

**A REPORT ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE BIPARTISAN
SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT**

**White House Office of Gun
Violence Prevention
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President Biden and Vice President Harris' Gun Safety Law Helps Drive Historic Drop in Gun Crime

A Report on the Implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

June 25, 2024

After the prior Administration oversaw the largest one-year increase in murders ever recorded, President Biden took action beginning on day one of his Administration to reduce violent crime. Because firearms are used in approximately [80%](#) of murders in the United States, addressing gun crime is essential to addressing violent crime. By the middle of 2022, President Biden had already taken more executive action to reduce gun violence than any other president. And, on June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)—the most significant new gun violence prevention law in nearly 30 years. At President Biden's direction, the Biden-Harris Administration immediately started implementing the law to reduce gun crime and save lives.

After the prior Administration oversaw the largest one-year increase in murders ever recorded, BSCA has helped drive violent crime down to an almost 50-year low.

Two years later, BSCA has helped drive violent crime down to an almost 50-year low. Rates of homicide in the United States are falling at one of the fastest rates ever recorded. This downward trend in homicides started in 2022, following enactment of President Biden's American Rescue Plan; other Biden-Harris Administration investments in law enforcement, crime prevention, and intervention strategies; and the Biden-Harris Administration's use of executive authority to help keep guns out of dangerous hands. The rate of decline further accelerated after the passage and implementation of the historic BSCA and as the Biden-Harris Administration commenced implementation of this historic law. Year-over-year comparison shows that 2023 had the single largest homicide rate drop in recent history – 13%. This life-saving progress has continued in 2024. The latest Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) quarterly data shows a 26% drop in homicide in the first quarter of 2024 compared to 2023.

This report summarizes progress made to implement BSCA and actions the Biden-Harris Administration will continue to take to reduce gun crime and save lives. To ensure effective implementation, in March 2023, President Biden issued an [Executive Order](#) directing federal agencies to maximize the benefits of BSCA. In September 2023, he created the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, overseen by Vice President Harris, to further accelerate implementation of BSCA.

Gun violence is still a public health crisis, but President Biden and Vice President Harris have shown that they know what works: investing in law enforcement to help solve violent crimes and hold those responsible accountable, investing in crime prevention and intervention strategies, and stopping the illegal flow of guns into our communities. BSCA provides communities with new tools to execute this strategy, reduce gun violence, and save lives.

Overview of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

BSCA provides communities with new resources to keep guns out of the wrong hands, including billions of dollars in funding for violence prevention, mental health, and school safety to turbocharge efforts to make our communities safer. The law includes three key components: 1) solutions to reduce community violence and domestic violence; 2) solutions to address school and mass shootings; and 3) funding to improve the mental health of our young people.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT		
1. Community and Domestic Violence	2. School and Mass Shootings	3. Supporting Mental Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 million for community violence interventions • Made gun trafficking and straw purchasing specific federal crimes for the first time ever • Broadened the definition of who has to become a licensed dealer and run background checks before selling firearms • Narrowed the “boyfriend loophole” by prohibiting dating partners convicted of domestic violence from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$750 million for state crisis intervention programs, including Extreme Risk Protection Order (or “red flag”) laws • First-ever federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center • Enhanced background check for sales of firearms to people under age 21 • Codified and expanded School Safety Clearinghouse (SchoolSafety.gov) • \$1.3 billion for schools to invest in safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 billion to hire and train 14,000 school-based mental health professionals, including counselors, psychologists, and social workers • \$240 million for mental health in schools • \$400 million and additional authorities to expand community-based mental health services • \$140 million to strengthen the primary care workforce’s ability to support mental health • \$150 million for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988)

Reducing Community Violence and Domestic Violence

Providing Historic Funding for Community Violence Interventions

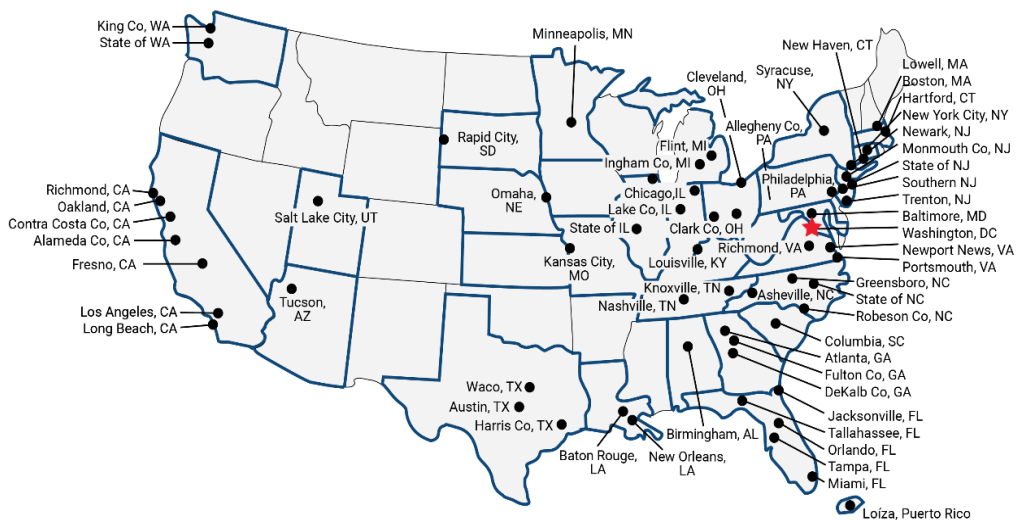
During the prior Administration, America experienced historic spikes in homicides, with predominantly Black and Latino communities being the most intensely impacted and the most under-resourced to respond to this violence. Firearm homicides are primarily driven by [community violence](#), which is interpersonal violence between two individuals that share a community.

Community violence interventions (CVI) reach individuals at the highest risk for being involved in community violence in order to intervene before violence takes place. For example, violence interruption programs deploy trusted messengers to work directly with individuals most likely to commit or become victims of gun violence, mediate conflicts before they escalate to violence, and connect people to social and economic services to reduce the likelihood that they engage in gun violence. Hospital-based violence interventions engage victims of violence while they are still in the hospital, connecting them to mental health care and other services to decrease the likelihood that they commit gun violence, including through retaliation, or are victimized in the future. CVI programs have reduced homicides by as much as 60% in areas where they are implemented. Despite their successes, CVI programs have been underfunded.

With the \$250 million from BSCA and annual appropriations, the Biden-Harris Administration has already funded nearly 80 organizations across the country to expand effective community violence interventions.

The Biden-Harris Administration has made historic investments in CVI by leveraging funding from multiple existing grant programs, the American Rescue Plan, and annual appropriations. In 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration established the first-ever grant program dedicated solely to supporting CVI, the [Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative](#) (CVIPI). BSCA is investing \$250 million in CVIPI over five years, doubling the size of the program compared to when it was funded by annual appropriations alone. In Fiscal Years [2022](#) and [2023](#) combined, CVIPI has invested in 80 organizations across the country to expand effective community violence interventions. Through BSCA funding alone, the Department of Justice has made 30 awards, totaling \$94 million in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. Later this year, the Department will award about \$70 million in CVIPI funding to [approximately 30 sites](#).

Cities That Have Received CVIPI Funding from the Biden-Harris Administration



Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

Establishing the First-Ever Federal Gun Trafficking and Straw Purchasing Laws

Gun trafficking and straw purchasing are key sources of guns used in crime. Gun trafficking is the diversion of firearms from legal markets to illegal markets and often is the way in which firearms end up in the hands of youth and other people who could not pass a background check. Straw purchasing is the method by which a person who cannot pass a background check or who otherwise wants to conceal they are acquiring firearms uses another person who can pass a background check to purchase firearms.

BSCA, for the first time ever, makes gun trafficking and firearm straw purchasing federal crimes.

BSCA, for the first time ever, makes gun trafficking and firearm straw purchasing federal crimes. Before this law, prosecutors often charged gun traffickers and straw purchasers with paperwork violations that carried relatively light penalties. Now, prosecutors have the additional legal tools they need to hold traffickers accountable. To implement this piece of BSCA, in 2022, the Department of Justice began training its prosecutors and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents on these two new provisions.

The Justice Department has used BSCA to charge more than 500 defendants with firearms trafficking or straw purchasing.

To date, the Department of Justice has charged more than 500 defendants using BSCA's new gun trafficking and straw purchasing laws, removing hundreds of firearms off the streets in the process. These cases are significant, often preventing and prosecuting highly dangerous activity, such as crimes linked to organized trafficking rings and transnational cartels. For instance, in March 2024, the Justice Department [charged](#) several defendants with trafficking and straw purchasing over 100 firearms, including many military-grade weapons, that were allegedly to be smuggled to a Mexican drug cartel. In April, a defendant was [sentenced](#) to 276 months in prison for firearms trafficking and straw purchasing, as well as distribution of fentanyl, where the evidence showed that two of the trafficked firearms had been used in gang-related shootings. Late last year, a defendant was [sentenced](#) to two years in prison for running an illegal gun trafficking enterprise, repeatedly taking money to lie on firearm purchase forms and obtain weapons for convicted felons.

BSCA's firearms trafficking and straw purchasing provisions complement the Biden-Harris Administration's early focus on gun trafficking. In 2021, the Justice Department [established five task forces](#) focused on the trafficking of firearms across state lines. The Department has also issued [three volumes of data and analysis](#) on the trafficking of firearms, giving policymakers the ability to better understand and address this challenge.

Expanding Background Checks to Fight Gun Crime

Unlicensed firearms dealers who do not conduct background checks are [the largest source](#) of firearms illegally trafficked into our communities. Often, unlicensed dealers sell firearms at gun shows and through online marketplaces—the “gun show loophole.” From 2017 to 2021 alone, ATF [identified that unlicensed dealers were](#) the source of 68,000 illegally trafficked firearms, which is more than half of firearms identified in all ATF trafficking investigations during that period.

BSCA broadened the category of gun sellers required to become licensed dealers, which is critical to stopping firearms trafficking and expanding background checks. Requiring gun dealers to become licensed helps in two key ways. First, licensed dealers are required to run background checks before transferring firearms. The federal gun background check system has helped keep more than three million guns out of dangerous hands—including the hands of felons and domestic abusers—since the system started in the late 1990s. Second, licensed dealers are required to keep business records of purchases and sales. This recordkeeping helps ATF trace firearms recovered at crime scenes and solve crimes.

The Department of Justice estimates that over 20,000 unlicensed sellers are selling firearms through online advertisements, gun shows, and other means. These unlicensed sellers should be licensed under BSCA and therefore conducting background checks. That is a significant number of sellers, as there are today about 80,000 licensed gun dealers in America.

An estimated 20,000 unlicensed firearms sellers should be licensed under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and therefore conducting background checks on their gun sales.

In May 2024, the Department of Justice [finalized a rule](#) that implements BSCA by listing the types of commercial activity indicating that a person should become a licensed dealer and run background checks, absent evidence showing they are in fact not engaged in the business of firearms dealing. By setting clear standards for when someone is dealing firearms, the rule provides ATF with proactive tools to enforce the law and keep our communities safe. The rule also makes clear that the gun show loophole does not exist.

The implementation of this component of BSCA builds on the [Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment](#) to stopping the flow of illegal guns into our communities, including by cracking down on rogue gun dealers, stopping the sale of illegal ghost guns, confirming the first permanent ATF Director in over seven years, publishing new analyses on gun trafficking, and supporting state and local law enforcement by establishing Crime Gun Intelligence Centers.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Abusers

BSCA took a life-saving step forward to strengthen the federal law that prohibits convicted domestic abusers from purchasing or possessing firearms. Prior to BSCA, this federal prohibition

covered only individuals convicted of abusing spouses, people who share a child or live together, and those similarly situated to spouses. This left a gap for dating relationships, known as the “boyfriend loophole.” An [analysis](#) of nearly 30 years of homicide data showed that in fatal domestic violence incidents, nearly half of the women killed by intimate partners were in a dating relationship.

After years of Congress attempting to close this so-called “boyfriend loophole,” BSCA finally added dating relationships to the law to make sure that convicted domestic abusers, be they married or dating, are stopped from purchasing or possessing firearms. The Justice Department has engaged in extensive efforts to train law enforcement partners, practitioners, and victim service providers on the new law. The FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System Section (NICS Section) is holding webinars and disseminating educational information to states to ensure wide understanding of BSCA’s dating relationship provision and how to implement it. The Justice Department also issued an updated [Reference Card](#) to raise awareness of the federal firearms prohibition among law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, and victim advocacy organizations.

Preventing School Shootings and Mass Shootings

“In the last two years, the people of Uvalde have turned their pain into purpose to demand progress for our Nation. I know we have a long road ahead of us, but the courage, strength, and resilience you have shown in the face of such profound loss remind us that we can come together as a country and take commonsense actions to save lives and keep our communities safe.”

- President Biden, Message to the Families of Uvalde, May 24, 2024

School shootings have tragic consequences that ripple throughout a community. According to [analysis](#) by *The Washington Post*, 404 school shootings have exposed more than 370,000 students to gun violence since the mass shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. The Biden-Administration has used BSCA to invest more resources in school safety and take significant steps to reduce school shootings and mass shootings.

Helping States Effectively Use Red Flag Laws

The Department of Homeland Security’s National Threat Assessment Center conducted a systematic review of targeted school violence incidents and found these incidents were often preceded by observed warning signs, including instances where perpetrators told others about their plan ahead of time. Perpetrators of these school shootings often acquired firearms from the home, where firearms were not securely stored.

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) or “red flag” laws create a civil process for law enforcement and other trusted community members, which can include family members, to seek a judicial order that a person is a danger to themselves or others and should temporarily lose the ability to purchase and possess firearms. The laws include due process protections that ensure people’s rights are respected, but also enable law enforcement to separate someone from a firearm in a moment of crisis. ERPOs are a tool to prevent mass shootings and suicides, but they are only effective if community members know when and how to properly invoke them.

BSCA includes \$750 million to help states improve community use of ERPOs and other crisis interventions. For example, states may use this funding to train court staff on how to handle red flag proceedings, to help family members understand how to initiate an ERPO proceeding when they see warning signs, and to help first responders recognize that someone is in crisis. States may also use the funding to raise public awareness about red flag laws, such as by developing and distributing materials about ERPOs. In February 2023, the Department of Justice [awarded](#) over \$238 million of this funding to 51 states and territories as well as the District of Columbia—all of the jurisdictions that applied to use the funds to implement state crisis intervention programs. The Justice Department [anticipates](#) making up to an additional \$141 million in awards through this program in Fiscal Year 2024.

Fourteen states are already using or planning to use BSCA funding to increase effective use of red flag laws, helping to keep guns out of the hands of people who are in crisis.

Of the 49 jurisdictions using this crisis intervention funding from BSCA, 20 states have red flag laws and 14 of those states are accessing or have informed the White House that they are planning to access this funding to further implement their red flag laws. In March 2024, only six states had accessed this life-saving funding for implementation of red flag laws. After Vice President Harris [visited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School](#), met with the families who lost loved ones, and walked through the building where the 2018 mass shooting took place, she called on states to use BSCA funding to implement ERPO laws. Many states have already responded to her call to action.

In addition, BSCA provides funding for the establishment of the first-ever National Extreme Risk Protection Order Resource Center. The ERPO Resource Center (erpo.org) is now available to assist states, local governments, law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, judges, clinicians, victim service providers, and behavioral health and other social service providers in optimizing the use of red flag laws. The Resource Center, funded by BSCA, is run by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.

Enhancing Background Checks for Firearm Buyers Under Age 21

[Six of the nine deadliest mass shootings](#) in the United States since 2018 were carried out by people 21-years-old or younger. To address this challenge, BSCA requires enhanced background checks before any sale or transfer of a firearm by a licensed dealer to a person under the age of 21. [Under an enhanced check](#), the party running the background check—either the FBI’s NICS Section or the state—must not only check the standard databases used for gun background checks, but also must contact three additional entities based on where the potential firearm purchaser resides: 1) the local law enforcement agency, 2) the state criminal history repository or juvenile justice information system, and 2) the state custodian of mental health adjudication records.

The FBI's NICS Section is now conducting these enhanced checks in all 43 jurisdictions where the FBI is responsible for conducting firearms background checks. The FBI provided support and technical assistance to the 18 full and partial "point of contact" jurisdictions that conduct their own background checks, which have now all reported full implementation of these enhanced background checks.

BSCA has stopped 800 sales of firearms to individuals under age 21 who are prohibited from purchasing firearms—a 25% increase in the number of firearm background check denials to individuals under age 21.

Since implemented in October 2022, the FBI's enhanced background checks have stopped 800 sales of firearms to individuals under age 21 who are prohibited from purchasing firearms. Without BSCA, those sales would likely have been completed and these individuals could have obtained a gun. Those 800 denials represent an approximately 25% increase in the number of firearm background check denials for individuals under age 21, compared to the period before BSCA was enacted.

The stories behind this number illustrate the importance of enhanced background checks. [For example](#), during outreach through the enhanced background check:

- A sheriff's office informed the FBI's NICS Section of an incident report indicating that the firearm purchaser under age 21 had been arrested for attempted murder and other offenses. The NICS Section obtained court documentation showing that the purchaser was released on bond with court-ordered firearm restrictions pending the resolution of those charges. The transaction was denied based on a state prohibitor for active court-ordered firearm restrictions.
- A juvenile court provided documentation establishing that a firearm purchaser under age 21 was found to be mentally ill and involuntarily committed for mental health treatment. The transaction was denied based on the federal firearm prohibitor relating to mental health adjudications.
- A county court provided the NICS Section with documentation that the firearm purchaser under age 21 had sustained juvenile adjudications for sexual battery, possession of a knife at school, and intimidation. The transaction was denied based on a state prohibitor for disqualifying juvenile adjudications.

Codifying and Expanding the School Safety Clearinghouse

The Biden-Harris Administration codified and expanded the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse, implementing the Luke and Alex School Safety Act that was part of BSCA. The Clearinghouse, available at [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov), provides evidence-based practices and recommendations to improve school safety for use by states, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, state and local law enforcement agencies, health professionals, and the general public. The Biden-Harris Administration has taken important steps to improve the Clearinghouse. For example, a [Grants Finder Tool](#) on the website now helps state and local leaders more easily identify federal grants to meet their unique needs.

Funding Local Schools to Create Safer Learning Environments

BSCA provides more than \$1.3 billion to schools to build safer learning environments through several key grant programs.

BSCA provides \$1 billion for the new [Stronger Connections](#) grant program, which helps schools invest in strategies to keep their students safe. The Department of Education [released Stronger Connections funding](#) to states in September 2022. Since then, all states have run competitions for this funding, making awards to more than 2,100 high-need communities. Preliminary data show schools are using Stronger Connections funds to: update safety plans; hire mental health professionals and school resource officers; carry out community violence intervention and prevention strategies; install security equipment; conduct school climate surveys; address chronic absenteeism; and implement anti-bullying and anti-harassment programs.

Schools in over 2,100 communities are using BSCA funding to update safety plans, hire mental health professionals and school resource officers, carry out community violence interventions, install security equipment, and take other steps to improve school safety.

BSCA provides an additional \$300 million for school safety interventions—\$200 million for the [STOP School Violence Program](#) and \$100 million for the COPS Office [School Violence Prevention Program](#). These programs improve K-12 school security by providing schools, students, and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence. For example, with this funding schools can develop and operate evidence-based anonymous reporting systems for troubling behavior; establish and train multidisciplinary teams to evaluate student behavior; and provide interventions and supports that reduce school violence risks among students in ways that comply with federal civil rights laws and are free from bias. Through BSCA and annual appropriations for these programs, over 3,500 schools have expanded or enhanced their intervention teams, over 2,300 schools formed intervention teams, and over 140 schools developed and implemented school safety plans.

In part due to BSCA, more than 3,500 schools expanded or enhanced their intervention teams to reduce school violence, 2,300 schools formed intervention teams, and 140 schools have developed and implemented school safety plans.

Because of the STOP School Violence funding included in BSCA, the Department of Justice made an additional 81 awards under this program in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, totaling almost \$75 million. The Justice Department anticipates awarding more than \$150 million in additional funding for the STOP program this year, including \$60 million from BSCA.

BSCA also provides [\\$50 million](#) for before- and after-school programs, one key strategy to prevent violence.

Investing in School-Based and Community-Based Mental Health Services

“We can all agree, mental health care is health care. It is health care. It’s essential to people’s well-being and their ability to lead a full and productive life, to find joy, to find purpose, to take care of themselves and their loved ones. It’s about dignity.”

-President Biden, July 25, 2023

“In the United States of America today, the number one killer of our children is gun violence...and when we take the time to consider what this means, let us understand how many people in our country, including our children, are experiencing profound trauma that manifests itself in so many ways.”

-Vice President Harris, January 11, 2024

BSCA includes the largest-ever one-time investment in school-based mental health care.

Hiring and Training 14,000 Mental Health Professionals to Work in Our Schools

BSCA delivers \$1 billion over five years to help hire and train mental health professionals—including school psychologists, counselors, and social workers—to work in our schools. Grantees estimate that this investment will collectively prepare more than [14,000 new mental health professionals](#) for America’s schools. To date, the Biden-Harris Administration has made [\\$570 million in awards](#) with this BSCA funding to 264 grantees across 48 states and territories.

BSCA will fund the hiring and training of 14,000 new mental health professionals for America’s schools.

These investments—alongside BSCA’s Stronger Connections grant program, American Rescue Plan funding, historic increases in Title I funding, and a five-fold increase in full-service community schools—are making progress toward the President’s goal of doubling the number of mental health professionals in our schools. The number of school social workers, counselors, nurses, and psychologists have all increased over pre-pandemic levels. For example, compared to before the pandemic, the number of public-school social workers is up 43%. The Biden-Harris Administration inherited a youth mental health crisis, and has taken decisive action to provide young people and their families with greater access to critical mental health care.

Improving Access to Mental Health Services in Schools

BSCA provides \$240 million to help schools and communities identify and support students who need mental health care and help them access that care. The Biden-Harris Administration has already awarded \$85 million of this funding through the Department of Health and Human Service’s Project Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education (Project AWARE) program to support efforts in more than 125 school districts across 18 states. Project AWARE grant recipients have already screened more than 88,000 students to identify those who may benefit from additional mental health support and/or more intensive mental health clinical services. Of the students screened, more than 14,000 students were referred to mental health or related services.

The Biden-Harris Administration also awarded BSCA funding through the Trauma-Informed Services in Schools program to eight communities that are using these funds to train school personnel to identify, refer, and provide services to students in need of trauma support or behavioral health services. To date, these schools have reported screening nearly 4,500 students for trauma and referred more than 1,000 students to early intervention, treatment, and trauma support services.

BSCA also directed the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services to make it easier for schools to receive payment from Medicaid for providing health care—including behavioral health care—to children from low-income families. Since the passage of BSCA, the Departments have been working closely together to increase the number of states and districts that are accessing Medicaid funds to provide school-based services for children enrolled in Medicaid. As a part of this effort, the Departments published a [comprehensive guide to billing Medicaid for schools](#). Additionally, BSCA provided \$8 million for a national technical assistance center that the Biden-Harris Administration established in 2023, which helps states and districts leverage this critical Medicaid funding.

Expanding Access to Mental Health Care in the Community

BSCA invests over \$400 million to expand access to mental health services in the community. This investment includes three key grants. First, BSCA provides [\\$250 million](#) over four years in block grant funding to states and territories to expand access to community mental health services. Some grantees for this mental health community block grant have used their funding from BSCA to expand 24/7 Mobile Crisis Teams and develop trauma response teams to treat specific forms of trauma, including trauma from gun violence. Second, BSCA provides [\\$120 million](#) over four years to train individuals, including teachers and law enforcement, to appropriately respond to people with mental health challenges. Third, BSCA provides [\\$40 million](#) to promote trauma-informed treatment and services for that have experienced or witnessed traumatic events. The Biden-Harris Administration sent the first tranche of funding from these programs to communities between October 2022 and January 2023.

To date, the 235 grantees for the mental health awareness training program have trained 130,960 community members (including teachers and school personnel, law enforcement and emergency services personnel, families and caregivers, service providers, armed services personnel, veterans, and faith-based leaders) and 40,430 behavioral health workforce members on promoting mental health wellbeing as well as crisis prevention and de-escalation. According to grantees, the community members and behavioral workforce members have utilized the knowledge gained in trainings to refer 83,399 individuals to behavioral health services.

As a result of BSCA funding, over 170,000 individuals have received mental health awareness training to better identify and support individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Department of Health and Human Services, through BSCA, has also begun the nationwide expansion of certified community behavioral health clinics that provide mental health crisis services that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In March 2023, the Department [awarded](#) 15 states each with \$1 million, one-year grants to plan the development of their community behavioral health clinic strategy. In June 2024, the Department [announced](#) that 10 of these states will be able to access Medicaid funding to expand certified community behavioral health clinics and improve access to comprehensive services and care coordination.

Helping the Primary Care Workforce Better Support Mental Health

Primary care providers are often the first or only interaction an individual may have with the health care system. Therefore, one critical strategy to expand access to mental health services is to ensure that more primary care providers know how to provide effective mental health care screenings and help individuals seek more intensive mental health care when needed. Toward that end, BSCA invests \$140 million to expand and strengthen the primary care workforce's ability to support mental health. \$60 million from BSCA funds training for primary care residents to provide behavioral health treatment. Through this program, the Department of Health and Human Services has made [24 awards across 17 states](#), including two Historically Black Colleges and Universities and one minority-serving institution. In addition, BSCA invests \$80 million over four years in a [grant program](#) that promotes the integration of behavioral health services into pediatric primary care using telehealth.

Expanding the 988 -- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

BSCA invests \$150 million in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which the Biden-Harris Administration transitioned to a simple, three-digit number—988. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for people in distress or crisis. BSCA funding has expanded and enhanced access to 988 Lifeline crisis centers, which are local centers where calls are routed to, including specialized care for populations at higher risk of suicide. As of March 2024, 988 has received (routed) about 9.6 million calls, texts, and chats. Thanks in part to BSCA funding, the average speed to answer contacts to 988 decreased from over two minutes to just 40 seconds.

Conclusion: Seizing the Momentum of BSCA to Save More Lives

While communities across the country are feeling the promise of BSCA, there is more to do to ensure we maximize its benefits. At the direction of President Biden, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and the entire Biden-Harris Administration will continue to accelerate the implementation of BSCA and other pieces of President Biden's agenda to reduce gun crime and save lives.

President Biden calls on Congress to seize the momentum from BSCA and send additional legislation to his desk to prevent gun violence and advance public safety. Congress should enact universal background checks, require safe storage of firearms, ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and end legal immunity for the gun industry. Congress should fulfill President Biden's budget request to increase funding for CVI and mental health programs so life-saving initiatives can reach more communities. Lastly, Congress must provide the funding President Biden has requested so ATF and other law enforcement can enforce our laws and help solve gun crimes. ATF special agents are on the front lines, investigating federal gun crimes, partnering with state and local law enforcement to provide crime gun intelligence, and regulating the gun industry. We should empower them with the resources they need to fight gun crime and save lives.