



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25), and St. 2025, c. 2, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the **Massachusetts Gaming Commission**. The meeting will take place:

Tuesday | May 27, 2025 | 11:30 a.m.
VIA REMOTE ACCESS: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID/ PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 234 9794
All meetings are streamed live at www.massgaming.com.

Please note that the Commission will conduct this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology is intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public. If there is any technical problem with the Commission's remote connection, an alternative conference line will be noticed immediately on www.massgaming.com.

All documents and presentations related to this agenda will be available for your review on the morning of the meeting date by visiting our website and clicking on the News header, under the Meeting Archives drop-down.

PUBLIC MEETING - #555

1. Call to Order – Jordan Maynard, Chair
2. Community Affairs Division – Joe Delaney, Division Chief of Community Affairs
 - a. Community Mitigation Fund Applications
 - I. Regional Agency Grant Applications
 - Regional Planning Grant Applications
 - A. Metropolitan Area Planning Council **VOTE**
 - B. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission **VOTE**
 - C. Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District **VOTE**
 - Regional Public Safety Grant Applications
 - A. Attorney General's Office **VOTE**
 - B. Hampden County District Attorney **VOTE**
 - C. Hampden County Sheriff's Department **VOTE**
 - D. Suffolk County District Attorney **VOTE**
 - Regional Workforce Development Grant Applications



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

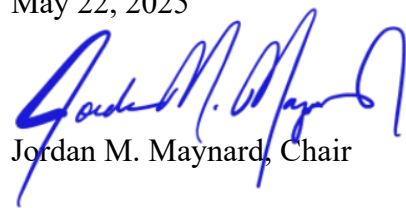
- A. Holyoke Community College/Springfield Technical Community College/Springfield Public Schools **VOTE**
 - B. MassHire Metro North **VOTE**
 - II. Municipal Block Grant Applications
 - Category 2 Communities
 - A. Attleboro **VOTE**
 - B. Foxborough **VOTE**
 - C. Mansfield **VOTE**
 - D. North Attleboro **VOTE**
 - E. Plainville **VOTE**
 - F. Wrentham **VOTE**
 - Region B Communities
 - A. Agawam **VOTE**
 - B. Chicopee **VOTE**
 - C. East Longmeadow **VOTE**
 - D. Hampden **VOTE**
 - E. Longmeadow **VOTE**
 - F. Northampton **VOTE**
 - G. West Springfield **VOTE**
 - H. Wilbraham **VOTE**

3. Commissioner Updates

4. Other Business - Reserved for matters the Chair did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting.

I certify that this Notice was posted as “Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting” at www.massgaming.com and emailed to regs@sec.state.ma.us. Posted to Website: May 22, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. EST |

May 22, 2025



Jordan M. Maynard, Chair

If there are any questions pertaining to accessibility and/or further assistance is needed, please email Grace.Robinson@massgaming.gov.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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TO: Chair Jordan Maynard and Commissioners Eileen O'Brien, Bradford Hill, Nakisha Skinner and Paul Brodeur

FROM Community Affairs Division

CC: Dean Serpa, Executive Director, Todd Grossman, General Counsel

DATE May 27, 2025

RE: Community Mitigation Fund Evaluation Memo for 5/27/25 Commission Meeting

The FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) grant round continues the implementation of the revisions made to the CMF program that were established for FY 2025. The Municipal Block Grant Program established a formula for the distribution of funds to eligible municipalities and the Regional Agency Grant Program modified and expanded eligibility for regional entities to obtain funds from the CMF. These changes have resulted in record demand for funds, with grant requests totaling nearly \$24.8 million.

The Community Affairs Division utilized a Review Team consisting of seven staff members and two Commissioners covering four different MGC Divisions. Each application was submitted timely to the Commission, received an in-depth review by the Review Team and each applicant was afforded an opportunity to meet with the Review Team to provide any further clarification needed.

The following applications are presented in this memo for the Commission's review and action.

Regional Agency Grant Applications

- Regional Planning Grant Applications
 - Metropolitan Area Planning Council
 - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 - Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Regional Public Safety Grant Applications
 - Attorney General's Office
 - Hampden County District Attorney
 - Hampden County Sheriff's Department
 - Suffolk County District Attorney
- Regional Workforce Development Grant Applications
 - Holyoke Community College/Springfield Technical Community College/Springfield Public Schools
 - MassHire Metro North

Municipal Block Grant Applications



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

- Category 2 Communities
 - Attleboro
 - Foxborough
 - Mansfield
 - North Attleboro
 - Plainville
 - Wrentham

- Region B Communities
 - Agawam
 - Chicopee
 - East Longmeadow
 - Hampden
 - Longmeadow
 - Northampton
 - West Springfield
 - Wilbraham



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

REGIONAL AGENCY GRANTS

Regional Planning Grants

Metropolitan Area Planning Commission

Applicant Name: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Region: A
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$250,000	Requested Amount: \$300,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$250,000 or \$300,000 if the waiver is approved	
Waiver: The MAPC is requesting an additional \$50,000, bringing its total CMF grant request to \$300,000. Of this, \$250,000 will fund the preliminary design of the preferred greenway option, while \$50,000 will cover grant administration and community engagement. The final scope of the preliminary design depends on factors such as project alignment, length, required easements, and environmental permits. Additional funding would provide flexibility in planning while ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement in Chelsea, Everett, and around the casino. If the full amount is not granted, MAPC will adjust the project scope accordingly.	
Regional Planning: Chelsea Everett Greenway Connector Preliminary Design	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$250,000, or \$300,000 with the requested waiver	
Description: This project is to develop the preliminary design of a new shared-use path and greenway that connects the Chelsea Greenway in Chelsea to the Encore Casino and to the Northern Strand Trail in Everett. Having safe bicycle and pedestrian connections from Chelsea will help Encore employees and patrons connect to Encore without driving and contributing to local traffic congestion.	
Impact: The application identifies several casino-related impacts that are outlined in the FY 2026 Guidelines. These include: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause localized increases in air pollution due to congestion.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impacts.	
Rationale: This project is a continuation of a feasibility study funded under the CMF in FY 2025. This next phase will select an alternative and advance that alternative to preliminary design. The Review Team agrees that the construction of a protected path will encourage Encore patrons and employees to utilize alternative modes of transportation to access the casino, thereby mitigating some of the negative impacts associated with the use of automobiles.	
Waiver Discussion: MAPC has requested a waiver for grant administration and to allow them to obtain meaningful public input throughout the design process. They indicated to the Review Team that they will proceed with the project even if the waiver is not granted, however, they are concerned that without the additional \$50,000 that they will not be able to complete the effort. The Review Team agrees that the items requested for the waiver are eligible and the request generally meets the intent of the waiver provisions in the FY 2026 Guidelines.	



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Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Applicant Name: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$250,000	Requested Amount: \$200,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$200,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Planning: Traffic Study Evaluation MGM - Springfield and Surrounding Communities	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the CMF, with an additional \$120,000 transferred from the City of Springfield grant if approved.	
<p>Description: This project is to provide comprehensive updated traffic data and analysis related to the impacts on surrounding communities since the opening of the MGM Springfield. By gathering and analyzing new data, the project will be able to identify these impacts and to propose potential solutions. PVPC proposes to partner with the City of Springfield in this effort.</p>	
<p>Impact: During periods of high-volume traffic, such as occurring during commuter times and events at the casino, the downtown Springfield district effectively gridlocks, spilling over onto side streets, impeding access off and onto nearby Interstate 91, and extending into surrounding communities. The congestion also impacts timely emergency services during these periods.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that the proposed project addresses the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: As part of their environmental permits, MGM Springfield is required to perform an annual traffic study. These studies only look at peak-hour traffic and only at certain intersections. The intent of this study is to look at broader trends in traffic and assess the impacts of MGM Springfield during both the peak traffic hours and the peak hours of MGM operations on the host and surrounding communities. The Review Team currently uses traffic data associated with the original environmental permitting process in evaluating CMF grant requests. This project will update this information and provide the host and surrounding communities with methods to better identify casino-related impacts, as well as assist the CMF Review Team in the evaluation of future applications. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project in the amount of \$200,000.</p> <p>PVPC proposes to partner with the City of Springfield on this project. Springfield is proposing to contribute \$120,000 or their CMF funds towards this effort, which would bring the total value of the project to \$320,000. Should the Commission not approve the Springfield funds, PVPC has indicated that they will reduce the scope of their project to fit the funds available. If the Commission approves the additional funding for Springfield, that approval will be reflected in the Springfield decision.</p>	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Applicant Name: Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District	Region: Cat 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$250,000	Requested Amount: \$235,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$235,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Planning: Plainridge Park Regional Mobility Network Analysis	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$235,000	
<p>Description: This project is to conduct a mobility and transportation analysis to better understand regional commuting patterns – identifying from where Plainridge Park Casino visits originate – to gain an updated and more nuanced understanding of localized impacts to the Category 2 region, including the communities of Attleboro, Foxborough, Mansfield, North Attleboro, Plainville, and Wrentham.</p>	
<p>Impact: While the casino has generated significant economic benefits, including job creation and increased local revenue, it has also led to a rise in traffic volume, congestion, and related complaints. As outlined in the FY 2026 Guidelines, increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help mitigate the identified traffic impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: This project aims to address the transportation challenges associated with the economic impact of Plainridge Park Casino (PPC). The proposed initiative seeks to mitigate these issues through a community-led approach, improving traffic circulation, enhancing safety, and reducing environmental concerns such as air pollution. In addition to traditional traffic counts, this project proposes to use other sources of information, such as cell phone data, zip code data, license plate surveying, and survey results, to better refine origin/destination data.</p> <p>The Review Team currently uses traffic data associated with the original environmental permitting process in evaluating CMF grant requests. This project will update this information and provide the host and surrounding communities with methods to better identify casino-related impacts, as well as assist the CMF Review Team in the evaluation of future applications. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project in the amount of \$235,000.</p>	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Regional Public Safety Grants

Attorney General's Office

Applicant Name: Massachusetts Attorney General's Office	Region: A
MGC FY26 Allocation: N/A	Requested Amount: \$259,800
Recommended Grant Amount: \$259,800	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Public Safety: Addressing Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault	
Recommendation: Full Funding in the amount of \$259,800	
<p>Description: The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) is requesting \$259,600 to: extend the employment of the current CMF-funded, full-time Assistant Attorney General (AAG) who specializes in statewide domestic violence (DV), sexual assault (SA) and human trafficking (HT); fund a Victim Witness Advocate (VWA) (0.5 FTE) as a result of the significant number of cases being investigated by the AAG; fund overtime for the State Police that assist in AGO criminal investigations; and funding for a conference related to DV/SA/HT.</p>	
<p>Impact: The applicant used impacts identified in the FY2026 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines: "It is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality-related businesses may attract certain types of crime. This includes but is not limited to, human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking," and "The introduction of casinos in the Commonwealth has led to increased criminal cases being handled by the District Attorney or Attorney General".</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project helps address the identified impact.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The AAG funded by the FY 2025 CMF grant, reviewed over 300 reports of possible DV/SA/HT related to Massachusetts gaming facilities. Prior to the CMF award, the Gaming Enforcement Division (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>The Review Team agrees that the addition of a VWA as well as the State Police overtime and additional training will help build on the success that has been achieved thus far through the addition of an AAG to the Gaming Enforcement Division of the Attorney General's office. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project.</p>	



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Hampden County District Attorney

Applicant Name: Hampden County District Attorney	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$100,000	Requested Amount: \$75,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$75,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Public Safety: Personnel Assistance	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$75,000	
Description: The Hampden County District Attorney's Office is requesting \$75,000 to partially fund the salaries of personnel who review, administratively manage, and work with victims on cases related to the casino. The funding will directly ease the financial burden imposed by casino-related matters.	
Impact: The applicant used impacts identified in the FY2026 Guidelines: "The introduction of casinos in the Commonwealth has led to increased criminal cases being handled by the District Attorney or Attorney General".	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project helps address the identified impact.	
<p>Rationale: Since MGM Springfield opened, there has been a significant increase in the number of people spending time in the downtown Springfield area. This influx of people coming into the area to enjoy the entertainment does include activity that leads to arrests for various offenses. These arrests add to the general workload of the District Attorney's Office.</p> <p>The direct casino-related impacts can be quantified by the number of arrests. However, there are matters that are indirectly related to the casino that are impossible to track because they are not necessarily in the casino footprint but have a connection to the casino, nonetheless. Those matters may involve theft, domestic violence, and operating under the influence among others. The Hampden DA's office has managed 159 cases in Springfield District Court in the last calendar year that are casino related.</p> <p>The Review Team agreed that this funding would help to mitigate the increased staffing need at the Hampden DA's office due to the presence of the casino. The funding would cover not only ADAs but the administrative personnel in the District Court who create and manage each case that comes through the system. Additionally, funding would go toward a victim witness advocate for handling the initial victim outreach on cases involving a victim.</p>	



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Hampden County Sheriff's Department

Applicant Name: Hampden County Sheriff's Department	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: N/A	Requested Amount: \$400,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$400,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Public Safety: SDH Regional Public Safety FY2026	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$400,000	
Description: The Hampden County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is requesting \$400,000 to offset the cost of lease payments for the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center (WMRWC).	
Impact: The Hampden County Sheriff's Office runs the WMRWC which was previously located in the footprint of MGM Springfield. The development of MGM Springfield required the relocation of the center, which resulted in increased lease payments.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impact.	
Rationale: WMRWC is a minimum security, community-based, residential treatment center. This center operated at 26 Howard Street for 29 years at a lower than market rent rate due to the longevity of its stay and community impact. The WMRWC was a "tenant at will" at the Howard Street location and operated on a year-to-year basis with the landlord. In 2016, the Commission awarded HCSO funds to offset the increased rent rate due to the move to 155 Mill Street. The Commission has funded this project each year at \$400,000 per year. The lease expires in December 2026. The Review Team agrees that this funding will directly mitigate the impact of the increased lease cost. HCSO indicated to the Review Team that it has always requested the full cost of the lease from Ways and Means in their general budget request. The applicant expressed that it was difficult to find outside funding to help assist with the lease. HCSO has an automatic renewal with DCAMM and will be in conversation regarding the renewal after the initial 10-year lease.	



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Suffolk County District Attorney

Applicant Name: Suffolk County District Attorney	Region: A
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$100,000	Requested Amount: \$100,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$100,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Regional Public Safety: Enhancing Regional Public Safety Through Targeted Prosecution	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$100,000	
<p>Description: This Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (SCDAO) proposes to establish a Safe Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) prosecutor based in Chelsea District Court. This prosecutor will focus on the priority prosecutions of offenses and offenders that most impact the community, particularly those involved in narcotics trafficking, drug-related overdoses, illegal firearms, violent crimes, and gang-related activity—all of which have been identified by the Chelsea Police Department as ongoing concerns exacerbated by the casino's presence.</p>	
<p>Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines, the following impacts may be attributable to the casino: the introduction of casinos has led to increased criminal cases being handled by the District Attorney; it is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos may attract certain types of crime including human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking; other crimes that may be attributable to casinos include increased assaults, fraud, and property crimes; and the presence of casinos has been demonstrated to cause an increase in cases of operating under the influence.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The opening of the Encore Boston Harbor casino in 2019 has had a significant impact on public safety in the city of Chelsea. As an immediate neighbor to the casino—and beyond the initial concerns of increased traffic, OUI incidents, and human trafficking—Chelsea has felt the effects of heightened criminal activity, including narcotics trafficking, drug overdoses, illegal firearms possession, human trafficking, and violent crimes, some of which has been linked to gang activity.</p> <p>The SNI program is a community-based prosecution model that targets high-impact crime, fosters community engagement, and enhances regional law enforcement collaboration. SNI prosecutors focus on violent offenders, drug trafficking, gang activity, and firearm crimes, working closely with police and community stakeholders to reduce recidivism. By assigning a dedicated SNI prosecutor to Chelsea District Court, this project will prioritize casino-related crime, improve case outcomes, and strengthen public safety efforts in affected neighborhoods.</p> <p>The Review Team agrees that this project will help the DA's office prosecute crimes associated with casino-related activity and therefore recommends full funding of this project.</p>	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Regional Workforce Development Grants

Holyoke Community College/Springfield Technical Community College/Springfield Public Schools

Applicant Name: Holyoke Community College	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$750,000	Requested Amount: \$807,600
Recommended Grant Amount: \$750,000 or \$807,600 with requested waiver	
Waiver: STCC Workforce Development is requesting a \$57,600 waiver that includes increases in: bilingual support by hiring bilingual instructors, developing multilingual materials, and providing interpretation services; Spanish-language high school equivalency test prep courses; bilingual hospitality training; bilingual customer service training to improve job readiness in the hospitality sector; and technology training resources to enhance career exploration with updated software, virtual/augmented reality training, and personalized career planning.	
Regional Workforce Development Grant - Holyoke Community College - WorkReady25	
Recommendation: Full Funding in the amount of \$750,000 or \$807,600 with requested waiver	
<p>Description: These grant funds will enable Holyoke Community College (HCC), Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), and the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) to continue their WorkReady program in FY 2026. This consortium provides various high school equivalency programs, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, occupational trainings, and digital literacy courses for those in the greater Springfield area. The increased availability of funding will increase the number of courses offered and participants served.</p> <p>HCC is proposing to train 7 cohorts in Line Cook training for a total of 84 trainees. Students will be able to attain credentials including a Line Cook Certificate, ServSafe Food Manager, and an Allergen Certificate. HCC is also proposing to continue the hotel and hospitality training with 4 cohorts of Hotel Front Desk/Room Attendant training with a total of 32 trainees. Credentials include Certificate of Completion and Guest Service Gold Customer Service (recommended by MGM). Both programs will include a tour of MGM Springfield, an interview workshop with MGM, including individual feedback on interview skills, and a job application to MGM Springfield.</p> <p>SPS will continue its "Ahead of the Game" program, which focuses on supporting low-skilled, low-income adult students in acquiring skills relevant to casino-related careers. The next year's main goal is to help 100 adult students gain training, education, and access to post-secondary programs that lead to gainful employment. The target population for the program is low-skilled adults without high school credentials.</p> <p>The Hampden Prep Program, under the STCC Division of Workforce Development, will offer high-impact computer & digital literacy training and job readiness skills with ESL support, HiSET/GED test preparation Fast Track, contextualized ESOL for hospitality/customer service, and hospitality industry-related certifications. The Hampden Prep Program is seeking a waiver as described above to improve bilingual support.</p>	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Impact: The application discussed impacts identified in the CMF Guidelines including an increase in demand for employees with a high school diploma or equivalent credentials, an increase in demand for employees with understanding of roles in the hospitality field, an increase in demand for employees who speak English, and an increase in demand for applicants with basic digital literacy

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impact.

Rationale: The Review Team agrees that the applicant's proposed scope of work falls in line with the goals of the CMF's workforce development guidelines. These programs have historically been very successful, and the expansion of this program from \$500,000 per year to \$750,000 per year has allowed more individuals access to critical skills needed to be competitive applicants in the hospitality and restaurant field. 69.3% of adult job seekers in Hampden County lack a high school credential and often lack the basic digital literacy skills to seek, apply for, obtain, or retain a job. Adults from communities of color show even higher degrees of unemployment, educational attainment, and digital literacy. The gaps in educational attainment and digital literacy of job seekers in Hampden County impact all industries. These are a particular barrier for MGM Springfield since MGM requires a high school credential for all positions, and all job applications are accepted online, and initial interviews are conducted remotely.

Waiver Discussion: STCC is requesting a waiver primarily for enhanced bilingual support and improved technology training resources. The Review Team has determined that these are eligible costs associated with the program and would enhance STCC's ability to assist bilingual students and improve the technological skills of prospective students.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

MassHire Metro North

Applicant Name: MassHire Metro North	Region: A
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$750,000	Requested Amount: \$750,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$750,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Workforce Development: Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium	
Recommendation: Full Funding in the amount of \$750,000	
<p>Description: These funds will allow Masshire Metro North Workforce Board to continue the Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium (MBRHC) to provide workforce development programs in the greater Boston area. With the help of nine partner organizations, the MBRHC proposes to serve at least 1,700 residents in one or more of the services funded by this grant. The specific services offered include ESOL Training; Job Readiness Training; Occupational Skill Training; Digital Literacy Training; Career Counseling; and Support Services. This grant will continue the funnel of services approach to provide wrap around services for individuals trying to enter the workforce. The following are the partners for this round:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action For Equity (A4E) - Connects residents to employers and opportunities focusing on high quality jobs in hospitality and gaming near Encore. • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) - BCNC will deliver four cycles of its English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Customer Service training program. • Boston Education, Skills, and Training (BEST) Corporation - Housekeeping Pre-Apprenticeship Program and Culinary Training. • La Colaborativa - Job Readiness Workshops, Career Counseling, English Classes, Digital Literacy Classes. • Community Work Services (CWS) - At Your Service (AYS) Hospitality Training Program, Environmental Commercial Cleaning/Building & Grounds Maintenance Training Program, Hospitality Services Training Program. • International Institute of New England (IINE) - two eight-week cycles of its Ready, Set, Serve! • Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) - First Source Jobs Program. • New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT) - 14-week multilingual culinary arts training. • YMCA of Greater Boston (YGB) - Artes Culinarias: Culinary Arts Training Program. 	
<p>Impact: The application discussed impacts identified in the CMF Guidelines including an increase in demand for employees with a high school diploma or equivalent credentials, an increase in demand for employees with understanding of roles in the hospitality field, an increase in demand for employees who speak English, and an increase in demand for applicants with basic digital literacy.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impact.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The Review Team agrees that the scope of work falls in line with the goals of the CMF's workforce development guidelines. The applicant utilized impacts identified in the CMF Guidelines and provided relevant regional workforce data directly relating to jobs at Encore. The programs have historically been very successful and the expansion of this program from \$500,000 to \$750,000 has allowed more individuals access to critical skills needed to be competitive applicants in the hospitality and restaurant field. As requested previously, MassHire will continue to provide 30-Day employment and retention data to MGC. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project.</p>	



MUNICIPAL BLOCK GRANTS

Category 2 Communities

City of Attleboro

Applicant Name: Attleboro	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$60,700	Requested Amount: \$49,900
Recommended Grant Amount: \$49,900	
Waiver: N/A	
Public Safety: Speed Radar Traffic Trailers	
Recommendation: Full Funding in the amount of \$49,900	
Description: This project is for the purchase of two Speed Radar Trailers to help control speeds on Routes 1 and 1A, which are major routes to the Plainridge Park Casino.	
Impact: As identified in the guidelines, increases in casino related traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impact.	
Rationale: The proposed project aims to address the increased traffic congestion, speeding, and motor vehicle crashes along Route 1 and Route 1A in Attleboro, which carry a significant amount of casino related traffic. These heavily traveled roadways have seen a rise in vehicle and pedestrian safety risks. By implementing speed-management and crash-reduction strategies, the project seeks to enhance roadway safety, reduce accidents, and mitigate the negative impacts of increased casino-related traffic on the community. The Review Team agrees that these measures will assist Attleboro in reducing speeds and improving traffic safety along these corridors and therefore, recommends funding this grant. The purchase of this type of equipment is fully consistent with previous CMF purchases by other communities.	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Town of Foxborough

Applicant Name: Foxborough	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$64,500	Requested Amount: \$497,500
Recommended Grant Amount: \$64,500 or \$399,300 if the waiver is approved.	
<p>Waiver: Foxborough is requesting a waiver in the amount of \$334,800 to expand the scope of the project which would bring the total value of Foxborough's grant to \$399,300 with a total project cost of \$497,500 which includes contributions by Plainville (\$21,400) and Wrentham (\$76,800).</p> <p>The applicant has indicated that the current program has a target audience of visitors from the northeast. Current evidence showing increased hotel and meals tax indicates the current program has been effective; but additional funding could expand the audience reach to additional markets. With the impending arrival of the FIFA World Cup in 2026, the Towns believe that time is of the essence to elevate the profile of the communities in advance of the World Cup.</p>	
Community Planning: Regional Destination Marketing Initiative	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$64,500, or \$399,300 to Foxborough if the waiver is approved.	
<p>Description: This project is a continuation of the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham with Foxborough continuing to be the fiscal manager. This project aims to boost tourism and economic activity in the communities by implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Through coordinated efforts with Plainridge Park Casino, Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, and Patriot Place, the campaign will leverage digital marketing, influencer partnerships, TripAdvisor promotions, and concierge programs to attract both domestic and international visitors.</p>	
<p>Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines "gaming establishments 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 businesses to attract these patrons and employees to their communities and business establishments."</p>	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impact.	



Rationale: This request supports a regional destination marketing campaign to leverage the economic impact of Plainridge Park Casino, Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, and Gillette Stadium/Patriot Place. In addition to the Foxborough funding request, both Plainville and Wrentham propose to provide funds towards this project in the amounts to \$21,400 and \$76,800 respectively. The goal is to attract visitors beyond typical casino patrons, ensuring economic growth for the entire region rather than just a redistribution of spending. With the FIFA World Cup approaching, the campaign aims to expand marketing efforts through digital advertising, geofencing, and promotions at airports and on the MBTA. Based on previous grants, the Review Team agrees that continued funding for this program is appropriate.

Waiver Discussion: The applicant has requested a waiver in the amount of \$334,800 to expand the reach of the program. As indicated in the application, this project is scalable so it can proceed with or without the waiver. As outlined in the FY 2026 Guidance, "The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but rather to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under an applicant's annual CMF allocation." This request does not seem to fully meet this intent as the project could be funded without the waiver, albeit at a reduced amount. This waiver request is a significant amount for the Category 2 Region. For FY 2026, a total of \$500,000 in funding was identified for the communities in the region. This waiver would amount to a 67% increase in funding for the entire Category 2 Region.



Town of Mansfield

Applicant Name: Mansfield	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$63,000	Requested Amount: \$147,700
Recommended Grant Amount: \$63,000 or \$147,700 if the waiver is granted	
<p>Waiver: The Town of Mansfield is requesting a waiver for an additional \$84,700 beyond its designated \$63,000 CMF grant for FY 2026 due to a significant \$2 million budget deficit. As of January 16, 2025, the Select Board, Financial Committee, and School Board decided to present an override to voters to address the shortfall. The Police Department has already submitted \$95,000 in budget cuts, and \$350,000 was removed from Capital Improvement Projects, eliminating funding typically used for fleet vehicle purchases. Given these financial constraints, all proposed projects in this grant application rely entirely on CMF support and would not be funded otherwise.</p> <p>Waiver Discussion: The funding waiver, as outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines states "The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but rather to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under an applicant's annual CMF allocation." In this case, the Town could have afforded two of the three proposed projects under the proposed grant allocation. It is not the intent of this waiver to add additional projects that a community might like to do; there should be a compelling reason to do so. Another requirement of the public safety applications is that these funds are to supplement, not supplant, existing funding. The stated case for the waiver is that the Town has undergone budget cuts. Again, it is not the intent of the CMF or the waiver to fill a budget gap as this would be considered supplanting the existing budget. With that said, the Review Team has determined that each of the projects would be eligible for funding under the CMF.</p>	
1. Public Safety: Hotel Call Reduction - \$84,700	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$84,700 if the waiver is approved.	
<p>Description: This grant is to continue to fund supplemental police patrols at local hotels to address increased calls for service. This will involve placing officers at the hotel properties to deter illegal activities using the approach taken by the Problem-Oriented Policing Unit working collaboratively with hotel management to address issues that lead to repeat calls for service.</p> <p>Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following impacts have been identified by the applicant: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; it is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain types of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking; and the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service.</p> <p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>	



Rationale: This project is a continuation of the work started with CMF funds received in FY 2025. While this program is still in its early stages, the Town shared with the Review Team several examples of incidents that have happened in the months since the program began. These have shown excellent promise in addressing ongoing issues at area hotels. In addition, the Town has coordinated with other communities and the State Police to address regional issues that affect the local hotels.

The Review Team agrees that there have been increases in calls for service at the local hotels for a variety of issues and that the early results of the program are positive. Therefore, the Review Team recommends continuing this program to help the community address criminal activity in their hotels. The Town has indicated to the Review Team that this project is their top priority if the Commission does not grant the waiver.

2. Public Safety: Officer Training - \$40,400

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$40,400 pending the resolution of the waiver request.

Description: This grant is to provide police training in the areas of de-escalation, implicit bias, use of force, human trafficking, sexual assault, drug investigations, money laundering and cybercrime. Many of these areas relate back to the Hotel Call Reduction initiative.

Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following impacts have been identified by the applicant: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; it is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain types of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking; and the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The project aims to enhance police training in Mansfield to better equip officers for the increased interactions with patrons and employees resulting from higher visitation and employment at Plainridge Park Casino since its 2015 opening. This training will help officers effectively handle a wider range of situations, improving public safety and community relations. The Review Team agrees that these trainings can better equip police officers in the performance of their duties and recommends full funding of this project, pending the resolution of the waiver request. The Town has ranked this project as second on their priority list.

3. Public Safety: Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) - \$22,600

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$22,600 pending resolution of the waiver request.

Description: This project is for the purchase of AEDs to equip each cruiser/specialty vehicle with an AED for quick response in medical emergencies.

Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following impacts have been identified by the applicant: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; and the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.



Rationale: This project request was initially for the purchase of a pickup truck to support the enforcement of state and federal commercial motor vehicle laws. The Review Team was unable to identify a nexus to a casino related impact and the Town asked to replace that application with this request.

Due to the proximity of the casino to Mansfield, the Review Team agrees that there is an increased likelihood that Mansfield officers could provide initial medical aid as a first responder to a medical emergency. The Review Team agrees that the provision of AEDs will improve the capability of the Mansfield Police Department to ensure the fastest possible response to a cardiac emergency and therefore, recommends full funding of this grant pending the resolution of the waiver request.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Town of North Attleboro

Applicant Name: North Attleboro	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$81,700	Requested Amount: \$1,572,350
Recommended Grant Amount: \$72,350 or \$1,572,350 if the waiver is granted	
<p>Waiver: North Attleboro is requesting a waiver in the amount of \$1,490,650, bringing its total CMF grant request to \$1,572,350. This waiver request is to fund transportation upgrades to Routes 152 in North Attleboro and Plainville to increase traffic capacity and improve safety on this major route to the casino. The Town received a \$3.9 million MassWorks grant towards this \$7.5 million project. In accordance with the FY 2026 CMF Guidance, the Town would be unable to fund this project under its current proposed grant allocation and therefore would need a waiver to move forward with this project.</p>	
1. Public Safety: Police Traffic Mitigation - \$72,350	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$72,350	
<p>Description: This project is for the purchase of Flock License Plate Recognition cameras; radar speed signs; and for Use of Force, De-escalation and Implicit Bias training for police officers.</p>	
<p>Impact: As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following casino-related impacts are associated with this project: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle /pedestrian conflicts; and the presence of casinos has been demonstrated to cause an increase in cases of operating under the influence.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that the proposed project will help address identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The project is intended to address the significant impact of Plainridge Park Casino traffic on North Attleboro, where 14-18% of casino-bound vehicles pass through key town roadways. This has led to increased incidents of erratic driving, OUIs, crashes, and suspicious activity, including suspected prostitution and trafficking linked to nearby hotels. The installation of radar speed signs has been demonstrated to reduce travel speeds, the use of Flock cameras has assisted communities in identifying and tracking suspects, and training has been demonstrated to improve police interactions with the public. These types of equipment and training have been routinely funded by the CMF and the Review Team agrees that these are appropriate expenditures for North Attleborough.</p>	
2. Transportation: Route 152/Route 106 intersection in North Attleboro and Plainville - \$1,500,000	
<p>Recommendation: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses a casino related impact, however, the Team does not have a recommendation regarding the determination of the waiver. The waiver request is very significant related to the overall regional expenditures and is up to the Commission's discretion as to the size and desirability of the waiver.</p>	
<p>Description: In conjunction with the Town of Plainville, the Town of North Attleboro is proposing improvements to Route 152 in North Attleboro and Plainville including the reconstruction of the Route 152/106 intersection. This \$7.5 million project has received a \$3.9 million MassWorks grant for road improvements from George Leven Drive in North Attleboro to the Route 152/106 intersection in Plainville. Improvements include roadway widening at the intersection of Routes 152/106 to increase capacity, the addition of a new traffic signal, pedestrian improvements and road resurfacing.</p>	



Impact: The following impacts identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines are associated with this project: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. The project aims to address severe congestion at the Route 152/106 intersection, a key route to Plainridge Park Casino.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that the proposed project will address identified impacts.

Rationale: Route 152 is estimated to carry about 4% of the casino-related traffic, which meets the minimum requirements for CMF eligibility. The proposed project is designed primarily to address congestion related issues at the Route 152/106 intersection, while also making improvements to pedestrian and vehicular safety. The total estimated cost for the project is \$7.5 million, of which \$3.9 million will be from a MassWorks grant. Even with an additional \$1.5 million, the project still has a shortfall of \$2.1 million. \$1.5 million is the maximum grant amount allowed under this category. The Town has indicated that they are looking to reduce the cost through the elimination of certain elements (such as granite curbing) and has committed to funding the remaining costs of the project. Based on the FY 2026 Guidelines, the Review Team agrees that this project meets the eligibility requirements for funding.

Waiver Discussion: All but \$9,350 of this project is proposed to be funded through a waiver - \$1,490,650. While the Review Team agrees that this project is eligible for funding, this is a very large waiver request for the Region. For the last several years, the amount of CMF money earmarked for the region has been \$500,000. The reasons for this are twofold. First is that the gaming taxes from the Category 2 facility do not contribute any funds towards the CMF; and second is that given the location and size of the casino, the impacts are relatively smaller than those of the Category 1 casinos. This single request is nearly three times what was set aside for the entire region in FY 2026 and is over 18 times the base grant amount for the community.

As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines "The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but rather to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under an applicant's annual CMF allocation." This project certainly meets that standard as there is no way the community could fund this project under its proposed grant allocation, even over multiple grant rounds.

If the Commission deems this waiver request to be excessive, it could award a reduced amount. The Town has indicated that this is a priority project for them, and they will try to proceed with the project even if the waiver is not granted.



Town of Plainville

Applicant Name: Plainville	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$153,300	Requested Amount: \$153,300
Recommended Grant Amount: \$153,300 with \$21,400 being transferred to the Town of Foxborough	
Waiver: N/A	
1. Community Planning: Regional Destination Marketing Initiative - \$21,400	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$21,400 to be transferred to Foxborough as the administrator of this grant.	
<p>Description: This project is a continuation of the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham with Foxborough continuing to be the fiscal manager. This project aims to boost tourism and economic activity in the communities by implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Plainville is proposing to contribute \$21,400 towards this program. Please see the Foxborough application for a full description of the project.</p>	
Impact:	
Determination:	
Rationale:	
2. Public Safety: Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR/ALERT) Training and Equipment - \$72,700	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$72,700	
<p>Description: This project is for training for police, fire, and EMS responding to an active threat, and procurement of protective gear.</p>	
<p>Impact: As identified in the Guidelines, the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: This project aims to significantly enhance the Plainville Police Department's capacity to respond to critical incidents. The department will train police, fire, and EMS personnel in cohesive response tactics, focusing on immediate medical intervention and law enforcement coordination. The initiative will also provide essential protective and medical trauma equipment to safeguard first responders and improve their ability to manage high-risk situations effectively. This includes trauma and bleeding first aid kits, outer carrier vests for firefighters/EMS and ballistic blankets.</p> <p>The Review Team agrees that this training would provide the same knowledge base for many of the emergency responders enabling them to be prepared in the event of an occurrence. Having a casino in Plainville makes the casino a known vulnerability point for this type of crime. Provision of this type of training is consistent with other previous CMF grants.</p>	



3. Public Safety: Distracted and Impaired Driving Safety Education Initiative - \$13,600

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$13,600

Description: This project aims to educate adolescents, young drivers, and adults on the dangers of impaired, drowsy and distracted driving through a series of workshops and simulators that will provide a realistic and impactful learning experience. The project will also include community engagement and a public awareness campaign.

Impact: - As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines," the presence of casinos has been demonstrated to cause an increase in cases of operating under the influence." The establishment of PPC has brought both challenges and opportunities. As with many large attractions, the casino attracts a significant influx of visitors, leading to increased traffic and associated concerns including heightened traffic volume, speed variations, impaired vehicle operation (alcohol, drugs, and distracted driving) leading to a rise in vehicular accidents, injuries, fatalities. and law enforcement activities.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The Distracted and Impaired Driving Safety Education Initiative aims to address the rise in traffic-related accidents, injuries, and fatalities linked to the increased traffic from visitors to Plainridge Park Casino. The goals of this program are to provide enhanced safety by increasing awareness regarding the perils of impaired and distracted driving; greater community involvement in traffic safety; and a decrease in the number of impaired and distracted driving incidents. The Review Team agrees that these efforts should assist the community in combating impaired and distracted driving, and therefore, recommends full funding for this program.

4. License Plate Readers - \$45,600

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$45,600.

Description: The Plainville Police Department proposes to install eight (8) solar powered LPR cameras at key ingress and egress points throughout the town.

Impact: It is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain types of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking. Other crimes that may be attributable to casinos include increased assaults, fraud, and property crimes; and increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: This initiative is designed to enhance the Town's ability to prevent, investigate, and respond to crime in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner. LPR technology enables the real-time identification of vehicles associated with criminal activity and is a proven tool in deterring crimes, locating missing persons, and solving complex investigations. Additionally, each unit will be equipped with integrated cellular connectivity, allowing seamless interaction with the department's existing cloud-based software for storage, search, and retrieval of LPR data. The Review Team agrees that the use of LPRs will enhance the Town's ability to investigate and solve crimes and recommends full funding for this project. Funding for this type of equipment is fully consistent with CMF projects funded in other communities.



Town of Wrentham

Applicant Name: Wrentham	Region: Category 2
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$76,800	Requested Amount: \$155,200
Recommended Grant Amount: \$76,800 to be transferred to Foxborough or \$155,200 with \$76,800 transferred to Foxborough if the waiver request is granted.	
Waiver: The MGC allotted \$76,800 for the Town of Wrentham. The Planning & Community Development department is requesting/applying for that entire amount, therefore; Public Safety is requesting a waiver for the entire request of \$78,400.	
1. Community Planning: Regional Destination Marketing Initiative - \$76,800	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$76,800 to be transferred to Foxborough as the administrator of this grant.	
Description: This project is a continuation of the Regional Marketing Program for Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham with Foxborough continuing to be the fiscal manager. This project aims to boost tourism and economic activity in the communities by implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Please see the Foxborough application for a full description of the project.	
Impact:	
Determination:	
Rationale:	
2. Public Safety: Wrentham Police - \$78,400	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$78,400 pending the waiver request.	
Description: The project proposes funding for two mobile license plate readers, two mini message boards and police traffic enforcement focusing on the main routes to the casino.	
Impact: The application identified the following impacts: increased visitation and employment due to the casino will likely increase the interaction between public safety personnel and casino patrons and employees; increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle /pedestrian conflicts; and the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Rationale: This project originally requested the purchase of two motorcycles and associated equipment and less lethal projectiles. During the Review Team's discussion with the Town, we indicated that it was unlikely that the team would be recommending this application. The Wrentham Police department submitted an alternative proposal that is now under consideration.

Mobile License Plate Readers (LPR's) would be utilized by police vehicles patrolling Rt.1 and the general areas of Wrentham in close proximity to the Casino. LPR's are a proactive means to detect, prevent and investigate crimes of a wide variety. Mini Message Board are programmable for any message needed, and their size allows for quick deployment to active incidents and to warn drivers in advance of future traffic issues or planned events at the Casino. Traffic enforcement would be conducted on Route 1 and on secondary roads leading to Route 1 and the Casino. The Review Team agrees that these efforts will assist the Town in better managing traffic on Route 1 and other major routes to the casino, and therefore, recommends full funding of this project pending the decision on the waiver. Provision of this type of equipment is fully consistent with previous grants issued by the CMF to other communities.

Waiver Discussion: For the last few years, Wrentham has applied all of their CMF funds to the Regional Marketing Program. The Town sees the benefits of the Regional Marketing Program and still wants to participate in that effort. The Town has also realized that there are other public safety issues that they would like to mitigate. This request looks to help address local public safety issues while also participating in regional initiatives. The Review Team agrees that the public safety request is eligible for funding under the CMF.



Region B Communities

Town of Agawam

Applicant Name: Agawam	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$357,400	Requested Amount: \$785,465
Recommended Grant Amount: Partial Funding in the amount of \$321,500	
<p>Waiver: The Town of Agawam is requesting a waiver for additional funding of \$428,065 to bridge a funding gap for the Suffield Street, Cooper Street, and Rowley Street Intersection Project. The town was initially awarded an \$833,300 CMF grant in 2022, but updated construction estimates from October 2024 place the total project cost at \$1.7 million. Due to funding caps, the original grant has been reduced, leaving a shortfall. To show commitment, the town has allocated \$800,000 (47% of the total cost) from local funds but cannot cover the remaining gap without straining resources. Delayed funding could push construction past 2026, increasing costs and prolonging traffic congestion. The project aims to mitigate casino-related traffic impacts by improving safety, modernizing traffic controls, and enhancing accessibility.</p> <p>Waiver Discussion: The Town of Agawam was granted \$833,300 for the construction of the Suffield, Cooper and Rowley Street project in 2022 and that grant is still in effect. Community Affairs staff placed a condition on this grant to ensure that the project received no more than 1/3 of the total construction cost. Since that time, there have been changes to the funding formula for construction projects. Applying the current formulas to this project, the total eligible project costs would be \$889,400, or \$55,800 more than the original grant. The Review Team is recommending awarding the extra \$55,800 to the project and adding it to the original grant (see discussion on project 6 below). Adding \$55,800 to the other recommended project costs, the total amount of the grant would be \$321,500, which is less than the Town's allocation of \$357,400. This means that the Town does not need a waiver to fund the requested project.</p>	
1. Public Safety: Aerial Truck Response Training - \$44,300	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$44,300	
<p>Description: This project is for a comprehensive training program focused on Tower Ladder Placement and Operations to address the increased demands from the nearby casino and mutual aid responses to Springfield.</p>	
<p>Impact: The casino has led to more large-scale events, higher building occupancy rates, and greater risks of structural fires, requiring advanced aerial ladder operations for fire suppression and rescues. Increased mutual aid requests to Springfield, along with heightened traffic congestion, have complicated emergency responses.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address identified impacts.</p>	



Rationale: This project focuses on specialized training for aerial ladder operations, ensuring that Agawam firefighters are prepared to handle the complex hazards associated with the casino and its surrounding infrastructure. This initiative aims to enhance firefighter readiness, improve response times, and ensure the safety of both responders and civilians in complex fire and rescue situations. Firefighters will undergo hands-on training and scenario-based drills over four weeks, culminating in practical assessments and certification. The Review Team agrees that this project will improve firefighting skills in high-rise buildings and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.

2. Public Safety: Elevator Rescue Operations Training - \$19,500

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$19,500

Description: The project includes both classroom instruction and hands-on exercises to equip firefighters with the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to handle elevator-related emergencies. Training will be effectively tailored to address challenges specific to mutual aid responses and incidents influenced by the nearby casino.

Impact: The introduction of MGM has increased fire and rescue demands in Agawam, particularly for technical rescues like elevator operations. The casino's influence has led to higher visitation and occupancy rates in nearby commercial and hospitality buildings, increasing the likelihood of elevator malfunctions and emergencies, resulting in more mutual aid requests and responses to incidents involving casino patrons, placing additional strain on Agawam's fire department.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The proposed Elevator Rescue Operations training will equip firefighters with the necessary technical skills to manage these emergencies efficiently, improving response times and ensuring the safety of both responders and civilians. The training will be conducted in multiple four-hour sessions to ensure all personnel can participate, culminating in practical assessments and certification upon successful completion. The Review Team agrees that this training will improve elevator rescue operations and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.

3. Public Safety: Fire Department EMS First Response Vehicle - \$103,500

Recommendation: No more than 25% funding up to a maximum of \$25,800

Description: This project is for the purchase of a new EMS response vehicle equipped with advanced life support (ALS) capabilities including state-of-the-art medical equipment, training EMS staff on its use, and coordinating with neighboring communities for streamlined emergency response.

Impact: The proposed project aims to address the increased strain on the municipality's emergency medical services (EMS) caused by the influx of visitors to a nearby casino. The rise in EMS calls—linked to traffic accidents, alcohol-related incidents, and medical emergencies involving casino patrons—has created a need for enhanced response capabilities.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.



Rationale: The acquisition of a new EMS response vehicle, specifically designed for rapid deployment and advanced life support (ALS) capabilities, will be utilized to respond to incidents, such as traffic accidents, alcohol-related emergencies, medical emergencies and other high-priority events. This vehicle represents an expansion of EMS resources rather than a replacement of existing equipment. The vehicle will improve response times, enhance patient care, and bolster the municipality's ability to manage casino-related incidents effectively.

The application indicated that data collected from EMS records show an average increase of 4% per year in EMS call volumes. While this increase is significant, it is not possible to ascertain which of these are directly associated with the MGM casino. Through the data provided with the application, the Review Team agrees that there certainly is some impact on Agawam, but the Team did not agree that the CMF should be funding the full cost of this vehicle. Since coming up with an exact number of calls that are directly associated with MGM is not possible, the Review Team felt that in no case should the CMF fund more than 25% of the project cost. Therefore, our recommendation is to fund up to 25% of the total costs, with the cost not exceeding \$25,800. When notified of our recommendation, the Town indicated that they would still move forward with the project. The Town also submitted an additional project request to attempt to utilize the remaining funds (see project 4 below).

4. Public Safety: Flock Cameras - \$57,900

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$57,900

Description: This project is for the lease of six Flock Falcon license plate recognition (LPR) cameras for three years. These cameras will be strategically placed throughout Agawam to assist in solving crimes.

Impact: Agawam is in a geographic position that has been impacted by vehicle traffic traveling both to and from the MGM casino. An increase in traffic impacts public safety and police resources by increasing things such as traffic accidents, hit and runs, speeding and other motor vehicle infractions. OUI arrests of people traveling from the MGM casino can also be expected to rise.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The Town is proposing to lease six Flock cameras to aid in the monitoring of vehicle traffic within the Agawam, particularly on the streets that are heavily traveled routes leading to and from the MGM casino. These tools would enable the Town to study the traffic patterns of motorists by using their data analysis tools. In addition, these cameras would be instrumental in identifying suspects involved in crimes that occur within the Town of Agawam and would aid the City of Springfield as our close geographic location and sharing of a border result in suspects easily passing between the two cities.

This project was added to the application when the community was notified that the Review Team was not recommending full funding for the EMS Response vehicle. The Review Team agrees that the leasing of this equipment will help the community in the investigation and response to criminal activity in Agawam and therefore, recommends full funding of this project. Provision of this type of equipment is fully consistent with previous CMF grants to other communities.

5. Public Safety: Advanced Vehicle Extrication Equipment - \$118,200

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$118,200



<p>Description: This project is for the purchase of advanced battery-powered vehicle extrication tools to improve the fire department's ability to handle the increasing number of complex vehicle rescues. The project includes procuring specialized tools, customizing them for various extrication scenarios, and providing hands-on training for fire personnel to ensure efficient operation.</p>
<p>Impact: The proposed project aims to address the rise in traffic congestion and vehicular accidents caused by the casino's presence, which has led to more complex extrications due to high-speed collisions and increased traffic density.</p>
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project helps address the identified impact.</p>
<p>Rationale: The purchase of advanced battery-powered extrication equipment offers greater mobility and efficiency in time-sensitive rescues. These tools will be integrated into emergency response operations, enhancing the department's ability to respond quickly and safely to high-speed collisions and accidents near the gaming establishment. This equipment will improve response times, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure the safety of both responders and accident victims, particularly in areas affected by casino-related traffic issues. The Review Team agrees that this equipment will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire personnel in performing vehicle related extrications and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.</p>
<p>6. Transportation: Suffield-Cooper-Rowley Intersection - \$500,000</p>
<p>Recommendation: Partial funding in the amount of \$55,800</p>
<p>Description: This project is for the reconstruction of the Suffield-Cooper-Rowley intersection.</p>
<p>Impact: The gaming establishment has significantly increased traffic congestion at the five-way intersection of Suffield Street, Cooper Street, and Rowley Street in Agawam, a key route for casino visitors from nearby towns and Bradley Airport.</p>
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address identified impact.</p>
<p>Rationale: This project received a CMF transportation construction grant in the amount of \$833,300 in 2022. At that time, the subsidy for construction projects was calculated differently and provided a maximum grant of 1/3 of the construction cost. This project was not fully developed, so the grant was conditioned such that Agawam would need to submit the final construction costs to ensure that the maximum subsidy was not exceeded.</p> <p>In the intervening time, the design of the project has changed from a proposed roundabout to a signalized intersection. However, the previously awarded funds are still in place and may be accessed by Agawam for this project.</p> <p>As currently proposed, the total project cost is estimated to be \$1,700,000, which consists of \$291,600 for design and \$1,408,600 for construction. Under the current CMF Guidelines, design costs are fully eligible for funding and the construction portion would be eligible for a \$597,500 subsidy, which is a total of \$889,100 (\$291,600 + \$597,500). Since \$833,300 is already earmarked for the project, the remaining eligible costs for the project would be \$55,800 (\$889,100 - \$833,300). The Review Team recommends awarding this project an additional \$55,800. It also recommends that these funds be added to the original grant amount and the Grant Instrument and Contract be revised to reflect this revision.</p>



City of Chicopee

Applicant Name: Chicopee	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$341,100	Requested Amount: \$341,100
Recommended Grant Amount: \$341,100	
Waiver: N/A	
1. Public Safety: Mitigating Adverse MGM-Related Public Safety Events - \$75,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$75,000	
<p>Description: This project is for the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras and license plate readers (LPR), along with the necessary upgrades to associated infrastructure. This project will enhance the Department's capacity to effectively manage and mitigate these challenges by streamlining investigations, improving traffic safety, and reducing impaired driving.</p>	
<p>Impact: The following impacts were identified when choosing this Project for funding: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The proposed project aims to address the public safety challenges associated with the MGM Casino in Springfield, MA, which has led to increased crime, traffic incidents, and emergency response demands in the neighboring city of Chicopee. The proposed locations of the cameras are on the main routes between Springfield and Chicopee which carry casino-related traffic. The Review Team agrees that the installation of cameras and license plate readers will assist the police department in responding to and investigating crime as well as improving traffic safety and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.</p>	
2. Transportation: Chicopee Center Streetscapes Phase 2 - \$183,700	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$183,700	
<p>Description: This project is a continuation of work conducted in FY 2021 and FY 2025 to advance the improvements to the Center St. – I-391 – Hampden St. – West St. – Abbey St. – South St. interchange to the 75% design level. These funds will be used to conduct the required surveying, engineering & design services.</p>	
<p>Impact: The following impacts were identified when choosing this Project for funding: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts; and increased visitation to the gaming establishment area may place a strain on public transit services.</p>	



Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impacts.
Rationale: The proposed Chicopee Center Streetscapes Project aims to mitigate the traffic congestion and safety concerns caused by increased visitation to the MGM Springfield casino. The casino has contributed to a measurable rise in traffic volume on key routes in Chicopee, exacerbating congestion and increasing the risk of vehicular accidents and pedestrian conflicts. Given Chicopee's already high rate of traffic-related incidents, this project seeks to redesign critical roadways to improve traffic flow and enhance safety for all users. Additionally, the project aligns with broader transportation initiatives, such as the Safe & Complete Streets and Roads for All Project, supporting long-term improvements in the city's infrastructure.
3. Transportation: ValleyBike Bikeshare - \$82,400
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$82,400
Description: This project is for the operation and administration of the City's participation in the regional ValleyBike Bikeshare Program to provide an alternative mode of transportation and remove vehicles from the road.
Impact: The application identified the following impacts associated with this project: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment.
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project addresses the identified impacts.
Rationale: This project aims to support the continuation of the ValleyBike regional bikeshare program in Chicopee, which helps mitigate the transportation challenges associated with increased visitation to the MGM Springfield casino. By providing an alternative mode of transportation, the bikeshare program can help reduce motor vehicle congestion, alleviate strain on public transit, and improves connectivity for casino employees and local businesses. The Review Team agrees that the provision of alternative modes of transportation has the ability to help address impacts on the roadway network and public transportation.



Town of East Longmeadow

Applicant Name: East Longmeadow	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$352,000	Requested Amount: \$350,300
Recommended Grant Amount: Partial funding in the amount of \$347,200	
Waiver: N/A	
1. Community Planning: Conceptual Design of Center Town District - \$22,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$22,000	
<p>Description: This project is an effort to improve economic development and offer a diversity of local housing opportunities to the area workforce, and to delineate a compact area for pedestrian-focused, mixed-use development. This project requests funds to perform a conceptual planning effort focused on East Longmeadow's Center Town District to address opportunities to create a walkable community core with diverse housing by improving roadway alignments, increasing safety and comfort for pedestrians, and creating new public spaces.</p>	
<p>Impact: According to the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, gaming establishments 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 businesses to attract casino patrons and employees to their communities, business establishments and promote recreational and entertainment opportunities, and help communities compete with the gaming establishments for business. At the same time, competition from the gaming establishment may have negative impacts on other businesses competing in the hospitality and entertainment industries.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The proposed project aims to leverage the influx of patrons and employees drawn to gaming establishments by promoting local businesses, housing and recreational opportunities, thereby boosting the local economy. However, it also addresses the potential negative impact that increased competition from the gaming establishment may have on existing businesses in the hospitality and entertainment sectors, which could struggle to retain customers and revenue. The Review Team agrees that this effort will help the competitiveness of the Town to attract casino patrons and employees to East Longmeadow, and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.</p>	
2. Public Safety: Ambulance Equipment Improvement - \$74,600	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$74,600	
<p>Description: The East Longmeadow Fire Department is seeking grant funding to purchase four specialized pieces of hydraulic rescue equipment—a cutter, spreader, ram, and multi-tool—along with necessary mounting brackets and power appliances. This equipment will enhance the department's ability to quickly and effectively extricate victims from serious motor vehicle crashes, both within East Longmeadow and in neighboring communities as part of mutual aid responses.</p>	



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

<p>Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidance the following impacts were identified: the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS, which could lead to increased need for mutual aid; and increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. In addition, 5.4% of the vehicle trips related to MGM Springfield use Rt. 83 in East Longmeadow. Route 83 is a primary north-south route which traverses the entire town and goes into Springfield, ending near MGM.</p>
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>
<p>Rationale: The new equipment will enhance the department's ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies, improving survival rates and outcomes for accident victims. The Town also provides mutual aid to Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Hampden, Somers, Enfield, Agawam and Springfield. The increases in traffic congestion, especially on Route 83 and Maple Street during peak hours, have increased the number of motor vehicle accidents. The Review Team agrees that this equipment will improve the ability of the Fire Department to respond to these emergencies and therefore, recommends full funding of this project. Provision of this equipment is consistent with previous CMF requests by other communities.</p>
<p>3. Public Safety: Lifepak35 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator - \$129,300</p>
<p>Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$129,300</p>
<p>Description: This project is for the purchase of two (2) Lifepak35 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators to be deployed on each of the department's first-due advanced life support ambulances. This project is designed to improve ambulance patient outcomes and recovery from cardiac or other serious medical events.</p>
<p>Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidance the following impacts were identified: the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS, which could lead to increased need for mutual aid; and increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. Increases in congestion have negatively affected response times in the event of an emergency.</p>
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>
<p>Rationale: The purchase of Lifepak35 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators will assist the fire department in providing specialized care helping to improve patient outcomes and recovery from cardiac or other serious medical events. These devices have the capabilities of both a cardiac monitor and a defibrillator which will enable first responders to provide advanced, specialized care during cardiac and other serious medical emergencies, improving patient outcomes despite potential transport delays to regional hospitals. The Review Team agrees that adding these devices to the ambulances will improve the ability to respond to these emergencies and improve outcomes. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project. Provision of this equipment is consistent with previous CMF requests by other communities.</p>
<p>4. Public Safety: Lighted Mobile Sign Trailer - \$19,000</p>
<p>Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$19,000</p>
<p>Description: This project is for the purchase of a lighted mobile sign trailer to visually display to the public essential information about upcoming disruptions in traffic due to construction, construction taking place, and how to plan for or proceed to detours or alternate routes.</p>



Impact: According to the FY2026 CMF Guidelines the following impacts were identified: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. In addition, 5.4% of the vehicle trips related to MGM Springfield use Rt. 83 which is a major north/south route through East Longmeadow.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: East Longmeadow is undertaking a series of infrastructure projects to address increased traffic and multi-modal transportation concerns along the North Main Street (Route 83) corridor. To help accommodate the increased traffic load during construction, a mobile sign trailer would provide information to help move vehicles through work zones and follow detours or alternative routes. The Review Team agrees that the provision of signage can help the flow of traffic through construction zones and recommends full funding for this project. Provision of this type of equipment is consistent with previous CMF requests by other communities.

5. Public Safety: Radar Units - \$23,200

Recommendation: Partial funding in the amount of \$20,100

Description: This project is for the purchase of seven new Radar units to install in the primary patrol vehicles and one portable handheld Radar unit.

Impact: According to the FY2026 CMF Guidelines, 5.4% of the vehicle trips related to MGM Springfield use Rt. 83 in East Longmeadow. Impacts associated with increased traffic can include increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The CMF has funded traffic patrols in several communities over the years. In order to reduce speed and promote safety, one of the main tools is the use of radar units. The Review Team agrees that these are eligible for funding. The Town currently has three cruisers equipped with radar, three without radar and one that is being built that will have radar installed. Therefore, one of the requested seven radar units is unnecessary. In addition, the Town has indicated that the three existing radar units are out of date and should be replaced. Ordinarily, the Review Team does not recommend the replacement of existing items as this would be supplanting historical funding. But in this case, it seems to make sense to upgrade all of the units to the current standard at the same time so that the Town does not have to deal with multiple vendors for repair, calibration, etc. Therefore, the Review Team is recommending partial funding in the amount of \$20,100 for six radar units for the cruisers and one handheld unit.

6. Public Safety: Traffic Cameras - \$22,200

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$22,200

Description: This project is for the purchase and installation of 3 traffic monitoring cameras at key intersections in East Longmeadow. These cameras will provide real-time traffic monitoring to improve congestion management and will serve as investigative tools for vehicle crashes and criminal activities, such as property crimes and traffic offenses.



Impact: According to data in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, 5.4% of the vehicle trips related to MGM Springfield use Rt. 83 in East Longmeadow. In addition, the Guidelines state that "Increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts."

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: Traffic monitoring cameras assist in monitoring real-time traffic conditions and can also be used as an investigative aid in vehicle crashes and criminal investigations. These will be located on major routes to the casino. Footage from these cameras can be retrieved and reviewed to help identify vehicles and/or persons involved in reported crimes or criminal traffic incidents, and confirm or challenge eyewitness descriptions and other evidence, which will aid in identifying responsible parties and help promote public safety. The Review Team agrees that the provision of cameras will aid the Town in monitoring traffic and investigating crimes and therefore, recommends full funding of this project.

7. Transportation: Rotary Redesign Feasibility Study - \$60,000

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$60,000

Description: This project is to conduct a feasibility study for the redesign of the East Longmeadow Rotary in order to alleviate traffic congestion issues, decrease the frequency of accidents, and allow for safe passage of pedestrians/bicyclists.

Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, Route 83 carries 5.4% of the casino-related traffic, which is the main route leading into the East Longmeadow Rotary. The following impacts from the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines were referenced in the application: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: The proposed project aims to address increases in traffic congestion and motor vehicle accidents around the East Longmeadow Rotary. Seven roads enter the rotary with the largest of these being route 83, which is a direct route to Springfield and is estimated to carry 5.4% of the casino-related traffic. The Review Team agrees that casino traffic is a contributing factor to the issues at the rotary and that CMF funds are appropriate for this project. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project.



Town of Hampden

Applicant Name: Hampden	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$75,000	Requested Amount: \$75,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$75,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Community Planning: Hampden Outdoor Marketing Plan - \$75,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$75,000	
<p>Description: This project is to develop and implement an identity/branding/ marketing plan to promote Hampden’s outdoor spaces and amenities as a means of attracting visitors to Hampden to enjoy the outdoors and support local businesses.</p>	
<p>Impact: The applicant identified both positive and negative impacts in support of the application. As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following impacts are associated with this project: MGM Springfield attracts a large group of patrons and employees to their establishment that would not otherwise be present in the area; and competition from MGM Springfield negatively impacts local businesses in the hospitality and entertainment industries.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that the proposed project will help address the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The project seeks to capitalize on the proximity of Hampden to MGM Springfield by attracting these visitors to explore and spend within the town, thereby supporting local commerce and boosting the local economy. Funds requested from this grant will help promote the Town of Hampden’s outdoor recreational spaces and amenities to casino visitors, employees, and the general public. The awarding of this grant will allow Hampden to engage a professional designer/strategist to help develop the project’s identity/brand, to develop a strategic marketing plan (digital/print), to design a website for the project and to design a wayfinding system to help visitors easily locate destinations. The Review Team agrees that these efforts will help raise the profile of Hampden to casino patrons and others in the region and therefore, recommends full funding of this grant.</p>	



Town of Longmeadow

Applicant Name: Longmeadow	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$324,800	Requested Amount: \$324,000
Recommended Grant Amount: Partial funding in the amount of \$216,000	
Waiver: N/A	
1. Public Safety: Increased Rescue capability - \$108,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$108,000	
Description: This project includes purchasing new rescue and emergency medical equipment to increase Longmeadow Fire Department's response capability and inter-operability with mutual aid partners on the I-91 corridor.	
Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidance, "The influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS. This could lead to increased needs for mutual aid." In addition, approximately 20 percent of the casino related traffic utilizes I-91 corridor and approximately 3% of the casino traffic utilizes Route 5 through Longmeadow.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.	
Rationale: This project aims to enhance the Longmeadow Fire Department's ability to respond to emergencies on Interstate 91, particularly in areas impacted by casino-related traffic. Although I-91 is patrolled by State Police, the Town provides all of the rescue, fire and emergency medical services for this section of highway. Longmeadow is also a primary mutual aid resource to Springfield for incidents that occur in and around the Casino property. With an average of 60-90 emergency responses on this highway section annually there is a need for specialized rescue and emergency equipment. By securing additional equipment, the department will be better equipped to handle complex, large-scale emergencies, ensuring quicker and more effective rescue operations for both local residents and casino visitors. The Review Team agrees that this equipment will help improve responses by the Town and recommends full funding of this project.	
2. Public Safety: Traffic Camera Project - \$108,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$108,000	
Description: This project is for the purchase and installation of traffic cameras for main arterial roads in Longmeadow connecting the Town to Springfield.	
Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidance, "It is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain types of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering, and drug trafficking. Other crimes that may be attributable to casinos include increased assaults, fraud, and property crimes; and Increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents, and vehicular/bicycle /pedestrian conflicts." Since the casino's opening, traffic congestion and accidents have risen significantly, particularly at key intersections leading to the facility. Additionally, property crimes such as vehicle break-ins, stolen cars, and shoplifting have spiked.	



Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.

Rationale: This project aims to mitigate the negative effects of increased traffic crashes and crime in Longmeadow. This project involves installing traffic cameras at strategic locations to improve traffic monitoring, enhance public safety, and assist law enforcement with crime investigations. The cameras will provide real-time data to optimize traffic management and serve as crucial evidence in criminal cases, ultimately aiming to enhance both road safety and crime prevention in the community. The Review Team agrees that this project will aid the community in monitoring traffic and investigating crimes in the community and therefore recommends full funding of this project.

3. Transportation: Lynnwood Drive Sidewalk Project - \$108,000

Recommendation: The Review Team does not recommend funding for this project.

Description: This project is for the construction of a concrete sidewalk on the western side of Lynnwood Drive along with new crosswalks with wheelchair ramps at two cross streets.

Impact: As outlined in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion, as well as increased vehicular accidents, on the major routes within the Town. As a result, “cut-through” streets see a related increase in traffic congestion. Furthermore, because there is no existing sidewalk, an additional identified impact is increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. Longmeadow has seen increases in vehicular crash incidents from 2020 through 2024.

Determination: The Review Team does not agree that this project addresses the identified impacts.

Rationale: This project is considered to be a transportation construction project. Any transportation project must demonstrate that the road section carries at least 1% of the casino-related traffic. The applicant was unable to demonstrate that Lynnwood Drive carries that level of casino related traffic. Lynnwood Road is a north/south road that runs between Bliss Road and Williams Street and currently has no sidewalk.

The Review Team fully understands the desirability of sidewalks on this road, but the purpose of these funds is to mitigate casino-related impacts. In looking at the roadway layout, and the routes to the casino, the Review Team was not able to discern why a casino bound patron or employee would use this street to access the casino. The Review Team performed several queries on Google Maps to see if Lynnwood Road was ever a recommended route. The only scenario where Lynnwood Road was recommended was for a resident of Lynnwood Road.

The Review Team has reached out to Longmeadow to see if they had any other project that would meet the eligibility requirements of the Guidelines that could replace this project.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

City of Northampton

Applicant Name: Northampton	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$75,000	Requested Amount: \$75,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$75,000	
Waiver: N/A	
Community Planning: Northampton Digital Marketing Campaign	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$75,000	
<p>Description: The Northampton Digital Marketing Campaign aims to expand the city's reach, leveraging proven digital marketing strategies to attract more visitors and strengthen the local economy. This initiative will capitalize on the investment made in Northampton. Live and extend its impact by incorporating modern digital tools, strategic partnerships, and data-driven outreach.</p>	
<p>Impact: The following impacts are identified in the Guidelines that are applicable to this project: competition from the gaming establishment may have negative impacts on other businesses competing in the hospitality and entertainment industries; the presence of a gaming establishment may result in reallocated spending; and the marketing capabilities of the gaming establishments may put other competing local businesses at a disadvantage.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: The project aims to revitalize Northampton's local economy by implementing a comprehensive digital marketing campaign. The initiative seeks to attract visitors back to Northampton's independent businesses, cultural venues, and music scene to bolster the city's reputation as a vibrant cultural and entertainment hub. This project is being supplemented with an additional \$25,000 in ARPA funds resulting in a total cost of \$100,000. The Review Team agrees that an effort of this type will position Northampton to better compete with MGM Springfield for entertainment and hospitality-related dollars. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding for this project.</p>	



Town of West Springfield

Applicant Name: West Springfield	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$518,300	Requested Amount: \$518,300
Recommended Grant Amount: \$518,300	
Waiver: N/A	
1. Community Planning: Wayfinding – Downtown West Springfield - \$99,600	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$99,600.	
Description: This project is for the purchase and installation of community signage in accordance with a Wayfinding study completed by the Town in 2024.	
Impact: Gaming establishments 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 businesses to attract these patrons and employees to their communities and business establishments.	
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impact.	
Rationale: The development of a wayfinding system will help local merchants by providing directional signage that will help guide customers to local businesses. The CMF has funded several wayfinding projects in the past and the Review Team recommends full funding of this portion of the application.	
2. Public Safety: EMS Response Bicycles - \$6,500	
Recommendation: West Springfield has withdrawn this request.	
Description: This project is for the purchase of two EMS Response Bicycles to provide timely and effective emergency medical care in key areas of our community, including the bike path that links both West Springfield and the Springfield downtown / Casino area.	
Impact: As identified in the guidelines, the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS. This could lead to increased needs for mutual aid.	
Determination: West Springfield has withdrawn this request.	
Rationale: While the Review Team understood the desirability of this project for the Town, the nexus to a casino-related impact was not readily apparent. After meeting with the community to discuss their application, the Town requested that this project be withdrawn, and the funds be applied towards the Bike Share Expansion project.	
3. Public Safety: Fire Training/Overtime - \$15,000	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$15,000.	
Description: This project is for a one-day specialized Standpipe Operations training course for 25 Firefighters and Lieutenants.	



Impact: As identified in the guidelines, the influx of visitors to a casino can result in an increase in calls for service and put pressure on local emergency services including emergency responders like fire departments and EMS. This could lead to increased needs for mutual aid.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impact.

Rationale: High rise buildings are typically equipped with a standpipe for firefighting purposes, where fire-suppression tactics differ significantly from standard operations. West Springfield has 18 hotels that have experienced a significant increase in call volume since the opening of MGM Springfield. In addition, West Springfield provides mutual aid requests for coverage in Springfield where the prevalence of high-rise buildings is greater. The Review Team agrees that this specialized training will benefit the fire department and improve their capabilities in fighting these types of fires in both West Springfield and Springfield. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding for this project.

4. Public Safety: Police, Fire/EMS and Dispatch Support - \$250,000

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$250,000

Description: These funds are for additional Police, Fire and EMS personnel hired to increase staffing resulting from the opening of the MGM Casino in Springfield. Specifically, the town is requesting funding to maintain and offset the cost of the 8 firefighters, 8 police officers and 3 police dispatchers that were hired in anticipation of the opening of MGM Springfield.

Impact: As identified in the guidelines, increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts. Additionally, it is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain type of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering and drug trafficking. The impact contributes to added pressure on police, fire/EMS and dispatch services.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that these funds will help mitigate the identified impacts.

Rationale: The Commission has funded this grant since 2020 based on the One-Year Look Back Study that identified an impact on calls for service in West Springfield that was attributable to MGM.

The five-year look back study has been completed, but it did not review additional data on call volume and traffic since the one-year look back study and West Springfield continues to use the conclusion reached during the one-year look back study for the purpose of supporting additional staffing. The Town also referenced the 47% increase in calls for service at West Springfield's hotels and motels since the opening of the casino as additional documentation (see project 5 below). West Springfield continues to maintain the additional staffing that was put in place in anticipation of the casino opening.

The Commission has agreed that there is an impact on West Springfield as evidenced by the continuing funding from the CMF. The Review Team agrees that there is a continuing impact on West Springfield, but absent the calculations that were performed as part of the one-year study, it is not possible for the Review Team to quantify the impact. The evidence submitted regarding the 47% increase in calls for service at the hotels and motels certainly indicates that there is a continuing impact, and that impact has not likely decreased in the intervening years since the casino opening. Therefore, the Review Team recommends continuing this funding in FY 2026.

5. Public Safety: Prisoner Transport Vehicle - \$20,300

Recommendation: No more than 25% funding of the full vehicle cost up to a maximum of \$20,300



Description: This project is for partial funding for the purchase of a prisoner transport van for the police department.
Impact: It is recognized by law enforcement and the casino industry that casinos and other hospitality related businesses may attract certain type of crime including but not limited to human trafficking, money laundering and drug trafficking. Other crimes that may be attributable to casinos include increased assaults, fraud and property crimes.
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impact.
<p>Rationale: The Town of West Springfield has presented data that shows a 47% increase in calls for service at local hotels and motels since the opening of MGM Springfield from 1,028 calls for service in 2017 (the year before the casino opened) to 1,512 calls for service in 2023 (the last year of complete records). Increased calls for service and subsequent arrests, has strained the Town's ability to effectively and safely transport prisoners. Currently, the Town does not have a prisoner transport vehicle, which does not allow for multiple prisoners to be transported at one time.</p> <p>In its original application, the Town was requesting \$38,222 towards the total cost of \$81,323 cost of the vehicle, or 47% of the total cost. While the Town submitted significant data regarding calls for service and arrests, it is not possible to ascertain which of these are directly associated with MGM. Through the data provided, the Review Team agrees that there is some impact on West Springfield, but the Team did not agree that the CMF should be funding nearly 1/2 of the cost of this vehicle. Since coming up with an exact number of calls that are directly associated with MGM is not possible, the Review Team felt that in no case should the CMF fund more than 25% of the project cost. Therefore, our recommendation is to fund up to 25% of the total costs of the vehicle, with the grant not exceeding \$20,300. When notified of our recommendation, the Town reduced their request to \$20,300 and asked that the Bike Share Expansion program be increased by \$17,922.</p>
6. Public Safety: Traffic Enforcement - \$33,000
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$33,000
Description: This project is for dedicated police patrols for traffic enforcement, two new Lidar Units for use in traffic enforcement and one Traffic Trailer Message/Sign board.
Impact: As identified in the guidelines, increases in traffic can cause increases in congestion, accidents and vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.
Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impacts.



Rationale: West Springfield has experienced negative impacts on traffic with the operations of the MGM Casino. Roadways leading to and from direct access points to the casino have experienced this specifically including, the North End Rotary, the Memorial Bridge Rotary, Route Five north and southbound lanes as well as Memorial Ave (Route 147). This funding is to provide approximately thirty-five (35) four-hour blocks of traffic enforcement during varying times of the day and night. The Review Team agrees that additional police patrols in these areas will help reduce traffic related impacts.

This funding is also for the purchase of two Lidar Units (\$4,720) to be used by the additional traffic enforcement patrols; and a traffic trailer message/sign board (\$20,100). The Lidar units will be deployed in the areas noted above which have direct access points leading to and from the MGM Casino. The two units will be new to West Springfield and are not intended to replace existing units. The portable sign board will be deployed in the area of the North End Rotary and the Memorial Rotary to aid residents and visitors by providing traffic information and directions. The Review Team agrees that the provision of this equipment will assist the Town in addressing traffic-related impacts and recommends full funding of these items. Funding this type of equipment is fully consistent with grants issued to other communities previously.

7. Transportation: Bike Share Program Expansion - \$100,400

Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$100,400

Description: This project is for the partial funding of the purchase and installation of 2 bike share stations.

Impact: The proposed installation of two bike share stations in West Springfield aims to reduce traffic congestion and mitigate conflicts between vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians caused by increased casino-related traffic.

Determination: The Review Team agrees that this project will help address the identified impact.

Rationale: By expanding the e-bike network to connect with Springfield's 17 bike share stations, the project encourages alternative transportation options, particularly benefiting minority and low-income neighborhoods. This expansion is expected to decrease reliance on vehicles and rideshare services, alleviating strain on public transit and reducing vehicular traffic along key corridors and inter-municipal routes impacted by the casino. The Review Team agrees that these new bike stations have the potential to reduce the number of cars on the road.

The total project cost is \$153,924. In its original application, the Town requested \$76,017 for this project. As a transportation construction project, the first \$250,000 in project costs is funded at 100%, so the entire project cost is eligible for funding. With the reduction in the prisoner transport vehicle and the elimination of the EMS Response Bicycles, the Town has requested that the funding for this project be increased to \$100,400. Since these costs are eligible for funding, the Review Team recommends full funding of this project.



Town of Wilbraham

Applicant Name: Wilbraham	Region: B
MGC FY26 Allocation: \$313,800	Requested Amount: \$517,000
Recommended Grant Amount: \$313,800 or \$517,000 if the waiver is granted.	
<p>Waiver: Wilbraham is requesting an additional \$203,200, bringing its total CMF grant request to \$517,000. The total construction cost for this project is estimated to be \$1,140,000. Under the CMF Guidelines, the project would be eligible for a subsidy of \$517,000. Without the requested waiver, Wilbraham would not be able to access the full amount of money that would otherwise be available for this project. The Town has committed the necessary additional funds to cover the remaining cost of the project.</p>	
Transportation: Springfield St-Stony Hill Rd Intersection	
Recommendation: Full funding in the amount of \$313,800, or \$517,000 if the waiver is granted.	
<p>Description: This project is for the reconstruction of the Springfield Street/Stony Hill Road intersection including traffic signal control system upgrade; intersection widening and realignment; and installation of sidewalks. The total estimated construction cost for this project is \$1,140,000.</p>	
<p>Impact: The proposed project aims to address increased congestion and safety concerns at the intersection of Stony Hill Road and Springfield Street in Wilbraham. As identified in the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines, the following are accepted casino-related impacts: increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may cause increased congestion on the major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular accidents on major routes leading to/from the gaming establishment; and increased traffic associated with the gaming establishment may result in increased vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian conflicts.</p>	
<p>Determination: The Review Team agrees that the proposed project helps address the identified impacts.</p>	
<p>Rationale: This project is a continuation of a transportation planning grant awarded in FY 2025 that evaluated alternatives for this project. This project meets the minimum traffic requirements for consideration of funds and is designed to improve traffic flow as well as improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. Therefore, the Review Team recommends full funding for this project.</p> <p>Wilbraham has requested a waiver in the amount of \$203,200. Under the FY 2026 Guidelines, "The intent of this waiver is not to fund routine expenses but rather to fund significant projects that would not otherwise be able to be funded under an applicant's annual CMF allocation." The total construction cost is estimated to be \$1,140,000. According to the Guidelines, a project of this size would be eligible for a subsidy of \$517,000, but the Town is limited by its proposed grant allocation of \$313,800. This waiver request appears to meet the stated intent as the Town would be unable to access the full amount of subsidy absent the waiver. The Town has committed to funding this project with or without the waiver, but it would need to defer other Town projects if the waiver were not granted.</p>	

