



COMMUNITY MITIGATION FUND

FY 2026 Regional Grant Workshop

December 3rd, 2024

Future of The Community Mitigation Fund



The CMF has been historically funded by statute from gaming taxes. The approved FY25 State Budget removed this funding mechanism for the year so additional funds have not been added.

- I. Existing funding is available for FY 2026.
- II. If funding is not restored in FY 2026, major cuts will need to be made to the program.
- III. To provide level funding for FY 2026 approximately \$4.3 million will need to be transferred from Region A to Region B.

FY 2026 Overview

I. Continuation of the Block Grant Style Program

- The Municipal Block Grant
- The Regional Agency Grant

II. Grant Applications

Municipalities and Regional Agencies will be required to submit their applications by January 31, 2025. Funds will be forfeited for the year if the application is not received by January 31.

III. Grant Amounts:

Maximum grant amounts remain the same for FY 2026. Notification letters were sent out to each community.

IV. Contract Duration:

Length of contract being reduced from 4 to 2 years.



Regional Agency Grants - Who is eligible

- MGL c. 23K, Section 61 identifies eligible entities as local and **regional education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, environmental and public safety, including the county district attorney, police, fire and emergency services.**
- This definition provides the Commission with broad authority regarding the distribution of funds to regional governmental entities.
- The Commission has identified three priority areas for project funding
 - Regional planning efforts
 - Regional public safety
 - Regional workforce education programs.

- Other regional governmental entities may be eligible for funding. Any entity proposing to apply for funding should **contact us well in advance of the submission deadline to discuss project eligibility and casino related impacts.**
- Private and nonprofit organizations are not eligible for direct funding.





QUESTIONS?



All projects **must** identify and mitigate a casino related impact.



Way To Determine A Casino Related Impact

- FY 2026 CMF Guidelines
- GREO Research Studies
- MGC Research
- Other



Regional Planning Grants

For FY 2026, the Commission is authorizing grants of up to \$250,000 for Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) for projects that address regional impacts associated with the gaming establishments.

The eligible RPAs for these grants are those that serve the casino's host community:

- **Metropolitan Area Planning Council** for Region A,
- **The Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District** for the Category 2 facility
- **The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission** for Region B.



Regional Public Safety Grants

For FY 2026, the Commission has established a maximum grant of \$100,000 for the District Attorney's Offices. Grant amounts for the Attorney General or other relevant public safety agencies will be based on available funding and demonstrated need.

The regional agencies eligible for funding under this category include:

- The Office of the County District Attorney
- The Attorney General's Office
- Other relevant public safety agencies



Regional Workforce Development Grants

Applicants should focus on areas highly impacted by casino operations to mitigate a strain in existing resources and potential impacts to the regional labor market.

A consortium application is required. Proposals must include a regional consortium approach to improve the skills, knowledge, and credential attainment for residents.

Regional Workforce Development Program Spending

The Commission anticipates awarding one grant per region with the following maximum value:

- Region A - \$750,000
- Region B - \$750,000

Application Process

- Please read the FY 2026 CMF Guidelines **before** filling out your application.
- Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on January 31st.
- Applications must be signed by an agency CEO or an employee with signatory authority.

How to fill out The FY 2026 Regional Application

Please use this box to provide the contact information for the administrator of this block grant. This is the individual who will be contacted with any questions regarding this application as well the grant's administration.

Grant Manager Information:
Applicant:
Vendor Code:
Name:
Title:
Email Address:
Telephone:
Address:

Please use this section to outline your proposed projects by category. Each project must have a name, a high-level description of each project, and a dollar amount.

Each description shall not exceed 50 words.

Create individual line items for each project.

Budget Summary

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

Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning			
B. Regional Public Safety			
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			

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

- II. **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.

Applicant Certification

All applications must be signed by an administrator or an individual who holds signatory authority for the agency.



Applicant Certification

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:

Date:

Name and Title of Signatory:

Impact and Mitigation

I. Please use the space below to identify the impact of the gaming establishment on your region. You may use the impacts identified in the FY 2025 Guidelines relevant to this category. Please provide documentation or evidence that gives support for the determination that the operation of the gaming facility caused or is causing the impact and that the issue is regional in nature (i.e., surveys, data, reports, etc.)

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.

Identified Impacts: The Commission has identified impacts associated with the gaming establishment, which RPAs may cite in their application. There may be other impacts that have not been identified by the Commission that could be eligible for grant funds. If an agency has identified additional impacts to be addressed, the application must identify the impact and provide sufficient evidence that the impact is caused or is associated with a gaming establishment.

Positive Impacts

- 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.
- Gaming establishments typically purchase millions of dollars of goods and services each year, much of which is purchased locally. This provides the opportunity for local businesses to provide these goods and services.
- Gaming establishments require a significant number of workers, which provide employment opportunities for local residents.

Application Submission

- Applications must be submitted via COMMBUYS or emailed to MGCCMF@Massgaming.gov by **January 31st at 11:59p.m** to be accepted.
- Applications must be submitted as ONE word document, please integrate and label your relevant attachments as part of your application.
- If you have any questions prior to submission, please contact Mary.Thurlow@Massgaming.gov



Website Walkthrough

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



QUESTIONS?

Community Mitigation Fund Staff Directory

Name	Title	Contact
Joe Delaney	Chief of Community Affairs	Joseph.Delaney@Massgaming.gov
Mary Thurlow	Senior Program Manager	Mary.Thurlow@Massgaming.gov
Lily Wallace	Program Manager	Lily.Wallace@Massgaming.gov