

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Notice of Availability of Funds

**Community-Based Violence Intervention Program –
Tertiary and Primary Prevention**

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 & Source of Funds:

Community-Based Violence Intervention Program.

This program is supported by State Fiscal Year 2024 funding.

b) Purpose:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define community violence as violence that happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home. Examples include assaults or fights among groups and shootings in public places, such as schools and on the streets. According to the CDC, youth and young adults (ages 10-34), particularly those in communities of color, are disproportionately impacted by community violence. In areas where violence is heavily concentrated, communities and individuals may experience trauma, hyper-vigilance, a sense of hopelessness and other effects.

New Jersey is home to numerous communities that experience high rates of community violence, including urban and more rural regions of the state.

Strategies for addressing this problem can be found in community-based violence interventions (CBVI) which offer a public health approach to promoting public safety. 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 community violence intervention programming for communities impacted by higher than average rates of community 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 public health approach to addressing violence requires working collaboratively, creatively and by addressing various levels of community and individual engagement. Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention each have specific benefits and all are part of our collective public safety ecosystem.

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

This NOAF seeks to fund two areas of community violence intervention:

- 1) **Tertiary prevention and/or tertiary prevention strategies with hybrid services; and**
- 2) **Primary and/or secondary prevention strategies.**

ONLY ONE APPLICATION. Organizations can only apply under one category and only one application per entity will be considered under this NOAF.

If any adjustments are required, the Department will contact you and provide a restricted timeline for response and return documentation.

Each applicant may apply under only **one** of the following two categories:

Tertiary Prevention (Category 1)

Tertiary prevention (or violence intervention) strategies attempt to intervene with those already engaged in violent behavior or at high risk of violence due to past victimization or as a result of retaliation.

Proposals *must* at a minimum provide tertiary prevention strategies, but *may*, in addition, provide hybrid preventions that include secondary and primary approaches. **Applications that do not include tertiary intervention strategies will not be considered eligible for funding under Category 1.**

Tertiary prevention applicants **must** demonstrate that their organization and staff have training and history conducting tertiary prevention activities. In demonstrating such training qualification, applicants must refer to how their organization and staff's experience and training are supported by best practices and/or nationally recognized training or certification programs in community violence intervention.

Category 1 - Tertiary Prevention (Violence Intervention) – Examples and Strategies

The following is a non-exclusive list of examples of tertiary prevention strategies:

- Conduct street outreach and community engagement in high crime neighborhoods focusing on individuals who are at high risk of violence. Street outreach includes operations where organizations have “eyes and ears” on the ground in communities, built on trust and credibility through established relationships in the community. This work enables organizations to be able to identify high risk scenarios or individuals at risk.
- High Risk Intervention or similar services which are intended to respond to incidents, including those referred from law enforcement, where providers connect those who are at high risk of violence to assessment, counseling, crisis intervention, mediation, victim advocacy services, and referrals for other services in order to stem violence and set the individual on a positive path.
- Provide therapeutic and trauma-informed programming—including, for example, cognitive behavioral therapy—with the goal of transforming the participants’ attitudes toward violence.

- Group- or gang-violence de-escalation and/or mediation.
- Work with families and others closely related to those impacted by community violence to prevent retaliation, including, for example, through victim advocacy.
- Safe Passage or similar services in, at, and around schools that experience high rates of violence in order to intervene to prevent, mediate and de-escalate conflicts between and among youth and their family members. Safe Passage includes locating operations at strategic locations outside the school and routes to and from schools, including bus stops, frequently traveled streets and blocks, and other points at which youth typically congregate before and after school. Safe Passage or similar services may also occur in schools where school authorities have partnered with the applicant to increase safety within the school.
- Recruiting and training community members to be leaders and points of contact in improving safety in communities with high concentrations of crime so they can be positioned to intervene and prevent violence.

Tertiary Prevention Plus Hybrid Services

- Tertiary Prevention Plus Hybrid Services can be defined as a tertiary prevention program that also includes certain components from secondary or primary prevention levels.

Primary and/or Secondary Prevention (Category 2)

Proposals may seek to focus on primary prevention strategies only, secondary prevention strategies only, or may seek to blend both strategies (“hybrid”).

Primary prevention strategies typically address risk factors associated with violence in the general population. These approaches include community-wide impact and awareness efforts in communities that are disproportionality effected by gun violence, as well as individual- or group-related activities for populations at risk of gun violence. Primary prevention programs create safe spaces for all, provide pro-social activities, and help bring community together. These approaches increase crucial protective factors.

Secondary prevention focuses on sub-populations with risk factors for future violence either as victims or perpetrators. While they may include some of the similar strategies used in primary prevention—including mentorship, skill-building in areas that promote protective factors, or restorative healing circles—their distinction is in their focus on a sub-population more acutely at risk for violence due to the presence of one or more risk factors.

The following are non-exclusive lists of examples of primary and secondary prevention strategies:

Primary Prevention – Examples and Strategies

- Individual or group-focused programming, examples and approaches include:
 - Activities that alter violence norms across communities, especially when the message comes from community-based programs staffed by familiar residents and credible messengers.
 - Mentorship or peer-led relationships where the practitioner—who is trained and/or experienced—provides skill building that promotes protective factors that are tailored to reducing risk of violence or victimization.
 - Programing that supports de-escalation, conflict-resolution, problem-solving, impulse control, and anger and/or stress management.
 - Restorative justice approaches and practices, including the use of restorative circles to resolve and mediate conflicts.
 - Programming that educates and builds skills to protect at-risk youth from risky behaviors

- like substance use, social media bullying, fighting, or going missing from home.
- Supporting schools in responding to incidents of bullying or violence through providing awareness events or positive social activities.
- Community Education and Awareness
 - Weekly community activities that promote pro-social skills and gun violence prevention through community cohesiveness.
 - Monthly holiday or seasonal events that promote pro-social skills and gun violence prevention through community cohesiveness.
 - Organizing gun violence awareness campaign centering community and youth voices.
 - Working with communities to raise awareness about primary, secondary, and tertiary services available to community members.

Secondary Prevention – Examples and Strategies

- Secondary prevention focuses on working with special populations based on identified risk factors and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) including, for example, 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, individuals who are the siblings or children of gang-involved persons, or individuals who demonstrate commitment to peers who are engaged in negative behavior. Strategies for working with this population include:
 - One-on-one or group mentoring, counseling, mental services or similar support;
 - Case work to support individuals live in high crime neighborhoods and who need social services, including linking such individuals to local social service providers for services that reduce the risk of violence;
 - Working with the courts, school disciplinary entities, or the criminal justice or juvenile justice system to receive referrals of individuals with high or elevated risk violence for the purpose of connecting them to a program(s) provided by the applicant and/or other entities.

c) Available Funding:

Funding for this NOAF to support the Community-Based Violence Intervention Program is derived from the 2024 State Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$14,500,000.00 of which a minimum of \$5 million is supported by the Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Fund. Subgrants will be issued through one or both funding sources. Be aware that eligibility for the Cannabis Impact Zone Funds are limited to organizations that operate in Impact Zones that meet the specific criteria based on population, past criminal marijuana enterprises, law enforcement activity, and rates of unemployment, as defined by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L.2021, c. 16 (C.24:6I-31 et al.)). Additional guidance and/or requirements on the use of Impact Zone dollars may be provided as needed.

Regardless of funding source, all subgrants 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 quality of the applications submitted, the type of initiatives to be implemented, population served, 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.

Funding Amounts:

Category 1 - Tertiary Prevention organizations may apply for up to \$750,000.

Category 2 - Primary or Secondary Prevention organizations may apply for up to \$500,000.

Applications must not exceed the maximum application amounts for their applicable category.

For all grantees, the Department intends on providing 25% of the total approved award upfront upon contract execution. After upfront funds are exhausted, expenditures will be on a reimbursement basis. Additional up-front funding requests will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Recipients will be required to provide sufficient proof of all expenditures (e.g. receipts, purchase orders, payment vouchers, invoices etc.).

The project period will begin January 1, 2024 and end on December 31, 2024. 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.

- d) **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 application funding limits listed above.
- e) **Qualifications needed by an applicant to be considered for funding:** At the time of application, applicants must be a non-profit entity. An applicant may demonstrate non-profit status through inclusion in the application of any of the following documentation:
- (1) Exempt Organization Certificate from the New Jersey Department of Treasury;
 - (2) Articles of Incorporation along with proof of filing;
 - (3) Evidence of federal tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (for example, an IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter); and/or
 - (4) Evidence of Charities Registration with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs.

f) Application Procedures:

LPS wants to ensure that entities interested in applying for CBVI funding are aware of the requirements that are needed for an application to be accepted and scored. Please review the below requirements and become familiar with them. The Department understands that putting together these documents can be a time consuming and challenging process. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions about the documents that comprise an application.

1. Application packages are available on the OAG website at <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/grant-opportunities/>.
2. Applications must meet Basic Minimum Requirements in order to be scored. Applications with any missing Basic Minimum Requirements will not be scored or considered for funding, and will be returned as deficient.

In addition to meeting Basic Minimum Requirements, applications must include all required documents in order to be eligible for maximum potential points. Applications missing required documents may be subject to a deduction in points, and may not be able to achieve the maximum available points. See below for more information about Basic Minimum Requirements and required documents.

Please note that applications approved for funding will not be eligible to execute grant award contracts without the submission of all required documents.

Applications must be sent to the following email address: CBVI@njoag.gov. **Please put your entity name in the subject line.**

3. Late applications will not be eligible for funding.

4. As mentioned above, Basic Minimum Requirements are items designated below and on the checklist at the end of this document. All Basic Minimum Requirements **must** be included in an application for it to be eligible for review. If LPS determines that an application does not include the designated items, it will not receive further consideration.

The Basic Minimum Requirements are:

- On-time application submission*
 - Program Narrative*
 - Budget Detail Worksheet*
 - Project Work Plan*
 - Applicant Authorization Form*
 - New Jersey Single Audit Requirement and Certifications*
5. Failure to comply with other requirements of this Notice of Availability of Funds or the Program Guidelines may result in the reduction of application scores, or not being considered for funding.
6. 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.

g) 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;
- indication if you are applying under *Category 1 Tertiary Prevention*, or *Category 2 Primary or Secondary Prevention*.
- 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

- a description of the proposed project including an overview of how it will work and achieve its purpose.

The abstract does not count toward the overall page limit.

2. Program Narrative (100 points potential maximum)

The program narrative should be double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font, 1” margins, and **must not exceed 20 pages**. Applications exceeding the page limit or applying different font/margin sizes to skirt page limit requirements may result in the application receiving a reduced score.

a) Identified Need (5 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 the impact and prevalence of community violence in the geographic area intended to be served and why the proposed interventions are needed. It should discuss local statistics, if available, 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. Where local statistics are unavailable, county, regional, state or national statistics should be used.

b) Target Population to be Served (10 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 community 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, individuals who are the siblings or children of gang-involved persons, or individuals who demonstrate commitment to peers who are engaged in negative behavior; 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.

c) Program Design and Implementation (40 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 and level of need, 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). This section should describe the prevention level(s) you have selected, and the violence intervention strategies you propose to use. It must also:

- Provide a table, on the provided form, 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 needs of the community;
- Explain how the program model ensures inclusivity such that services are provided to all individuals in the target population including girls, young women, and LGBTQIA+ individuals; and
- 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.

NOTE: CBVI funding must be used to meet the purposes of this NOAF described above in “b. Purpose” Accordingly, Category 1, tertiary prevention strategies are intended for providers to work with those who are deemed as being at high risk of community violence in order to reduce that risk. As a part of this service, applicants may seek to provide other services that expand economic opportunity and social wellbeing, including, for example, job-readiness or training, and life skills development. Such services are an acceptable use of CBVI funds, but, if used under this proposal, must be *secondary to* or *in service of* violence intervention strategies.

NOTE: Accordingly, Category 2, CBVI funding is not intended to be used to fund traditional recreational, extracurricular or after-school programming for youth. The funding must be used to meet the purposes of this NOAF described above in “b.” Accordingly, it is intended for providers to work with youth and others groups and individuals who are at risk of gun violence in order to build pro-social skills that prevent violence, mitigate risk factors and support protective factors. While providers may provide activities that are traditionally recreational, extracurricular or after-school in nature, if provided, those activities must be used as a vehicle for supporting the goals of preventing and reducing this risk of violence. Applicants must therefore be specific in describing how their proposed program will support these goals, and must demonstrate their knowledge of primary or secondary prevention strategies and expertise and/or experience in administering such programming.

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 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. Job descriptions and resumes **must** be attached for all positions to be funded with grant funds.

f) Additional 15 points for Previous Tertiary Prevention Experience Using State Funding (15 Points).

Applicants currently conducting tertiary prevention services will receive an additional 15 points provided they demonstrate success in their current or past CBVI programs through, for example, evidence of victims served, services offered, the delivery of customary community violence intervention services, the use of workers with appropriate experience and recognized training, as well as other indicators of success.

g) 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.

h) 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.

i) Budget Detail and Budget Narrative (10 Points)

- Applicants must use the Budget Detail Worksheet form provided in the application package. **Be sure your application uses the current form – returning applicants should not use last year’s form.**
- 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.
- 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:

Erin Zippel
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 **September 26, 2023**. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.**

k. Webinar (OPTIONAL)

In effort to assist candidates in applying for these funds, **an application webinar will be held on August 30, 2023 at 11am**. Attending the **application webinar is optional**. Please read this NOAF and the funding application in its entirety prior to attending the webinar. Please **R.S.V.P. here: https://njoag.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_9n4utr30Tz6OkvRY_E1XtQ by August 28, 2023**, if you plan attending the application webinar. If you do not attend the live version of the webinar or did not register in time, you may view the webinar on the Office of Attorney General “Grant Opportunities” under the “Community Based Violence Intervention Program (CBVI) NOAF.” Please allow 48 hours for the recording to be posted.

l. Date by which notices of award shall be sent to applicants: All applicants will be notified on or about November 9, 2023, whether or not their proposed project(s) will be funded.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

Application Checklist & Basic Minimum Requirements of Application

The Basic Minimum Requirements are identified with an (*) below.

Applications must include all Basic Minimum Requirements to be eligible for review and scoring.

Applications that do not include these Basic Minimum Requirements will not be scored and will be returned as ineligible.

Applications that do not include other required items from the list below may result in a reduction of score during review.

- On-time application submission*
- Program Narrative*
- Budget Detail Worksheet*
- Project Work Plan*
- Applicant Authorization Form*
- New Jersey Single Audit Requirements and Certification*
- Abstract
- Applicant Information Form
- Job Descriptions and Resumes
- Proof of non-profit status
- Proof of compliance with DCA Charitable Registration (if required)

Furthermore, LPS reserves the right to deduct points during its review for the failure to comply with instructions contained within this application or the Program Guidelines. For example, failure to comply with the page limits for the project narrative as described above.