



FY 2027 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

[Application Instructions:](#)

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2027 grant round.
- II. Each Agency may only submit ONE application as a Word Document.
- III. Each project must have its own form within the appropriate category. All attachments should directly follow the relevant project form.
- IV. Be sure to fill in all the information requested on the application. Applications that are left incomplete will not be accepted.
- V. All applications must submit a detailed scope of work and timeline for implementation of the project identified in the application.
- VI. All applications must contain appropriate backup materials that support the application.
- VII. The Grant Manager will be responsible for compiling the information for the quarterly reports and the submittal of the quarterly reports.
- VIII. The application must be signed by the agency’s CEO or an individual with signatory authority.
- IX. The Regional Agency Grant is broken into three segments. Please only fill out the section relevant to your application.
 - a. Part A – Regional Planning
 - b. Part B – Regional Public Safety
 - c. Part C – Regional Workforce Development
- X. Submit this completed form as well as any relevant attachments to

MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov or as a response to the COMMBUYS **BD-26-1068-1068C-1068L-121911**.

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2027 Application Guidelines visit

<https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Grant Manager Information (Person responsible for Quarterly Reports, etc.):
Applicant: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Vendor Code: VC60000159779
Name: Kimberly H. Robinson
Title: Executive Director
Email Address: krobinson@pvpc.org
Telephone: 413.781.6045

Address: 60 Congress Street, Springfield MA 01104

Budget Summary

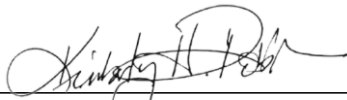
Use the space below to provide an overview of all projects to be covered by this funding. You may add as many items as is pertinent to your application (you can add rows by right clicking on the row and selecting "add row"). Please provide a category, name, brief description, and amount for each item. Please use the appropriate category below for your agency.

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning	Mitigating the Impacts of Traffic Congestion in Downtown Springfield	Removal of Existing Unnecessary Street Signage in Preparation for New Signage and Wayfinding	\$75,000.00
B. Regional Public Safety			
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			\$75,000.00

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

- I. Applicant Certification If yes, you must fill out a CMF Regional Agency Waiver Form. The waiver form can be found as Appendix F to the RFR on COMMBUYS or online at <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/forms/>. Applications without a completed waiver form will not be considered for a waiver.

On behalf of the aforementioned applicant, I hereby certify that the funds that are requested in this application will be used solely for the purposes articulated in this application.



Signature:

1/29/26

Date:

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director

Name and Title of Signatory:

Part A-Regional Planning - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, requests for proposals, detailed scopes of work, drawings etc.

Project Name: Mitigating the Impacts of Traffic Congestion in Downtown Springfield
 Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.

Project Contact	Additional Project Contact (if applicable)
Name: Kimberly H. Robinson	Name:
Title: Executive Director	Title:
Department:	Department:
Email Address: krobinson@pvpc.org	Email Address:
Telephone: 413.781.6045	Telephone:
Address: 60 Congress St Springfield MA 01104	Address:

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

The MGM hotel/casino in downtown Springfield has resulted in important benefits to the regional economy of the Pioneer Valley, including job creation, increased tourism, and increased local revenues. However, there has also been a deleterious effect within the MGM’s physical sphere of influence: increased levels of traffic congestion. The congestion negatively impacts downtown access for residents and businesses, and diminishes the experience of tourists and visitors, including those patronizing the MGM.

The casino is located along Main Street in the downtown heart of the city. Main Street has one lane in each direction with on-street parking, numerous pedestrian crosswalks, and traffic signals every few blocks. Multiple side streets connect to it. There is no potential for the existing street infrastructure to be widened or expanded. The MGM has three primary points of vehicular egress: a parking garage exit on Union Street, an exit onto State Street and a drop-off/pick up circle to Main Street itself. During periods of high-volume traffic, e.g., during events at the casino and commuter times, traffic backs up and the downtown Springfield district effectively gridlocks, spilling over onto side streets, impeding access off and onto nearby Interstate 91, and extending into surrounding residential communities.

Awareness of this issue is not new. A traffic study of the area around the MGM was conducted before the hotel/casino opened in August 2018, and the City of Springfield completed a “lookback” study in 2022. In 2021, the City of Springfield, the Springfield Business Improvement District, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) collaborated on a Local Rapid Recovery Program (LRRP) grant to develop a plan to improve conditions in the downtown Main Street Convention Center District (please see map to the right); the plan resulted in a set of recommendations, one of which was to improve wayfinding for pedestrian and vehicle access to downtown establishments, including MGM. The LRRP study area encompassed a large swath of the downtown core which overlaps the project area of this proposal.



In light of continuing traffic issues and their impacts, and with the support of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, the PVPC is currently coordinating with the City of Springfield on a new comprehensive traffic study of the downtown

area around the MGM. The intent of the study is to analyze existing conditions and make recommendations for vehicular and pedestrian improvements and mitigations that will provide benefits to the MGM, downtown businesses, and neighborhood residents. The scope of work will include an assessment of the efficacy of current signage and wayfinding. The study will be starting in 2026, with results and recommendations by the end of the year.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) recently announced that it will also be undertaking a traffic study in downtown Springfield in 2026. MassDOT will be focusing on congestion at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and State Street, and its impacts on traffic exiting and entering I-91, the primary travel route for tourists and visitors. This is especially important for the MGM, as Columbus Avenue carries traffic from northbound I-91 (Hartford and points south) to the MGM's front door and parking structure. This study will have approximately the same timeline as the local study and the Transportation Department of PVPC will be coordinating with MassDOT to ensure that the two work streams are aligned.

There is another development downtown that will affect traffic congestion near the MGM in the near future. A \$68 million renovation project is planned for currently vacant commercial buildings on Main Street across from the casino; these building will be converted into more than 90 units of market rate and mixed income housing, with associated ground floor retail and residential amenities. To support that development and the growth of the neighborhood around the MGM, the City and the Springfield Redevelopment Authority are working to create a new multi-level, mixed-use parking structure on Willow Street, one block east of the MGM. The new parking facility will help support the needs of the new mixed-use development, as well as existing tenants in the neighborhood, e.g., the Community Music School, and some of the parking demand spilling over from the MassMutual Center and/or the MGM. These new projects will also undoubtedly add to the traffic congestion that routinely occurs in downtown.

II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.

Currently, there are numerous signs in the downtown area which contribute to traffic and pedestrian congestion. Many of them are "forested" closely together in a thicket of freeway directionals, lane restrictions, street signs, parking signs, and business signs. The signs are different sizes and colors, and are distinct from the many light-pole banners that display attractions, events, and neighborhood place names, e.g., branded districts. All in all, there is a significant amount of visual clutter that visitors and tourists need to navigate – whether they are in vehicles or on foot – to find their way around downtown. Tourists' confusion over where to go and how to get there compounds the congestion that occurs during high-volume traffic times, especially volume that results from events at the MGM.

While the recommendations of the two new traffic studies are under development and leveraging the findings of previous community input, the Downtown Improvement District, the City of Springfield, and the PVPC propose to implement a traffic-congestion-mitigation project that is ready for implementation now. The proposed project will improve current congestion and prepare for and complement improved future signage and downtown wayfinding: removal of the existing street signage that is unnecessary, outdated or redundant.



The Downtown Improvement District has identified 44 downtown signs that are obsolete or unnecessary. These signs

will need to be removed to make way for any future signage and updated wayfinding that is recommended by the two pending traffic studies. All of the signs are in the public realm, the vast majority along city sidewalks. Per the Downtown Improvement District, the most recent estimated cost to remove each sign is approximately \$1,200.

The proposed costs and timelines to implement the scope of work outlined in the budget below are based on PVPC’s past project experience and costs estimates obtained from both the Downtown Improvement District and the City of Springfield. The majority of grant funds – approximately 70% - will be used for the removal of downtown signage. The remaining 30% of grant funds will be used by PVPC to manage the project, including undertaking a public process to issue and award a contract to undertake sign removal. PVPC will also oversee project coordination with the Downtown Improvement District and the City of Springfield throughout the implementation period.

Proposed MGC Grant Budget

Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
A. PVPC Grant Management and Project Oversight 1. Administration of grant 2. Oversight of contracting process and contracted work 3. Coordination and communication among project partners	September 2026-December 2027	N/A	\$22,200.00
B. Removal of existing downtown street signs @ ~\$1,200/sign	March 2027-November 2027	44	\$52,800.00
	TOTAL:		\$75,000.00

Part B – Regional Public Safety - The application should include sufficient backup information for the review team to fully understand the project(s). This information could include locus maps, catalog cuts of proposed equipment purchases, quotes, training course syllabus, etc.-

Project Name: _____			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact		Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Title:		Title:	
Department:		Department:	
Email Address:		Email Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
Address:		Address:	
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., casino-related crime statistics, other relevant data, reports, etc.)</p>			
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion.</p>			
Proposed MGC Grant Budget			
Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
	TOTAL:		

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

Project Name: _____			
Please provide below the contact information for the individual managing this aspect of the grant.			
Project Contact		Additional Project Contact <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Name:		Name:	
Title:		Title:	
Department:		Department:	
Email Address:		Email Address:	
Telephone:		Telephone:	
Address:		Address:	
<p>I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. Please demonstrate the significance of the workforce need faced by the region, related to the operation of a gaming establishment. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2026 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that supports the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.).</p>			
<p>II. Please describe the project in detail and how the proposed project will address the impact indicated above. Please include a breakdown of the proposed scope of work, the scope should be sufficiently detailed to allow the review team to understand the steps required for project completion. Please describe the deliverables, including the number of individuals to be served, number of hours, projected outcomes, location of program, cities and towns served.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed MGC Grant Budget</p> Please use the following table to outline the project budget. Please include as an attachment any requests for proposals, quotes, or estimates that would quantify the costs associated with the mitigation.			
Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	QTY	Budget
	TOTAL:		