

MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION**Welcome to the FY 2028 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines!**

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Introduction

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission” or “MGC”) created a grant program that provides municipalities, government, and regional entities with certainty about the availability of mitigation funds and helps them fund actionable, mitigation-based projects tailored to their communities. The MGC has adopted a structure that closely resembles Federal Block Grants. For the purposes of the Community Mitigation Fund (CMF), this block grant provides a fixed sum awarded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to aid municipalities and other entities impacted by the casino in funding broad-purpose projects. This block grant can be used for a variety of purposes through well-developed projects, with the distribution of funds overseen and allocated by the MGC.

Recent Updates

- The Massachusetts State Legislature has approved a 4% distribution from the Gaming Control Fund, which will raise the amount available from \$5M for Fiscal Year 2027 to ~\$10M for Fiscal Year 2028,
- New procurement structure (details continued),
- New application process that utilizes an “Intent to Request” form (details continued), and
- New supporting documents or applicant guidance: Allocation Breakdown, Intent to Request Sample, Project Checklist + Key Dates.

Program Structure

Regulating Authority: M.G.L. c. 23K, Section 61, enacted as part of the Expanded Gaming Act, created the CMF to “assist the host community and surrounding communities in offsetting costs related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment including, but not limited to, communities and water and sewer districts in the vicinity of a gaming establishment, local and regional education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, environmental issues and public safety, including the office of the county district attorney, police, fire and emergency services”.

This grant program will follow a traditional block-grant process, in which eligible communities are entitled to a specified allocation and must request their allocation annually. The “Intent to Request” form will now be used as an official request for such mitigation funds. Applicant will work with the Community Mitigation Fund staff in the development of a project that would be presented for Commission approval. The Commission also may “distribute funds to a governmental entity or district other than a single municipality” for a project that affects more than one municipality, but both parties must submit a written request to the Commission that specifies how the applicant entities will allocate/use the total amount requested and which community/entity is the fiscal agent for the grant. This supports regional approaches to mitigation needs and recognizes that some mitigations require the commitment of more than one community. After Commission approval, projects would be awarded the grant in that fiscal year and would be subject to quarterly reporting throughout the year. If a municipality or entity does not submit an “Intent to Request” by the deadline of January 31, 2027, that municipality or entity will forfeit its allocation for the year.

The Commission reserves the right to fund only portions of requested projects and only a portion of the requested amounts. The Commission also reserves the ability to place conditions on any award. As a result of limited funding available, the Commission reserves the right to determine which requests to fund based on its assessment of a broad range of factors, including the extent of public benefit each grant is likely to produce. The duration of any awarded grant will be 24 months. Grantees can make a one-time request for a 12-month extension of the grant period with a special request to the Commission. The determination to grant such a request is subject to the Commission’s discretion. Any unexpended funds past this period and/or consistent negligent reporting will lead to rescission of that year’s funds.

Process:

1. Submit an Intent to Request form by January 31, 2027
2. CMF staff will contact each Applicant and meet regularly to discuss the proposed project
3. Applicant will develop their project by establishing a scope, timeline, and other supporting documents
4. The Commission will vote on all projects and determine approvals by June 30, 2027
5. Once approved, grant documents and contracts will be executed between the MGC and community

Eligibility

The Community Mitigation Fund Block Grant Program is intended to mitigate casino impacts on local communities. These impacts may be either negative or positive and must be related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment.

Any municipality or entity seeking funding for mitigation is required to ensure that any planned use of funding complies with all applicable laws and regulations as well as provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution. This includes, but is not limited to, the Anti-Aid Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution. The Anti-Aid Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution prohibits the use of public money, including state-appropriated funds such as those that comprise the Community Mitigation Fund, solely to benefit or aid a private party. Private non-governmental parties may not apply for Community Mitigation Funds. Municipalities, governmental, and regional entities may apply to the Commission for funds to mitigate casino-related impacts, provided that the funding is used for a “public purpose” and not for the direct benefit or maintenance of a private party. In some instances, the intended use of funds may result in both public and private benefit. In some such cases, the use may be permitted in accordance with the Anti-Aid Amendment if the private benefit is not the primary benefit and is only incidental to the public purpose.

For FY2028, there are two categories of grants, Municipal and Regional. The Municipal Grant will provide funds for eligible municipalities, and the Regional Agency Grant will fund projects for regional agencies in the workforce development, public safety, and regional planning areas. Approved projects can be in areas including, but not limited to, Community Planning, Transportation, Public Safety, Gambling Harm Reduction, Specific Impact, and any area that can be proven to provide economic benefit.

The CMF will not fund the mitigation of impacts already being addressed by a Host or Surrounding Community Agreement. All projects must demonstrate that funds will supplement, not supplant, historical operations funding. This fund does not cover impacts that are predicted or projected. The eligible municipalities covered are:

Region A - Everett, Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Somerville and Saugus

Region B - Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Northampton, West Springfield and Wilbraham

Category 2 - Plainville, Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleborough and Wrentham

Regional Agency Grant Program: workforce grants, regional planning agency grants, regional public safety grants and other grants that may be filed by eligible regional entities.

If you are unsure about your community’s eligibility, please contact program staff in advance of submitting your application.

Waivers

Due to block grant formula allocations, there are limited opportunities for financial waivers, and therefore, submission of waivers is discouraged unless an emergency exists. Emergency events are categorized as, but not limited to, unanticipated infrastructure, technology, and/or public safety emergencies that require immediate action to avoid significant harm or to prevent threats to health, welfare, or safety. The Commission may accept requests for emergency appropriations from municipalities or entities. Such requests are subject to Commission discretion and may be based on the availability of funding. If granted, such appropriations shall be funded from the municipality’s next Community Mitigation Fund fiscal year allocation if funding is available. A waiver should be requested by completing a [Waiver Request form](#) and be submitted at the same time as submitting an

“Intent to Request”.

Tribal Gaming

The Commission may decide to fund impacts for communities in geographic proximity to a Tribal Gaming facility in Taunton. Such funding will be made available only after SRPEDD or a comparable regional entity approves any application.

Allocations

The allocations for each eligible entity are attached to these Guidelines.

Completed forms should be submitted directly to MGCcommunitymitigationfund@massgaming.gov by **January 31, 2027, at 11:59PM, via e-mail to or as a response to COMMBUYSBID NUMBER BD27-1068-1068C-1068L-134043. If an entity does not apply by this deadline, that municipality will forfeit its grant funds for that year.** Applicants are encouraged to contact the Community Mitigation email to reach staff with any questions or concerns.

Attachments:

- 1) Allocation Breakdown
- 2) Intent to Request Sample Form

FAQ

- 1) How do you apply?

Applicants will need to file a completed “Intent to Request” form by **January 31, 2027 at 11:59PM** to be eligible. The application must describe how the municipality or entity will spend the proposed grant amount in accordance with the program guidelines.

- 2) Can there be more than one grant manager?

There can only be one grant manager for the entity’s administrative requirements and must encompass all expenses for all projects. It is the grant manager’s responsibility to manage department distributions, reporting requirements, and communication with the CMF team. Grantees may designate additional persons to be included whenever the Grant Manager is contacted, and these contacts can be added at any time.

- 3) What should be included in your request for funding?

Applicants should state concisely the goals of the proposed Project. Summarize the gambling-related harms and potential impacts that the results of the project will have on Massachusetts.

These are **recommendations** of the type of information a successful proposal can include:

DO include	DON'T include
- Connection between impact and Casino - How this project will remedy the impact - Local activities, events, related to the impact - Administrative costs for managing the grant - References to previous studies that prove the impact	- Funding for responsibilities of third parties (ex. utility outages & government building assistance) - Requests for vehicles or equipment purchases (e.g., radios, etc) without a proper nexus to the impact - Requests for local government operating and/or maintenance expenses - Requests for partisan political purposes, such as projects relating to voter registration - Projects that are not related to the construction or operation of a gaming establishment

4) Will the Guidelines change? How much funding is available for next year?

Every year the Commission publishes new [Guidelines](#) along with the confirmed amount of funding available for that fiscal year.

5) Where can I find all of the forms? Where can I find more information about CMF?

All [forms](#) can be found on the [CMF website](#).

Criteria Checklist

- ☐ Part of a surrounding community agreement
- ☐ Submitted Intent to File form before/on deadline
- ☐ Intent form identifies connection between Casino and issue being addressed
- ☐ Project(s) are supplemental and not supplanting
- ☐ Issue is not being predicted/projected and has not already been addressed in previous agreements