

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

Community-Based Violence Intervention Program

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, the Department of Law and Public Safety (Department), announces the anticipated availability of the following grant program funds:

a) Name of the Program: Community-Based Violence Intervention Program. This program is supported by State Fiscal Year 2023 funding.

b) Purpose:

New Jersey is home to numerous communities that experience high rates of violence. One set of strategies for addressing this problem is community-based violence interventions (CBVI). This strategy helps communities reduce homicides, shootings, and other violent acts by supporting and developing healing relationships among communities, groups, and individuals. CBVI programs work with groups and individuals to build their capacity to seek healthy methods for addressing and resolving conflict, with a particular emphasis on reducing gun violence.

The purpose of the CBVI Program is to support non-profit community service providers, in the development and implementation of violence intervention programming for communities impacted by higher than average rates of violence, with a focus on gun violence. Applicants may develop new initiatives or enhance already existing programs.

Information on CBVI programs initiated in targeted areas have shown a reduction in homicides by as much as 60% in those communities. These programs employ community violence intervention strategies that provide alternatives to violence and embody a community-based public safety model. Broadly, community-based violence prevention and intervention programs may take many forms, encompassing services and direct benefits to individuals that are a part of or in service of broader evidence-based and community-informed efforts to assist and empower communities to prevent and reduce violence. This Program will support applications whose initiatives include such activities as:

- street outreach and mentoring;
- trauma-informed programing, as well as cognitive behavioral services or strategies;
- prevention and intervention services that are designed to reach individuals at risk of violence;
- capacity-building that will advance the project's goals, including, the development of organizational capacity, staff development, and programmatic development; and
- integration of local social service providers to connect people at risk or at a high risk of violence to social and economic services.

Applications must indicate how their initiatives are community-driven and culturally responsive in their approach to reduce violence, particularly gun violence.

c) Available Funding: Funding for the Community-Based Violence Intervention Program is derived from the 2023 State Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$9,500,000. These funds will be awarded on a

competitive basis pursuant to the quality of the application submitted. The number of awards available and the funding amount of each award will depend upon the number of applications received and the funding amounts requested by each applicant. Funding decisions will be made based on a variety of considerations, including but not limited to, the type of initiatives to be implemented and the geographic distribution of the project. The Department reserves the right to decline any and all applications for funding and to award grants in amounts that may be other than requested.

For successful applicants, funding under this grant program will be disbursed through a **combination of upfront and reimbursement methods. For all grantees, the Department intends on providing 25% of the total approved award upfront upon award execution.** After upfront funds are exhausted, expenditures will be on a reimbursement basis. Prior to funds being reimbursed, recipients will be required to provide sufficient proof of all expenditures (e.g. receipts, purchase orders, payment vouchers, invoices etc.). Additional up-front funding requests will be assessed on a case by case basis.

d) Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$500,000 per project for a twelve- month grant period. The project period will begin January 1, 2023 and end on December 31, 2023. Recipients will not be reimbursed for expenditures outside of this grant period. Only one application per applicant will be accepted. **There is no cash or “in- kind” match required for this program.** Continuation funding may or may not be available. If available, continuation funding would be contingent upon the entity meeting the goals and objectives of the program.

e) Applicants eligible for funding under this program: non-profit, community service providers may apply for funding. Multiple, eligible entities may file a single joint application, but one of the eligible entities must be designated as the applicant and the application will still be subject to the \$500,000 limit.

f) Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding: At the time of application, applicants must be (1) a registered non-profit (2) in good standing with all State agencies with which they have had a grant or contractual relationship (3) in compliance with IRS 501c3 and (4) in compliance with NJ DCA registration requirements if applicable. DCA registration requirements can be found at <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/charities/Pages/charities-registration-information.aspx>.

g) Application Procedures: Application packages are available on the OAG website at <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/>. Applicants must submit a **complete** application with **all** applicable documents and signatures by the submission deadline. Applications must be sent to the following email address: CBVI@njoag.gov. **Please put your entity name in the subject line.** Incomplete applications, and those that do not comply with the requirements of this Notice of Availability of Funds or the Program Guidelines, will not be considered for funding. The Department reserves the right to decline any and all applications for funding and to award grants in amounts that may be other than requested. Please be aware that the submitted application may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.

To be considered for funding, an eligible applicant must file a completed application, in accordance with the requirements of this NOAF and the Program Guidelines, using the prescribed forms, by the submission deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be eligible for funding.

h) Application Components. The following components must be included in the application:

1. Abstract (Required but not scored)

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 300 words) that includes:

- name of the Implementing Agency;
- title of the proposed project;

- the geographic location in which services will be provided,
- total funding request;
- purpose and goals of this project;
- target population characteristics and overall number of individuals to be served; and
- description of the proposed project including an overview of how it will work and achieve its purpose.

The executive summary does not count toward the overall page limit.

2. Program Narrative (105 points)

The program narrative should be double-spaced, using a standard 12-point Times New Roman font and **must not exceed 15 pages**.

a. Identified Need (10 Points)

The first section of the Program Narrative should identify and describe the specific need for the proposed **Community-Based Violence Intervention Program** in the community your organization proposes to serve. This section should explain how this community experiences community violence and why the proposed interventions are needed. It should discuss local statistics that support the need for the proposed services, the prevalence of risk factors in the community, service/program areas where community violence intervention is needed or needs to be strengthened, as well as the local gaps in service.

b. Target Population to be Served (15 points)

Based upon the identified need, describe the target population to be served, including the ages or age ranges of the population; participant eligibility; the anticipated number of individuals who will receive or participate in services during the grant period; and the geographic area impacted by your proposed program.

In describing the population to be served, this section should explain the reason for selecting this population and indicate the level of risk for violence of the target population, explaining, for example, whether it is targeted to:

- a general population in a community that is broadly at risk of community violence;
- individuals who are more directly at risk of violence due to the presence of certain risk factors, including but not limited to a past history of violence or victimization; association with individuals engaged in violent behavior; evidence of disconnection from school, community or family; experience of adverse life events or adverse childhood experiences including the loss of a family member to violence, lack of parental supervision, or commitment to peers who are engaged in negative behaviors; or
- individuals who may be considered at a high risk for violence due, for example, to present or past engagement in violence behavior, or involvement in or association with gangs.

Indicate how participants will be assessed for the presence of risk factors.

c. Program Design and Implementation (45 Points)

This section of the application should clearly describe your proposed program and how it will

work. Applicants are strongly advised to provide a clear, plain language explanation of the program's operation. It should include a description of the activities that participants will engage in, who (i.e. which staff, consultants or partners) will be providing those activities, and provide a narrative of how participants move through the program, including recruitment, assessment for eligibility, where and when they attend activities or engage with the program, the duration and nature of the activities, and how they complete the program (if applicable). It must also:

- Explain how it will address the identified need;
- How it will engage or involve the community in implementation. Examples of community involvement or engagement include working with other community-based organizations, community stakeholders and/or residents, or using or leveraging local community knowledge;
- Provide a table with an implementation timeline which covers the key program activities and how the project will be implemented over the course of the 12 months. The table should be attached as an appendix and does not count toward the overall page limit;
- Explain how the program will be culturally- responsive and tailored to the local context in which it will operate;
- Detail how the proposed project relates to other programs currently operated by the applicant agency, if any, including current CBVI funding from the Department, if any. For example, explain whether this is a new program model, whether it builds on an existing program model by adding new program elements, or whether it expands the capacity of an existing program model; and
- Explain whether the proposed program uses any evidence-based or evidence-informed practices to achieve its objectives. Describe such practices and cite the basis for or source of such evidence.

d. Partnership, Collaboration, and Coordination (5 Points)

Partnerships, collaborations, and coordination with community-based organizations, governmental organizations, or other entities is encouraged. Describe proposed partnerships, collaborations, or coordination and explain how your entity will use these to strengthen the success and/or reach of your project.

e. Background, Experience, and Capability; Project Management and Staff (5 Points)

Describe you or your entity's background and experience (if any) with violence intervention programs and your entity's knowledge and capability to carry out the proposed program. Include your agency's mission and a brief discussion of current programs. Identify all program management and staff to be funded with this project. Identify any current trainings that staff have received in the area of violence intervention or anticipated trainings.

f. Data Collection: (5 points)

Applicants must include a description of how they plan to collect data, what data they plan to track, and the metrics they plan to use to assess the strength of the project, including the number of participants served, the service level participants receive, the risk factors being targeted, the risk level of the participants, the outcomes they seek to measure and how those outcomes relate to the proposed project. Applicants should indicate the person(s) responsible for data collection, and the frequency of collection.

g. **Sustainability Plan (5 points)**

Applicants must also include a discussion about how the work will be sustained beyond the grant period, which may include costs of operation, partnerships with community groups, and impact of long-term engagement in this area.

h. **Priority Areas (15 points)**

The goals of the CBVI Program are to reduce community violence and improve public safety. Accordingly, it will give priority to applications that employ strategies that are evidence-based or evidence-informed. Such strategies may include:

- **Initiatives that are targeted in geographic areas with high concentrations of crime.** Evidence suggests that gun violence tends to concentrate in geographically narrow areas. For example, within a given city or town that has a high rate of gun violence, a large percentage of shootings may concentrate within micro-areas within that city and town. Applicants should identify the micro-area or areas where the initiative is targeted, provide data/evidence that demonstrates that the area experiences crime concentration, and explain how the intervention will be deployed in these specific micro-locations.
- **Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).** Available evidence suggests that the incorporation of CBT strategies in community violence interventions is strongly associated with reducing violence. Applicants incorporating CBT strategies should provide a description of such strategies, and how these strategies will be incorporated into their service delivery.
- **Targeting populations for services with evidence-based and evidence-informed risk factors.** Evidence suggests that the presence of certain risk factors make individuals more susceptible to perpetrating violence, and that addressing such factors protects individuals and communities. For example, disconnection from school or family may be evidence of risk. Applicants targeting such populations should provide a description of the risk factors they seek to target, the evidence of the importance of addressing the risk factor or factors, how individuals with such risk factors will be identified and recruited, and how the risk factor will be addressed through the program.
- **Tertiary and secondary prevention efforts.** Available evidence suggests that interventions that are “primary prevention,” meaning they address risk factors associated with violence in the general population, are less effective than two other types of interventions: secondary prevention and tertiary prevention. Secondary prevention focuses on sub-populations with risk factors for future violence either as victims or perpetrators. Tertiary prevention attempts to intervene with those already engaged in violent behavior. Proposals that are focused on tertiary and secondary interventions may receive greater priority. Tertiary prevention may be prioritized more highly than secondary prevention.
- **Relationships with institutions who have information regarding individuals in need of intervention and prevention services.** A key strategy in reducing community violence is to create and/or strengthen relationships between community-based providers of violence intervention and prevention services and other institutions. The goal is to exchange information so that program providers may be able to identify and outreach to individuals who are at risk of committing violence, being victimized or targeted for violence, or to individuals who are vulnerable due to the presence of risk factors. Information sharing will assist providers to make appropriate referrals of targeted individuals into program services. Providers may develop relationships with a variety of criminal justice institutions or entities with knowledge of individuals who are in need of intervention, including, but not limited to, law enforcement (e.g., local police departments or county prosecutors), the courts and court systems (including the Administrative Office of Courts), hospitals and community and mental healthcare agencies, schools or school

district offices, human services agencies, child protective agencies, the Juvenile Justice Commission, county Youth Services Commissions or other service providers which are a part of the criminal justice system or have contact with individuals who are at risk of justice system involvement. These relationships may consist, for example, of the institution identifying at-risk individuals and creating a referral process to the program provider. Applicants should describe these relationships and the goal of such relationships, the referral process, outcomes tracked through this process, and whether the relationship is formalized through agreements like an Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Support.

Inclusion of “Priority Areas” are worth 15 points as a whole. Applicants may receive up to 15 points for inclusion of a strategy or strategies that are evidence-based or evidence-informed and that are likely to advance and optimize the goals of the project, principally in reducing violence. Applicants may include one or more of the example strategies listed above, or may propose alternative evidence-informed or evidence-based strategies that have a track record of reducing violence. Priority Area points will be awarded on the basis of whether the strategies are evidence-based or evidence-informed, that they align with the goals of the project, and that they can convincingly be integrated into the delivery of service and program.

3. Budget Detail and Budget Narrative (10 points)

- a. Applicants must use the Budget Detail Worksheet form provided in the application package.
- b. Applicants must provide an itemized list of costs and a narrative explanation as to why those costs are necessary to the success of the project. Costs must be specific and tied to the project objectives.
- c. Applicants should refer to the Program Administration and Funding Guidelines for a description of budget categories and allowable expenses.

i) The address* of the office receiving the application:

William H. Cranford, Chief Administrative Officer
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Administration
Richard J. Hughes Justice
Complex 25 Market Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

*** ONLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VIA EMAIL: CBVI@NJOAG.GOV**

j) Deadline by which applications must be submitted:

Applications must be completed and emailed to CBVI@njoag.gov on or before **11:59 pm on November 16, 2022**. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.**

k) Webinar (Mandatory)

In effort to assist candidates in applying for these funds, **an application webinar will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 1PM virtually**. Viewing the **application webinar is mandatory**. Please read this NOAF and the funding application in its entirety prior to attending the webinar. Please **R.S.V.P via email to grants@njoag.gov by October 31st, 2022**, if you are attending the application webinar. If you did not attend the live version of the webinar or did not register in time, you may satisfy the mandatory requirement by viewing a recording of the webinar. A link to the webinar is available on the Office of Attorney General “Grant Opportunities” under the “Community Based Violence

Intervention Program (CBVI) NOAF.” **All applicants are required to submit a certification form that they have viewed the webinar (see “Program Certification of Completion of Viewing Mandatory Webinar” available on the Office of Attorney General “Grant Opportunities” under “Community Based Violence Intervention Program (CBVI) NOAF.”**

- l) **Date by which notices of award shall be sent to applicants: All applicants will be notified on or about December 2, 2022, whether or not their proposed project(s) will be funded.**

Training and technical assistance and program evaluation

The Department may provide for a statewide training and technical assistance (TTA) provider for applicants who receive funding under this program as grantees. If a TTA is made available, applicants will be required to cooperate with the TTA as part of the receipt of funds under this program.

Additionally, the Department may partner with an academic institution to conduct an overall evaluation of the program, which may involve the receipt of information from the eventual grantees to inform uniform standards for future violence intervention programs and best practices. Cooperation with the academic institution will be required for purposes of this evaluation.

Please note that funding allocations and individual subaward amounts are subject to change.

Recipients shall recognize and agree that both the initial provision of funding and the continuation of such funding under a grant agreement is expressly depending upon the availability to the Department of funds appropriated by the State Legislature or through Federal funding from State and/or Federal revenue or such other funding sources, as may be applicable. A failure of the Department to make any payment under a grant agreement or to observe and perform any condition on its part to be performed under a grant agreement as a result of the failure of the State Legislature or through Federal funding to appropriate funds shall not in any manner constitute a breach of a grant agreement by the Department or an event of default under a grant agreement and the Department shall not be held liable for any breach of a grant agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. In addition, future funding may not be anticipated from the Department beyond the duration of the award period set forth in a grant agreement and in no event shall a grant agreement be construed as a commitment by the Department to expend funds beyond the termination date set in a grant agreement.