

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: D

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Mike Martinez, Field Representative, michael.martinez@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program, Cohort 5 Request for Proposals: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to release the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program Cohort 5 Request for Proposals (RFP) (Attachment D-1) as recommended by the CalVIP Executive Steering Committee (ESC). This RFP will make approximately \$103 million available to eligible cities, counties, tribes, and the community-based organizations that serve them.

Background

Formerly known as the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention¹ Grant, the State Legislature established the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program in 2017. In 2019, the CalVIP Grant Program was codified as the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (Assembly Bill 1603, Chapter 735, Statutes of 2019), which established the authority and duties of the BSCC in administering the program, including the selection criteria for grants and reporting requirements to the Legislature. Eligibility to apply for the grant was limited to California cities disproportionately impacted by violence and the community-based organizations (CBOs) that served them. Grantees were required to commit a 100 percent match to any grant funds awarded. Since then, BSCC has administered four rounds of CalVIP funding, providing more than \$250 million toward local violence intervention and prevention efforts.

Recent Changes to CalVIP

[Assembly Bill 762 \(AB 762\)](#) (Chapter 241, Statutes of 2023) made significant updates to the CalVIP program, which included:

- Narrowed the focus of the program to support effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are “disproportionately impacted by community gun violence.”
- Expanded eligibility to include counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence within their jurisdiction and to tribal governments.
- Increased the maximum grant amount to \$2.5 million per year.
- Eliminated the match requirement.

¹ The grant program was first funded in the FY 2007-08 budget.

- Required BSCC to make at least 20 percent of a grantee's total award available at the start of the grant period.
- Required BSCC to submit a report to the Legislature, no later than 120 days following the end of the grant term, regarding the impact of the violence prevention initiatives supported by CalVIP.

AB 762 specifies that a city is disproportionately impacted by community gun violence if any of the following are true (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (e).):

- (1) The city experienced 20 or more homicides per calendar year during two or more of the three calendar years immediately preceding the grant application for which the Department of Justice has available data.
- (2) The city experienced 10 or more homicides per calendar year during two or more of the three years prior to the grant application and had a homicide rate that was at least 50 percent higher than the statewide homicide rate during two or more of the three calendar years immediately preceding the grant application for which the Department of Justice has available data.
- (3) The applicant otherwise demonstrated a unique and compelling need for additional resources to address the impact of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults in the applicant's community.

The bill also required BSCC to establish an ESC to be composed of, among other entities, persons who have been impacted by community gun violence and the director of the Attorney General's Office of Gun Violence Prevention or their designee. Finally, the bill authorized BSCC to reserve up to five percent of appropriated funds each year for the support of programs and activities designed to build and sustain capacity in the field of community gun violence intervention and prevention, and up to \$2 million for costs associated with administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program.

Funding for the Grant

Historically, the CalVIP program has been funded by the state's General Fund. Effective July 1, 2024, the CalVIP program is now funded by an excise tax. [Assembly Bill 28](#) (AB 28) (Chapter 231, Statutes of 2023), the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act, imposes an excise tax of 11 percent of the gross receipts from the retail sale in California of firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition. Revenues collected are deposited annually into the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund, which will be used to fund various gun violence prevention, education, research, response, and investigation programs, including the CalVIP program. AB 28 allocates the first \$75 million available in the fund (or as much of that amount as is available) annually to the BSCC.

Early projections from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration are showing lower than anticipated tax revenues. The Department of Finance estimates that BSCC will

receive approximately \$55 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and \$57 million in FY 2025-26. The BSCC will make these first two allocations available through the CalVIP Cohort 5 RFP. After deducting the \$2 million set aside each year for administrative costs and the five percent designated for capacity-building efforts in the field of community gun violence intervention, the BSCC anticipates approximately \$103 million will be available to eligible applicants.

Key Grant Components

On July 11, 2024, the Board appointed Board Member Judge Janet Gaard as Chair of the CalVIP Cohort 5 ESC. The ESC convened two days in September 2024, two days in October 2024 and one day in December 2024 to develop the RFP. An ESC membership roster is included in Attachment D-2. The ESC and staff discussed the components of the RFP and made recommendations as follows:

- Grant period. CalVIP grants will be awarded for a 42-month term, from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029. This includes a 3-year implementation and service delivery period (January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028), and an additional six months for completion of the financial audit and final evaluation report (January 1, 2029 to June 30, 2029).
- Eligibility to apply. Cities and tribes that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence and the CBOs that serve them are eligible to apply for a CalVIP grant. Counties that have one or more eligible city within their jurisdiction are also able to apply. Tables showing the 63 eligible cities, 19 eligible counties and 47 eligible tribes are included as Attachment D-3.
- Unique and compelling need. With respect to eligibility, the ESC defined a “unique and compelling need” as a city that is ranked in the top 25 percent for assault with a firearm rate statewide and had at least 25 assaults with firearm incidents during two (2) or more of the three (3) calendar years immediately preceding the grant application. The analysis of crime data was restricted to the 445 cities contained in the California Department of Justice’s Open Justice report.
- Funding distribution. The ESC recommended that 50 percent of the total grant funds be made available to eligible city, county, and tribal applicants and 50 percent be made available to eligible CBO applicants.
- Funding thresholds. The ESC recommended that eligible large cities and counties may apply for up to \$5 million. Eligible small to medium cities and counties may apply for up to \$2 million. Eligible CBOs may apply for up to \$5 million for a large-scope project or \$1 million for a small-scope project. Eligible tribes may apply for up to \$3 million.

- **Eligible grant activities.** CalVIP grants must be used to “develop, support, expand, and replicate evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiatives...that seek to interrupt cycles of community gun violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).) Programs eligible for funding could include but are not limited to hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies.
- **Target population.** Grant projects funded by CalVIP must be “primarily focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population that is identified as high risk of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.” (*Id.*)
- **Pass-through requirement for cities and counties.** City and county applicants must distribute at least 50 percent of the grant funds they receive to one or more of the following: 1) CBOs; 2) public agencies (other than law enforcement) that are primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention; or 3) tribal governments. (*Id.* at subd. (j).)
- **Support for programs and activities to build and sustain capacity.** AB 762 authorizes the BSCC to reserve up to 5 percent of CalVIP funds each year to build and sustain capacity in the field of community gun violence intervention and prevention, such as training for providers, providing mental health support and other services for frontline violence intervention professionals, and mental health services or financial assistance to families of professionals killed or injured in their work. (*Id.* at subd. (l)(2).) As discussed in Agenda Item E, the ESC set aside \$2 million for this purpose.
- **Reporting requirements.** CalVIP grantees will be required to submit quarterly progress reports, a Local Evaluation Plan, and a Final Local Evaluation Report.

RFP Activities and Tentative Timeline

Below is a tentative timeline of activities necessary to administer a competitive RFP for the CalVIP grant.

Activity	Date
RFP Presented for Board Approval	February 13, 2025
Release RFP to the Field	February 14, 2025
Grant Information Session for Prospective Applicants	March 11, 2025
Proposals Due to the BSCC	August 18, 2025
Proposal Rating Process and Development of Funding Recommendations	August to October 2025
Present Funding Recommendations to the Board	November 20, 2025

Activity	Date
Grants Begin	January 1, 2026
Grants End	June 30, 2029

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Approve the release of the CalVIP Grant Program Cohort 5 RFP, as recommended by the CalVIP ESC.

Attachments

D-1: CalVIP Cohort 5 Request for Proposals

D-2: CalVIP ESC Membership Roster

D-3: List of Cities, Counties, and Tribes Eligible to Apply for CalVIP Funding