

Federal Resources Available to Address Community Violence

The Biden Harris Administration has delivered historic resources to states, counties and cities to address the crisis of community violence. Through funds already distributed to communities, it is advantageous for these resources to prioritize efforts to reduce violence.

American Rescue Plan

The White House and U.S. Department of the Treasury provided states and localities with additional guidance on how the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds included in the American Rescue Plan Act can be used to reduce and respond to violent crime – particularly gun violence – by investing in community policing, community violence interruption, and other programs that are proven to reduce crime.

- To read the full Department of Treasury guidance: [LINK HERE](#)
- To read the White House memo guidance: [LINK HERE](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- [Community Development Block Grants](#): The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended 42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq. The program was designed to reinforce several important values and principles of community development: CDBG's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities.

Department of Health and Human Services

- [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Health Service Initiatives](#): States have the option to use limited amounts of CHIP funding to implement Health Services Initiatives to improve the health of low-income children. Historically, CMS approved state plan amendments for Health Services Initiatives aimed at addressing youth violence, including Massachusetts's initiative to prevent youth violence through after school programs aimed at mitigating the consequences of trauma and promoting healthy development.

Department of Labor

- [Growth Opportunities](#): \$85 million is available for efforts to provide skills training through work-based learning, employment services, educational support, and mentorship to youth and young adults in communities affected by violence, crime, and poverty. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon. This grant application will open for an additional round of funding between July 1, 2024, and October 15, 2024.*
- [Pathway Home](#): \$52 million is available for organizations that provide job training and other reentry services to incarcerated individuals before they are released from prison or

jail. Labor will award grants ranging from \$1 million to \$4 million to organizations that provide justice-involved individuals with legal assistance, counseling, job search strategies, and other foundational employment skills prior to release. The funding will also support apprenticeships, occupational training, and supportive services for participants after they return to their communities. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon.*

Department of Justice

This year, the Department of Justice (DOJ) will make funding available to advance public safety and improve justice system outcomes through more than 200 grant programs, building on almost \$5.8 billion in grants awarded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. To learn more about where to find DOJ funding opportunities and how to apply, prospective applicants can [visit this link](#). Applicants can also directly search for funding opportunities at [this link](#).

- [Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative](#) (CVIPI): This is the first-ever federal funding solely dedicated to community violence interventions. This program supports holistic, evidence-based strategies designed to prevent and interrupt cycles of violence and victimization by investing in communities as co-producers of public safety. Since the program's launch in FY 2022, DOJ has awarded nearly \$200 million in CVIPI grants. *Applications for this grant program are open.*
- [Addressing the Basic Needs of Crime Survivors in Underserved Communities](#): The goal of this grant program is to increase the capacity of the field to cover the basic needs of victims in underserved communities. In response to the needs of crime victim serving organizations, this grant solicitation will provide funding for culturally specific victim serving organizations to address victim needs, such as transportation, housing, clothing, food, and other items related to the well-being, healing, and safety of survivors. Special consideration will be given to organizations that have not previously received funding from the Office for Victims of Crime.
- [VOCA Victim Assistance Program](#) funding is intended to provide direct services to assist victims of crime. So long as the driving factor of community violence intervention programs is to provide direct services to assist victims of crime, those efforts may be funded with VOCA Victim Assistance Program funds. These direct services may include, but are not limited to, hospital- and community-based violence intervention programs that provide multidisciplinary victim services, such as safety planning, advocacy, trauma-informed care, and ongoing support services and assistance for survivors. Many states, such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, have used VOCA Victim Assistance formula funds to support hospital-based violence intervention programs.
- [Office on Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation Initiative](#): This initiative supports research and evaluation of approaches to preventing and addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Researchers may propose a topic connecting community violence intervention strategies that address gang and gun violence with efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Research may also focus on the impact of gender-based violence on violence interrupters and credible messengers. [Solicitation](#) is open from February 8th to April 11th, 2024.
- [Grants to Engage Men and Boys as Allies in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Program](#): This grant supports efforts to create educational and community-

based programming designed to encourage men and boys to work as allies with women and girls to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking. [Solicitation](#) is open from February 28th to April 30th, 2024.

- Edward [Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants \(JAG\)](#): This program will provide \$313 million to states, territories, tribes, and localities in support of a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and address criminal justice challenges. *Applications for this grant program are expected to open between April and June.*
- [Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence Program](#): This program seeks to provide funding to communities to develop coordinated and comprehensive community-based approaches to help children and their families who are exposed to violence build resilience, restore their safety, heal their social and emotional wounds, and prevent future violence and delinquency. Funding can be used to develop and/or enhance support services for children exposed to violence to reduce the adverse impact of violence on youth, families, and communities, and to help family-serving organizations better recognize and help families at risk for exposure to violence.
- [National Mentoring Programs](#): This program seeks to fund national mentoring organizations to enhance and expand mentoring services for children and youth who are at risk or high risk for juvenile delinquency, victimization, and juvenile justice system involvement. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon.*
- Through the [Project Safe Neighborhoods program](#), DOJ will offer \$13 million to fund partnerships between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community-based partners, and other stakeholders that identify the most pressing violent crime problems and deploy comprehensive strategies to address them. The grant will focus on supporting plans that emphasize four key design elements of successful violent crime reduction initiatives: community engagement, prevention and intervention, focused and strategic enforcement, and accountability. *Applications for this grant program are expected to open between April and June.*
- The [Second Chance Act Community Based Re-Entry Program](#) will allocate nearly \$10 million to support partnerships between correctional agencies, tribal nations, and nonprofit organizations that provide transitional services to adults returning from incarceration and seeking to re-enter society. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon.*
- DOJ plans to issue \$5 million in [Community Policing Development Micro-Grants](#) to local law enforcement agencies seeking to implement innovative community policing strategies that build trust between communities and police departments, including community violence interventions. *Applications for this grant program are open.*
- Under its [Smart Policing Initiative](#), DOJ will award \$7 million to enable police agencies to effectively use innovative and evidence-based policing practices, data, and technology to tackle chronic crime in their jurisdictions. Funding supports recipients as they establish police researcher partnerships, improve police accountability, and test promising crime prevention, response, and reduction practices. *Applications for this grant program are expected to open between April and June.*
- DOJ will allocate \$265 million for the [COPS Hiring Program](#) to directly fund law enforcement agencies to support community policing and crime prevention efforts. Law enforcement agencies that partner with community organizations to implement

community violence intervention strategies – especially focused on gun violence will receive priority consideration. *Applications for this grant program are open.*

- DOJ will allocate \$53 million for the [School Violence Prevention Program \(SVPP\)](#) to fund equipment, technology, and training to address school violence. Applicants that have experienced high rates of gun violence will receive priority, with an emphasis on supporting services for students most likely to engage in or be victimized by gun violence. *Applications for this grant program are open.*

Department of Education

- [Stronger Connections](#): The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) of 2022 provides historic funding to support State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and schools in establishing safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments. This includes \$1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for SEAs to competitively award subgrants to high-need LEAs to establish safer and healthier learning environments and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities.
- The [Project Prevent Grant program](#) provides grants to districts to increase their capacity to implement community and school-based strategies to help prevent community violence and mitigate the impacts of exposure to community violence. Earlier this year, Vice President Harris announced \$6.4 million in new Project Prevent awards alongside U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona at a North Carolina event highlighting the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to reduce gun violence and expand access to mental health services for students.
- The [Mental Health Service Professional \(MHSP\) Demonstration](#) grant program provides competitive grants to support institutions of higher education partnering with State and local educational agencies (LEAs) to train mental health services providers for employment in schools. Through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Department of Education made the largest-ever investment in school-based mental health services and professionals for K-12 schools. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon.* The Department anticipates making \$19 million in new awards in this program in FY 2024, pending appropriations.
- Similarly, the [School Based Mental Health \(SBMH\) Service Grant](#) program provides competitive grants to States and LEAs to increase the number of qualified mental health services providers providing school-based mental health services to students in communities with demonstrated need. The Department anticipates making \$19 million in new awards in this program in FY 2024, pending appropriations. Additionally, BSCA provided \$1 billion to schools for creating safe, welcoming, inclusive school environments through the Stronger Connections Grant program. High-need local education agencies are administering this funding now. *Applications for this grant program are closed, but awards are expected to be announced soon.*
- The [Promise Neighborhoods](#) program supports efforts to significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes of underserved students including ensuring school readiness, high school graduation, and access to a community-based continuum of

high-quality services. Promise Neighborhoods aligns with the Administration's Executive Order to mitigate community violence and make our communities safer.

- The [Transitioning Gang-Involved Youth to Higher Education Program](#) provides resources to colleges and universities, or to nonprofit organizations and agencies in partnership with colleges and universities, to assist gang-involved youth with postsecondary education opportunities that will lead to certification or credentials in high-demand employment areas. In 2023, the Department extended about [\\$4.95 million to organizations](#) focused on this mission.
- The [Education Innovation and Research \(EIR\) program](#) seeks to develop and expand evidence-based innovations that improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students and to evaluate the results of these interventions. The program includes a priority focused on social and emotional learning, and many grantees have used this funding to expand access to social and emotional learning in K-12 schools. In December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration [awarded \\$277 million in new grants](#) to advance educational equity and innovation through this program.
- The [State Tribal Education Partnership](#) plans to prioritize projects designed to take a systemic evidence-based approach to improving outcomes for underserved students in areas such as community violence intervention and prevention.