



FY 2026 Regional Agency Mitigation Fund Grant Application

Application Instructions:

- I. All applications must be received by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission by January 31st, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. to be considered for funding for the FY 2026 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 BID- BD245-1068- 1068C-1068L-109685

For more detailed instructions as well as the full FY 2026 Application Guidelines visit <https://massgaming.com/about/community-mitigation-fund/>

Grant Manager Information:
Applicant: Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
Vendor Code:
Name: Melissa Gugliotta
Title: Grants Manager
Email Address: melissa.gugliotta@mass.gov
Telephone: (617) 619-4250
Address: One Bulfinch Place, Boston, MA 02114

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.

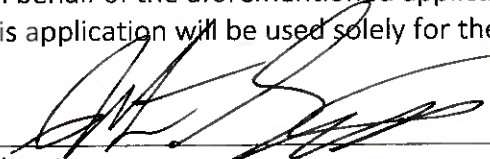
Category	Project Name	Description	Amount
A. Regional Planning			
B. Regional Public Safety	Enhancing Regional Public Safety Through Targeted Prosecution	Hiring a Safe Neighborhoods Initiative Prosecutor for Chelsea District Court	\$99,995.27
C. Workforce Development			
Total Request			\$99,995.27

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

Applicant Certification

- i. 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:

January 31, 2025

 Date:

Robert Settana, Deputy Chief of Staff

 Name and Title of Signatory:

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: Enhancing Regional Public Safety Through Targeted Prosecution	
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: Melissa Gugliotta	Name: Joseph Janezic
Title: Grants Manager	Title: Chief, Crime Strategies Bureau
Department: Administrative	Department: Crime Strategies Bureau
Email Address: melissa.gugliotta@mass.gov	Email Address: joseph.f.janezic@mass.gov
Telephone: (617) 619-4250	Telephone: (617) 619-4000
Address: One Bulfinch Place, Boston, MA 02114	Address: One Bulfinch Place, Boston, MA 02114

- 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 (i.e., casino related crime statistics, other relevant data, reports, etc.)

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. Casino-related impacts are not always confined to the gaming establishment itself; their effects ripple into Chelsea—where there are as many as eight different hotels patrons of the casino utilize—straining law enforcement resources and posing persistent challenges to public safety.

One of the most pressing issues Chelsea faces is the rise in narcotics distribution and drug-related offenses. The city has seen an increase in drug trafficking and overdose incidents in areas adjacent to the casino, reinforcing concerns that the casino’s high volume of visitors and economic activity have created new opportunities for illicit substance distribution. This trend has not only contributed to an increase in overdose-related calls for service but has also exacerbated the presence of criminal networks in the region. Without a focused prosecutorial response, these trends are likely to persist, further endangering public safety, increasing the burden on first responders, and coloring the public perception of the safety of the immediate area for casino patrons.

Compounding the drug-related concerns is the growing presence of illegal firearms and violent crime in Chelsea. Law enforcement has identified an uptick in gun-related offenses, many of which are tied to gang activity and the illicit drug trade. Some of these cases involve individuals

who frequent the casino or operate in its vicinity before bringing criminal activity into Chelsea. These incidents, which range from assaults and robberies to more serious acts of violence, highlight the need for a dedicated prosecutor who can prioritize the prosecution of high-impact cases, ensuring that repeat violent offenders are held accountable and removed from the community.

Additionally, gang activity in Chelsea has intensified in response to the shifting criminal landscape. Law enforcement intelligence indicates that certain gangs are exploring the increased flow of people and money associated with the casino, engaging in drug sales, violent crimes, and other illicit activities that directly impact Chelsea residents. The presence of these organized criminal elements has led to greater instability in the community, fueling fear among residents and increasing the workload for local police. To combat these evolving challenges, the city needs a dedicated Safe Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) prosecutor in Chelsea District Court who can work in close coordination with law enforcement to target priority offenders and develop strategies to disrupt gang-related crime.

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.

Beyond these emerging crime patterns, Chelsea continues to experience the previously documented casino-related impacts of OUI incidents and human trafficking. Data from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission confirms Chelsea's status as a hotspot for OUI-related arrests and crashes (Bruce, 2022), reinforcing the need for sustained enforcement and prosecution efforts. Similarly, prior reports have identified concerns about human trafficking cases linked to casino-adjacent areas, demonstrating the importance of a coordinated response to these offenses.

The Chelsea Police Department is currently compiling crime data and reports to provide quantitative evidence of these impacts, which will be included alongside this application as supporting documentation. Additionally, studies from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission have established Chelsea's role as a regional hotspot for vehicle crimes, OUI incidents, and other public safety concerns stemming from casino-related activity. Historical success from prior federal "Weed and Seed" programs further demonstrates that focused, prosecution-driven initiatives are effective in addressing these types of challenges (U.S. Department of Justice, 2004), making the establishment of an SNI prosecutor a logical and necessary next step in a crime reduction strategy for the city of Chelsea.

Given the clear and ongoing impact of Encore Boston Harbor on crime in Chelsea, it is imperative to establish an SNI prosecutor based in Chelsea District Court to focus primarily on priority offenses that most affect the community. This dedicated prosecutor will ensure that the most serious cases—particularly those involving narcotics distribution, firearms, and gang-

related violence—receive the focused attention they require. By implementing a targeted prosecution model, the DA’s office can play a key role in enhancing public safety, strengthening collaboration with law enforcement, and directly addressing the most urgent public safety concerns linked to casino-related crime.

Citations:

Bruce, C.W. (2022). Assessment of the Casinos’ Impacts on Operating Under the Influence (OUI) and OUI-Involved Traffic Collisions. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. (2004). The Weed and Seed Strategy. Community Capacity Development Office. NCJ 207498. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov>

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.

To address the public safety challenges facing Chelsea as a result of its proximity to Encore Boston Harbor, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office (SCDAO) proposes the establishment of 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 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.

The SNI prosecutor will be responsible for identifying and targeting repeat offenders and high-impact crimes, ensuring that those who contribute most to Chelsea’s public safety challenges are swiftly and effectively prosecuted. This role will serve as a liaison between law enforcement, the DA’s Office, and the community, facilitating a coordinated approach to crime reduction while also engaging in community outreach to build trust between the criminal justice system and Chelsea residents.

SCOPE OF WORK

The project will be implemented in three phases:

Phase I: Staffing and Implementation

- Hire an experienced Assistant District Attorney (ADA) to serve as the SNI prosecutor for Chelsea District Court.
- Establish a case review framework to prioritize high-impact cases related to narcotics, firearms, and violent crime.
- Develop formal collaboration structures with Chelsea law enforcement, including routine strategy meetings and information sharing to identify target offenders.

Phase II: Prosecution and Community Engagement

- The SNI prosecutor will take on a caseload focused on serious and repeat offenders

engaged in drug trafficking, firearm offenses, and gang-related violence.

- Work closely with the Chelsea Police Department, Everett and Revere law enforcement, and community organizations to share intelligence and develop strategic enforcement initiatives.
- Coordinate with diversion and prevention programs where appropriate, ensuring that intervention strategies are available for nonviolent offenders while maintaining a focus on holding violent offenders accountable.
- Engage directly with the Chelsea community through public safety forums, outreach events, and partnerships with local organizations to increase trust and collaboration between SCDAO and residents.

Phase III: Evaluation and Sustainability

- Assess case outcomes, tracking key metrics such as:
 - Reduction in repeat offenses among targeted individuals;
 - Prosecution rates for firearm offenses, narcotics trafficking, and violent crime; and
 - Community engagement success, measured by participation in outreach efforts.
- Work with local law enforcement and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to refine the prosecutorial approach based on ongoing crime trends.
- Develop a long-term sustainability plan for continued funding and expansion, if necessary.

PROJECT GOALS AND IMPACT

1. Target and prosecute individuals responsible for the most serious and persistent criminal activity in Chelsea.
2. Reduce crime associated with casino-adjacent activity, particularly drug distribution, firearm offenses, and gang-related violence.
3. Strengthen regional collaboration between SCDAO and local law enforcement agencies in Chelsea, Everett, and Revere.
4. Enhance public trust by demonstrating a commitment to proactive, community-focused prosecution.

By prioritizing high-impact prosecutions and implementing a data-driven approach to public safety, this initiative will significantly improve the quality of life in Chelsea while mitigating Encore Boston Harbor's regional public safety impacts. The establishment of an SNI prosecutor will directly address the concerns raised by local law enforcement and community members, ensuring that Chelsea has the prosecutorial resources it needs to combat crime effectively and making Chelsea a safer place for its residents.

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
Personnel - Salary: SNI Prosecutor, Chelsea District Court	Ongoing	1	\$75,000
Personnel – Payroll Tax: SNI Prosecutor, Chelsea District Court	Ongoing	1	\$1,215
Personnel – Salary: Administrative Support, Chelsea District Court	Ongoing	0.5	\$23,400
Personnel – Payroll Tax: Administrative Support, Chelsea District Court	Ongoing	0.5	\$379.08
	TOTAL:		\$99,994.08