



December 22, 2017

2018 Community Mitigation Fund

Dear Community / Potential Applicant:

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”) is pleased to announce the availability of the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines and applications on COMMBUYS (www.commbuys.com (Bid No.: BD-18-1068C-1068L- 22137)), **due by February 1, 2018.**

Since its inception, the Commission has worked to help the Commonwealth realize the benefits of expanded gaming. These benefits include the thousands of expected jobs for Massachusetts residents in the areas of construction, hospitality and tourism, and the generation of millions in new revenue for the Commonwealth and its cities and towns. The Commission has also worked to help the Commonwealth avoid or minimize potential negative impacts associated with the arrival of expanded gaming. As part of the effort to help offset impacts that may result from the development and operation of gaming facilities in the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Legislature created the Community Mitigation Fund as part of the Expanded Gaming Act.

The following are highlights of the Guidelines for the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund:

Specific Impact Grants

The 2018 Community Mitigation Fund for mitigation of specific impacts may be used only to mitigate impacts that either have occurred or are occurring as of the February 1, 2018 application date, except as otherwise noted in the Guidelines. In recognition that the Category 2 gaming facility in Plainville opened during calendar year 2015, the Commission will make available funding to mitigate operational related impacts that are being experienced or were experienced from that facility by the February 1, 2018 date. The Commission may place a per grant limit for the 2018 Specific Impact Awards of \$500,000.

- **Category 1 Gaming Facility:** In recognition that no Category 1 gaming facility will be operational by in September 2018, the Commission has determined that the 2018 Community Mitigation Fund is available only to mitigate impacts related to the construction of Category 1 gaming facilities and police training costs incurred prior to the opening of category 1 facilities.



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Transportation Planning Grant

The 2018 Community Mitigation Fund program also authorizes communities to apply for a Transportation Planning Grant. The communities that are eligible for a 2018 Transportation Planning Grant are those communities in Regions A & B and for the Category 2 facility, including each Category 1 and Category 2 host community, each designated surrounding community, each community which entered into a nearby community agreement with a licensee, any community that petitioned to be a surrounding community to a gaming licensee, and each community that is geographically adjacent to a host community in Regions A & B and to the Category 2 facility. The Commission approved a new limit of \$1,000,000 for the total allocation for 2018 Transportation Planning Grants with no more than \$200,000 per grant authorized.

Workforce Development Pilot Program in Region A and Region B

The Commission will also make available funding for certain career pathways workforce development pilot programs (Workforce Development Pilot Program Grant) in Regions A and B for service to residents of communities of such Regions. The Commission approved a new spending target of \$300,000 per region for Workforce Pilots.

Non-Transportation Planning

The Commission shall make available funding to assist with non-transportation planning needs through in Non-Transportation Planning grants of up to \$50,000 per community. These planning funds will be available only to those communities that have allocated their One-time Reserve and received Commission approval for the use of the Reserves. Any community applying for planning funds would also need to provide detail on what it will contribute to the planning projects such as in-kind services or planning funds.

Incentive for Regional Cooperation

In order to further regional cooperation, the Commission recently approved establishment of Regional Planning Incentive Awards for Transportation Planning and Non Transportation Planning grant applications involving more than one community. The amount of potential Regional Planning Incentive Award grants may increase depending upon the number of communities involved in a joint project with a maximum Regional Planning Incentive Award of \$50,000 for Transportation Planning Grants and \$10,000 for Non-Transportation Planning Grants shared between applicant communities.

Tribal Gaming Technical Assistance

Additionally, the Commission shall make available technical assistance funding to assist in the determination of potential impacts that may be experienced by communities in geographic

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proximity to the potential Tribal Gaming facility in Taunton. Such funding will only be made available, after approval of any application by the Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District or a comparable regional entity, if it is determined by the Commission that construction of such gaming facility will likely commence prior to or during Fiscal Year 2019.

Reauthorization of the 2015/2016 One-time Reserves

Communities that received approval for 2015/2016 Reserves **do not need to re-apply**. The 2015/2016 Reserve will automatically be preserved for use in 2018. As described in the Guidelines, this reserve may be used for impacts once they are determined (upon approval of the Commission). The reserve may be used to help communities plan how to avoid potential adverse impacts and how to best take advantage of the economic opportunities that may result from such facilities. This reserve will be disbursed by the Commission on a rolling basis after communities have time to determine, in consultation with the Commission, how best these funds should be used. Communities can still apply for funds for specific impacts now and in future Community Mitigation funding rounds. Communities may continue to access whatever portion of their original \$100,000 reserve amounts that remain unexpended.

Further detail on this year's program may be found in the Guidelines or by contacting the Commission's Ombudsman's Office. The Commission and staff look forward to continue working with communities and other interested parties to help the Commonwealth achieve the goals of the Expanded Gaming Act.

