
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: SB 934 **Hearing Date:** April 17, 2018
Author: Allen
Version: March 22, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: EC

Subject: *Criminal justice: California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program*

HISTORY

Source: Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Prior Legislation: None known

Support: Advance Peace; Amnesty International; Bend the Arc; Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; California Partnership for Safe Communities; California Public Defenders Association; Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice; Children's Defense Fund; City of Richmond, Office of Neighborhood Safety; Cleveland School Remembers; Coalition Against Gun Violence, Santa Barbara; Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; Cornerstone Community Care; Everytown for Gun Safety; G.A.P (Gang Awareness and Prevention); Jewish Center for Justice; MILPA; Moms Demand Action; National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform; Orange City Citizens for the Prev. of Gun Violence; PICO California; Rabbis Against Gun Violence; Urban Peace Institute; Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater L.A.; Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County; WellSpace Health; Women Against Gun Violence; Youth Alive!; Youth Justice Coalition

Opposition: None known

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to create a California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program, administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections, to award competitive grants to cities and community organizations for violence intervention and prevention.

Previous State Budget Acts from 2007 to 2017 appropriated \$9.2 million annually from the State Restitution Fund to the California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention program for initiatives to reduce youth and gang-related crime.

This bill creates the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP) which shall be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

This bill states that the board shall allocate CalVIP funds to cities and community-based organization on a competitive basis.

This bill requires that grants be used to implement, enhance, and replicate effective, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs in communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence.

This bill states that cities or community-based organizations may apply for grants individually or apply jointly with other cities or other community-based organizations.

This bill states that an applicant for a CalVIP grant shall submit a proposal, in a form prescribed by the board, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the grant.
- A statement describing the manner in which the applicant proposes to use the grant to implement or augment an evidence-based violence intervention or prevention program in accordance with this section, and the manner in which the grant will enhance coordination of existing violence prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of services.
- Evidence that the grant would likely reduce rates of homicides, shootings, and community violence.

This bill states that, in awarding CalVIP grants, the board shall give preference to applicants that meet the following criteria:

- Serve communities with exceptionally high rates of homicides, shootings, and community violence.
- Propose to utilize CalVIP funds primarily to support evidence-based violence prevention and intervention programs, initiatives, or strategies that have the greatest likelihood of reducing violence.
- Propose to utilize CalVIP funds for programs that focus on reducing violence among individuals identified as having the highest risk if perpetrating or being victimized by violence.

This bill requires that the grantee provide a cash or in-kind match equivalent to 50 percent of the grant awarded under this section. The board may waive this requirement for good cause.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

The author states:

SB 934 would codify the California Violence Intervention and Prevention—known as CalVIP— Grant Program, the only dedicated source of state support for locally driven violence prevention initiatives that have helped cities and community-based organizations provide life-saving, cost-effective reductions in violence.

From 2007 to 2017, California’s Budget Acts appropriated \$9.215 million per year from the State Penalty Fund to fund the California Gang Reduction,

Intervention, and Prevention (CalGRIP) grant program, which provided matching grants to cities for programs to reduce youth and gang-related crime.

In 2017, the program faced challenges due to declining revenues in the State Penalty Fund, but was reauthorized for one year with \$9.5 million from the General Fund, alongside the adoption of various reforms. These reforms:

- Renamed the CalGRIP program as CalVIP to reflect a more targeted focus on evidence-based violence prevention strategies as opposed to anti-gang-affiliation and general community service activities;
- Prioritized localities with the highest rates of violence and the greatest demonstrated need;
- Authorized community-based organizations to apply directly for CalVIP grants and increased the portion of grant awards that must be distributed to them; and
- Strengthened grantees' data reporting requirements.

One grantee historically funded with CalVIP money is the City of Los Angeles' Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program. Since GRYD's launch in 2007, there has been a 38% reduction of homicides and a 46% reduction in aggravated assault within the city. A March 2017 assessment by researchers at Cal State University, Los Angeles found that GRYD incident response teams—just one of many GRYD programs—had prevented an estimated 185 gang retaliations citywide from 2014-15, resulting in estimated savings of \$110.2 million over two years.

From 2015-17, CalGRIP provided grants to the City of Oakland to fund Oakland Ceasefire, which is focused on reducing gun violence. Since launching Ceasefire in 2012, Oakland has seen a remarkable 43% drop in homicides and a 49% reduction in non-fatal injury shootings. Last year, Oakland experienced its lowest number of homicides in 20 years and its second lowest number in the last four decades.

Unfortunately, multiple Californian cities continue to grapple with alarming recent increases in bloodshed and violence, including Fresno, Sacramento, Salinas, San Bernardino, and Stockton. Many small rural communities have also been experiencing dramatic spikes in violent crimes.

The cost of innovative, effective violence intervention programs is minor when compared to the enormous costs associated with gun violence in our state. Based on expenses the state can directly measure, the direct and indirect cost of gun violence in California is approximately \$18.3 billion per year. This staggering price tag fails to justly capture violence's enormous personal and moral toll; the lives lost; generational, cyclical trauma; communities torn apart. The toll falls disproportionately on communities of color: in 2016, Latinos were nearly three times more likely to be shot to death than their white neighbors; African-Americans were twelve times more likely.

SB 934 helps secure the future of CalVIP by incorporating it into statute permanently. Although the statute is appropriately contingent upon funding by the legislature, the legislation establishes a strong, accountable framework modeled on recent reforms to the program made in the 2017-18 Budget.

2. Gun Violence Demographics

These investments in violence prevention and intervention are particularly critical for under-resourced communities and young people of color. From 2012 to 2015, black males were 15 times more likely to be murdered with a gun in California than white males; Latino males were three times as likely.¹ Among youth of all genders, black youth aged 10-22 were 19 times as likely to be murdered with a gun as their white peers; Latinx youth were four times as likely.²

3. Existing Program

From 2007 to 2017, California appropriated \$9.215 million each year to operate the California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention (CalGRIP) program – renamed the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program in 2017. The program matched grants to cities for initiatives to reduce youth and gang-related crime. The program provided 41 million annually for the City of Los Angeles, with the remainder distributed to cities of all sizes through a competitive application process, overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

Under the CALGRIP funding requirements, cities were required to provide anti-gang programs and strategies that are evidence based. They also established an advisory council to help prioritize the use of funds. Cities that combined resources to establish a regional approach toward combating gangs will be given preference.

4. Programs 2015 to 2017

CalGRIP provided grants to the following programs from 2015 to 2017:

- City of Los Angeles was awarded \$3 million to help fund the Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program. Researchers at Cal State University, Los Angeles assessed in March 2017 that GRYD incident response teams had prevented an estimated 185 gang retaliations city wide from 2014 to 2015 resulting in estimated savings of \$110.2 million over two years.³
- City of Richmond was awarded \$1.5 million to help fund the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS), a city agency dedicated exclusively to the prevention of violence. ONS is a non-law enforcement department with the mission of reducing firearm assaults and associated injury and deaths. Richmond hired formerly incarcerated individuals to serve as Neighborhood Change Agents to provide intensive street outreach, case management, and life coaching in the city's most impacted neighborhood.⁴

¹ "WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports," accessed April 11, 2018, <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>.

² "WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports."

³ P JEFFREY BRANTINGHAM, REGINALD ZACHERY, and REFUGIO VALLE, "GRYD INTERVENTION INCIDENT RESPONSE & GANG CRIME," n.d., 24.

⁴ "Board of State and Community Corrections - CalGRIP Success Stories," accessed April 9, 2018, http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalgripsuccessstories.php.

- City of Oakland was awarded \$1.5 million to fund its Oakland Ceasefire Project focused on reducing gun violence and increasing the level of intensive case management support provided to high-risk individuals identified by law enforcement and street outreach teams. CalGRIP funding also supports Procedural Justice Training for all Oakland Police Department officers and Ceasefire Awareness training for the community.⁵

5. Evolution from CalGRIP to CalVIP

This bill codifies existing program, CalGRIP, into statute as CalVIP. CalVIP shifts away from initiatives targeting gang crime and affiliation toward a more narrow focus on evidence-based violence prevention programs. The objectives of CalVIP are as follows:

- Direct CalVIP grants to localities with the highest rates of violence,
- Require CalVIP grantees to set clear, quantifiable goals,
- Ensure community-based organizations can apply directly for CalVIP grants and receive a greater portion of cities' awards,
- Strengthen grantees' data reporting and transparency requirements,
- And require BSCC to report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of CalVIP-funded programs.

The maximum grant provided is \$500,000, and at least two will be awarded to cities with populations less than 200,000 people. At least 20% of funds a city receives must go to community-based organizations. Cities must match 100% of the grant money received.⁶

Senator Allen signed onto a budget request letter for \$18.5 million, approximately doubling the prior budget year allocation. The budget request has not yet been scheduled for a hearing or taken up for formal consideration.

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⁵ "Board of State and Community Corrections - CalGRIP Success Stories."

⁶ "Board of State and Community Corrections - News," accessed April 9, 2018, <http://www.bscc.ca.gov/news.php?id=24>.