

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security
Office of Grants & Research



**State Fiscal Year 2025
Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI)
Availability of Grant Funds**

Posted: August 23, 2024

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Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Kevin J. Stanton
Executive Director

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's (EOPSS) Office of Grants & Research (OGR) is responsible for administering the Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr., Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) Grant Program. The Shannon CSI Grant Program is authorized under Chapter 126 of the Massachusetts Acts of 2024, An Act making appropriations for Fiscal year 2025.

The Shannon CSI Grant Program incorporates the key elements of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model.¹ Grant funding, oversight, and technical assistance support regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to *combat gang violence* through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reintegration type programs.

SECTION 1 - IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

Key Dates

AGF Posted:	August 23, 2024
Deadlines for Questions:	September 5, 2024
Proposals Due:	September 27, 2024, no later than 4:00 p.m.
Award Announcements:	November/December 2024
Grant Period:	On or about January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Funding Overview

Due to additional legislative language requirements (***\$400,000 shall be expended for targeted violence prevention initiatives at state or federally-assisted housing sites; provided further, that preference shall be given to sites that have been subject to enforcement actions by the United States Department of Justice***), OGR expects to award approximately \$10.7 million with an additional \$400,000 awarded to sites that apply to target violence prevention initiatives at state or federally-assisted public housing sites, for a total of \$11.1 million.

Preference will be given to applications that:

- Outline a comprehensive plan to work with multi-disciplinary partners.
- Propose programs that target geographical locations that demonstrate high levels of gang violence.
- Demonstrate a commitment to regional, multi-jurisdictional strategies.
- Provide a written commitment to match grant funds with a 25% match provided by either municipal or private contributions.
- Identify a local unit of government to serve as the fiscal agent.
- Demonstrate a strong track record of programmatic and financial reporting, with minimal unspent funds from previous grants.
- We will prioritize proposals from organizations with a history of responsible grant management, as evidenced by consistent reporting and minimal fund reversions.
- Preference shall also be given to applicants that target prevention and intervention services for youth from public housing sites that have been subject to enforcement actions by the United States Department of Justice.

NEW

New this year: As previously mentioned, legislative language includes \$400,000 in Shannon funds to be awarded to target violence prevention initiatives at state or federally-assisted public housing sites.

¹ Review the OJJDP [Comprehensive Gang Model](#).

Violence and drug activity frequently plague public housing sites in our city neighborhoods. Many cities and their partners are already providing services to state or federally-assisted housing sites and this solicitation is now asking applicants to identify those services and funding allocated. For applicants who aren't providing those services, please consider doing so this year to ensure that we are meeting and/or exceeding this request from the legislature. Applicants can propose to add this funding as part of their SFY25 funding request. In order to equally distribute funding, OGR anticipates award amounts to be between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per site for this initiative, however if an applicant wishes to utilize more of their overall Shannon award to benefit this population, that will be permitted. If OGR does not receive a total of \$400,000 in requests for public housing sites, an additional solicitation may be posted.

OGR strongly recommends applications demonstrate a collaborative effort within a municipality or region. For each application, OGR encourages a municipal entity to serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent. OGR encourages sign-off by a Senior/Municipal Department Official to demonstrate executive leadership and commitment to the collaborative effort. Funds may be distributed to project partners by the lead fiscal agent. Project partners in the multi-disciplinary team may include municipal and state law enforcement agencies,² non-profit community based organizations, and other government agencies including but not limited to: District Attorneys' Offices, Probation, Parole, Department of Youth Services, and Sheriffs' Offices.

Multiple municipalities may apply together as a regional collaborative group, with one municipality serving as the lead applicant and as the fiscal agent for the group.

Eligibility

The 2025 Shannon CSI AGF is a competitive grant program. OGR may award full funding, partial funding, or no funding. OGR encourages a municipal entity to serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent.

SECTION 2 - GRANT COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Fund Disbursement

Details about the fund disbursement process will be provided when the awards are made.

Project Duration

Applicants must apply for up to one year of funding. The anticipated funding cycle for projects will begin on or about **January 1, 2025, and end December 31, 2025.**

Sub-recipient Requirements

Sub-recipients must abide by the grant requirements below as well as the OGR Sub-recipient Grant Conditions, which will be provided at the time of contracting.

Grants Management

If awarded, OGR requires:

- OGR sub-recipient grant conditions to be signed and dated.
- The submission of satisfactory and timely progress reports and quarterly financial reports.
- The identification of a project director, their contact information, roles and responsibilities as

² State Police may be part of a multi-disciplinary team; however, they are not eligible to receive Shannon CSI funding.

they relate to the project.

- A description of the steering committee and a member list.
- Cooperation during OGR monitoring endeavors, including site visits, desk reviews, attendance at technical assistance meetings.
- Cooperation during the implementation of the individual risk assessment tool.
- All costs paid with grant funds are direct and specific to the implementation of the Shannon CSI-funded project.
- Assurance that funds for projects and services provided through this grant supplement, not supplant, other state or local funding sources. Supplanting of funds is strictly prohibited.

Procurement

- Sub-recipients choosing to further sub-grant to an implementing agency or an independent contractor, all or any part of the amount of the Shannon CSI grant award, shall include the provisions of the OGR standard sub-grant conditions and enter into a written contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the implementing agency or independent contractor. A copy of the contract or MOU must be submitted to OGR for the sub-recipient grant folder, once an award is made. *For the grant application, submit a letter of collaboration signed by the parties that explains the relationship of the agencies that will enter into a formal MOU, if awarded.*
- Procurement of services, equipment, and supplies must follow M.G.L. Ch. 30B for local units of government and non-profit entities and Operational Services Division (OSD) Purchasing Guide for state agencies. Local units of government must ensure that subcontracts with private organizations have provisions ensuring any goods and services provided by the subcontractor are consistent with M.G.L. Ch. 30B procedures.
- It is the responsibility of the sub-recipient to report alleged waste, fraud or abuse including any alleged violations, serious irregularities, sensitive issues or overt or covert acts involving the use of public funds in a manner not consistent with related laws and regulations, and appropriate guidelines for purposes of the grant. Reports should be made to the Offices of the Massachusetts Inspector General or State Auditor.

Office of the Inspector General
John W. McCormack State Office Building One
Ashburton Place, Room 1311
Boston, MA 02108
800-322-1323
[Email the IGO](#)

Office of the State Auditor
Massachusetts State House, Room 230
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2075
[Email the SAO](#)
[Report waste and abuse here.](#)

Other Requirements

- Shannon CSI sites must maintain an active steering committee to ensure community collaboration, consistent information sharing, oversight, and direction for the Shannon grant award. The steering committee should represent the spectrum of organizations involved and the diversity of the community. Steering committee by-laws should be provided to OGR at the commencement of each site's grant award.
- Shannon CSI sites must identify a site program director. A site program director shall be appointed or hired to oversee the project at each site and serve as the point of contact for the program partners and OGR. The site program director's role and responsibilities should be provided to OGR at the commencement of each site's grant award.
- The site program director shall distribute a list of funded program partners, funding amount, and bi-annual site and partner programmatic activities and progress to the steering committee.
- If the Shannon CSI site has a Local Action Research Partner (LARP), the site program director must work with the LARP to ensure timely and accurate bi-annual programmatic reporting for the site and each funded program partner.
- Shannon CSI sites without a LARP must work with the Statewide Research Partner to ensure timely and accurate bi-annual programmatic reporting for the site and each funded program partner.
- The Shannon CSI site must provide the LARP and/or the Statewide Research Partner an opportunity to participate in the steering committee meetings.
- The Shannon CSI site must work with their LARP or the Statewide Research Partner to develop a community assessment for their respective site. **Community assessments are to follow the OJJDP guidelines.**
- The Shannon CSI site must work with the Statewide Research Partner and LARPs in implementing the individual risk assessment tool to be used for identifying Shannon eligible youth participating in the Shannon CSI funded programs.
- The Shannon CSI site must adopt and utilize the following terms:
 - ***Shannon eligible youth*** must be: **(1)** between the ages of 10-24 years of age; **(2)** living in a *high-risk (or hot-spot) area within the community*; and **(3)** *at-risk or high-risk of becoming involved, or currently involved, in gang activity.*
 - ***Low-risk youth*** are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors or gang activity, due to the presence of known risk factors for gang involvement, such as exposure to gang affiliates, in their environment (home or community).
 - ***Moderate-risk youth*** are exposed to the same risks factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk individual factors such as school failure, truancy, dropping out of school, substance abuse, court involvement, witnessing violence or violent victimization, and gang involvement as an affiliate or member not yet participating in violent criminal activity.

- **High-risk youth** are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.
- Police departments receiving Shannon CSI funding must: *a) contribute daily crime data to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Fusion Center's Coplink; and b) report their crime data on a monthly basis (minimum) to the Crime Reporting Unit of the Massachusetts State Police.* Agencies which have record management systems which are capable of generating National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data must submit crime data to the Crime Reporting Unit only in this format. Police departments receiving Shannon CSI funding that maintain a juvenile lockup must submit monthly juvenile lockup data to the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services via CJIS/LEAPS.
- Police departments receiving Shannon CSI funding will be required to participate and submit case-specific information on officer administration of Narcan/Naloxone using a reporting tool as determined by EOPSS.

SECTION 3 - APPLICATION PROCESS

Proposal Pre-Submission

Application Questions

OGR will accept written questions regarding this AGF until **September 5, 2024**. Submit questions via email to: Emily.fontaine@mass.gov. Responses to all questions will be posted no later than **September 10, 2024** at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/justice-and-prevention-grants>. *Responses will not be provided for questions submitted after September 5, 2024.*

Application Instructions

The [online Application](#) must be completed as outlined here.

- Submission of all attachments will be completed through this online application.

Required Sections

Applicant/Project Information

- **Contact Information:** Provide Program and Fiscal contact information, Senior/Municipal Department Official, and partner communities.
- **Program Summary:** Provide a brief summary of the proposal outlined in this application (250-word limit)
- **Signature:** The Senior/Municipal Department Official must digitally sign the completed online application form to demonstrate acceptance of the matching assurance and support of the application.

New this year : State or Federally Funded Housing Opportunity

If an applicant would like to request funding to target violence prevention initiatives at state or federally-assisted public housing sites, describe the programming, include the target population, specific locations of housing sites and include the funding request amount for this initiative. Also indicate if the state or federally-assisted public housing site has been subject to enforcement actions by the United States Department of Justice. Please be sure to include this amount in the state funding request. This should be added as a singular line item in the Contracts category of the budget.

Program Narrative

Gang Violence Problem Statement (about 6,000 characters – approximately 3 double-spaced pages/ size 12 font)

Describe the current nature and extent of the gang violence problem within the applicant community and for any partnering communities identified in response to this application. The gang violence problem should be reflective of the applicant's gang definition and the Shannon youth definition.

- **Gang Definition**

Detail how the term *gang* is defined by the applicant community.

Explain how this definition was constructed (e.g., law enforcement task force, adaptation from evidence-based literature, etc.).

- **Shannon Youth Definition**

Shannon eligible youth are defined as: **(1)** between the ages of 10-24 years of age; **(2)** living in a *high-risk (or hot spot) area within the community**; and **(3)** *at-risk or high-risk of becoming involved, or currently involved, in gang activity.*

Applicants must detail how the term high-risk (or hot spot) area within the community is defined by the applicant community (e.g., law enforcement crime analysis, research literature, community assessment, etc.).

Proposed Strategy (about 6,000 characters – approximately 3 double-spaced pages/ size 12 font)

For this section, use the Shannon youth definition (defined above) when determining what youth participants are eligible to receive services.

- **Strategy Description**

Explain and describe the identified strategy and its outcomes, as they relate to and address the *Gang Violence Problem Statement*. Note that preference will be given to programs that target geographical locations that demonstrate high levels of gang violence and describe a regional, multi-jurisdictional strategy. Applicants must demonstrate a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach based on OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model and reflects evidence-based best practices (see *Other Requirements*, p. 3).

If the applicant has received Shannon funding previously:

List and briefly describe any site challenges from prior Shannon funding cycles.

Does the strategy address any of the listed challenges?

If so: Describe how the strategy has been modified to address these challenges.

If not: Explain why these challenges have not been addressed.

- **Strategy Development**

What methods have been used to identify strategies, or gaps in services, needed to address the specific gang violence problem in the community as illustrated in the *Gang Violence Problem Statement* (e.g., community risk assessments, recommendations from steering committee members or other stakeholders, etc.)?

If an applicant received funding previously: Community risk assessments:

What is the status of your community risk assessment? If an assessment has not been completed, please explain why and provide a timeline for completion.

Also, if completed, detail what recommendations (if any) were adopted from the

assessment, and their impact on proposed Shannon programming.
What role has your LARP and/or Statewide Research Partner played in preparing the assessment?

Partner selection (about 2,000 characters – approximately 1 double-spaced page/size 12 font)

- Based on the strategy, explain how and why *each* potential partner was selected to address the *Gang Violence Problem Statement*. Include a statement about the steering committee’s level of involvement during the partner selection process.
- Complete the *Partner Selection Workbook* (Attachment B) detailing the funded partners selected based on the *Gang Violence Problem Statement*.

Collaboration with other funding sources (about 6,000 characters – approximately 3 double-spaced pages/size 12 font)

- Communities often use multiple funding streams to combat *gang violence*. Please identify other funding streams you may be receiving, such as the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, and how these funding streams will enhance or complement programming delivered through Shannon CSI.

Budget Narrative

Submit a budget narrative that outlines the budget requested and itemizes the expenses and purchases as described in the application. This narrative should demonstrate how the costs in the proposed *Budget Excel Workbook* specifically [link to your proposed strategy](#) to combat gang violence.

Budget Excel Workbook (Attachment A)

- This section outlines the budget necessary to implement the applicant’s proposed strategy. Applicants must:
 - **Submit a twelve-month budget; and**
 - Utilize *Attachment A* to document the proposed costs for each cost category. Estimated costs must be identified.

Applicants are encouraged to balance the allocation of grant resources across the participating stakeholders. This will provide a balanced allocation of grant resources among the major areas of activity. For grant applications that devote more than 33% of total proposed spending to a single agency or strategy, please provide a detailed explanation as to the decision-making process. OGR reserves the right to revise budgets that exceed the required 33% of total proposed spending to a single agency or strategy.

Match Funding

Authorizing legislation mandates that preference be given to applicants submitting a match commitment of 25%. Match funds must align with the costs as outlined below.

Calculating Match Funding

To determine the 25% match, divide the state funding request by three (3). The resulting figure will equal 25% of the total project cost.

*Please note, any funds requested for the state or federally funded housing opportunity should be included in the state funding request. Therefore, match should be calculated from that amount.

Example:

If requesting \$300,000 in state funds to support the project, the applicant must provide **an additional** \$100,000 in matching funds ($\$300,000/3 = \$100,000$).

State funds = \$300,000 (75%)

Match funds = \$100,000 (25%)

Total Project Cost = \$400,000 (100%)

Table 1. Cost Categories

Budget Cost Categories	Explanation of Costs
Personnel <i>(Sites Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full- or part-time regular salaried employees working on the grant.
Overtime <i>(Law Enforcement Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allowable only for sworn law enforcement personnel working on the grant.
Fringe <i>(Sites Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer Fringe benefits requested to be paid by this grant can be based on either: 1) actual known municipality paid costs for each benefit category, or 2) an established formula applied to the base salary numbers shown above broken out by the benefit category. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in budget category A and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. You may also include employer paid payroll taxes here as a separate cost.
Contracts <i>(Funded Partners Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contracts – a competitive process based on the municipality’s procurement policy should be followed when procuring contracted services. ▪ Contract salary, fringe benefit, travel, and other costs should be placed within this category and follow instructions within direct salary, fringe benefit, travel and other cost categories. ▪ Consultant or contractor fees. ▪ The maximum rate for a consultant is \$650 for an eight hour day or \$81.25 per hour (excluding travel and subsistence costs). Any request for compensation over \$650 per day requires prior written approval by OGR.
Subawards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Subawards are awards provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of an award received by the pass-through entity.
Housing Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include the costs associated with violence prevention initiatives at state or federally assisted housing sites.
Travel <i>(Sites Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travel directly related to the purpose of the grant. ▪ In-state travel costs associated with the grant shall include mileage rates not in excess of \$0.62 per mile, as well as the actual costs of tolls and parking. ▪ No grant funds may be spent for out-of-state conference fees, out-of-state travel or out-of-state lodging without prior written approval from OGR.
Equipment <i>(Sites Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year; cost based on classification of equipment (e.g., communication, IT, etc.).
Supplies <i>(Sites Only)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General supplies required for project or office (pens, pencils, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, ink, etc.).

Budget Cost Categories	Explanation of Costs
Other (Sites Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct and/or support service costs relevant to the proposed project that cannot be listed within the personnel, fringe, consultants/contracts, travel and/or supplies cost category can be included in the “Other” cost category. Please be sure to itemize each cost type and detail as to how the amount budgeted was calculated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items such as rent, telephone, reproduction of training materials are considered administration costs and shall not exceed 10% of your state award. • No grant funds may be used for incentives without prior written approval from OGR. (see Attachment F) • No grant funds may be used for a cash reserve.

Partner Selection Workbook (Attachment B)

Please complete this attachment to include the funded partners to be selected.

Certification of Compliance with Submission of Crime Reporting Data (Attachment C)

Applicants must include a letter from *each* partnering police department attesting to the submission of crime data through September 30, 2024. If the data has not been submitted through September 30, 2024, the letter should indicate a plan for the department(s) to submit the data no later than November 1, 2024. If the department received Shannon funds in 2024 and has not submitted data through September 30, 2024, please provide an explanation as to why the department is not in compliance. Furthermore, once 2025 awards are made, departments must maintain compliance with the requirement to submit data. Refer to *Attachment C* for more information.

If it cannot be affirmed that data has been submitted in a timely fashion for Crime and/or Juvenile Lockup Reporting of *Attachment C*, please attach a separate sheet outlining your plan to become compliant with these reporting requirements by November 1, 2024.

Should your application be deemed eligible for an award, the issuance of a contract and/or funding will be placed on hold until all partnering police departments are in compliance with the crime reporting data and juvenile lockup data submission requirement through November 1, 2024.

Letter of Collaboration (Attachment D)

For the grant application, submit a letter of collaboration signed by the parties that explains the relationship of the agencies that will enter into a formal MOU, if awarded.

Submission Process and Deadline

Submit [online application](#) including all required Attachments by 4:00 p.m. on September 27, 2024.

- Emailed submissions will not be accepted. Please let OGR know if you have any questions regarding the online application. All questions can be directed to emily.fontaine@mass.gov

Proposal Review Process

Applications will be subjected to a competitive review process. Each application will be evaluated based on the following:

- **Applicant/Project Information (10 points):** clear and adequate response in the Applicant Information section. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate a commitment to regional, multi-jurisdictional strategies and identify a local unit of government to serve as the fiscal agent.
- **Gang Violence Problem Statement (20 points):** Statement demonstrates the salience of the problem, with reference to statistical data, and definitions are clear and evidence based. The statistical evidence/crime data included in the application will be used to determine the magnitude and prevalence of the gang problem at the applicant site, as well as the necessity for, and level of, funding awarded. The gang problem should be reflective of the applicant's gang definition.
- **Proposed Strategy (35 Points):** The strategy is clearly described, and the applicant identifies the methods and evidence used to identify the strategy and gaps in service. The description uses data and evidence to identify the link between the *Gang Violence Problem Statement* and the proposed strategy. The statistical evidence/crime data included in the application will be used to determine whether the proposed strategy, strategy outcomes and proposed funded partners are the most relevant and effective means for combatting the site's gang violence problem, as modeled by OJJDP's multi-faceted Comprehensive Gang Model and evidence-based practices. The *Gang Violence Problem Statement*, proposed strategy, strategy outcomes, and funded partners will be evaluated to determine if the target population to be served aligns with the requirements of the *Shannon youth definition*. Programs that target geographical locations that demonstrate high levels of gang violence, and that demonstrate a commitment to regional, multi-jurisdictional strategies will be prioritized.
- **Partner Selection (10 points):** Grantees will be expected to explain how and why each potential partner was selected to address the *Gang Violence Problem Statement*, and to identify the steering committee's level of involvement during the partner selection process.
- **Collaboration (5 points):** Grantees will be expected to demonstrate how Shannon CSI funds will be used in collaboration with existing community resources and funding streams to combat gang violence within the community
- **Budget (20 Points):** The proposed Budget Excel Workbook and Budget Narrative will be evaluated to ensure that the approved cost categories are comprised of items which ensure proper implementation and maximum effectiveness of the proposed strategy.
- **Funds requested to target violence prevention initiatives at state or federally-assisted public housing sites** will be evaluated based on the proposed project and target population described.
- **Past Performance:** Past performance with Shannon grant funds will be taken into consideration. Non-compliance with programmatic and/or reporting requirements such as late or delinquent report submission, missing required supporting documentation and the like, may be taken into consideration during review. Details regarding grant compliance, forms and reporting requirements will be provided at the time of contracting. Note: all SFY24 funded municipalities must be in compliance with all programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements in order to receive a SFY25 grant award.

SECTION 4 - NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS

All final funding decisions are at the discretion of the OGR Executive Director, Secretary of Public Safety and Security and Governor's Office. It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in November/December 2024.

SECTION 5 - PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Please Note: The application and attachments are to be submitted electronically via the online application form. Emailed submissions will NOT be accepted.

Hard copy applications are NOT required.

This AGF and all other required documents can be found on the [Shannon CSI page](#) of OGR's website.

- **Submitted, Digitally Signed, [Online Application](#)** – Please notify OGR immediately if applicant is unable to utilize the online application.
- **Budget Excel Worksheet** (*Attachment A*) (both the Summary and Detail sheets must be completed and uploaded to the online application)
- **Partner Selection Workbook** (*Attachment B*) to be uploaded to the online application.
- **Certification of Compliance with Submission of Crime Reporting Data** (*Attachment C*) to be uploaded to the online application.
- **Letter(s) of Collaboration** (*Attachment D*) to be uploaded to the online application.