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## LCMAC Region B

**Date/Time:** October 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 646-741-5293  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 354 1553, Passcode: 320781

**Present:** Jennifer Bonfiglio, Agawam  
Michael Pise, Chicopee  
Tom Christensen, East Longmeadow  
Marie Brazeau, Holyoke  
Louis Kornet, Longmeadow  
Judith Theocles, Wilbraham  
Rick Sullivan, Regional Eco. Deve. Organization  
Kate O'Brien Scott, West Springfield  
Douglas Hall, PVPC  
Ellen Patashnick, Human Service Provider  
Joan Kagan Levine, Human Service Provider

### Call to Order

Mr. Delaney welcomed members and asked for a roll call to start the meeting. He summarized the importance of the revamp of the CMF which is coming to fruition and will be reviewed during the meeting.

Mr. Delaney then asked Rick Sullivan if he wished to continue in his role as Chair. Mr. Sullivan responded affirmatively. The members then nominated Rick Sullivan to Chair's position. Lou Kornet made a motion to accept Rick Sullivan as the chair and it was seconded by Jennifer Bonfiglio. Members voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting then turned to voting on a Region B representative. Jennifer Bonfiglio was again voted as the Region B representative with an alternate voted on as Louis Kornet if she cannot make the meeting. Rick Sullivan moved to vote Lou Kornet as a permanent alternative and Ellen Patashnick seconded. Members voted unanimously in favor.

### Discussion of our Guidelines and the formula for distributing the funds.

Mr. Delaney then reviewed by PowerPoint the highlights of the Guidelines for the FY 2025 Surrounding Community Mitigation Fund. The Guidelines implemented the changes this year. He went on to describe the Municipal Block Program and a Regional Agency Grant.

Key changes noted were:

1. Moved the program to a fiscal year.
2. Providing additional guidance to applicants
3. Administrative costs may now be charged against the grant.

4. New Program we will divvy up the fund through eligible municipalities that will be determined by a formula. Each community will be eligible to get a set amount of money there are five categories of grants: Community Planning, Public Safety Grant, Transportation Grants, Gambling Harm Reduction and Specific Impact for others that do not fit within the other categories.

We are suggesting in the Guidelines that communities spread the funding throughout the categories, but it is not mandatory.

If we don't receive an application by the due date the community forfeits the money for that fiscal year. They will be eligible the following year.

1. Regional Agency Grants: identifies a number of groups available for funding for education, DA offices, housing and others. The Regional Agency grants are also for regional planning agencies, MAPC, PVPC, and SRPEDD for category 2.
2. Regional Public Safety Grants we have reached out to other DA offices, we capped it at \$100,000.
3. Regional Workforce Grants: Increase dollar values to \$750,000 from \$500,000 last year. One available in each region. These are technically competitive applications.

23K there are a lot of agencies that are eligible for funds. What we are suggesting in our Guidelines is that other agencies can apply for funds. We would like them to contact us in advance.

Communities wanted more guidance from us. What we have done is look at all our research and come up with a list of impacts. Each category had impacts that are due to the casino.

We also identified projects that could be done to address these impacts. There was also identification of ineligible applications. We want the funds to supplement and not supplant municipal dollars. The new Guidelines also provide for up to 7.5% up to \$50,000 administrative costs.

We increased the amount of funding available for larger projects. Our subsidy gets smaller as the programs get bigger. Smaller projects a higher percentage; remaining at 30%.

Grant formula no change except for the amount available. We fine-tuned those numbers 1. Base grant amount per region; the second factor. We do have communities that are not designated communities as host or SCA but were not accepted as surrounding communities. The Commission determined in 2015 that these communities were still eligible to apply for funds. The Host 200% of base grant amount; surrounding 100% base grant amount and the third factor is that a portion should be the proximity to the casino. The further away the fewer the number of impacts. The fourth was the traffic impact. We took the original environmental impacts and traffic studies.

There were concerns about instances where a community would have a project that exceeds the amount of the allocation. Transportation Construction is one category that this could happen. The community can submit a waiver form with the application asking for more funding. These will be done on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Kornet: So the Application grant will be one basic umbrella then broken down by category. We will be developing sample applications for communities to look at.

Mr. Delaney noted that in each category there may be a minimum amount, we put in a suggested minimum. We chose not to make that mandatory as this is a brand-new program. Mr. Kornet agreed that was a good idea.

Jennifer Bonfiglio: Will you be holding a workshop? Mr. Delaney answered affirmatively December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> and noted that because this is new we will be giving two for municipalities and one for the Regional Agencies. The application forms will be different. We want people who are involved with the grant applications and will give feedback.

Mr. Kornet mentioned the public hearing next week. There will be a public hearing and people should pre-register for comments. The deadline is Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of October for written comments. We reserved some time on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission meeting in case anything came out that needs to be addressed. The Final Guidelines and Grant amounts will be on the agenda for the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Next Steps**

Joe told members how much he appreciated members participation.

There being no further business,

Motion to Adjourn by Joe Delaney and seconded by Jennifer Bonfiglio

Mary Thurlow called a roll call to close the meeting.

Mr. Delaney thanked members for attending.

### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Notice and agenda for October 17, 2023 Meeting
2. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines
3. 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Formula
4. FY2025 CMF Modification PowerPoint

/s/ Mary Thurlow  
Secretary