

**SPECIAL COMMISSION ON
VIOLENCE PREVENTION
SERVICES FUNDING
FINAL REPORT**

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Purpose and Context

This report is filed pursuant to Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024, An Act modernizing firearm laws (“2024 Gun Safety Law”). This legislation established the Special Legislative Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding (“the Commission”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court on the commonwealth’s funding structure for gun violence prevention services funding. To meet its charge, the Commission met three times between January and December 2025, including a public hearing during which the Commission gathered testimony from invited organizations receiving funding for gun violence prevention services. The Commission was charged with issuing a report of its findings and recommendations to the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The enabling legislation established structural requirements for the Commission to ensure representation from all parties that could be interested in legislation regarding state funding for gun violence prevention services. Consistent with this requirement, the Commission was comprised of the following 19 members:

Legislative Appointees

- **Representative Marjorie C. Decker**, *Co-Chair*, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health
- **Senator William J. Driscoll, Jr.**, *Co-Chair*, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health
- **Representative Daniel Cahill**, Appointed by the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
- **Chaplin Clementina Chéry**, President and CEO, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Appointed by the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health
- **Tanisha Deleon**, Deputy Director, Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) Boston, Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Abrigal Forrester**, CEO, Center for Teen Empowerment, Appointed by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus
- **Jarix Santiago**, Co-Director, New North Citizens Council, Appointed by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Caucus
- **Representative Alyson Sullivan-Almeida**, Appointed by the House Minority Leader
- **Nicholas You**, Boston Youth Enrichment Services (YES), Appointed by the Massachusetts Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Executive Members and Appointees

- **Jess Alder**, Program Director, Boston Public Health Commission Strong Start Initiative, Appointed by the Governor
- **Kevan A. Barton**, Executive Director, YouthConnect, Appointed by the Governor

- **Angela Davis**, Assistant Undersecretary of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Executive Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Security
- **Dr. Robert Goldstein**, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
- **Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira**, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Policy and Initiatives Lead, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Appointed by the Governor
- **Nichelle Sadler**, Executive Director, UTEC Training Center for Excellence, Appointed by the Senate President
- **Scott Sharffenberg**, Executive Vice President, ROCA Massachusetts, Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Other Members

- **Dr. Thea James**, Vice President of Mission, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Boston Medical Center, Appointed by the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association
- **Lauren Nwagboli**, Director of Operations, Massachusetts Business Roundtable
- **Armand Pires**, President, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

The individuals listed above possess substantial professional expertise in the fields of legislation and policy and/or violence prevention services and offer a variety of perspectives on funding structures for violence prevention services.

Organizations Represented on the Commission

The Violence Prevention Services Funding Commission appointees represent a diverse set of organizations, each approaching violence prevention work from a unique perspective.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

The Peace Institute's lens is healing and survivor support. The Institute serves families and communities impacted by homicide across the Commonwealth through crisis response, grief support, and restorative justice advocacy, taking a whole-family, trauma-informed approach. Having been founded by a homicide survivor, the organization promotes dignity and compassion for all families impacted by murder, regardless of circumstances or challenging systems that historically denied services to those with criminal histories, taking a humanistic approach. The Institute primarily serves families in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, as well as service providers and professionals statewide.

YouthConnect

YouthConnect's lens is mental health. For over 30 years, they have addressed the underlying social and emotional factors driving juvenile crime by working with young people and their entire families, connecting them to community resources, and building the life skills needed to make safer choices. YouthConnect uniquely bridges law enforcement and social services, offering the commission a perspective grounded in both public safety and clinical intervention. YouthConnect's approach demonstrates how police-community partnerships can be designed to divert young people from the justice system rather than deepen their involvement in it. YouthConnect is located in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, Chelsea, Charlestown, and the South End.

Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) Boston

YOU Boston's lens is economic opportunity. They are a citywide workforce development program operating under the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development that treats employment as a core violence prevention strategy. They serve court-involved and high-risk young people across Boston through transitional employment, education support, and intensive case management, using a workforce development-as-prevention approach. YOU Boston demonstrates that stable employment and economic opportunity are essential tools for interrupting cycles of violence.

Center for Teen Empowerment (TE)

Teen Empowerment's lens is youth organizing and peer leadership. TE serves low-income young people of color in Boston, Somerville, and Rochester, New York, through community organizing, anti-violence initiatives, and youth-police dialogue, taking a youth-as-changemakers approach. They bring an evidence-based, youth-led, and racial-equity-centered perspective to violence

prevention. TE has four Massachusetts youth organizing sites, including one in Roxbury, one in Dorchester, and two in Somerville, and its community engagements reach thousands across the Commonwealth.

New North Citizens' Council

The New North Citizens' Council's lens is community development and cultural responsiveness. They have served the Latino and Black communities of Springfield and Hampden County, Massachusetts, through gun violence intervention, reentry support, and wraparound family services, taking a neighborhood-based approach for more than 50 years. New North Citizens' Council's long-term neighborhood-based presence and integration of violence prevention within a broader model of community development, health, housing, and civic participation reflect a longstanding, holistic, upstream approach.

Boston Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

YES's lens is primary prevention and positive youth development. For over 55 years, they have helped low- and moderate-income children and teens in Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain get involved with sports programming, leadership development, and mentorship. YES connects young people from under-resourced neighborhoods to caring adult mentors, structured programming, and experiences that build resilience, self-efficacy, and a sense of possibility. Its perspective highlights the importance of investing in youth long before crisis points occur and underscores how access to enrichment and outdoor programming can be transformative for youth in neighborhoods most affected by violence.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Start Strong Initiative

Start Strong's lens is healthy relationships and primary prevention. The program serves teens across Boston, focusing specifically on preventing teen dating violence and promoting healthy relationships, using a trauma-informed, positive youth development framework that incorporates media literacy, intersectionality, and systems-of-oppression analysis. As a BPHC program, Start Strong brings public health infrastructure and city-level policy influence to the commission, along with a data-driven approach to primary prevention.

UTEC — Training Center for Excellence

UTEC's lens is intervention and restorative justice. They integrate racial equity into all programming infrastructure, utilizing social needs assessment and referrals, circle training, community violence intervention, and statewide capacity-building to best serve their communities. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health selected UTEC to lead the state's Gun Violence Prevention Training Center for Excellence (TC4E) in 2019. Now the premier training facility in Massachusetts for addressing gun violence through a public health and racial equity lens, the Training Center equips community organizations statewide with best practices in street outreach, social needs assessment, reentry services, and workforce development. TC4E's

model is rooted in peer credibility, relational outreach, and social enterprise employment, and reflects a "whole person" intervention philosophy. Its role as the state's training hub positions it to shape how dozens of organizations across Massachusetts approach gun violence prevention.

ROCA Massachusetts

ROCA's lens is cognitive-behavioral intervention, community partnership, and systems-level change. For over 35 years, they have served the highest-risk young adults at the center of urban violence across Greater Boston and Springfield with intensive case management, cognitive behavioral therapy, transitional employment, and systems-change work, taking a trauma-first, evidence-based approach. ROCA also works directly with police departments, the Department of Corrections, and other systems partners to change how institutions relate to traumatized young people. Through these partnerships, ROCA encourages criminal justice, public health, and social service agencies to align around the needs of the highest-risk individuals.

Altogether, the Violence Prevention Services Funding Commission represents a unique cross-sector collaboration among state legislators, state agencies, and community-based organizations that administer a diverse set of violence prevention programs. The collective knowledge that each appointee brings to the table has helped ensure the Commission's recommendations are nuanced and bolster and enhance violence prevention services and initiatives for different communities across Massachusetts.

Statutory Charge

Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024:

(a) There is hereby established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws, a special legislative commission to study the commonwealth's funding structure for violence prevention services.

(b) The special legislative commission shall consist of 19 members: the chairs of the joint committee on public health or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; the chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security or their designees; the secretary of public safety and security or a designee; the secretary of health and human services or a designee; 1 member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives who shall be from an organization that has received a grant through the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative; 1 member appointed by the president of the senate who shall be from an organization that has received a grant through the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 3 member appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be from an organization involved in early child education or development, 1 of whom shall represent a community-based organization providing intervention and prevention services and 1 of whom shall represent a female-led community-based organization providing violence prevention and intervention services; 2 members appointed by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus who are not members of the general court; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Asian-American Legislative Caucus who is not a member of the general court; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc.; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, Inc. and 1 member from the Massachusetts Business Roundtable.

(c) The special legislative commission shall: (i) examine and evaluate the existing government funding structure for violence prevention services in the commonwealth, including funding sources, public-private partnerships, initiatives and programs utilized, specific services funded, the impact of services provided to survivors of victims of homicide in fostering healing and breaking the generational cycle of violence, communities served, how funding decisions are made, and how service providers and programs are chosen; (ii) study the feasibility of a statewide grant for municipal boards of health, health departments and health commissions for the development and operation of a public health and safety approach to preventing targeted violence through structured collaboration that brings together local law enforcement, housing providers, human services providers, youth providers, educators, residents, community-based organizations, coalitions and other stakeholders to address housing, health care, substance use and mental health issues as they relate to violence prevention and intervention; and (iii)

recommend changes to promote efficiency, transparency, accessibility and utility with the ultimate goal of enhancing violence prevention services and minimizing the disproportionate impact of violence in historically impacted communities.

(d) The special legislative commission shall submit a report of its study and recommendations, together with any proposed legislation, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate no later than July 31, 2026.

Work of the Commission

The following table summarizes the work of the Commission. Appendices to this report provide testimonies offered at each Commission meeting and hearing.

Meeting/ Hearing	Purpose	Agenda	Appendix Materials
Meeting 1: June 6	To orient the members to their legislative charge and provide background information.	- Call to Order - Welcome/House Chair Introduction - Reading of the Special Commission's Charge - Presentation from Keesha LaTulippe, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention: Overview of Violence Prevention Services Funding - Discussion of Special Commission's Work - Adjournment	N/A
Hearing 1: September 25	To gather oral testimony from community-based organizations receiving funding for gun violence prevention services.	- Call to Order - Welcome/House Chair Introduction - Reading of the Special Commission's Charge - Commission Member Introductions - Testimony - Discussion - Adjournment	- List of Testifying Organizations - Shannon MA Violence Commission Presentation
Meeting 2: December 4	To solicit member feedback regarding themes and trends in violence prevention funding based on testimony received during Hearing 1.	- Call to Order - Welcome/House Chair Introduction - Reading of the Special Commission's Charge - Discussion - Adjournment	N/A

Populations to Prioritize Within Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives

Gun violence can occur anywhere, even in Massachusetts, a state with some of the strongest gun control laws in the United States. Notably, 287 people in Massachusetts died due to firearm use in 2024.¹ Furthermore, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, firearms were the leading cause of homicide in the Commonwealth in 2022. The repercussions of gun violence extend far beyond the immediate tragedy, with marginalized communities bearing the brunt of its impact in distinct and devastating ways. Based on expert insights and testimonies gathered by the commission, it is imperative to focus our efforts on priority populations for gun violence prevention, ensuring that we address the root causes and work towards meaningful solutions. Priority populations for gun violence prevention initiatives include:

Communities of Color

Communities of color experience disproportionately high rates of gun violence, which are rooted in longstanding structural inequities and compounded by systemic racism. These inequities include, but are not limited to, concentrated poverty, historic neighborhood disinvestment, limited access to economic opportunities and education, and unequal access to safe and stable housing.²

Data illustrating the existing inequities in gun violence within communities of color include:

- Black Americans are 14 times more likely than White Americans to be murdered with a firearm.³
- Black men have the highest firearm homicide rate among men in the U.S. at 52.9 deaths per 100,000 people, and Black women have the highest rate among women at 7.5 deaths per 100,000 people.⁴
- From 2015-2024, the number of Latino and Hispanic people who died due to gun violence increased 61%, while the national gun violence death rate only rose 22%.⁵
- In 2023, young Hispanic and Latino men in Massachusetts only made up 2.3% of the population, but accounted for 26% of all gun-related homicides in the state.⁶

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2026, March 3). Firearm Mortality. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/state-stats/deaths/firearms.html>

² Center for American Progress. (2022, June 30). Gun violence disproportionately and overwhelmingly hurts communities of color. <https://www.americanprogress.org/gun-violence-disproportionately-hurts-communities-of-color/>

³ Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. (n.d.). Community Gun Violence. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/community-gun-violence>

⁴ Knorre, A., & MacDonald, J. (2026, February 25). Unequal by the gun: Four decades of the Black-White firearm homicide gap. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12935247/>

⁵ Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. (2026, April 2). Gun violence in Hispanic and Latino communities. <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/gun-violence-in-hispanic-and-latino-communities/>

⁶ Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. (n.d.-c). State Data: Massachusetts. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/data/state-gun-violence-data/massachusetts>

Youth and Young Adults:

Gun violence disproportionately impacts youth and young adults due to compounding social, environmental, and structural factors. Over the past decade, over 72,000 children and young adults ages 0-24 have died due to gun-related injuries.⁷ Young people are more likely to experience or witness gun violence if they have overlapping marginalized identities, experience poverty, live in neighborhoods that are residentially segregated or have elevated crime rates, or have limited access to education or social services, including mental health services.^{8,9}

Recent data demonstrating the greater burden of gun violence among youth and young adults include:

- As of 2020, gun violence became the leading cause of death for all children, however, gun violence has been the leading cause of death for black children for the last 20 years.¹⁰
- Young people aged 15-34 accounted for 69% of all gun homicides in MA in 2023, a 15% increase from 2022.⁸
- Young black men in Massachusetts were 43 times more likely to die due to gun homicide than their white counterparts from 2019-2023.⁸

Families of Homicide Victims:

Violence does not occur in a vacuum. The impacts of violence go beyond those directly impacted; they reverberate throughout groups of friends, families, and entire communities. The emotional toll that gun violence exerts on those left behind is profound and often overlooked. Through commission hearings and meetings, it became abundantly clear that to address the full scope of harm caused by gun violence, it is critical to center and engage families of homicide victims.

The families of homicide victims suffer overwhelming grief that is associated with adverse mental health outcomes, including long-term grief, PTSD, and anxiety, which can hinder their ability to find and keep jobs, build healthy relationships, and lead fulfilling lives. Furthermore, survivors of homicide are also at an increased risk for depression, drug use, and alcohol abuse.¹¹

⁷ Bottiani, J. H., Camacho, D. A., Lindstrom Johnson, S., & Bradshaw, C. P. (2021). Annual research review: Youth firearm violence disparities in the United States and implications for prevention. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 62(5), 563–579. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcpp.13392>

⁸ Beardslee, J., Docherty, M., Mulvey, E., Schubert, C., & Pardini, D. (2018). Childhood risk factors associated with adolescent gun carrying among black and white males: An examination of self-protection, social influence, and antisocial propensity explanations. *Law and Human Behavior*, 42(2), 110–118. <https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000270>

⁹ Lee, D. B., Stallworth, P., Cunningham, R. M., Walton, M. A., Neblett, E. W., & Carter, P. M. (2024). Residential racial segregation and youth firearm aggression: Neighborhood disadvantage and exposure to violence as mediators. *Youth & Society*, 56(8), 1468–1490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118x241256367>

¹⁰ Nguyen, A., & Drane, K. (2026, April 14). Gun violence in black communities. <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/gun-violence-in-black-communities/>

¹¹ Rheingold, A. A., Zinzow, H., Hawkins, A., Saunders, B. E., & Kilpatrick, D. G. (2011). Prevalence and mental health outcomes of homicide survivors in a representative U.S. sample of adolescents: Data from the 2005 national survey of adolescents. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 53(6), 687–694. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7610.2011.02491.x>

In 2024 alone, there were over 20,000 homicides in the United States, and over 15,000 of them were related to firearms.¹² In Massachusetts, there were 134 homicides in 2023.¹³ Testimony shared with the Commission revealed the staggering and rippling impact homicide has: a single homicide impacts at least 10 immediate family members, 20 close friends, and 50-70 other people connected to the victim. In addition to this, national level data also shed light on the impact of gun violence on families and communities:

- 54% of U.S. adults have either personally or have family members who have been affected by gun violence.¹⁴
- 34% of Black adults reported having a family member killed by a gun, compared to 17% of White adults.¹⁴

At this scale, the under-addressed needs of families of homicide victims are not only significant, but indicate oversights in adequately confronting gun violence and promoting long-term community healing and safety.

Justice-Impacted People:

Justice-impacted people are more likely to engage in and be affected by firearm violence, a disparity described by the victim-offender overlap.¹⁵ The victim-offender overlap depicts how individuals involved in firearm violence, whether victimization, perpetration, or both, are likely to have prior justice system impact, histories of violence, or social networks proximate to gun violence.^{16,17} These associations stem from compounded trauma, unmet behavioral health needs, and lacking community reentry support.^{18,19}

Data highlighting the need for gun violence prevention efforts before and throughout reentry from the criminal legal system include:

¹² National Center for Health Statistics. (2026, February 20). Assault or Homicide . <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/homicide.htm>

¹³ Massachusetts Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Statewide Homicide Data . <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/statewide-homicide-data>

¹⁴ Schumacher, S., Kirzinger, A., Presiado, M., Valdes, I., & Brodie, M. (2023, April 11). Americans' experiences with gun-related violence, injuries, and deaths. <https://www.kff.org/other-health/americans-experiences-with-gun-related-violence-injuries-and-deaths/>

¹⁵ Schleimer, J. P., Ross, R., & Rowhani-Rahbar, A. (2025). Association of prior criminal charges and convictions with subsequent violent and firearm-related crime: a retrospective cohort study. *Injury Epidemiology*, 12(35). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-025-00593-x>

¹⁶ Reichert, J., & Mason, M. (2023). Victim offender overlap: Firearm homicide victims with and without criminal records. *Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority*. <https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/victim-offender-overlap-firearm-homicide-victims-with-and-without-criminal-records/>

¹⁷ Rabinowitz, M., Crandall, V., & Jackson, S. (2026). Identifying high-risk populations. *National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform; Crime and Justice Policy Lab at the University of Pennsylvania*. https://nicjr.org/files/galleries/VHRI_Report_Final.pdf

¹⁸ Crifasi, C. K., Jackson, G. N., & Braga, A. A. (2026). Public health and criminal justice to reduce gun violence. *JAMA Health Forum*, 7(4). <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamahealthforum.2026.0213>

¹⁹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2020). Reentry: Effects on the Individual and the Community. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25471>

- Approximately 95% of incarcerated individuals return to their communities, with more than 600,000 people released from state and federal prisons each year.^{20,21}
- Without comprehensive access to safe and affordable housing, mental health resources, substance use treatment and medical care, employment, and support networks, 30% of justice-impacted individuals experience continued exposure to firearm violence and justice system involvement.^{22,23}
- Research continues to emphasize reintegration initiatives that prioritize community connectedness, support ongoing research for subpopulations of justice-impacted individuals, and the implementation of tailored programming.

²⁰ Martin, E., & Garcia, M. (2022). Reentry research at NIJ: Providing robust evidence for high-stakes decision-making. *National Institute of Justice*. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/reentry-research-nij-providing-robust-evidence-high-stakes-decision-making>

²¹ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (n.d.). Incarceration & Reentry. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/human-services/incarceration-reentry-0>

²² Martin, E., & Garcia, M. (2022). Reentry research at NIJ: Providing robust evidence for high-stakes decision-making. *National Institute of Justice*. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/reentry-research-nij-providing-robust-evidence-high-stakes-decision-making>

²³ Reitz, A. C. W., Hawk, S. R., Schwimmer, H. D., Hanna, T., & Payne, D. E. S. (2022). Utilizing a combined hospital and criminal justice database to identify risk factors for repeat firearm injury or violent-crime arrest among firearm victims. *Medicine, Science and the Law*, 63(2). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00258024221103695>

Federal Attacks on Gun Violence Prevention Funding

Since returning to office in 2025, President Donald Trump's Administration has taken numerous steps to dismantle structures for gun violence prevention funding and support. As discussed below, the Trump Administration has targeted established gun violence prevention support in three major and distinct ways:

- Canceling or rescinding gun violence prevention grants,
- Dismantling or closing federal gun violence prevention infrastructure, and
- Shifting away from classifying gun violence as a critical public health crisis.

Grant Funding Cancellation

In April 2025, the Trump Administration announced sweeping cuts to grant programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) aimed at strengthening nationwide public safety initiatives.²⁴ As part of this effort, the DOJ canceled hundreds of grants administered through its Office of Justice Programs, the largest grantmaking component of the DOJ, which

also houses the DOJ's criminal and juvenile justice-related science, statistics, and programmatic agencies.²⁵ Approximately 365 grants totaling roughly \$811 million across crime prevention and victim services programs were rescinded.²⁶ A significant portion of these cuts affected community violence intervention initiatives funded under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) of 2022, passed under the Biden Administration. These programs typically support outreach workers, hospital-based intervention programs for victims of gun violence, and community organizations that mediate conflicts to prevent retaliatory shootings.

"Our desire is to ensure that funding streams stay available to organizations like us and our partners so that we can continue to serve our communities. Unfortunately, recent federal cuts have affected our work, including DOJ reductions. This has placed a tremendous strain on our work. But as we know, the Commonwealth has always led in these spaces.

- Ana Victoria Morales,
Policy Director, UTEC

Within these broader cuts, dozens of grants directly tied to gun violence prevention were eliminated. Approximately 69 community violence intervention grants, worth about \$158 million, were terminated, affecting organizations across the country. Some related programs that indirectly address gun-violence risk factors have also been scaled back or canceled. These include school mental-health and safety grants connected to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, as well as broader public-safety and victim-services grants managed by the Department of Justice. Because many prevention strategies rely on mental-health services, youth intervention

²⁴ Akua Amaning and Allie Preston, "The Trump Administration's Unprecedented Cuts to DOJ Grants Undermine Public Safety," *Center for American Progress*, May 5, 2025, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administrations-unprecedented-cuts-to-doj-grants-undermine-public-safety/>.

²⁵ Office of Justice Programs, "About Us," *U.S. Department of Justice*, accessed March 16, 2026, <https://www.ojp.gov/about>.

²⁶ Amaning and Preston, "The Trump Administration's Unprecedented Cuts."

programs, and community outreach, reductions in these areas can also affect broader efforts to prevent gun violence.

While the Commission heard significant testimony from community-based organizations outlining the effects of these federal cuts, it is difficult to determine how many organizations in Massachusetts lost funding from federal streams, particularly due to the targeted and sudden revocation of federal grants by the Trump Administration since January 2025. However, the testimony received by the Commission makes clear that federal cuts to violence prevention programs have seriously affected the entirety of violence prevention work throughout the Commonwealth.

Dismantling of Federal Program/Office Working Toward Gun Violence Prevention

On his first day in office, President Trump officially closed the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention (WHOGVP).²⁷ Established by President Biden in September of 2023, WHOGVP helped to coordinate federal gun violence prevention efforts while assisting state and local governments in doing the same.²⁸ Led by Vice President Kamala Harris, WHOGVP was tasked with coordinating the federal response to mass shootings and concentrations of community gun violence, expanding state and local partnerships to help reduce gun violence, developing and implementing executive action on gun safety and implementing BSCA and other federal gun violence prevention laws.²⁹ Without a dedicated office to oversee and coordinate the federal response to gun violence, initiatives and collaborations across state and federal governments to strengthen support for gun violence prevention were effectively halted, now making it significantly more difficult for organizations and individuals engaged in violence prevention work to achieve reductions in the incidents of gun violence in the absence of critical federal funding.

“When young adults are involved in community violence or the justice system, we need to ask what circumstances led them to pick up a gun or a case instead of asking what’s wrong with them.”

- John Depina, Director of Advocacy and Engagement, More Than Words

²⁷ Emily Woods, “Statement on President Trump Eliminating the Office of Gun Violence Prevention,” *CeaseFirePA News*, January 22, 2025, <https://www.ceasefirepa.org/statement-on-president-trump-eliminating-the-office-of-gun-violence-prevention/>.

²⁸ “What the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention Has Accomplished In Its First Year,” *Everytown for Gun Safety*, September 20, 2024, <https://www.everytown.org/white-house-office-of-gun-violence-prevention-accomplished-first-year/>.

²⁹ “What the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention Has Accomplished.”

Shifting Away from Public Health Framework

In July 2024, then U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued an advisory officially recognizing firearm violence as a critical public health crisis.^{30, 31} The public health approach to addressing gun violence is a comprehensive strategy that focuses on prevention, intervention, and policy change to reduce the incidence and impact of firearm-related injuries and deaths. This approach is grounded in scientific evidence and aims to treat gun violence as a preventable issue rather than an inevitable part of society.³² The advisory also called for increased research funding, improved mental health access, and prevention strategies like community interventions to combat gun violence.³³

However, under the Trump Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) removed the Surgeon General's advisory declaring gun violence as a public health issue. The guidance is no longer available on the HHS webpage and instead populates an error message to users seeking the advisory.³⁴ The Trump administration asserted that gun violence should primarily be treated as a criminal-justice issue rather than a public-health problem. This shift away from gun violence as a public health crisis has reduced support for research and public-health-based prevention strategies that focus on risk factors such as mental health, community conditions, and social services.

“In terms of federal funding cuts, there is such an instability for us as organizations when we are trying to provide stability to the people we work with. It’s very challenging and troubling for us to work through year, after year, after year.

- Deborah Fallon Romvos, Founder,
Portal to Hope

³⁰ Institute for Policy Research, “U.S. Surgeon General Declares Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis,” *Northwestern University*, August 1, 2024,

<https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2024/surgeon-general-declares-gun-violence-public-health-crisis.html#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Surgeon%20General%20declared,from%20five%20IPR%20faculty>.

³¹ Office of the Surgeon General, *Firearm Violence: A Public Health Crisis in America: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2024), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK605169/>.

³² Center for Gun Violence Solutions, “The Public Health Approach to Prevent Gun Violence,” *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*, accessed March 16, 2026,

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/our-work/the-public-health-approach-to-prevent-gun-violence>.

³³ Amanda Friedman, “Trump Removes Gun Violence Public Health Advisory,” *Politico*, March 17, 2025,

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/17/trump-gun-violence-public-health-advisory-00234171>.

³⁴ “Firearm Violence Advisory,” *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, accessed March 16, 2026, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/firearm-violence-advisory.pdf> (page no longer available).

Current State Structures for Gun Violence Prevention and Preliminary Allocated Funding

Program Name	Executive Office/Agency	Description	FY26 Funding	FY27 H2 Funding
Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI)	Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families	SSYI is a comprehensive, interagency strategy that connects law enforcement, employment, education, public health and youth development agencies to reduce youth violence in the Commonwealth. SSYI requires the implementation of a coordinated intervention strategy focused on “proven risk youth”, young men (age 14-24) identified by each city as the highest risk individuals for being perpetrators or victims of violence, and their families. Serves Boston, Brockton, Chelsea, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Springfield, and Worcester.	\$13.2M	\$12.47M
Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Program	Department of Public Health, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention	The GVP program works with grantees in 15 communities across the Commonwealth to help youth avoid violence, conflict and injury among youth ages 17 through 24. Through a racial equity and trauma-informed lens, funded partners provide critical support, such as close connections with trustworthy adults, opportunities to learn new skills, and access to employment training and/or opportunities.	\$10.09M	\$10.11M

Program Name	Executive Office/Agency	Description	FY26 Funding	FY27 H2 Funding
HEAL Primary Violence Prevention Grant Program	Department of Public Health, Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Division of Violence and Injury Prevention	The Primary Violence Prevention Grant Program offers developmentally and age-appropriate support services to youth between the ages of 10-15 who are at high risk for violence, but are not yet necessarily engaging in violence. Grantees ensure youth have increased access to adult (and near peer) mentors to help strengthen the skills needed to make positive decisions, advance education equity, and deliver in or after-school learning opportunities, employment, and social support for youth through exposure to different careers and/or age-appropriate hands-on experiences in employment and school settings.	\$2.55M	\$2.55M
Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI)	Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research	The Shannon Community Safety Initiative is a multi-pronged approach to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. The program focuses on five strategy areas: social intervention, suppression, opportunity provision, organizational change, and community mobilization.	\$10.1M	\$10.1M

Program Name	Executive Office/Agency	Description	FY26 Funding	FY27 H2 Funding
Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (EARI)	Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research	EARI provides funding for reentry programming for young adults with the goal of reducing recidivism and increasing public safety. Funding is available to help community reentry program sites provide pre- and post-release services to the target individuals and to work closely with a correctional partner to identify, serve and monitor program participants. A Technical Assistance Provider provides strategic, analytic, technical and research support for each program site. The Technical Assistance Provider is also funded through this grant.	\$7.03M	\$6.9M
Community and Reinvestment Grant Program (CERG)*	Executive Office of Economic Development	Develops, strengthens, and invests in community-led efforts to bring positive economic outcomes to communities that face historically disproportionate challenges to economic growth. Specifically, the program was developed to support communities with high rates of criminal justice system involvement, widespread poverty, and large groups of disadvantaged and underrepresented populations. The program has made general operating grants, on a competitive basis, primarily to projects proposing to mitigate the negative impacts of criminal justice involvement through education, training, and small business development, as well as	\$0	\$0

Program Name	Executive Office/Agency	Description	FY26 Funding	FY27 H2 Funding
		recovery, prevention, and other social support services to individuals and families, to help reduce justice system involvement. The program does not fund capital projects or purchases, including but not limited to real property purchase and/or renovation.		

*The CERG program is no longer active as of FY26.

“In Massachusetts, state support for our programs has been essential... these investments make it possible to reach the hardest to reach youth: young people most likely to shoot one another, young people who drive the most violence in the cities that we serve, and those who cannot be served by short-term and traditional programs.”

- Carl Miranda, Director, Roca Boston

Recommendations and Findings of the Commission

The Commission finds that there has been a significant reduction in funding available to community-based violence prevention organizations since President Donald Trump returned to office in 2025, and that state budgetary concerns make it increasingly difficult to recoup this funding and federal support. Additionally, based on testimony heard by the Commission, the Commission finds that firearm violence is a public health issue that must be addressed through the stabilization of social determinants of health, such as access to basic necessities, housing, food security, and legal support. The

“Secure funding allows us to provide for safe places for dialogue, mentorship, and community building. It ensures that individuals have the opportunity to live without fear and can contribute positively to society.”

- Jarix Santiago, Co-Chief,
Youth Department,
New North Citizens Council Inc.

Commission also acknowledges that certain populations are disproportionately impacted by gun violence; identifying priority populations for gun violence prevention services: communities of color, youth and young adults, families of homicide victims, and justice-impacted people. The Commission makes the following recommendations to strengthen state funding opportunities to prevent gun violence:

1. Conduct an audit of gun violence prevention and intervention funding.

- ★ A comprehensive audit of Massachusetts' gun violence prevention and intervention funding is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of current financial frameworks.
- **Why this matters:** By critically evaluating these funding structures, the Commonwealth can strategically reallocate resources to maximize its impact, especially in light of recent federal cuts.

2. Stabilize and increase existing, core state funding streams that support evidence-based community violence intervention.

- ★ Rather than creating new funding opportunities, the Commonwealth should focus on strengthening existing funding streams.
- **Why this matters:** Established programs – such as Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) and Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative (EARI) – exist in the community and have already enabled real-world impact. Greater investment in these programs will allow them to continue their work, expand their services, and access a greater number of Massachusetts residents. These programs already have the infrastructure in place to support violence prevention efforts, but must be stabilized in order to continue their meaningful work. Multiple Massachusetts community-based programs have seen firsthand that longer-term, street-outreach-centered engagements most effectively serve high-risk youth in our state.

3. Prioritize multi-year funding and predictability for programs to retain skilled staff and maintain trust with the populations they serve.

- ★ Massachusetts is home to numerous gun violence prevention and intervention programs that possess invaluable expertise in serving vulnerable communities.
- **Why this matters:** To amplify the impact of these initiatives, it is crucial to secure consistent funding across multiple fiscal years. This stability will empower organizations to allocate resources more effectively, sustain vital services and expand their offerings.

4. Prioritize funding for basic necessities like food, toiletries, and laundry to support basic needs for young people involved in ongoing cycles of gun violence.

- ★ Access to food, toiletries, and laundry doesn't directly "stop" gun violence, but it addresses root conditions that make violence more likely: instability, stress, exclusion, and lack of opportunity.
- **Why this matters:** Basic necessities and essentials affect stability, dignity, and daily stress levels, all of which shape whether conflicts escalate or are avoided. Programs that provide meals, laundry access, or hygiene supplies often double as safe spaces because they keep young people off the streets during high-risk hours, connect youth with mentors and support networks, and offer structure and supervision – this reduces exposure to situations where gun violence is more likely.

5. Prioritize funding for family-centered trauma response and peacebuilding programs

- ★ Families and communities are profoundly impacted by homicide—they are currently underserved and deserve to be centered and integrated into current violence prevention initiatives. It is critical to prioritize funding to ensure stabilization and support services for survivors of homicide are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, include mental health care and grief support services, and are delivered with dignity and compassion.
- **Why this matters:** For every homicide, there are at least 50 to 100 family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and community members who are affected. A successful approach to address the full scope of harm gun violence causes must invest not only in those at highest risk, but also in the families and communities who carry the lasting impact that murder, trauma, grief, and loss bring, to foster healing, restoration, and peace.

“As a grassroots nonprofit, it’s difficult to focus on grants when dealing with saving lives... Silos through grants make it hard for us to do our work. The process needs to be easier.”

– Emmanuel Williams, Executive Director, Transformational Prison Project

6. Create mechanisms for immediate assistance, including temporary housing stabilization, transportation, IDs, emergency food, short-term financial support, relocation when needed, and legal services.

★ Funding structures must improve access to rapid, flexible supports for the highest-risk clients. There is an opportunity to advance the efforts of existing violence prevention programs that relate to social factors, as resources currently allocated in this area may also be deployed to improve access to rapid support for high-risk individuals. Community partners engaged in this work can contribute to the dialogue about the best practices for creating pathways for immediate assistance.

→ **Why this matters:** Gun violence is a critical public health issue, linked to the social determinants of health.³⁵ As such, violence prevention programs in the Commonwealth must support additional initiatives to address social determinants of health in targeted communities. Additionally, communities themselves possess the capacity to connect high-risk individuals to coordinated support during critical times of crisis. By devising immediate crisis intervention strategies that address social factors, such as transportation or shelter, violence prevention organizations can better serve the emergent needs of the highest-risk community members. The Commonwealth must have the infrastructure in place to rapidly meet these needs.

7. Ensure access to cash-flow advances, unrestricted funds, simplified applications, coverage of indirect costs, and faster reimbursements.

★ The Commonwealth must work to reduce barriers to violence prevention funding, including unrestricted funds, in order to support the work of smaller, grassroots efforts to address gun violence.

→ **Why this matters:** Many of the most effective violence prevention efforts are run by small, community-based groups. Without access to supports like cash-flow advances, unrestricted funds, indirect cost coverage, simplified applications, and faster reimbursements, those groups could be locked out or financially strained. These resources are crucial to supporting highly effective intervention strategies within high-risk communities.

8. Ensure education/training, and employment programs lead to livable-wage incomes in high-demand jobs across the Commonwealth, supporting pathways out of poverty.

★ Poverty alone doesn't cause violence. But concentrated, long-term poverty combined with lack of opportunity and systemic inequality increases the risk factors associated with gun violence.

³⁵ Kim, D. (2019). Social Determinants of health in relation to firearm-related homicides in the United States: A nationwide multilevel cross-sectional study. *PLOS Medicine*, 16(12). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002978>

- **Why this matters:** Addressing poverty is a major part of long-term gun violence prevention strategies. The Commonwealth can make a significant impact in reducing the rate of gun violence by investing in job programs, particularly for high-risk youth, raising wages, and improving employment opportunities.

9. Support and incentivize training and credentialing pathways for behavioral health specialists who reflect the culture of BIPOC populations.

- ★ Gun violence cannot be prevented through funding alone, and legislation alone cannot heal communities. Communities also need behavioral health support from trusted groups and individuals to prevent violence before it occurs.
- **Why this matters:** Gun violence is a result of untreated trauma, lack of opportunity, and behavioral patterns shaped by survival. As such, prevention must include

trauma-informed care and behavioral support from people with lived experience to foster trust between the community and organization staff

“Gun violence is a result of untreated trauma, lack of opportunity, and behavioral patterns shaped by survival. Prevention must include trauma-informed care, and behavioral support. We have to address the root causes, not just the symptoms.”

- Ruth Rollins, Founder and CEO,
We Are Better Together
Warren Daniel Hairston Project

10. Support and expand primary violence prevention services for young people.

★ Primary violence prevention reaches young people before trauma, justice involvement, or cycles of violence can take hold. Investing in prevention means fewer families devastated by loss, fewer young people

incarcerated, and stronger, more resilient communities.

- **Why this matters:** Young people are the experts on their experiences with violence. Directly engaging youth in violence prevention helps them make healthy choices, be a voice for change in their communities and schools, advise community and school decision-makers on strategies to effectively prevent violence, and promotes respect and empathy among their family, friends, and peers.³⁶

11. Establish clear distinctions between gun violence prevention and intervention funding.

- ★ Establishing clear distinctions between gun violence prevention and intervention funding ensures that upstream, primary prevention programs serving youth are not competing for the same limited dollars as crisis intervention and reentry services.
- **Why this matters:** Prevention and intervention serve different populations and require different programmatic approaches, timelines, and measures of success. A comprehensive community approach recognizes that no single program is sufficient and there are many

³⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention . (2024, October 29). *Preventing youth violence*. Youth Violence Prevention . <https://www.cdc.gov/youth-violence/prevention/index.html>

opportunities for effective prevention, each of which require individual funding and support.³⁷

³⁷ American Psychological Association. (2013). Gun violence: Prediction, Prevention, and Policy. <https://www.apa.org/pubs/reports/gun-violence-prevention>

Appendix A
September 25th Commission Meeting Materials

Special Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding
List of Testifying Organizations
September 25, 2025 Hearing

- I. **Transformational Prison Project**
 - A. The Transformational Prison Project’s mission is to encourage healing and accountability by facilitating restorative dialogue between those responsible for harm and those who have experienced harm.
- II. **Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA) Inc**
 - A. LYSOA Inc. was founded to provide relief to distressed and unprivileged youth in Lynn, MA and to combat juvenile delinquency.
- III. **We Are Better Together Warren Daniel Hairston Project**
 - A. We Are Better Together Warren Daniel Hairston Project (WAB2G) connects and heals women and girls affected by homicide and incarceration to prevent the cycles of violence and victimization.
- IV. **Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence**
 - A. The MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence was conceived shortly after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school in December 2012 as a way to bring together stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to work to address all forms of gun violence.
- V. **More Than Words**
 - A. More Than Words is a nonprofit social enterprise that empowers system-involved youth to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business.
- VI. **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**
 - A. The LDB Peace Institute assists and empowers survivors of homicide victims.
- VII. **Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs**
 - A. The Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is a group of nearly 40 independent Boys & Girls Club organizations operating throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Alliance was formed in 2000 for the purpose of seeking and sharing financial and program opportunities to help better serve Massachusetts youth.
- VIII. **UTEC**
 - A. UTEC’s mission and promise is to ignite and nurture the ambition of our most disconnected young people to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. Today, UTEC serves Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill, MA. Through funding provided by the Department of Public Health in partnership with Health Resources in Action, UTEC launched the Gun Violence Prevention Training Center for Excellence (TC4E) in 2019 to address gun violence through both a public health and racial equity lens.

IX. Roca

- A. Roca's mission is to relentlessly disrupt violence by engaging young people, police, and systems to heal trauma, find hope, and drive change. Roca has worked with young people since 1988. Roca has five sites throughout Massachusetts, including Chelsea, Boston, Lynn, Springfield, and Holyoke.

X. Portal to Hope

- A. Portal to Hope provides services to people whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault.

XI. New North Citizens' Council

- A. NNCC's mission is to provide advocacy, public & human services to preserve and support families, resulting in the improvement of quality of life, with an emphasis on the multicultural community. NNCC serves Springfield, MA and adjacent communities within Hampden County.

XII. Shannon Community Safety Initiative

- A. The Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is aimed at reducing gang violence through evidence-based approaches in communities across the Commonwealth.

Investing in Partnerships, Enhancing Public



Terrence Reidy
Secretary
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



Kevin Stanton
Executive Director
Office of Grants and Research

Our Work

OGR manages over \$279 million in state and federal funds to address issues related to justice & prevention, homeland security and traffic safety

State-funded violence prevention grant programs include:

- Shannon Community Safety Initiative
- Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative (Commonwealth PSN)
- Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative
- Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program
- Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Our Impact

Commonwealth PSN and Shannon Community Safety Initiative emphasize the critical role of community engagement and partnerships

Commonwealth PSN provides funds for DA's Offices to be split between enforcement and intervention, prevention or diversion programs. A portion of State Police's award must be used toward youth outreach.

In 2024 and 2025, Commonwealth PSN led to:

- 130 illegal firearms seized
- 108 kilograms of narcotics confiscated
- Over \$627,000 in suspected drug proceeds recovered

A National Model for Violence Prevention: Successes of the Shannon Community Safety Initiative in Massachusetts

Renée Contreras

Associate Director of Programs

Crime and Justice Policy Lab

September 25, 2025

Northeastern
University



Crime and Justice Policy Lab
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

SHANNON
COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE





Building Safer Communities

Massachusetts is a national leader in **addressing violence as both a public safety and public health issue.**

The state's comprehensive approach focuses on **diverting youth from pathways that lead to violence or gang involvement** through primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention.

Shannon plays a vital role in this **holistic strategy**, working to support youth and reduce violence in impacted communities.

Shannon CSI

Shannon serves as a national model for community-based violence prevention through:

1. **Sustained State Investment** – Now approaching its 20th anniversary, Shannon represents long-standing state investment in impacted communities to reduce youth involvement in gangs and violent crime.
2. **Integration of Prevention, Intervention, and Research** – Shannon emphasizes a balanced approach to ensure evidence-based practice and grant compliance.
3. **Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration** – The initiative fosters strong partnerships between law enforcement and youth-serving agencies.



Shannon Core

1

Multi-disciplinary collaborators focused on reducing gang violence in communities with the highest need

25 Funded Communities: Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg/Gardner, Haverhill/Methuen, Holyoke/Chicopee, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Metro Mayors Coalition (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop), New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Worcester

145 partners organizations including local state and nonprofit organizations

157 full-time equivalent positions across Massachusetts

2

Statewide and local research partners that provide strategic, analytic, and research support to Shannon sites

15 Local Action Research Partners (LARPs) paired with Shannon sites

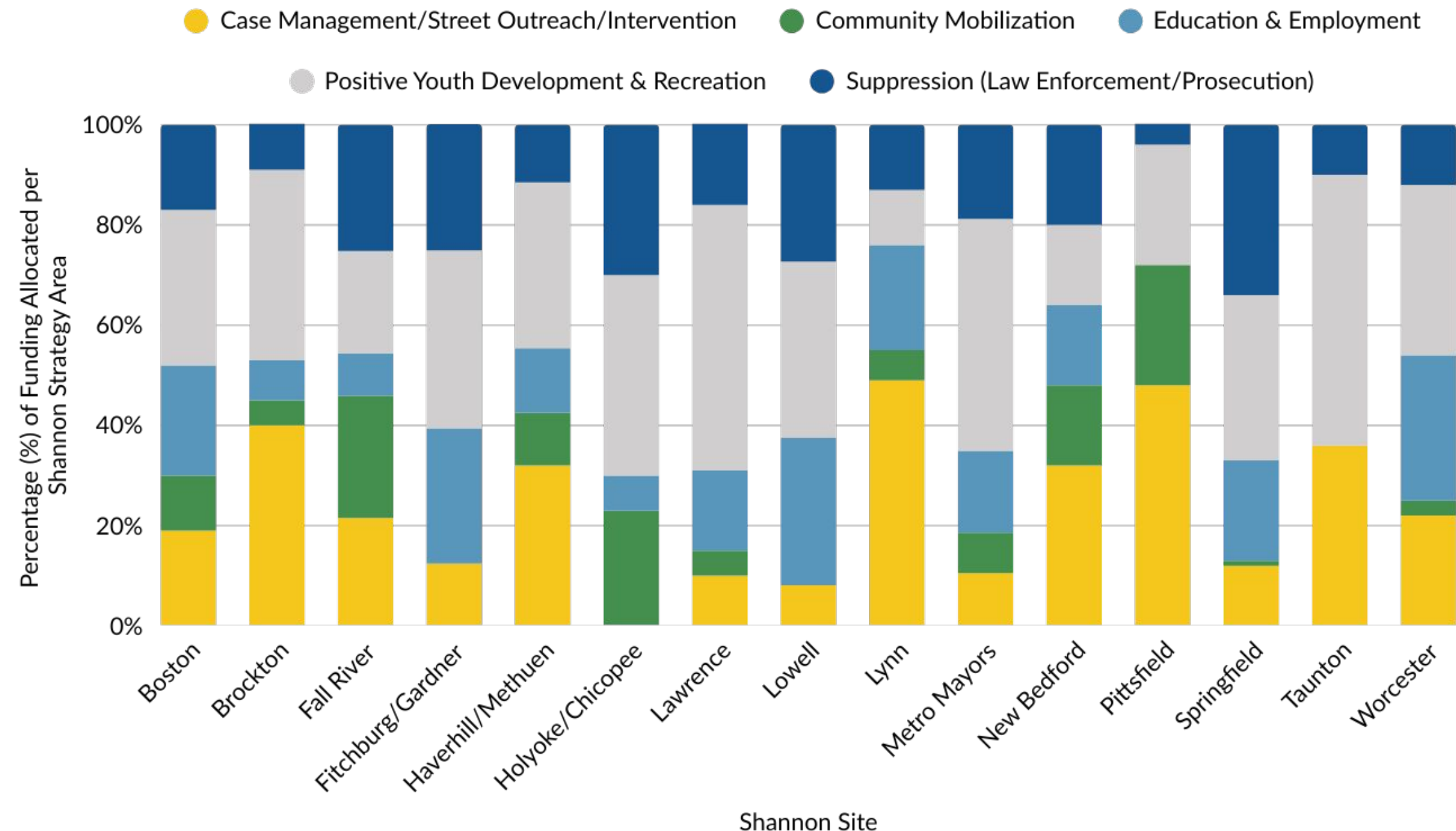
1 Statewide Research Partner that supports OGR, LARPs, and all funded Shannon sites

Shannon Context

Group/Gang Activity and Youth Membership	Youth Arrests in Shannon-funded Communities
Across Massachusetts, groups/gangs are primarily involved in drug trafficking, associated violence, weapons possession, and property damage. Notably, social media platforms are increasingly used to recruit younger members. In 2024, Shannon-funded police departments reported over 350 active groups/gangs in their communities, involving more than 10,500 active members—over 4,000 of whom were between the ages of 10 and 24.	Between 2020 and 2024, Shannon-funded communities saw significant reductions in youth arrests, including a 15% decrease for simple assaults, a 52% drop for robberies, and a 24% decline for aggravated assaults. While these trends are promising, further analysis is needed to establish a clear association between Shannon programming and the decline in youth arrests within focal communities.

Funding Allocation by Site

In 2024, Shannon awarded \$10.9 million to high-need communities (reduced to \$8.5 million in 2025). Modeled after OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, the grant program focuses on **5 key strategy areas** as indicated below.





COMMUNITY IMPACT

2024 GRANT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

“This grant has been such a blessing to the youth of Lynn. Being able to provide the much-needed resources that youth need to succeed in life has produced such positive results. The program is growing, more youth attend, more families are involved, and things are looking much brighter!”

*-Lynn Housing Authority and
Neighborhood Development*

Sample Program Data

Strategy and Outcome	Jan-May 2025	2024	Percent of 2024
Positive youth development & recreation			
# of youth who participated in youth development programs	7,456	11,069	67%
# of youth who participated in recreation programs	8,431	11,452	74%
Case management, street outreach, or intervention			
# of youth who received case management services	1,845	3,588	51%
# of youth who received street outreach services	957	1,124	85%
Education & employment			
# of youth participated in education programs	3,837	5,766	67%
# of youth participated in employment programs	1,072	2,826	38%
Suppression			
# of hot spot patrols completed	300	4,027	7%
# of law enforcement supported home visits	108	483	22%
Community mobilization			
# of community members attended events, meetings & presentations	19,829	50,954	39%
# of community events, meetings & presentations held	667	1,493	45%



28,250 +

YOUTH SERVED IN

64,712 + youth served since start of Healey administration

2024

\$385.24 invested per

youth across all services in 2024

“Youth and families have a different image of law enforcement because they have the opportunity to see police in a different capacity, and they can see that the officers genuinely care about the youth.”

-Shoot Hoops C3, Springfield



“A young man was referred to us several years ago. His family is gang-involved, but he was doing everything he could to avoid being drawn into the lifestyle. He was getting ready to graduate from Lawrence High School and was interested in continuing his education, as well as learning music.

Our team helped him enroll at Northern Essex Community College (NECC). He attends classes in the morning and works with us in the afternoon. He mastered the embroidery and screen-printing shops and was soon teaching others. Over the summer, he was promoted to a peer mentor and shop supervisor.

He continues to serve as a role model to other participants. He is still enrolled at NECC and has been learning the piano.”

Key Research Activities

In 2024, \$1 million (reduced to \$880K in 2025) supported research activities at Shannon sites. Research partners:

- Conduct regular **community risk assessments** to identify priority areas and inform strategic planning.
- Lead and facilitate **group/gang audits** in collaboration with law enforcement partners to support data-driven interventions.
- Provide **technical assistance** to grantees to ensure accurate and timely reporting in compliance with Shannon requirements.
- **Promote the use of the validated Shannon Individual Risk Assessment (IRA)** to strengthen consistent evaluation and services





To Learn More...

- Visit shannoncsi.com
- Scan the following QR code to access our Shannon site briefs on mass.gov (under Program Impact)



For Grant Opportunities visit: mass.gov/ogr