



FY 2026 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2026 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. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation of the project identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Grant Manager will be responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports and the submittal of the quarterly reports.
- VIII. The application must be signed by the agency's CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- IX. 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
- X. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS BID- BD245-1068- 1068C-1068L-107735

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2026 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
Vendor 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

Budget 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. 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, human trafficking, and sexual assault cases.	\$262,494.00
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			\$262,494.00

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

Applicant Certification

- I. 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.

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:

Nathan Gardner, Director of Grants Management

Name and Title of Signatory:

1/31/2025

Date:

Part A-Regional 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.

Project Name:			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact		Additional Project Contact (if applicable)	
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>			
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
	TOTAL:		

Part B - Regional 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.-

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: 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.</p> <p>Since her hire in October 2024, the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) funded by AGO's active Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) Regional Public Safety award reviewed over 300 reports of possible domestic violence (DV), human trafficking (HT), and/or sexual assault (SA) related to Massachusetts gaming facilities. Prior to a CMF award, GED did not have an employee with specializations in this casework and was not able to devote resources commensurate to the scale of the problem.</p> <p>In just four months, the AAG's portfolio has grown to 12 investigations and five charged cases which further supports a causal linkage between the presence of casinos and prevalence of DV/HT/SA crimes. This added capacity is critical to understanding the full scope of the problem, and AGO expects to measure a broader impact of these crimes through data collected during the AAG's continued tenure.</p> <p>The AAG's specialization in DV/HT/SA has also allowed her to identify unreported elements of these crimes in other gaming-related cases. In order to both effectively prosecute and better understand the full scope of gaming-related criminal activity, specialized personnel who can investigate complex linkages between co-occurring crimes are essential. AGO expects the number of co-occurring DV/HT/SA crimes</p>	

identified during its current grant period to rise as a result of the AAG's work.

Since October 2024, investigations undertaken by the AAG have identified 20 possible crime victims and an additional five victims are involved in the AAG's five charged cases. While the number of arrests and cases prosecuted are typically presented as primary indicators of crime impact, victim impact is equally important in understanding the scope of a problem. DV/HT/SA casework requires staff with specific skills and training to effectively work with victims who have experienced unique traumas. AGO expects that, through the AAG's continued work and the expansion of resources, many more victims will be identified and further reinforce the scope of gaming-related DV/HT/SA criminal activity.

AGO law enforcement partners continue to indicate that HT occurs in Massachusetts casinos. The AAG's continued work and collaboration with law enforcement partners is critical to better understanding the extent of HT in gaming facilities. This ongoing, long-term project is important for better measurement of the problem and ensuring justice for victims of particularly heinous crimes.

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 will extend the employment of the current CMF-funded, full-time Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who will specialize in statewide DV/SA/HT investigations and prosecutions stemming from the establishment and operation of casinos. AGO budgets a 36-week employment period under the FY26 CMF. Because the AAG was not hired until October 21, 2024, AGO will seek to extend its FY25 ISA to fund an additional 16-week salary period which covers the AAG vacancy gap during hiring. Extension of the FY25 ISA will decrease the overall salary obligation of the AAG position to the FY26 CMF.

Prior to the hire of the AAG, GED did not employ staff with the necessary specializations in DV/SA/HT to pursue these cases as a focus area. The AAG has greatly increased the ability of the AGO pursue justice for victims of DV/SA/HT statewide while freeing capacity of existing staff to increase its workload of gambling offenses and other serious crimes relating to gaming facilities.

During the grant term, the AAG will continue to build her HT skillset as early evidence indicates that HT criminal activities are present in gaming environments. During the past award cycle, AGO cited the general recognition from the casino industry that hospitality-related businesses can attract human traffickers but that funding was critical to further investigate the prevalence of HT criminal activities in gaming environments. The AAG has demonstrated that HT activity is occurring in gaming environments through her work on three HT investigations, and she continues to build new investigations in this space. FY26 funding will allow the AAG to build investigations and further define HT as persistent gaming-related criminal activity.

Continued collaboration with AGO's Human Trafficking Division (HTD) will also allow the AAG to pursue additional investigations and prosecutions statewide. 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 the successful investigation and prosecution of these complex crimes and is vital to appropriately assisting survivors who may have experienced significant trauma.

With assistance from HTD, the grant-funded AAG will continue to review the scope of HT crimes

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 extend the AAG employment term through FY26.

Given the unique needs of survivors of DV/HT/SA crimes being investigated by the AAG, GED will also use grant funds to hire a newly created Victim Witness Advocate (VWA) position in GED. The experienced VWA will provide statewide trauma-informed advocacy for victims of DV/SA/HT in gaming environments and will train VWAs from other AGO divisions to work on gaming-related cases. This position's senior level will require a higher annual salary rate than a standard VWA; however, the position will provide an overall cost benefit to MGC as it will allow for training of and case delegation to VWAs on other AGO funding streams. The VWA will be funded at 50% FTE to allow for the scaling of GED DV/HT/SA investigations, and only gaming-related activities will be completed using CMF funding. The remaining salary will be paid with non-grant funds. Hiring will begin upon notification of an award.

With 25 possible or confirmed gaming-related DV/HT/SA victims identified since October 2024, the need for a VWA in GED is significant. Providing advocacy and resources to victims of crime is critical to achieving positive outcomes and justice for victims. Timely contact with victims after a crime was committed and trauma-informed service delivery are necessary to build trust with victims and ensure they feel supported. Without effective supports, victim cooperation can be diminished thereby jeopardizing prosecutions. Even in investigations which don't immediately result in prosecutions, a VWA can be instrumental in helping a victim obtain an abuse prevention order or a harassment prevention order which can decrease criminal activity at the casino by keeping alleged abusers away from the premises. This is especially true of the relatively common occurrence in which casino employees are the victims of DV/HT/SA crimes.

Without the new VWA, the AAG cannot effectively prosecute her new caseload. Current VWA resources in GED and the wider AGO Criminal Bureau are extremely limited. In cases where VWA support is available to the AAG, it is not guaranteed that it will be accessible at the outset of the investigation – a time during which victim contact and service provision are most crucial. The new VWA will be especially critical to prosecuting the AAG's large Superior Court caseload resulting from Encore-related DV/HT/SA cases.

The grant will use subcontracts to directly support personnel and increase GED's capacity to address DV/HT/SA 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 translation services upon receipt of a grant award and will subcontract for services as needed.

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 investigation. 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 AGO's State Police Detective Unit for DV/SA/HT cases pursued under the FY26 CMF. Upon receipt of a grant award, GED will develop and negotiate a payments agreement with MSP for overtime incurred under the grant

in FY26.

GED will use grant funds to send five staff to a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and/or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. A conference being considered is the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) in Dallas, TX although final selection will depend on the specific needs of attendees in FY26. Conferences and trainings are critical skill-building opportunities for GED staff, including the grant-funded AAG and VWA, to develop expertise in DV/HT/SA. Given increased caseloads and the finite term of the grant, the grant-funded AAG will not be able to handle all DV/HT/SA in perpetuity. Training additional GED staff in DV/HT/SA 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. Budgeted expenses include conference registration, lodging, airfare, meals, and ground transportation in accordance with AGO Travel Policy.

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 will be incurred against direct costs in FY26 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
Assistant Attorney General Salary Direct Cost Position necessary to investigate and prosecute DV/HT/SA	Remaining 36 weeks of FY26. Position employed by FY25 CMF during the first 16 weeks of FY26.	1.00	\$61,630.62
Victim Witness Advocate Salary Direct Cost Position necessary to investigate and prosecute DV/HT/SA and assist victims associated with gaming-related DV/HT/SA casework. 0.5 FTE. Half of VWA portfolio will be grant-related.	Full FY26 term at 0.5 FTE. Hiring to begin upon award announcement.	0.50	\$45,000.00
Assistant Attorney General Fringe Direct Cost FY25 rate @ 45.06% used for calculation. CTR FY26 fringe proposal not yet available. Massachusetts employee fringe rate (including payroll tax) charged on AAG Salary expenses.	Remaining 36 weeks of FY26. Position employed by FY25 CMF during the first 16 weeks of FY25.	1.00	\$27,770.76
Victim Witness Advocate Fringe Direct Cost FY25 rate @ 45.06% used for calculation.	Full FY26 term at 0.5 FTE. Hiring to begin upon award announcement.	0.50	\$20,277.00

CTR FY26 fringe proposal not yet available. Massachusetts employee fringe rate (including payroll tax) charged on VWA Salary expenses.			
<p>Translation Direct Cost</p> <p>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.</p>	Full FY26 term	1.00	\$20,000.00
<p>Registration Fee DV/SA/HT Training/Conference Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG and VWA will attend a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. Price estimated based on the Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) in Dallas, TX. Line item is for the conference registration fee and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Conference registration: \$800.00/person x 5 staff = \$4,000.00.</p>	To be incurred during FY26 term	5.00	\$4,000.00
<p>Airfare DV/SA/HT Training/Conference Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG and VWA will attend a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. Price estimated based on the CCAW in Dallas, TX. Line item is for the conference round trip airfare and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Airfare: \$900.00/person x 5 staff = \$4,500.00</p>	To be incurred during FY26 term	5.00	\$4,500.00
<p>Lodging DV/SA/HT Training/Conference Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded</p>	To be incurred during FY26 term	5.00	\$4,000.00

<p>AAG and VWA will attend a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. Price estimated based on the CCAW in Dallas, TX. Line item is for the conference lodging and directly supports personnel. Line item uses GSA lodging rates as a baseline.</p> <p>Lodging: \$200.00/night x 4 nights x 5 staff = \$4,000.00</p>			
<p>Meals DV/SA/HT Training/Conference Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG and VWA will attend a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. Price estimated based on the CCAW in Dallas, TX. Line item is for the 3 staff meals per day during a 5-day trip and directly supports personnel.</p> <p>Meals: \$50/day x 5 travel days x 5 staff = \$3,750.00</p>	<p>To be incurred during FY26 term</p>	<p>5.00</p>	<p>\$3,750.00</p>
<p>Ground Transportation DV/SA/HT Training/Conference Direct Cost</p> <p>Five GED staff including the grant-funded AAG and VWA will attend a conference or training related to DV/HT/SA and or gaming-related criminal law enforcement. Price estimated based on the CCAW in Dallas, TX. Line item is for the roundtrip transportation via rideshare/tax to and from the airport and hotel. Line item directly supports personnel.</p> <p>\$100 roundtrip fare x 5 staff = \$500.00</p>	<p>To be incurred during FY26 term</p>	<p>5.00</p>	<p>\$500.00</p>
<p>Subcontract – Massachusetts State Police Overtime Direct Cost</p> <p>Overtime for AGO-approved MSP investigations occurring beyond normal hours (Monday – Friday, 0830-1700). Average</p>	<p>Full FY26 term</p>	<p>710.00</p>	<p>\$50,268.00</p>

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. \$70.80/hour x 710 hours = \$50,268.00.			
Administrative Costs Indirect Cost 7.5% of direct costs. \$241,696.37 (direct cost base) x 7.5% administrative rate = \$18,127.63 Administrative funds will support expenses related to grant management, compliance, financial/payroll, and data collection responsibilities under the grant. \$0.40 added to Administrative Costs request to round Total Request.	Full FY26 term	1.00	\$18,127.63
	TOTAL:	740.00	\$259,824.00

Part C - Workforce Development- The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include other relevant workforce statistics and economic models.

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 supports the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.).</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.

--

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
	TOTAL:		