

2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE SPRINGFIELD

Funded Partners: Greater New Life Christian Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services, New North Citizens' Council, South End Community Center, Springfield Boys & Girls Club, Springfield Boys & Girls Club Family Center, Springfield Parks & Recreation Department, Springfield Police Department, The Mission Inc., The Salvation Army, YMCA Dunbar, YWCA of Western Massachusetts

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation*

Total Funding: \$1,087,975.90

Including \$25,000 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	<u>239</u> Received Case Management Services	<u>237</u> Received Street Outreach Services	\$104,935.15
Community Mobilization	<u>117</u> Community Members Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations	<u>15</u> Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held	\$29,000
Education & Employment	<u>159</u> Participated in Employment Programs	<u>453</u> Participated in Education Programs	\$239,290.11
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	<u>749</u> Participated in Recreation Programs	<u>873</u> Participated in Youth Development Programs	\$500,271.43
Suppression	<u>287</u> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<u>161</u> High-Impact Players Arraigned	\$177,759.22

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations. In Springfield, \$36,720 was allocated to administrative costs.

Youth Risk Assessments

58% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

33% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

9% **HIGH-RISK*** Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Success Highlight

"We have a few participants who are in the DCF system. Here, they have a place to interact with others their own age. Social workers have told us that the program is helping in their mental health and they are making strides in the classroom as well. The program was able to take 30 participants on a college tour, and one of these participants grew very fond of Westfield State and plans to enroll in a year. We are going to get him his first sweatshirt when he is accepted!"

~South End Community Center

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Terrence Reidy, Secretary

To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Springfield

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	155,929
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	26.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	10.3%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	29,042
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	87.4%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	3%

Sources: www.census.gov/quickfacts; profiles.doe.mass.edu/; www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/

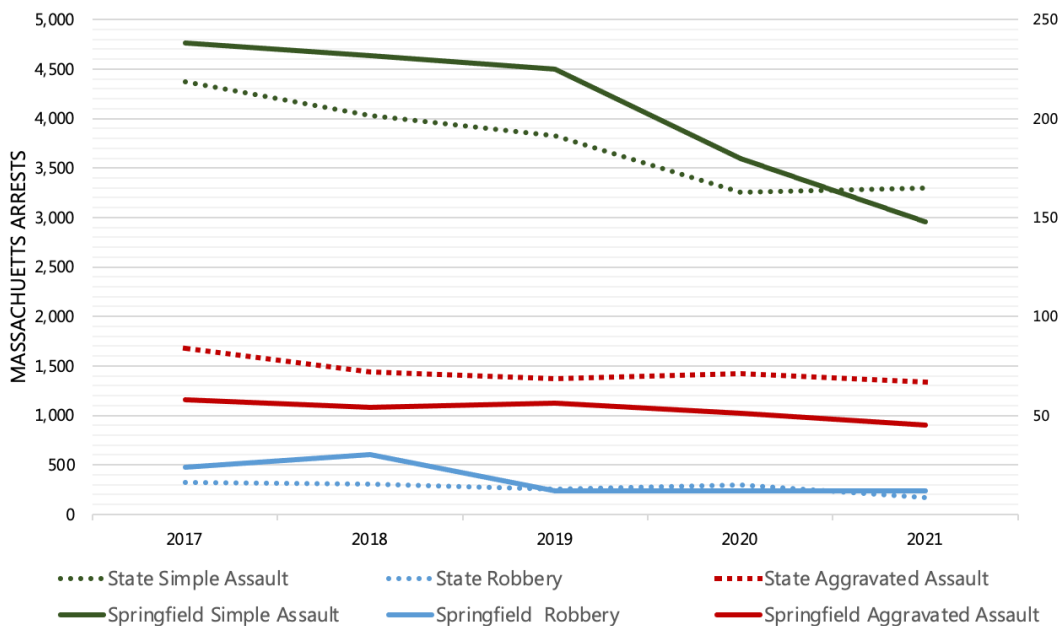
Gang Activity in Springfield

33
Street Gangs

900
Gang Members
under 25

In 2021, the Springfield Police Department confirmed 33 gangs (12 national gangs and 21 local gangs) comprising an estimated 1,804 members and associates, of which 50% were under the age of 25. Gang members have continued to recruit in the most disenfranchised areas throughout Springfield. Aside from specific neighborhoods, gang recruitment occurs in the schools as well as through the use of social media outlets. Delinquent activity includes but is not limited to drug related crimes, interpersonal violence, arms dealing, and theft. Inter-gang violence continues to occur in all areas that create competition between rival gangs (i.e. drug sales, recruitment).

5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021



Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021

- Simple assaults in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 25%
 - Springfield decreased 38%
- Robberies in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 47%
 - Springfield decreased 50%
- Aggravated assaults in...
 - Massachusetts decreased 20%
 - Springfield decreased 22%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, Northeastern University and the Crime and Justice Policy Lab of the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.