

**21****COMMUNITY
MITIGATION
FUND**☒ **X** check if a joint application

Appendix E – Workforce Development Program Application

BD21-1068-1068C-1068L-56499

Please complete the entire Application.

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

a) NAME OF MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENT ENTITY/DISTRICT

MASSHIRE METRO NORTH WORKFORCE BOARD AND THE CITY OF BOSTON

b) PROJECT NAME (LIMIT 10 WORDS)

METRO BOSTON REGIONAL GAMING AND HOSPITALITY CONSORTIUM (MBRGHC)

c) BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (LIMIT 50 WORDS)

MBRGHC IS A REGIONAL PROJECT AIMED AT ADDRESSING THE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR IMPACTED BY THE ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR GAMING FACILITY. A CONSORTIUM OF PARTNERS WILL PROVIDE CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, ESOL, AND DIGITAL LITERACY TRAININGS TARGETED AT HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY WORKERS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 INDUCED ECONOMIC DOWNTURN..

d) CONTACT PERSON(S)/TITLE (Persons with responsibility for this grant)

CHRIS ALBRIZIO-LEE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MASSHIRE METRO NORTH WORKFORCE BOARD

e) PHONE # AND EMAIL ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON(S)

617-864-1524; CLEE@MASSHIREMETRONORTH.ORG

f) MAILING ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON(S)

186 ALEWIFE BROOK PARKWAY, SUITE 216, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

2. IMPACT DESCRIPTION/CONNECTION TO GAMING FACILITY

a) Please describe in detail the impact that is attributed to the operation of a gaming facility.

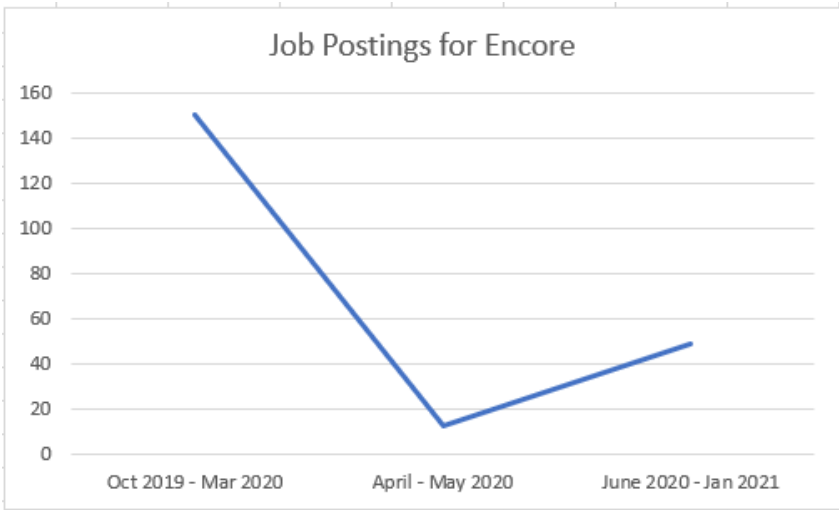
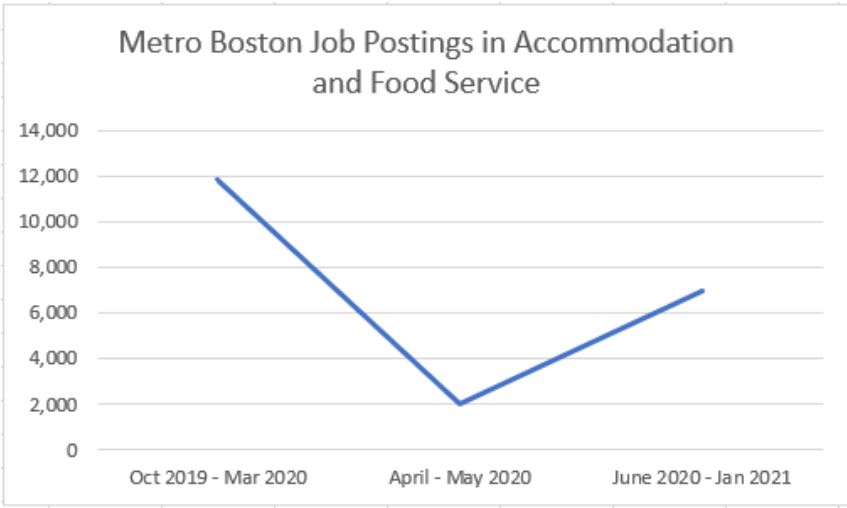
The Encore Boston Harbor gaming facility's layoffs have caused a major impact on the region's labor market and workforce development system. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility itself necessitated the hiring of 4,000 employees impacting the workforce needs of hospitality and other employers across the Greater Boston area. According to Burning Glass Technologies, in the 6 months prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were 11,839 open positions posted online in the "Accommodation and Food Service" industry and 150 open positions posted online for Encore Boston Harbor facility in the 21 cities and towns that comprise the Metro North and Boston workforce development regions. In past projects, the Metro Boston Regional Gaming and Hospitality Consortium addressed this need by preparing and training local residents for jobs directly at the gaming facility as well as addressing the needs of existing employers who have been impacted by the gaming facility's opening.

Labor market data and unemployment claims data of hospitality workers illustrate the impact of Encore's lay-offs of hospitality workers in the hospitality industry as the sector is most vulnerable to demand declines, shutdowns, and layoffs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Weekly Unemployment Claims Data in Massachusetts, provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, 17.52% of total claims filed between the final two weeks of March 2020 and the first two weeks of April were from the Food and Accommodation sector. In April 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Hotel and Lodging Association reported nearly 66,800 hospitality workers, 40% of hospitality workforce in MA, have lost their jobs.

Encore's reduced operations significantly impacted hospitality workers in the greater Boston area as layoffs increased and job opportunities were reduced. Between March 2020 and May 25th 2020, the first day of the state's reopening plan, 2,029 hospitality jobs were posted online in the "Accommodation and Food Service" industry and only 13 open positions posted online for Encore Boston Harbor facility. As a result of Encore's reduced operations, casino vendors were also significantly affected by the Encore layoffs. Nearly 30% of the 900+ casino vendors in Massachusetts are located in the cities and towns that comprise the Metro North and Boston workforce development regions. Consequently, as Encore and casino vendors reduced operations, laid off furloughed hospitality workers, and limited hiring opportunities, the local labor market was saturated with unemployed skilled hospitality workers. The fluid labor market of the hospitality industry necessitates a regional, comprehensive approach to addressing the workforce impact created by the gaming facility's layoffs.

b) Please provide specific 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)

Recent labor market data shows the impact of Encore lay-offs and reduced operations from the impact of the covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated a very fluid hospitality job market and workforce issues in the hospitality industry.



c) Please demonstrate the significance of the workforce need faced by the region, related to the operation of a gaming establishment.

The workforce need that has been impacted by the Encore gaming facility is quite significant. Recent labor market data and direct conversations with employers show that the impact of Encore lay-offs and reduced operations from the impact of the covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated a very fluid hospitality job market and workforce issues in the hospitality industry.

The hospitality sector's workforce challenges intensified as the state proceeded through the reopening plan by lifting restrictions in the summer 2020. During this time Encore and hospitality employers were able to slowly ramp up hiring for open positions. According to Burning Glass Technologies, between June – November 2020, 6,978 open positions were posted online in the "Accommodation and Food Service" industry and 49 open positions were posted online at Encore for occupations ranging from casino cashiers, call center management, security officers, cocktail servers, warehouse retail taggers, surveillance specialists, and security ambassadors.

The region's hospitality workforce was further impacted by the nightly suspension of gaming operations in November 2020 which led to Encore closing their resort hotel resulting in ongoing furloughs and permanent job losses. For the week of December 5th, 2020, Boston and Metro North hospitality workers made up over 4,500 continued unemployment claims from the "Accommodation and Food Service" industry. Throughout the pandemic, week over week, over 30% of unemployment claims of impacted hospitality workers come from Boston and Metro North communities.

Since the January 2021 announcement to lift the suspension of nightly gaming operations, Encore is forecasting hiring 141 new employees in preparation for the transition to 24/7 operations. Encore plans to hire across 18 positions ranging from customer service representatives, front desk representatives, call center managers, surveillance specialists, and cocktails servers. With business travel on pause, the casino anticipates that their projected workforce needs over the coming months will mainly center on occupations that utilize strong customer service skills and technical skillsets for their increased need of surveillance specialists.

d) How do you anticipate your proposed remedy will address impact?

Our proposed project will target local hospitality workers who have been impacted by casino layoffs and to provide a suite of services that will prepare laid off hospitality industry workers to re-enter the workforce as Encore prepares to open its services. Even as Massachusetts manages to slowdown infection rates, restrictions on business travel, as well as consumer concern about safety, will continue to impact Encore, hospitality employers, and the hospitality industry as a whole. As the hospitality industry slowly recovers and reopens, the skilled workforce of hospitality workers will need to adapt, develop new skills and prepare to pivot to in-demand occupations in the hospitality industry and other in demand industries.

While Encore is projected to add new jobs in 2021, their workforce levels will not be at the same capacity as their opening year. Our proposed project aims to address the immediate employment needs of laid off Encore workers, casino vendor laid off workers, and hospitality workers by providing a sequence of services that will allow local partners to tailor services to needs of the laid-off hospitality workers.

3. SCOPE/ PROPOSED USE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MITIGATION FUNDS

a) Please provide a brief summary of the scope/proposal, including the amount requested.

The Metro Boston Regional Gaming and Hospitality Consortium (MBRGHC) requests \$350,000 in funding to support a project that will engage COVID-19-impacted hospitality workers from Encore, vendors of Encore, and other regional hospitality employers and provide them with a sequence of services leading to additional skills development and reemployment.

In addition, consortium partners have committed \$23,380 in additional matching contributions.

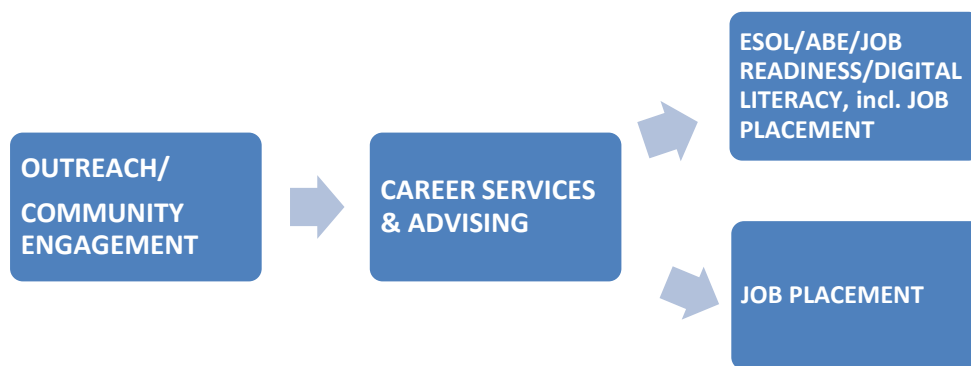
Please see Attachment C for support letters from partners.

b) Please identify in detail the manner in which the funds are proposed to be used. Include a timetable for the programming described.

MBRGHC proposes a project whereby local hospitality workers impacted by Covid-19 and the resulting economic downturn are engaged and provided services aimed at preparing them for additional skills development and re-employment. MBRGHC proposes a sector-wide, region-wide project to address the needs of the hospitality industry as a whole.

Project activities for the 2021 project include:

- An integrated sequence of services: in order to ensure that local residents from partner communities have access and opportunity for these services and employment opportunities, and recognizing the needs of these residents, the MBRGHC proposes to continue implementing an integrated, comprehensive sequence of services, which was started under the 2018 project. The steps of the sequence are:



- a. Community Engagement and Outreach: In each partner city, local organizations will be responsible for outreach to the target population, informing them of the programs and services available through the project as well as any employment opportunities that may be created by the Encore gaming facility, both directly at the facility and at other impacted employers, as the state's overall economy, and the hospitality industry specifically, further opens dependent on the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- b. Career Advising: In each partner city, a combination of virtual and onsite services will be offered to local residents to meet with a gaming and hospitality career advisor. Services provided by the career advisor will include:
 - Provide information on employment opportunities available in the hospitality sector and other in-demand industries in Greater Boston.
 - Provide basic assessment of individual's interests and needs.
 - Provide referrals to other programs that address individual's needs, such as ESOL, ABE, job training, job readiness programs, and short-term workshops.
 - Assist residents with job applications.
 - Assist residents with access to support services.

The MNWB and City of Boston will be responsible for convening the regional career advisors on a regular basis to discuss roles, responsibilities, and best practices. The career advisor network will focus on the entire hospitality sector in Greater Boston, including both Encore opportunities as well as opportunities at other hospitality employers impacted by Encore.

- c. ESOL/ABE/Job Readiness/Workshops: If needed, individuals who are interested in pursuing a gaming or hospitality career, or are in need of additional skills development to be re-employed in the sector, will be referred to additional services and programs. The gaming and hospitality career advisors will make the appropriate referrals depending on the individual's situation. These additional services may include short-term workshops covering specific topics such as basic information on gaming and hospitality careers, careers in other related industries, resumes, interviewing, and online job applications.
- d. Job Placement: There may be some individuals who are interested in pursuing gaming and hospitality careers, or re-employment in other related industries, that will not need additional programs and services. In this case, the career advisor will provide job search and placement assistance.
- e. Support Services: Given the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, there may be individuals seeking access to services including, but not limited to, assistance with unemployment claims, access to food, housing security, applying for SNAP/TAFDC, and so forth. In this case, career advisors will provide referrals to programs and organizations providing these services in or near their community. Career Advisors may also provide these services if it is within their capacity to do so.
- f. Digital Literacy Training: MBRGHC proposes to support digital literacy training programs utilizing the NorthStar Digital Literacy curriculum. This curriculum is already being utilized by some local partners. The effort will be expanded throughout the consortium's region through this grant.

The goal of this system is to engage local residents and move them through this sequence of integrated services, culminating with employment or re-employment at a high-quality Greater Boston area hospitality or other related industry employer, including Encore and vendors of Encore.

The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB), as the lead consortium partner, will oversee all project activities and provide administrative support. MNWB and the City of Boston will jointly manage the various partnerships and provide technical assistance and support to grant partners. A network of community-based organizations and municipalities will implement the integrated sequence of services. All project activities will take place in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)

c) Please describe the deliverables, including number of individuals to be served, number of hours, projected outcomes, location of program, cities and towns served.

With the \$300,000 base grant, the MBRGHC proposes to engage and serve at least 1,000 residents across the Metro North and Boston region through an integrated sequence of services and digital literacy training.

Career Advising Projected Outcomes:

- Number of individuals reached through outreach/community engagement
- Number of individuals received career advising and assessment services
- Total number of individuals placed in employment, job title, and starting wage/benefits, and 30-day job retention for those receiving intensive services.

Digital Literacy Projected Outcomes

- Total number of individuals with enrolled in NorthStar Digital Literacy assessment
- Total number of individuals who completed NorthStar Digital Literacy program
- Total increased understanding of digital literacy
- Total number of individuals placed in employment, job title, and starting wage/benefits, and 30-day job retention after completing Northstar program

Due to the impact of COVID-19, partner services will be delivered in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats. As the Covid-19 situation has been, and is expected to be, constantly changing, services can be adjusted depending on the Covid-19 restrictions at any given moment. In each of the consortium's partner cities, there is a local organization who will be serving in the career advisor role, such that local residents of that community can receive services directly in their community. Cities and towns that will be served include Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Revere, and Somerville.

d) If applying for either supplemental award funding (regional need or regional collaboration) please state which award, funding amount requested and provide specific justification/support for the request. Include information about how the additional funding will be utilized, if granted.

MBRGHC requests \$50,000 in supplemental funding for the regional collaboration award. Our regional consortium provides services across multiple cities and workforce development areas in the Greater Boston area: Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Revere, and Somerville. All of the additional funding will be allocated to the local "career advisor" organizations in each of our core partner communities, which will support a 20% increase of individuals served from 1,000 to 1,200.

e) Please provide information regarding any meetings (include dates) and communications with Licensees and related industries regarding specific workforce needs and what feedback they provided.

Since the start of the current 2020 project, MBRGHC partners have engage in the following meetings with Encore:

04/13/2020 – Meeting with Marilyn Crespo-Perry, Recruitment Manager

Discussed impact of casino closure due to COVID-19. Encore advised furloughed employees to stay connected via email communications as Encore adapted to new circumstances

01/29/2021 – Meeting with CBOs, MassHire staff and Encore via Zoom

Discussed Encore's transition to 24/7 casino operations. While the casino floor will reopen for 24 hour service, hotel operations will continue to be limited to Thursday-Sunday. Encore is slowly ramping up staffing for restaurant operations, customer services representatives and surveillance specialists.

Discussed Encore's need to hire 141 new hires across 18 positions Also discussed furloughed employees call-back process and procedures for laid-off employees to reapply with priority. Encore provided updates on Bet on You Gaming school. Next meeting with Career Advisors to be schedule in March to coincide with anticipated summer hiring needs.

f) Please provide detailed budget(s). (If applying for supplemental award funding for regional need or regional collaboration, a separate budget should be provided to demonstrate how the additional funding will be allocated.)

Please refer to Attachment A for the project's detailed budget for the supplemental award funding

g) Please provide documentation (e.g. - invoices, proposals, estimates, etc.) adequate for the Commission to ensure that the funds will be used for the cost of mitigating the impact from the operation of a proposed gaming establishment.

Please refer to Attachment A for the project's detailed budget

4. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

a) Please list any collaborative partners and subgrantees. Define the roles of each entity.

MBRGHC partners include:

1. MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB) - lead partner. As the lead partner, the MNWB's responsibilities under this project include:
 - Overall management and oversight of project activities
 - Data collection and reporting
 - Fiscal administration, including contracting, invoicing, and payments
 - Training and technical assistance
 - Management of project partners
 - Organizing and facilitating project meetings
 - Dissemination of labor market data, employment opportunities, and facilitating connections with employer partners
2. The City of Boston – join partner. As a joint partner, the City of Boston will be responsible for:
 - Coordination of project activities taking place in the City of Boston
 - Management of partnerships for Boston-based partners
 - Co-facilitation of meetings
 - Facilitating connections with Boston-based employer partners
3. The cities of Everett, Malden, Chelsea, Revere, Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford – host and surrounding communities providing support for the project.
4. Career Advisor partners implementing the integrated sequence of services:
 - Everett – La Comunidad
 - Malden – TBD
 - Chelsea – La Colaborativa
 - Revere – The Neighborhood Developers/CONNECT
 - Somerville – Somerville Community Corporation
 - Cambridge – Office of Workforce Development
 - Boston – BEST Hospitality

b) Please list any matched funds or other leveraged resources and program supports provided by local communities, state or private funders or other partners

Please see Attachment A – Budget for list of matching fund/leveraged resources

c) Please describe your plans to ensure outreach to local and diverse communities.

The MBRGHC has been intentionally structured such that community-based organizations with deep knowledge and expertise in their local communities are key partners that outreach to and engage local residents. The organizations identified in the response to question 5a were chosen specifically for their knowledge, skills and abilities engaging residents of their communities. In addition, the municipal governments in each of our partner communities are also key partners who will work with project partners to ensure local and diverse residents are connected to project services. This structure has worked well the past 3 years and will continue to be utilized in the 2021 project.

5. MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT

**a) How will you measure the effectiveness of the proposed project in mitigation impacts?
How will you provide the data for reporting? Include indicators proposed to measure results.**

The MBRGHC proposes to engage and serve at least 1,000 residents across the region via the integrated sequence of services and digital literacy. The MBRGHC proposes to track and report the following performance indicators for each component of the project:

Career Advising Projected Outcomes:

- Number of individuals reached through outreach/community engagement
- Type of outreach/community engagement
- Number of individuals received career advising and assessment services
- Number of individuals receiving ESOL training/ job readiness training
- Number of individuals placed in employment, job title, and starting wage/benefits, and 30-day job retention for those receiving intensive services.

Digital Literacy Projected Outcomes

- Total number of individuals with enrolled in NorthStar Digital Literacy assessment
- Total number of individuals who completed NorthStar Digital Literacy program
- Total increased understanding of digital literacy
- Total number of individuals placed in employment, job title, and starting wage/benefits, and 30-day job retention after completing Northstar program.

6. INTERNAL CONTROLS/ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS**a) Please provide detail regarding the internal controls that will be used to ensure that funds will only be used to address the impact**

The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB) has managed and administered federal, state, local, and private funds since its inception in 1995, including the Workforce Development grant from the Community Mitigation Fund in each of the past three years. MNWB has built the expertise and systems necessary to ensure that the funds it administers are used appropriately and compliantly. All sub-recipients receiving funds from this CMF Workforce development Program will be required to enter in a subcontract with the MNWB. This sub-contract will stipulate the specific responsibilities and uses of funds ("Scope of Work"), include a line-by-line budget, and delineate the process for invoicing and receiving grant disbursements. Sub-recipients will be required to submit regular invoices to the MNWB that directly coincides with the agreed-upon line-by-line budget. Sub-recipients will also be required to submit quarterly performance reports utilizing the Mass. Gaming commission quarterly reporting form so that the MNWB may track and document progress towards grant outcomes and deliverables.

All sub-contracts will also include Terms and conditions that include provisions regarding appropriate use of funds, documentation to verify appropriate use of funds, MNWB monitoring of such funds and grant activities, and remedies for any misuse of funds. These Terms and Conditions are standard operating procedures.

b) If non-governmental entities will receive any funds, please describe what reporting will be required and how the applicant will remedy any misuse of funds.

All sub-recipients receiving funds from this CMF Workforce development Program will be required to enter in a subcontract with the MNWB. This sub-contract will stipulate the specific responsibilities and uses of funds ("Scope of Work"), include a line-by-line budget, and delineate the process for invoicing and receiving grant disbursements. Sub-recipients will be required to submit regular invoices to the MNWB that directly coincides with the agreed-upon line-by-line budget. Sub-recipients will also be required to submit quarterly performance reports utilizing the Mass. Gaming commission quarterly reporting form so that the MNWB may track and document progress towards grant outcomes and deliverables.

All sub-contracts will also include Terms and conditions that include provisions regarding appropriate use of funds, documentation to verify appropriate use of funds, MNWB monitoring of such funds and grant activities, and remedies for any misuse of funds. These Terms and Conditions are standard operating procedures.

7. CERTIFICATION BY MUNICIPALITY/GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY

On behalf of the aforementioned municipality/governmental entity I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this Application.



Date: 2/1/2021

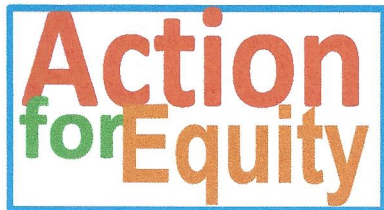
Signature of Responsible Municipal
Official/Governmental Entity

Chris Albrizio-Lee
(print name)

President and CEO
Title:

METRO BOSTON REGIONAL GAMING AND HOSPITALITY CONSORTIUM
2021 Community Mitigation Fund BUDGET

EXPENSES	\$300K BASE GRANT	\$50K SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT	TOTAL GRANT	MATCH	SOURCE OF MATCH
<i>Project Personnel</i>					
Metro North Project Manager				\$20,000	MassHire Metro North Workforce Board in-kind
Boston Project Manager				\$20,000	City of Boston in-kind
<i>Local Partners: Community Engagement, Outreach, Career Advising, Employment Services, Workshops</i>					
Chelsea - La Colaborativa	\$48,000	\$8,000	\$56,000		
Everett- La Comunidad	\$48,000	\$8,000	\$56,000		
Revere- The Neighborhood Developers	\$48,000	\$8,000	\$56,000		
Malden- organization TBD	\$48,000	\$8,000	\$56,000		
Boston-Action for Regional Equity/Jobs Action Network/BEST Corp.	\$48,000	\$8,000	\$56,000		
Somerville- Somerville Community Corporation	\$30,300	\$6,250	\$36,550		
Cambridge- Office of Workforce Development/ Community Learning Center (CLC)				\$22,940	City of Cambridge in kind
<i>Digital Literacy</i>					
Northstar Digital Literacy Curriculum	\$7,200		\$7,200		
<i>Project Administration</i>					
7.5% of grant	\$22,500	\$3,750	\$26,250		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$350,000	\$62,940	\$412,940



February 1, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Action for Equity, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. As a community based organization working with residents in this region, this proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the workforce needs of the region's casino, hotel, and restaurant industries impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

- Outreach and community engagement – Action for Equity will engage in a range of activities to educate and engage Boston residents to ensure they have access to training and career opportunities currently available and as they become available.

Action for Equity will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marvin Martin".

Marvin Martin
Executive Director

367 Washington St.
Dorchester, MA, 02124
action4equity.org
Tel (617) 620-9904

Arborway Committee
Bikes Not Bombs
Boston Tenant Coalition
City Life/Vida Urbana
Chelsea Collaborative
Conservation Law Foundation
Greater Four Corners Action Coalition

Jamaica Plain Racial Justice and Equity Collaborative
Livable Streets Alliance
MassPIRG
One Everett
Sierra Club of Massachusetts
Somerville Community Corporation
Transit Riders Union
United for a Fair Economy



February 1, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Boston Education, Skills, and Training (BEST) Corp., I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. As a community-based organization working with residents in this region, this proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the workforce needs of the region's casino, hotel, and restaurant industries impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

BEST, originally founded in 2004, is a 501(c)3 workforce development agency that was founded on the premise that systemic change in our communities begins first and foremost, through equity in opportunity. By combining pre-employment and incumbent worker training we assist hard-working, low-income individuals to obtain and succeed in quality employment. Our mission is *to provide individuals the education, skills, and training to excel in their professional and personal lives*. Under this proposed project, BEST is committed to providing the following services:

- BEST will provide English Language Training classes. Our ELT program spans eight Student Performance Levels (SPL). Recruitment and assessment are ongoing to be able to meet student needs' as quickly as possible. Every year we offer three cycles/year of each ELT class with a combination of day and evening classes to accommodate our student's work and life commitments.
- BEST has embedded digital literacy into all levels of ELT instruction and is a certified Tech Goes Home (TGH) site. TGH prioritizes low-income and underserved populations, including people from challenged neighborhoods, those without technology at home, the unemployed and underemployed, people who do not speak English, and individuals with disabilities. Through TGH, students who participate in our program are able to purchase a Chromebook for \$50 and get access to low-cost reliable internet service. If

BEST Hospitality Training

617-542-1177 • www.BESThtc.org

101 Station Landing, Fourth Floor, Medford, MA 02155

2201 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119



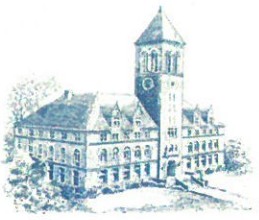
people are unable to pay the fee for the purchase for the Chromebook, BEST has in the past successfully secured funding, and will continue to do so in the future if possible.

- BEST will provide Technology classes focused on learning how to use technology to enable students to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information. Our technology classes provide individuals with the digital skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the workforce and in their personal lives.
- BEST will provide career coaching, career advising, placement, and/or referral services to individuals laid-off from Encore Boston Harbor, restaurants, and hotels in the Greater Boston area.

BEST will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

John D. Lloyd
Interim Executive Director



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

LOUIS A. DePASQUALE
City Manager

LISA C. PETERSON
Deputy City Manager

February 1, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

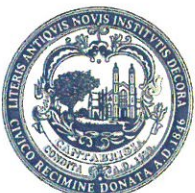
In addition to its support for this application for grant funding, the City of Cambridge will commit a total match contribution of \$23,380 which consists of:

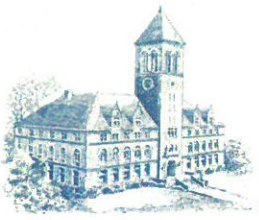
- Match contribution of staff salaries and benefits for two city staff members, one at Cambridge's Office of Workforce Development and one at Community Learning Center, to serve as "gaming and hospitality career advisors".

As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Cambridge is committed to ensuring that Cambridge residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Cambridge will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Louis A. DePasquale
City Manager





City of Cambridge

Executive Department

LOUIS A. DePASQUALE
City Manager

LISA C. PETERSON
Deputy City Manager

February 1, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In addition to its support for this application for grant funding, the City of Cambridge will commit a total match contribution of \$23,380 which consists of:

- Match contribution of staff salaries and benefits for two city staff members, one at Cambridge's Office of Workforce Development and one at Community Learning Center, to serve as "gaming and hospitality career advisors".

As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Cambridge is committed to ensuring that Cambridge residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Cambridge will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Louis A. DePasquale
City Manager





January 29, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Boston, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Boston is committed to ensuring that Boston residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Boston, through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

In addition to its support for this application for grant funding, the City of Boston will commit an in-kind match contribution of \$25,000 for a Project Manager from the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development to serve as a convener and "point person" for the grant activities taking place in the City of Boston.

Sincerely,

Trinh Nguyen
Director
Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
City of Boston



www.cityofmalden.org

Gary Christenson, Mayor

January 27, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Malden, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program.

This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Malden is committed to ensuring that Malden residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Malden will be an active and supportive member of this consortium.

Again, I support the application and look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden



February 1st, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of La Colaborativa, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. As a community based organization working with residents in this region, this proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the workforce needs of the region's casino, hotel, and restaurant industries impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

La Colaborativa, originally founded in 1988 as the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, is an organization dedicated to the needs of the community of Chelsea. Our mission is to enhance the social, environmental and economic health of the community and its people.

La Colaborativa will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gladys Vega".

Gladys Vega
Executive Director



January 29, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. As a community based organization working with residents in this region, this proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the workforce needs of the region's casino, hotel, and restaurant industries impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Founded in 1969, SCC is a membership organization that provides leadership for sustaining the City of Somerville as a vibrant, diverse and tolerant community. SCC offers services and leads community organizing that supports low- and moderate-income Somerville residents in their efforts to achieve economic sustainability and increase civic participation. SCC operates the First Source Jobs Program, which connects local residents looking for jobs with local employers – providing residents with increased economic stability and employers with qualified, highly-motivated job candidates. SCC confirms the First Source Jobs Program is committed to providing the following services on behalf of the project:

- Outreach and community engagement - SCC will engage in a range of activities to educate and engage Somerville residents to ensure they have access to training and career opportunities currently available and as they become available.
- Career advising and assessment - SCC will provide career advising, assessment, and referral services to Somerville residents.
- Job placement - SCC will provide job placement services to Somerville residents.

SCC will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Gonzalo Puigbo
Executive Director



**MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR BREANNA LUNGO-KOEHN**

February 1, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Medford, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Medford is committed to ensuring that Medford residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Medford will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Breanna Lungo-Koehn".

Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor
City of Medford



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Office of the City Manager

City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 302 · Chelsea, MA 02150
Phone: 617.466.4100 · Fax: 617.466.4175 · Email: tambrosino@chelseama.gov

Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

January 25, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: *Letter of Support*

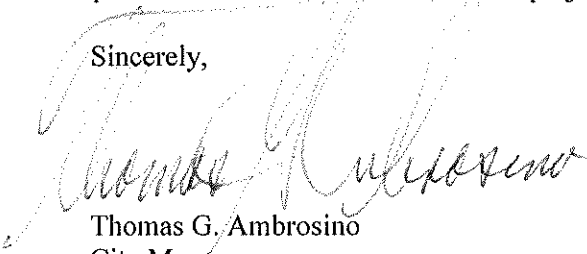
Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Chelsea, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project is an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As one of the surrounding communities of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Chelsea is committed to ensuring that Chelsea residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly in industries like hospitality and gaming most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The City of Chelsea will be an active and supportive member of this consortium.

We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

City of Everett Office of the Mayor

Carlo DeMaria, Jr.
MAYOR



Everett City Hall
484 Broadway
Everett, MA 02149-3694
Phone: (617) 394-2270
Fax: (617) 381-1150

January 26, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Everett, I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. This proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the needs of the region's hospitality industry workforce impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As the host community of Encore Boston Harbor, the City of Everett is committed to ensuring that Everett residents have access to training, workforce development services, and career opportunities, particularly those most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting downturn in the economy generally and the hospitality/gaming industry specifically. The City of Everett will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Carlo DeMaria
Mayor



January 28, 2021

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal St, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of The Neighborhood Developers (TND), I submit this letter of support in regard to the application for grant funding from the consortium led by the MassHire Metro North Workforce Board, in partnership with the City of Boston, for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund Workforce Development Pilot Program. As a community-based organization working with residents in this region, this proposed project will be an important investment designed to create an integrated, comprehensive system in order to meet the workforce needs of the region's casino, hotel, and restaurant industries impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Launched in 2012 by The Neighborhood Developers (TND), CONNECT offers the services of five agencies working to improve the financial mobility of low-income families. This innovative collaboration capitalizes on greater utilization of existing services that are colocated, integrated and managed collectively to achieve greater impact for clients and greater efficiencies for service providers. CONNECT has developed a track record for delivering strong economic mobility results for low-income first- and second-generation immigrants, our priority population. From 2017 to 2019, CONNECT has placed 990 clients into jobs with a median wage of \$16.00/hr.

The Neighborhood Developers (TND) serves as the Managing Partner of CONNECT. TND confirms that CONNECT is committed to providing the following services on behalf of the project:

- Outreach and community engagement – CONNECT will engage in a range of activities to educate and engage Revere residents to ensure they have access to training and career opportunities currently available and as they become available.
- Career advising and assessment – CONNECT will provide career advising, assessment, and referral services to Revere residents.
- Job placement - CONNECT will provide job placement services to Revere residents.

CONNECT will be an active and supportive member of this consortium. We look forward to working with all consortium partners to ensure the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Rafael Mares
Executive Director

