

# Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell



## Request for Proposals (RFP)

### Public Health Models for Gun Violence Prevention Grant Program

*Release Date: October 21, 2024*

*Response Due Date: November 15, 2024*

*Project Start Date: February 17, 2025*

*Project End Date: February 19, 2027*

Public Health Models for Gun Violence Prevention Grant Program  
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### **Grant Program Description**

The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) is pleased to announce the Public Health Models for Gun Violence Prevention Grant Program. The AGO seeks to fund proposals that expand the capabilities of public health organizations and professionals to implement and expand effective gun violence prevention models, interventions, and strategies. Grant-funded programs will provide training, resources, programming, and other tools to promote gun violence prevention, gun safety, targeted violence prevention, and gun violence interruption, especially for people and communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence. The AGO will prioritize proposals that are culturally-competent,<sup>1</sup> evidence-based, and trauma-informed.

Examples of public health models include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Interventions based on the different types of gun violence and best public health practices for prevention,
- (2) Initiatives designed to embed gun violence prevention information in health care and related public health settings (e.g., hospitals, schools, and community-based nonprofit organizations),
- (3) Training for public health organizations and professionals on specific Massachusetts gun safety-related laws, such as secure storage laws and Extreme Risk Protection Orders, and best practices for patient implementation,
- (4) Training on specific issues such as mental health, suicide prevention, intimate partner violence, and substance use as they relate to gun violence prevention,
- (5) Community violence interruption initiatives that incorporate a public health approach, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

Grant-funded programming must be delivered by public health organizations or professionals or in health care and related public health settings, including, but not limited to, clinical settings, community violence interruption settings, school health services and programs, college medical centers, Veteran's Affairs settings, community health centers, municipal public health agencies, institutions providing behavioral or mental health support, telehealth, or any other setting offering support or services to people or communities in addressing gun violence.

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<sup>1</sup>"Cultural competence" in this instance refers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition of cultural competence in health care: "the integration and transformation of knowledge about individuals and groups of people into specific standards, policies, practices and attitudes used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services; thereby producing better outcomes." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Cultural Competence in Health and Human Services." See <https://npin.cdc.gov/pages/cultural-competence-health-and-human-services#3>

Gun violence prevention interventions or initiatives may involve staff or programs specifically dedicated to gun violence prevention or may be generalized violence prevention or interruption programs that include curricula on gun violence prevention and gun safety.

The grant will be funded with up to \$1,000,000 from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

## **Background**

In an average year in Massachusetts, 257 people die and another 648 are wounded by guns.<sup>2</sup> In addition to the loss of life, suffering, and trauma, gun violence has an economic toll, costing Massachusetts \$3.5 billion each year.<sup>3</sup>

Gun violence is unquestionably a public health issue. Public health is the science of reducing and preventing injury, disease, and death, while promoting the overall health and well-being of the population through the use of data, effective policies, and evidence-based practices. On June 25, 2024, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued a Surgeon General's Advisory on Firearm Violence, calling it a public health crisis.<sup>4</sup> This advisory identifies a number of recommendations to reduce gun violence, including implementing and supporting community violence prevention programs and expanding access to mental health services and supports. The Attorney General recognizes that the Commonwealth's gun violence epidemic requires the widespread adoption of a range of different strategies aimed at interrupting and preventing gun-related violence. This includes ensuring that public health professionals and organizations, including health care providers, have the resources, education, and tools necessary to address gun violence with the populations they serve.

To be effective, public health approaches to gun violence interruption and prevention also must be done with appropriate consideration for the disparate impact of gun violence on specific communities. For example, in Massachusetts Black people are 4.1 times more likely than white people to die by guns and 20 times more likely to die by gun homicide.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, from 2018 to 2021, 55% of gun deaths in Massachusetts were suicides. In light of the impact of gun violence on a broad range of communities and individual experiences, gun violence prevention programs should be trauma-informed and center mental well-being and cultural competence regarding the many types of gun violence and their varying outcomes and impacts. Although we recognize that gun violence is a public health and public safety issue impacting communities across the Commonwealth, public health organizations and professionals often

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<sup>2</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, EveryStat. "Gun Violence in Massachusetts" See <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Gun-Violence-in-Massachusetts-2024-05.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, EveryStat. "How does gun violence impact the communities you care about?" See <https://everystat.org/#Massachusetts>

<sup>4</sup> US Department of Health and Human Services, "Firearm Violence in America." See <https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/firearm-violence/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety, EveryStat. "How does gun violence impact the communities you care about?" See <https://everystat.org/#Massachusetts>

lack the tools or resources to implement or expand effective gun violence prevention initiatives and interventions into their work with people and communities. This RFP is intended to infuse needed resources into public health models to address gun violence so that they can be implemented or expanded across the Commonwealth.

### **Eligibility**

Municipalities and nonprofit organizations, including hospitals and entities operating violence interruption programs, in Massachusetts that use or seek to use public health models to address interventions or initiatives to address gun violence prevention are eligible to apply.

Non-profit organizations that are public charities (generally speaking, public charities have 501(c)(3) status) must be in full compliance with the statutory requirements set forth in G.L. ch. 12, secs. 8E and 8F, and G.L. ch. 68, sec. 19, including initial registration and filing of annual financial reports with the AGO's Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division. Public charities must also comply with obligations and reporting requirements set by the Internal Revenue Service. As of September 2023, the Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division requires all charitable registrations and annual filings to be made through the Charity Portal. Please find more information [here](#).

### **Funding, Duration, and Anticipated Timeline**

This RFP is subject to and contingent upon the availability of funds. Grant awards will be issued in varying amounts up to \$100,000. Applicants may propose indirect rates (administrative rates) of 15% or less. Applicant budgets may or may not be funded in their entirety, or at all. All funding decisions will be at the sole discretion of the AGO. Applicants shall not supplant currently funded activities with grant funds.

Grant funds will be awarded with an anticipated start date of February 17, 2025. The maximum grant period will be 24 months. The AGO will not allow program extensions except for good cause shown. The AGO may deny program extension requests at its sole discretion.

Unexpended funds must be returned to the AGO within 45 days of contract expiration. At its sole discretion, the AGO will require funds spent on ineligible costs to be repaid to the AGO or re-budgeted to an appropriate expense category.

### **Cash Flow and Disbursement of Grant Funds**

Grant disbursement(s) will be sent to grantees by Electronic Funds Transfer, provided that all necessary contract and periodic reporting documents are received by the established deadlines. A disbursement schedule will be determined by the AGO after the selection of grantees.

## Submission Instructions

- Grant applications with accompanying proposals must be delivered electronically through the AGO's online grant application website by 5:00 P.M. November 15, 2024.
- Interested applicants may access grant information and application details at the [AGO's Current Grant Opportunities website](#).
- Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.
- Applications will not be accepted in any other format.
- New applicants will be asked to create a free online account. Any applicant that has applied for any AGO grant using the [AGO's Grant Applications Portal](#) may log into its existing account. All applicants should confirm their contact information is current on their applicant profiles.
- Once applicants have started an application, the application may be saved and returned to later.
- Confirmation of Receipt: Applicants typically receive an email confirmation within 48 business hours. If a confirmation is not received, please email the AGO Grants Team at [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov).
- If the applicant experiences issues with the [AGO's Grant Applications Portal](#), they should email [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov) or call (617) 963-2797 for assistance. The AGO encourages applicants to upload documents in advance of the deadline to avoid last minute submission issues.

## Evaluation of Grant Proposals

Program proposals and application components will be evaluated on criteria that include the following:

- Applicant's experience with and commitment to implementing public health-based models for gun violence prevention.
- Applicant's focus on reaching populations disproportionately impacted by gun violence.
- Scope and impact of the applicant's proposed programming, including but not limited to the number of people served, practitioners trained, resources developed and disseminated, and/or community-based partnerships developed.
- The geographic location served by the applicant.
- Applicant's experience with and commitment to providing culturally competent and trauma-informed gun violence prevention services.
- Applicant's commitment to integrating community voice, including input from people with lived experience, into the design and evaluation of their services.
- Applicant's use of evidence-based gun violence prevention tools or methods.
- Applicant's approach to outcomes measurement and ability to measure the impact of grant-supported programming
- Applicant's funding and operational capacity to deliver proposed programming.

## Questions

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted to [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov), only until 5:00 P.M. on November 8, 2024. When submitting your question(s), please include **Public Health Models for Gun Violence Prevention Grant Program** in the email subject line. Questions received and answers provided regarding this RFP will be posted on the [AGO's Grant Applications Portal](#).

## Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants who need assistance may seek reasonable accommodation, including receipt of the RFP in an alternative format, by writing to [AGOgrants@mass.gov](mailto:AGOgrants@mass.gov) no later than 5:00 P.M. on November 8, 2024.

## Expectations and Requirements for Grantees

- Award is contingent upon the applicant satisfactorily completing all necessary documents (see below) by the deadlines established by the AGO.
- Any changes to a grant program or budget at any time during the grant period must be requested in writing by the grantee and must be approved, in advance, by the AGO.
- All funds must be used in a manner consistent with the applicant's grant application and accompanying proposal, which shall both become part of the Scope of Services Agreement.
- Grantees must complete two semiannual reports per year of their contract terms in a format to be provided by the AGO.
- Grantees are required to send at least one representative to an annual meeting hosted by the AGO during the project period to discuss program progress and gun violence prevention trends.
- At its sole discretion, the AGO may require grantees to provide programmatic documentation or financial records related to their grant awards.

## Required Commonwealth Contract Documents

The following documents will be required as part of the *application submission*:

- Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification (W-9)
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form<sup>6</sup>
- Nonprofits must submit one of the following unless they are exempt from filing with the AGO's Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division (NPCD):
  - Their most recent filing package submitted to NPCD;<sup>7</sup>
  - A current Certificate of Solicitation issued by NPCD; or
  - A current Letter of Good Standing issued by NPCD.

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<sup>6</sup> It is the responsibility of the applicant/award recipient to ensure that an electronic transfer of funds may be received by the award recipient. No paper checks will be issued.

<sup>7</sup> The package should include its Form PC, IRS Form 990/990-EZ/990-PF and, as applicable, a CPA's review report or an audited financial statement.

The following documents will be required upon any notification of a grant award at a deadline established by the AGO and *should not be submitted with the grant application*:

- Standard Contract Form
- Scope and Services Agreement
- Contractor Authorized Signatory Listing

No grant funds will be disbursed unless the necessary documents are submitted by the deadlines established by the AGO.

**Public records**

All submitted responses and information are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26. Applicants should not submit any personal, medical, or other sensitive information.

**Updates to this RFP**

Any changes/corrections to any part to this RFP will be posted on <https://www.mass.gov/grant-opportunities>. It is the applicant's responsibility to check this web page frequently for any updates.