750.00/person x 5 staff = \$3,750.00.</p>	<p>Expected May 2025</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>\$3,750.00</p>
<p>DV/SA/HT Training Conference – Airfare Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG will attend CCAW in Dallas, TX to build necessary capacity in DV/SA/HT and support the grant program. Line item is for airfare and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Conference airfare for return flight Boston-Dallas: \$800/person x 5 staff = \$4,000.00.</p>	<p>Expected May 2025</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>\$4,000.00</p>
<p>DV/SA/HT Training Conference – Lodging Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG will attend CCAW in Dallas, TX to build necessary capacity in DV/SA/HT and support the grant program. Line item is for lodging and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Conference lodging: \$200/night x 4 nights x 5 staff = \$4,000.00.</p>	<p>Expected May 2025</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>\$4,000.00</p>

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Administration Indirect Cost	Full FY25 term	1	\$17,377.94
7.5% of direct costs. \$231,705.84 (direct cost base) x 7.5% administrative rate = \$17,377.94			
Administrative funds will support expenses related to grant management, compliance, financial/payroll, and data collection responsibilities under the grant.			
		TOTAL: 729	\$249,083.78

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Part C- Workforce Development

Project Name:			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact		Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Title:		Title:	
Department:		Department:	
Email Address:		Email Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
Address:		Address:	
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. Please demonstrate the significance of the workforce need faced by the region, related to the operation of a gaming establishment. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.).</p>			
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion. Please describe the deliverables, including the number of individuals to be served, number of hours, projected outcomes, location of program, cities and towns served.</p>			
<p>Proposed MGC Grant Budget</p>			
<p>Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.</p>			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
	TOTAL:		

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