

# Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



Office of Grants and Research

## Appendix A: Application Guidance

BJA understands “related programs or initiatives” to mean those programs/initiatives that have a direct connection to crisis intervention, which is focused on identifying risk and intervening before harm occurs. **Programs/activities exclusively focused on response to crime in progress or already committed would not be considered crisis intervention.** Related programs or initiatives can include certain court-based programs, programs that deflect individuals to behavioral health services, and gun safety programs such as, but not limited to:

### Related Court-based Programming:

- Implementing or expanding domestic violence courts focused on those at risk for gun related violence.
- Embed social workers in prosecutor, public defender and/or courts agencies to provide screening, assessment, and referral to services for people in crisis, such as court-based navigators.
- Prosecutor, pretrial, or court diversion programs.

### Referrals to Community-based Services for People in Crisis:

- Pre-arrest law enforcement and first responder deflection.
- Suicide and crisis prevention and referral to services.
- De-escalation training for law enforcement, first responders and other justice practitioners.
- Embedding social workers with law enforcement and co-responder programs.
- Related law enforcement-based programs, training, and technology, focused on crisis intervention for those at risk to themselves or others.

### Funding for Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Programs or Initiatives

- Development and or delivery of specialized training, including crisis response and intervention training (CRIT), and overtime for officers to attend such training.
- Training for school resource officers on identifying youth at risk for firearm violence.
- Supplies, equipment, technology, and training to safely secure, store, track, and return relinquished guns, such as gun locks and storage for individuals and businesses and software or other technologies to track relinquished guns.
- Gun safety training for community members
- Data collection, analysis, and strategic planning to address community gun violence.
- Personnel, supplies, and other related costs for crisis intervention officers or co-responders

**All additional examples below have been approved by BJA for implementation.**

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## **Addressing Behavioral Health at the School Level**

- Integrating additional Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) in schools, and as part of a mobile crisis diversion program.
- Supporting mental wellness workers across early childhood centers, schools and the broader community.
- Training School Resource Officers (SROs) to better understand drug and gang violence, youth mental health issues, social media dangers and identifying youth in crisis.
- Implementation of immediate firearm detection programming in schools.

## **Community-Based Programming**

- Efforts to increase youth supervision and time spent engaging in prosocial and positive activities.
- Expanding after-school programming to include older youth (12–15-year-olds, for example) and offering robust STEM and workforce development programming.
- Expanding current after-school programming to include stronger mental health and wellness/social learning programs for at-risk youth.
- Contracting with community-based organizations to focus on youth mentoring, mitigating disruptions to education and violence response coordination.
- The creation of a Rapid Care Coordination and Treatment (RCCT) team, which will connect people at high risk of initial or ongoing criminal justice system involvement with mental health and/or substance misuse services and mitigate barriers to accessing treatment, such as long wait times.
- The implementation of community-led violence intervention programming that uses a public health approach.
- Expanding existing suicide prevention efforts to include a public health approach.
- Enhancing training and access to a toolkit on utilizing community high risk team and lethality assessments to address intimate partner violence (IPV) and mitigate the risk posed by the convergence of IPV and gun violence.
- Expanding the capacity of existing mobile crisis teams by funding additional staff and/or equipment, such as a van, to allow for 24/7 support in more areas.
- Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team expansion.
- Conduct a juvenile Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) project.
- Provide an Overdose Response Team targeted toward veterans, with trained and certified veteran supporters who outreach and provide resources such as treatment and recovery options, housing and employment opportunities.

## **Court Programming and Support**

- Expanding treatment court programming capacity:
  - By including individuals with violent offenses.

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- o By providing emergency/transitional housing for victims of domestic violence entering the treatment court.
  - o By adding additional case management staff who facilitate Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), provide wraparound services and/or develop curricula focused on domestic violence, gun violence and substance misuse.
  - o By significantly expanding an existing domestic violence court through the addition of clinicians, multiple court-based staff and additional officer support.
- Implementing an evidence-based screening tool to evaluate defendants' risk of committing violent crimes, and firearm-related crimes in particular, which can include subsequent intensive case management services as needed, including housing support.
- Establishing a statewide treatment court coordinator position, responsible for overseeing the planning, implementation and risk analysis for all treatment courts serving individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse disorders in the state.
- Data collection and evaluation related to treatment court activities.
- Ongoing training for treatment court staff regarding specialty court best and/or promising practices.
- Purchasing a state-of-the-art communication system to replace an older, outdated system. This will allow for enhanced communication and better data tracking capabilities.
- Hiring support staff associated with treatment courts such as probation officers, Parole Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) client care coordinators, vocational specialists and other staff.
- Fund vouchers for low-cost hotel stays for mental health court clients in need of housing.

## **Creation of New Behavioral Health-Focused Positions**

- Creation of a behavioral health liaison position to act across agencies and community behavioral health providers to facilitate collaboration, communication, and more timely responses between criminal justice and behavioral health systems. This role will also improve access to treatment and reduce incarceration time.

## **Firearm Safety and Firearm Violence-Adjacent Activities in the Community**

- Statewide campaigns promoting safe firearm storage practices.
- Offering free safe storage devices for firearms.
- Evaluation of safe storage campaign effectiveness.
- Supporting Welcome and Resources Notification (WARN), a program designed to deter people from committing gun crimes through education on the consequences of firearm-related crimes.

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- Supporting the development of a resiliency center. Resiliency centers offer a range of crisis intervention services and support mechanisms and are the nationally recognized Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) model for assisting victims and their families in the aftermath of mass violence events, including mass shootings and other large-scale emergencies.

## **Support for Law Enforcement**

- Virtual reality training simulator for police officers to train in a controlled environment for an array of difficult scenarios including de-escalation, intervention techniques for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis, cooperative/uncooperative subjects and shoot/don't shoot situations.
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)—implementing and/or expanding current CIT programs and associated training.
- Providing CIT to better support officers, first responders and dispatch personnel as they respond to crises that arise on the job.
- Establish a community resource professional role dedicated to developing programs related to gun-related violence prevention, especially related to identification and training around suicide and substance misuse risk factors.
- Implementing and expanding co-responder models: Co-responders have behavioral health training, as well as crisis intervention and de-escalation training, and are deployed at the same time as law enforcement.
- Embedding co-responders within police departments to improve timely access to mental health resources.
- Establishing officers as part of a crisis intervention team that focuses on interpersonal gun violence.
- Expanding existing co-responder initiatives.
- Establishing a multidisciplinary High-Risk Team (HRT) to engage all domestic violence calls and investigations.
- Expanding an existing Civilian Community Relations Program, providing access to mental health and behavioral health support services.
- Providing funds to enhance existing CIT training opportunities and support refresher trainings.

## **Investing in Programming for Prosecuting Attorney Offices**

- Increased domestic violence training for victim advocates and for local law enforcement.

## **Investing in Programming for Public Defender Offices**

- Implement holistic public defense representation within public defender offices by implementing risk-needs assessments, connecting clients to services that mitigate their risk of violence and increasing access to effective interventions.

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## **Supporting Jail-Based Programming**

- Expanding jail navigator programs with existing mental health clinicians by adding a case manager to the team to better support and work with individuals as they prepare to be released from jail.
- Expanding jail navigator programs by adding a peer specialist and focusing on individuals identified as high-risk for violent behavior and behavioral health disorders.
- CIT training for jail staff.