



Request for Information

Gun Violence Prevention

RFI 192829

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has received \$10M in funding for a pilot program that will focus on neighborhood-based gun and violent crime prevention. This program will target out-of-school youth and young adults aged 17 to 24 to prevent gun violence and other violent crime in neighborhoods and municipalities with the highest rates of gun violence in the Commonwealth and is intended to complement existing programs including the Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI), Safe and Successful Youth (SSYI) Grant, and/ or DPH Primary Violence Prevention through Positive Youth Development Grant (PVP). Funds will be awarded to non-profit, community-based organizations located in and serving high risk youth with preference given to organizations that have:

- i. demonstrated street outreach capacity,
- ii. effective partnerships with neighborhood health and human services agencies, including mental health providers, and with schools and other local educational institutions and
- iii. clearly outlined a comprehensive plan in support of continued or expanded collaboration efforts with such partners.

Relevant data: 15-24 year olds in the Commonwealth experience homicide rates at over twice the overall statewide rate (4.6/100,000 vs. 2.2/100,000, MAVDRS Report, 2014); Black-Non Hispanics are victims of homicide at a rate 19 times higher than White-Non Hispanics in the Commonwealth (19.8/100,000 and 1.1/100,000 respectively, MAVDRS Report, 2014).

The Department of Public Health plans to release a Request for Response (RFR) soliciting services later this year. We are looking for input from community-based organizations, community members, partners, elected officials and other stakeholders to inform the design of the procurement. **Please review the questions below and send your comments by email to gunviolenceprevention@state.ma.us by November 12th 2018 at 5pm.** You may answer as many or as few questions as you would like.

1. What is your name and, if you represent an organization, what organization do you represent?
2. Describe the issue of gun violence in your community. How does gun violence differentially affect people in your community by race, gender, and level of poverty?
3. What are the root causes of gun violence in your community? To the extent it is relevant, what are the environmental, educational, economic, housing, and social factors and policies that exist in your community that contribute to gun violence?

4. What work is currently happening in your community to prevent gun violence? If relevant for your community or organization, please include work related to the Shannon (CSI), SSYI Grant, or DPH PVP Grant.
5. What additional work would you like to see in your community that would address gun violence? If your community or organization is a current recipient of a Shannon (CSI), SSYI, or PVP Grant, how could this work complement efforts and help scale best practices without duplicating existing work?
6. How should DPH direct funding through this RFR for gun violence prevention? If your community or organization is a current recipient of a Shannon (CSI), SSYI, or PVP Grant, how could this work complement efforts and help scale best practices, without duplicating existing work?
7. What strategies (including but not limited to strategies that address employment, education and behavioral health) will best address the disproportionately high rates of gun violence affecting young men of color?
8. What strategies (including but not limited to strategies that address employment, education and behavioral health) will address the broader impacts of gun violence on the community, including on women and families?
9. How should mental health services be integrated into this project so that we are intentional in addressing the cultural and historical trauma experienced by black and brown youth?
10. What types of programming could be successful in changing of social norms around gun violence?
11. What do you see as the training and technical assistance needs for programs to be successful in doing this work and building community capacity?
12. What metrics would best measure the effectiveness of this program?
13. What other things should DPH consider?