

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Grants & Research**



**Notice of Availability of Grant Funds (AGF)
FFY 2027 Shannon CSI Grant Program**

Posted: 8/14/2026

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Gina K. Kwon
Secretary

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I. Introduction

The **Office of Grants & Research (OGR)**, a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), 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 2026, An Act Making Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2027.

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.

II. Applicant Eligibility

The 2027 Shannon CSI AGF is a competitive grant program. A municipal entity must serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for these funds.

Only municipalities that have proven gang related activity and local statistical data that support the gang activity within their community are eligible to apply.

III. Key Dates

AGF Posted: **August 14, 2026**

Deadlines for Questions: **September 4, 2026***

Deadline for Letter of Intent: **September 10, 2026****

Application Due Date: **September 25, 2026, no later than 4:00 p.m.**

Award Notification (tentative): **December 2026**

Performance Period (tentative): **January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027**

*Application Questions

OGR will accept written questions regarding this AGF until **September 4, 2026**.

Submit questions via email to Emily.haines@mass.gov. Responses to all questions will be posted no later than **September 10, 2026**, at: [Shannon Community Safety Initiative \(CSI\) | Mass.gov](#). Responses will not be provided for questions submitted after September 4, 2026.

**Letter of Intent

All applicants are strongly encouraged to submit [Letter of Intent to Apply Form](#) by **September 10, 2026**. Although a Letter of Intent is not a required component of the application process, timely submission is highly recommended to facilitate planning and ensure an efficient review process.

IV. Purpose

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

Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative supports regional, multidisciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated programs for prevention and intervention; coordinated law enforcement; including regional gang task forces and regional crime mapping strategies; focused prosecutions; and reintegration strategies for formerly incarcerated persons.

V. Funding Overview

OGR expects to award approximately **\$8,916,591.46** to Shannon Community Safety Initiative Sites through this AGF.

Preference will be given to applicants that:

- Demonstrate high levels of youth violence, gang problems, and substance use in a region;
- Demonstrate a commitment to regional, multi-jurisdictional strategies to deal with such community safety issues, including written commitments for municipalities, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations, and government agencies to work together;
- Provide proven gang related activity and local statistical data that demonstrate the gang activity within their community;
- Outline a comprehensive plan that establishes measurable outcomes for municipalities to work with law enforcement, community-based organizations, and government agencies to address gang activity;
- Outline measurable outcomes that demonstrate program success, detail a plan for collecting data related to achieving said measurable outcomes, and commit to sharing the data with the executive office;
- Make 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; and
- Have a history of responsible Shannon grant management, as evidenced by consistent reporting and minimal fund reversions.

OGR strongly recommends applications demonstrate a collaborative effort within a municipality or region. OGR requires sign-off by a Senior Municipal Department Official to demonstrate the commitment of executive leadership to the collaborative effort.

Funds will be distributed to project partners by the lead fiscal agent/municipality. Project partners in the multi-disciplinary team may include municipal and state law enforcement agencies;² nonprofit, community-based organizations; and other government agencies including but not limited to: District Attorney's Offices, Probation, Parole, Department of Youth Services, and Sheriff's Offices.

OGR may award full funding, partial funding, or no funding.

Fund Disbursement

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

Awarded funds are typically distributed upon contract execution. Expenses can be incurred upon contract execution and payments are made in 50% disbursements.

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, 2027, and end December 31, 2027.**

VI. Application Instructions

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

- Please note it is strongly recommended that the Letter of Intent be submitted prior to September 10th.
- Submission of all attachments will be completed through this online application.

a. Applicant/Project Information

- **Contact Information:** Provide Program and Fiscal contact information, Senior/Municipal Department Official, and partner communities.
- **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.
- **Program Summary:** Provide a brief summary of the proposal outlined in this application (250 character limit). Please select the applicant's proposed purpose areas from the list of Shannon strategies as provided in the application.

b. 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 any partnering communities identified in the application. Include gang-related statistical data (e.g., types of gangs in the city, size, related crime, number of recruits, etc.) and definitions that are clear and evidence-based. The gang violence problem should be reflective of the applicant's gang definition and the Shannon youth definition.

- **Site-Specific 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, as defined by the Shannon CSI.

*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 which 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 data provided in the Gang Violence Problem Statement/Program Narrative. 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 reflecting evidence-based best practices.

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: When was your most recent community risk assessment completed? How was the community risk assessment done? Explain the process and key takeaways from the assessment. How did the assessment inform your plan for programming?

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 table detailing the partners selected based on the Gang Violence Problem Statement.
- Upload a letter of collaboration from each partner. Each letter should be signed by both parties and outline the relationship between the agencies that will form the basis of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if the grant is awarded. These can be combined and uploaded as one PDF to the online application.

- If there is an RFP process for partner selection, please describe the process and timeline.
- Describe the applicant's approach for ensuring that selected partners understand and comply with Shannon CSI grant requirements. Include strategies for communicating expectations, monitoring partner participation, and reporting responsibilities.

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.

c. Budget Narrative

The Budget Narrative should outline the budget requested and itemize the expenses by cost category as described in this application. For each cost category that has an associated funding request in the Budget Excel Worksheet (Attachment A), please provide an overall description and justification of that cost category. The budget category narratives should describe what the budget entails, why the items in that category are needed, and how the budgeted amount was determined.

Please include any hires (under personnel), trainings, supplies needed, vendor information or process for selecting a vendor, where applicable. Applicants should submit a budget for up to approximately 12 months. The budget narratives 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 12-month budget.
 - 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 maximum of 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.

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 (Sites Only)	Full- or part-time regular salaried employees working on the grant. (Fiscal agent/municipal entity only).
Overtime (Law Enforcement Only)	Allowable only for sworn law enforcement personnel working on the grant.
Fringe (Sites Only)	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.
Contractors/Consultants (Funded Partners Only)	- Contracts – a competitive process based on the municipality's procurement policy should be followed when procuring contracted services. - Contract salary, fringe benefits, 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).
Subawards	Subawards are awards provided by the applicant/awardee to an organization (sub-awardee) to carry out part of an award received by the primary awardee.

Budget Cost Categories	Explanation of Costs
Travel (Sites Only)	- 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 \$0.70 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 (Sites Only)	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 (Sites Only)	General supplies required for the project (pens, pencils, postage, training materials, copying paper, and other expendable items such as books, ink, etc.).
Other (Sites Only)	- 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 how the amount budgeted was calculated. - Items such as rent, telephone, and 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. - No grant funds may be used for a cash reserve. - No grant funds may be spent on food or beverage.

d. Certification of Compliance with Submission of Crime Reporting Data (Attachment B)

Applicants must include a letter from **each** partnering police department attesting to the submission of crime data through August 30, 2026. If the department received Shannon funds in 2026 and has not submitted data through August 30, please provide an explanation as to why the department is not in compliance. Furthermore, once 2027 awards are made, departments must maintain compliance with the requirement to submit crime reporting data monthly. 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, 2026.

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, 2026.

VII. Application Submission

Submit the [online application](#) including all required Attachments by 4:00 p.m. on September 25, 2026.

Emailed submissions will not be accepted.

VIII. Application Review Process

Applications will be subjected to a competitive review process consisting of 3 peer reviewers for each application. Each application will be evaluated and scored 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 (15 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 need 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.
 - 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. Note: all SFY26 funded municipalities must be in compliance with all programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements in order to receive a SFY27 grant award.
- **Partner Selection (15 points):** Grantees will be expected to explain how and why each proposed partner will be 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 composed of items that ensure proper implementation and maximum effectiveness of the proposed strategy.

IX. Award Information

a. Award Notification

All final funding decisions are at the discretion of the OGR Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Secretary, and Governor's Office. It is anticipated that grant awards will be announced in November/December 2026.

b. Sub-recipient Requirements

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

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, role, and responsibilities as they relate to the project.
- A description of the Shannon Steering Committee and a member list will be required with biannual programmatic reports.
- Cooperation during OGR monitoring endeavors, including site visits, desk reviews, and attendance at technical assistance meetings.
- Support for the adoption and implementation of the Shannon Youth Violence Risk Assessment (SYVRA), formally called the Shannon Individual Risk Assessment (IRA).
- 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 all or any part of the amount of the

Shannon CSI grant award to an implementing agency or an independent contractor shall enter into a written contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the implementing agency or independent contractor. The contract or MOU shall include the provisions of the OGR standard sub-grant conditions. 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 nonprofit 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.
- 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 provide the steering committee with a list of funded program partners, funding amount, and bi-annual site and partner programmatic activities and progress.
- The Shannon CSI site director must work with the Local Action Research Partner (LARP) 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 (SRP) an opportunity to participate in the steering committee meetings.
- The Shannon CSI site must work with their LARP or the SRP to develop a community assessment for their respective site. Community assessments are to follow the OJJDP guidelines. It is encouraged that a community assessment is done every one to two years if possible.
- The Shannon CSI site must work with the SRP and LARP in implementing the Shannon Youth Violence Risk Assessment (SYVRA) tool to identify youth at risk of engaging in violence and gangs and match them with the most appropriate programming, services, and interventions.
- The Shannon CSI site is strongly encouraged to participate in all SRP studies and surveys.
- 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, as defined by the Shannon CSI site.
 - **Low-risk youth (SYVRA score of 0-5)** represent the lowest risk of violence and gang membership, suggesting they are at the lowest need for programming. Low-need groups should not be denied services, however, because participation in programs might prevent the onset of risk. When Shannon grantees work with youth who are identified as low need using the SYVRA, they should consider assessment item scores to determine programs and services that would be most appropriate for these youth. When possible, Shannon grantees should avoid placing low-risk youth in programming with moderate and high-risk peers.
 - **Moderate-risk youth (SYVRA score of 6-11)** would benefit from targeted programs. Reviewing the specific SYVRA item scores can help guide programming and referral decisions. While these youth may require more support than those in the low-risk category, the intensity and breadth of services will generally be less than those recommended for high-risk youth.
 - **High-risk youth (SYVRA score of 12+)** are expected to benefit the most from intensive programming. Grantees should review dynamic risk factors identified by

the SYVRA to determine priority areas for intervention, as youth in this category often present with multiple areas of need requiring coordinated services.

- 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 that have record management systems 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.
- The receipt of grant funds is contingent upon the grantee's ability to certify that it will comply with the Massachusetts General Laws, including G.L. c. 40A, § 3A, the **MBTA Communities Act**. Compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is determined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. This will be included in the OGR Grant Conditions form disseminated at the time of contracting.

X. Application Checklist

Submit a letter of intent no later than **September 10, 2026**.

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

This AGF and all other required documents can be found on the [Shannon Community Safety Initiative \(CSI\) | Mass.gov](#) 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, template provided) - Both the Summary and Detail sheets must be completed and uploaded to the online application. Submit this document in Excel format and do not convert to PDF or other format.
- **Partner Letters of Collaboration** to be uploaded to the online application.
- **Certification of Compliance with Submission of Crime Reporting Data** (Attachment B-template provided) to be uploaded to the online application.

Please let OGR know if you have any questions regarding the online application. All questions can be directed to emily.haines@mass.gov.