



## **FY 2027 Municipal Community Mitigation Fund Grant Application**

### **Application Instructions:**

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2027 grant round.
- II. Each municipality may only submit **ONE** application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. Forms can be found below as Parts A-E. If there is more than one project in a category, please copy the form. 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. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation for all projects identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Municipal Grant Manager will be the person responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports. The application must be signed by the municipal administrator or an individual with signatory authority. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to [MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov](mailto:MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov) or as a response to the **COMMBUYS Bid BD-26-1068-1068C-1068L-121911**.

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2027 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

<b>Municipal Grant Manager Information (Person for filing all Quarterly Reports, etc.):</b>
Applicant: City of Cambridge
Vendor Code: <b>VC6000192080</b>
Name: Taha Jennings
Title: Budget Director
Email Address: <a href="mailto:tjennings@cambridgema.gov">tjennings@cambridgema.gov</a>
Telephone: 617-349-4268
Address: Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge MA 02139

**Grant Budget Summary**

Your community’s FY 2027 proposed allocation can be found at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>.

Use the space below to total all requests by category. Please clarify how many discreet projects your community plans to undertake per category.

Total FY 2027 Allocation:		
Application Totals by Category	# of Projects	Requested Amount
A. Community Planning	3	\$120,000
B. Public Safety		
C. Transportation	1	\$59,500
D. Gambling Harm Reduction		
E. Specific Impact		
TOTAL		\$179,500

**(Applicants should indicate administrative costs by project where necessary and under specific impact when the funds will be directed across multiple projects.)**

Are you requesting a waiver for any program Requirement?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No  x

If yes, you must fill out a CMF Municipal Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix E 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.*

**Budget Category Summary**

Use the space below 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.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Community Planning	Place making, events, and restaurant marketing for East Cambridge, Central Square, and Kendall Square CBDs	Supporting CBDs on major casino corridor routes with placemaking, special event support, and marketing assistance to stay competitive.	\$120,000
B. Public Safety			
C. Transportation	Intersection Safety improvements along the Prospect Street Corridor	Building on previous work to improve signals along the Prospect Street corridor, procure additional signal equipment to enhance safe operations at the Broadway and Prospect and Cambridge Street and Prospect intersections	\$59,500
D. Gambling Harm Reduction			
E. Specific Impact			
			\$179,500

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: Yi-An Huang  
Name and Title of Signatory: Yi-An Huang, City Manager

Date: 1/29/2026

**Part A-Community Planning** - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, drawings etc.

<b>Project Name: Place making, events, and restaurant marketing for East Cambridge, Central Square, and Kendall Square CBDs</b>	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.	
<b>Project Contact</b>	<b>Additional Project Contact (if applicable)</b>
Name: Pardis Saffari	Name:
Title: Director of Economic Opportunity and Development	Title:
Department: Community Development	Department:
Email Address: <a href="mailto:psaffari@cambridgema.gov">psaffari@cambridgema.gov</a>	Email Address:
Telephone: 617-349-4654	Telephone:
Address: 344 Broadway, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor, Cambridge, MA 02139	Address:
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2027 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that supports the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p>	
<p>The marketing capabilities of the gaming establishments, like Encore, may put other competing local businesses and business associations in Cambridge, Revere, Chelsea, and Somerville at a disadvantage. Gaming establishments also attract a large group of patrons and employees to their establishments that would not otherwise be present in the area. This provides opportunities for local communities and business groups to attract casino patrons and employees to their communities to promote local events and entertainment opportunities and help communities compete with gaming establishments for business.</p> <p>In fall 2025, the City of Cambridge conducted the Cambridge Encore Traffic Impact Study. The study found that the following corridors is affected by traffic to and from Encore Casino:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Springfield St./Cambridge St., Edwin Land Boulevard, Cardinal Mederios Ave. (Inman Square and East Cambridge)</li> <li>2. Western Ave. and Prospect St. (Central Square)</li> <li>3. Portland St. and Edwin Land Boulevard (Kendall Square)</li> </ol> <p>In addition to the traffic study, in early 2025 the City of Cambridge completed our Post Pandemic Commercial District Study that identified that all four commercial districts mentioned above have seen an increase in car trips, while also losing visitors from outside of Cambridge. This lack of outside visitors has resulted in a decrease of retail and restaurant sales. The study also highlighted some specific district recommendations including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Cambridge St. district lacks a clear identity due to little branding and placemaking that would make it more unified and inviting to customers.</li> <li>2. Central Square is Cambridge’s cultural district and should promote existing businesses through new events.</li> </ol>	

- 3. Restaurants are the primary retail use in Kendall Square and have had trouble increasing sales on weeknights and weekends post pandemic.

The full Post Pandemic Study can be found here:  
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/EconDev/retailstrategicplan>

Cambridge Streets with 1% or more Casino Trips



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.

The City of Cambridge seeks Community Planning Grant to help the three districts listed above in the following ways:

Springfield St./Cambridge St./Cardinal Med. Ave. (Inman Square and East Cambridge districts) - \$70,000.00 for branding, wayfinding signage, public art, special events, and marketing design to help build brand awareness and build an identity for the corridor. These efforts would be in partnership with the East Cambridge Business Association. Activities include:

- Attract visitors and travelers to the area through wayfinding and signage by highlighting historical landmarks, places of interest, and walkability to and along the corridor and from nearby transit hubs.
- Build awareness of the corridor’s amenities, public parking, and shared bike facilities, legacy businesses, cultural offerings through marketing and events.
- Support new branding and marketing initiatives that promote the street as a commercial corridor.

Western Ave. and Prospect St. (Central Square) - \$35,000 for cultural events in Carl Barron Plaza, located at the intersection of Western Ave., and Prospect St. One of the locations found in the 2025 traffic study is the intersection of Prospect and Western Ave., a major entryway into Central Square from the Mass. Pike and Rt. 2 (Mass. Ave.) working with the Central Square Business Association, these funds would be used to activate a new

public plaza in this intersection with cultural groups and businesses from the Central Square CBD.  
 Portland St. and Edwin Land Blvd. (Kendall Square) - \$10,000 for restaurant marketing campaign on MBTA trains in partnership with the Kendall Square Business Association.

**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
Cambridge St. District Branding and Marketing and Special events	Fall 2026-Spring 2027	At least 4-5 of the activities (including signage) listed above. we know the public art will be at least \$20,000.00 and special events are \$30,000.00	\$75,000
Central Square Events	Fall 2026-Fall 2027	30-40 events	\$35,000
Kendall Square Restaurant Marketing Campaign	Summer 2026-Spring 2027	1	\$10,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>

**Part B- Transportation** The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, etc.

<b>Project Name: Safer turning movement along the Prospect Street Corridor</b>	
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant. If there are multiple people involved in the grants management, please add more lines to accommodate their information.	
<b>Project Contact:</b>	<b>Additional Project Contact (if applicable)</b>
Name: Jeffrey R. Parenti, PE, PTOE, PTP, ENV	Name:
Title: Assistant Commissioner/Traffic Director	Title:
Department: Transportation Department	Department:
Email Address:jparenti@cambridgema.gov	Email Address:
Telephone: 617.349.4715	Telephone:
Address: 344 Broadway, Cambridge	Address:
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2027 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. Please provide documentation or evidence that supports the determination that the operation of the gaming facility causes or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)</p> <p>Increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment.</p> <p>Traffic to and from the resort is using Washington Street through Somerville, which becomes Prospect Street over the Cambridge City line and continues through Inman Square to Central Square.</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>Prospect Street at Broadway is a busy intersections that carries significant casino traffic in addition to other regional and local vehicle trips. In addition, there is significant pedestrian and bicycle activity at this location. Turning vehicles are a challenge to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Building off of previous work done under the FY 25 and FY26 CMF grants to improve signal operations along this corridor, this project will fund additional signal equipment to allow protected turns at the intersection. A protected turn signal means that bicycles and pedestrians can cross the street at a time when no vehicles are turning across their path. This is safer for the pedestrians and cyclists and makes turns easier for drivers, as they no longer have to find a gap in traffic in order to turn.</p>	

<b>Proposed MGC Grant Budget</b>			
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.			
<b>Description of Purchase/Work</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Signal Equipment	9 months		\$59,500
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		

**Part C- Public Safety** - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, catalog cuts of proposed equipment purchases, quotes, training course syllabus, etc.

<b>Project Name:</b> _____			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
<b>Project Contact:</b>		<b>Additional Project Contact</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Title:		Title:	
Department:		Department:	
Email Address:		Email Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
Address:		Address:	
Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2027 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. 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.)			
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.			
<b>Proposed MGC Grant Budget</b>			
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.			
<b>Description of Purchase/Work</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>Budget</b>

	<b>TOTAL:</b>		
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**Part D- Gambling Harm Reduction-** The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include other relevant research, Requests for Proposals, etc.

<b>Project Name:</b> _____			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant			
<b>Project Contact:</b>		<b>Additional Project Contact</b> <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 municipality. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2027 Guidelines relevant to this category. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. 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.</p>			
<b>Proposed MGC Grant Budget</b>			
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.			
<b>Description of Purchase/Work</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>Budget</b>

	<b>TOTAL:</b>		
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**Part E- Specific Impact (“SI”)** If you are applying for a SI grant you should reach out in advance to MGC Staff to ensure project eligibility. A community may also use this Specific Impact Grant to break out administrative and staffing costs associated with the grant as a whole.

<b>Project Name:</b> _____			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
<b>Project Contact:</b>		<b>Additional Project Contact</b> <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 municipality. This category is for projects that do not fit in any other category but may use any impacts identified in the FY 2027 Guidelines that are relevant. If you are using an impact not identified in the guidelines, please use the space below to identify the impact. 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.</p>			
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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.			
<b>Description of Purchase/Work</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>Budget</b>

		<b>TOTAL:</b>	