
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2378 **Hearing Date:** June 23, 2026
Author: Gabriel
Version: June 11, 2026
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: NDT

Subject: *California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program*

HISTORY

Source: Giffords

Prior Legislation: AB 785 (Sharp-Collins), held in Senate Appropriations, 2025
AB 1252 (Wicks), Ch. 529, Stats. of 2024
AB 2064 (Jones-Sawyer), held in Senate Appropriations, 2024
AB 762 (Wicks), Ch. 241, Stats. of 2023
AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer), vetoed, 2023
AB 1603 (Jones-Sawyer), Ch. 735, Stats. of 2019

Support: California Public Defenders Association; City of Long Beach; Ella Baker Center for Human Rights; Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego; San Quentin Skunkworks

Opposition: None known

Assembly Floor Vote: 70 - 0

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to create the Office of Community Violence Intervention, to administer the California Violence and Intervention Grant Program, within the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Existing law states that the California Violence and Intervention Grant Program (CalVIP) is created to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (a).)

Existing law establishes that the purpose of CalVIP is to improve public health and safety by supporting effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (b).)

Existing law requires that CalVIP grants are used to develop, support, expand, and replicate evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiatives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

Existing law requires that CalVIP grants be made on a competitive basis to cities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence, to community-based organizations that

serve the residents of those cities, and to counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence within their jurisdiction. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (d).)

Existing law states that a city is disproportionately impacted by community gun violence if any of the following are true:

- 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.
- The city experienced 10 or more homicides per calendar year 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.
- An applicant otherwise demonstrates a unique and compelling need for additional resources to address the impact of community gun violence in the applicant's community. Recognizing the historical challenges that California tribes have faced in gathering formal data on violent crime, the BSCC shall take input from tribal governments on how to determine "compelling need," in the context of tribal governments. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (e).)

Existing law establishes that an applicant for a CalVIP grant shall submit a proposal, in a form prescribed by the BSCC, which shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

- Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the grant.
- A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the grant to implement an evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiative in accordance with this section, including how the applicant will identify, engage, and provide violence intervention services.
- A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the grant to enhance coordination of existing community gun violence prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of services in the proposed service area.
- Evidence indicating that the proposed violence reduction initiative would likely reduce the incidence of community gun violence in the proposed service area within the grant period.
- For city or county applicants, a statement demonstrating support for the proposed violence reduction initiative from one or more community-based organizations, or from a public agency or department other than a law enforcement agency that is primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (f).)

Existing law states that in awarding CalVIP grants, the BSCC shall give preference to applicants whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of reducing the incidence of community gun violence in the applicant's community within the grant period without contributing to mass incarceration. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (g).)

Existing law establishes the amount of funds awarded to an applicant shall be commensurate with the scope of the applicant's proposal and the applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to address community gun violence in the applicant's community.

- The BSCC may award competitive grants in amounts not to exceed \$2,500,000 per applicant per year. The length of the grant cycle shall be at least three years.
- The BSCC shall award at least two grants to cities or counties with populations of 200,000 or less. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (h).)

Existing law provides that upon making CalVIP grant awards, the BSCC shall make at least 20 percent of an approved grantee's total grant award available to the grantee at the start of the grant period or as soon as possible thereafter, in order to enable grantees to immediately utilize such funds to support violence reduction initiatives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (i).)

Existing law states that each city or county that receives a CalVIP grant shall distribute no less than 50 percent of the grant funds to one or more of any of the following types of entities:

- Community-based organizations.
- Public agencies or departments, other than law enforcement agencies or departments, that are primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention.
- Tribal governments. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (j).)

Existing law states that the BSCC shall form an executive steering committee including, without limitation, persons who have been impacted by community gun violence, formerly incarcerated persons, subject matter experts in community gun violence prevention and intervention, the director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention or the director's designee, and at least three persons with direct experience in implementing evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiatives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (k).)

Existing law states that the BSCC may reserve up to \$2,000,000 of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the costs of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (l)(1).)

Existing law states that the BSCC may, with the advice and assistance of the CalVIP executive steering committee, reserve up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the purpose of supporting programs and activities designed to build and sustain capacity in the field of community gun violence intervention and prevention, and to support detailed community gun violence problem analyses that help service providers and other stakeholders inform and develop community gun violence reduction initiatives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (l)(2).)

Existing law establishes that each grantee shall report to the BSCC, in a form and at intervals prescribed by the BSCC, their progress in achieving the grant objectives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (m).)

Existing law defines "community gun violence" as intentional acts of interpersonal violence involving a firearm, generally committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim, and which result in physical injury, emotional harm, or death. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (b).)

This bill creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention (OCVI), which shall be led by a director, within the BSCC.

This bill specifies that the director of the OCVI is selected by the BSCC and requires that the BSCC consult with organizations in the field of community violence intervention on factors to consider when evaluating candidates. Requires the BSCC to consider, when selecting a director, at a minimum, all the following:

- An individual's lived experience with violence, including, but not limited to, experience as an individual directly or indirectly impacted by violence.
- An individual's demonstrated knowledge of, and first-hand experience with, addressing the needs and challenges of communities affected by violence and of the community violence intervention field.
- An individual's demonstrated history of leadership, service, and professional experience at organizations in the field of community violence intervention.

This bill requires the OCVI to do all the following:

- Administer the CalVIP, as defined.
- Advise the BSCC on the implementation of community violence intervention and prevention policies.
- Coordinate with the Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention to create a statewide strategic plan for community violence intervention and prevention programs.
- Develop methods of measuring the capacity of the community violence intervention and prevention field in California and gather data from CalVIP grantees.
- Educate the public about community violence causes and effective solutions.
- Identify and apply for available federal grants and other funding to further its work to prevent community violence. When the office determines it is appropriate, the office may work in collaboration with other state departments and partners to identify and apply for federal grants and other funding.
- Convene and facilitate the executive steering committee.
- Serve as a liaison to community violence intervention and prevention stakeholders, including other governmental agencies.
- Provide technical assistance for community violence intervention and prevention organizations and CalVIP grantees.
- On July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, produce a report that does all the following:
 - Highlights best practices in the community violence intervention and prevention field.
 - Identifies barriers to success, policy gaps, and promising practices that could be scaled or replicated in the state.
 - Includes the evaluations of the impact of the prepared violence prevention initiatives.
 - Recommends strategies, policies, and priorities for reducing community violence to the BSCC, Legislature, and other stakeholders.
- Within 60 days after completing the specified report, the office shall make the report publicly available and transmit copies to the Governor's office, the Senate Committee on Public Safety, and the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

This bill requires the BSCC to reserve at least \$1,000,000 and may reserve up to 5% of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year, for the costs of OCVI for the purposes of administering and

promoting the effectiveness of the program, instead of authorizing up to \$2,000,000 for that purpose.

This bill makes conforming changes.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

According to the author:

California's gun violence prevention programs have proven to be some of the most effective ways of stopping gun violence in our state. Through its flagship initiative, the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program, California has achieved measurable reductions in the firearm fatality rate in many communities most impacted by gun violence. To better position the program moving forward based on lessons that we've learned so far, AB 2378 would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention, overseen by a director, to administer the CalVIP program and provide additional support to applicants and grantees. These changes will better equip the program to continue its growth, and in turn, help California remain the national leader of gun safety and community violence intervention.

2. CalVIP Grant Program

The CalVIP grant program was established in 2017. According to the BSCC, the purpose of the program is to “enhance public health and safety through support for community-based gun violence reduction efforts in communities that are disproportionately impacted by gun violence.”¹ Grants are awarded to applicants that have developed an evidence-based program to reduce community gun violence.² The purpose of the grants, according to the BSCC, is “to disrupt cycles of violence and retaliatory actions in order to lower the rates of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults in affected communities.”³

The CalVIP grant program is meant to be used by communities that disproportionately suffer from gun violence. 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.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

Eligible Cohort 5 (the most recently evaluated applicant cohort) of CalVIP applicants fall into four categories: 1) Cities that are “disproportionately impacted by violence,” 2) counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by violence within their jurisdiction, 3) tribal governments located within the identified counties, and 4) identified community-based organizations that serve the residents of the cities and/or tribal governments.⁴

¹ BSCC (2026) *California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program*
https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalvipgrant/

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ California Grants Portal (March 2025). *California Violence Intervention & Prevention Cohort 5*
<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-violence-intervention-prevention-cohort-5/>

The BSCC is required to fund 20 percent of a grantee's total award available at the start of the grant period.⁵ Following the initial 20 percent disbursement, the remaining funds are released on a reimbursement basis.⁶ For grantees that choose to receive an advance payment, the BSCC will withhold a minimum of 50 percent of funds claimed on each invoice toward reconciliation of the advance until the full advance is expended.⁷

Currently, California has an Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which is housed within the Attorney General's office.⁸ Their mission is to "reduce and prevent gun violence, firearm injury, and related trauma. OGVP will support DOJ's ongoing gun violence reduction efforts led by the Bureau of Firearms and several litigation teams — including seizure of firearms from dangerous individuals using the Armed and Prohibited Persons System, prosecution of firearms trafficking cases, and defense of California's commonsense gun laws."⁹ This office does not oversee CalVIP grants.

3. Similar Legislation

In 2020, in Washington, SB 6288 created the Washington Office of Violence Prevention, with responsibility to "develop evidence-based policies, strategies, and interventions to reduce the impacts of firearm violence in Washington's communities. The office will also administer the Washington firearm violence intervention and prevention grant program which will provide for intentional, coordinated, and sustained investments in evidence-based violence reduction strategies."¹⁰

The Biden Administration created the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention in 2021 by executive action. Among other responsibilities, the WHOGVP was tasked with coordinating an inter-agency response to community violence and helping to support the CVI field nationwide. The office has since been disbanded under President Trump.¹¹

In 2021, in Illinois, the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) (430 ILCS 69), created the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention within the Illinois Department of Human Services, with responsibility to "have grant making, operational, and procurement authority to distribute funds to violence prevention organizations, youth development organizations, high-risk youth intervention organizations, approved technical assistance and training providers, [and] evaluation and assessment organizations."¹²

In 2023, in Virginia, Budget Amendment, Item 408 #2, established the Office of Safe Communities within the Department of Criminal Justice Services, oversees community violence

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ State of California Department of Justice (2026). *Office of Gun Violence Prevention* <https://oag.ca.gov/ogvp>

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Washing State Department of Commerce (March 2026). *Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP)* <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/community-safety/ofsvp/>

¹¹ Biden White House (2023). *Office of Gun Violence Prevention* <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/ogvp/>

¹² Illinois General Assembly (2021). *Public Safety (430 ILCS 69/) Reimagine Public Safety Act* <https://www.ilga.gov/documents/House/Committees/102Testimony/Public%20Safety%20and%20Violence%20Prevention%20Task%20Force/Reimagine%20Public%20Safety%20Act%20-%20430%20A0ILCS%20A069%20-%20PDF.pdf>

intervention funding and serves “as a resource for research and best practices for community-based violence intervention.”¹³

In 2025, in New York, A 3005 established the New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Division of Criminal Justice Services.¹⁴

4. Effect of This Bill

This bill makes some modifications to the administration of CalVIP. This bill creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention (OCVI) that would, among other things, establish that the newly created OCVI as administrators of the CalVIP grant program, advise the BSCC on implementation of community violence intervention policies, and provide technical assistance to CalVIP grantees.

The OCVI would be led by a director appointed by the BSCC and be required to produce and submit a report every two years, beginning on July 1, 2028. The intent of the CalVIP program appears to remain intact under this bill. But it is unclear whether the OCVI, as a new office with new leadership, would have new or additional focuses that may impact the grants historically awarded under CalVIP. The OCVI additionally would be tasked with developing methods of measuring the capacity of the community violence intervention and prevention field in California and gather data from CalVIP grantees. It is similarly unclear exactly what data is expected to be gathered by CalVIP grantees that is not already collected.

This bill requires OCVI to measure capacity building methods in the community violence intervention space. Certain capacity building efforts are underway under existing law, including the training and certification of Frontline Community Violence Intervention (CVI) specialists, support for data collection, and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations aiming to implement CVI projects, among others.¹⁵ Presumably, this bill will require OCVI to engage in measuring these and other capacity building attempts. This could provide useful new data on the relative efficacy of CVI programs. The requirement that OCVI identify barriers to success and scalable practices could likewise promote more effective and efficient CVI programs over the long-term.

5. Argument in Support

According to the California Public Defenders Association:

AB 2378 would require the creation of an Office of Community Violence Interdiction to be established within the Board of State and Community Corrections which will among other duties administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program CalVIP) and advise the Board on the implementation of violence prevention programs.

¹³ LIS Virginia State Budget (2023). *Budget Amendments - SB 800 (Floor Approved)*
<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2023/1/SB800/Introduced/FA/408/2s/>

¹⁴ The New York State Senate (2025). *Assembly Bill A3005C*
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A3005/amendment/C>

¹⁵ California Grants Portal (March 2025). *California Violence Intervention & Prevention Cohort 5*
<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-violence-intervention-prevention-cohort-5/>

Under existing law CalVIP provides funding to local community programs to reduce gun violence in schools and neighborhoods. AB 2378 would in the words of the author “better position the program moving forward based on lessons that we’ve learned so far, AB 2378 would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention, overseen by a director, to administer the CalVIP program and provide additional support to applicants and grantees. These changes will better equip the program to continue its growth, and in turn, help California remain the national leader of gun safety and community violence intervention.”

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