

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research**



**State Fiscal Year 2025
Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative**

Report to the Massachusetts General Court
Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means

September 2025

**Maura T. Healey
Governor**

**Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor**

**Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary**

**Kevin J. Stanton
Executive Director**

Introduction

Legislation – 8000-0601

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY25 Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

OGR is a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research
- Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office

In addition to managing and administering state-funded criminal justice, homeland security, and traffic safety grant programs, OGR is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grant funding received by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In total, the agency manages more than \$279 million in grant funds annually. Additionally, OGR's Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which houses the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;
- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and
- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal

and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report authored by OGR regarding the FY25 Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2025 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) inviting District Attorney's Offices and Massachusetts State Police (MSP) to apply for funds. The relevant appropriation language states:

8000-0601 For the operation of the project safe neighborhood grant program; provided, that not later than March 3, 2025, the executive office of public safety and security shall submit a report to the joint committee on public safety and homeland security and the house and senate committees on ways and means which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) established grant criteria for the program; (ii) a list of grant applicants; (iii) a list of successful grant applicants, including grant amounts; and (iv) summaries of the successful grant proposals

FY25 marks the second year that the Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative was made available for this program to address gang-related violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use and distribution.

Applicant Eligibility

Program eligibility was limited to Massachusetts District Attorney's Offices and MSP.

Allowable Funding Purposes

The purpose of this funding was to address community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use and distribution.

District Attorney's Offices seeking funding were required to allot a minimum of 25 percent of their grant budget to prevention, intervention, and/or diversion type programming and a maximum of 75 percent of total funds to enforcement and suppression. MSP was invited to submit separate proposals covering different areas of the Commonwealth that they determined to have greatest need. Additionally, MSP was required to submit at least one application that included a youth-based prevention component.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs included but were not limited to:

- Personnel and fringe costs;
- Overtime for suppression/investigation/enforcement efforts;
- Subawards to local police departments and/or nonprofits;
- Consultants to provide services or training to address key priority areas;
- Small equipment items such as protective gear for officers in the field, surveillance cameras, etc.; and

- Materials needed for evidence-based youth prevention or diversion programming.

Application Process

A competitive application process was held in accordance with the following timetable:

Solicitation Posted: Wednesday, August 21, 2024
 Original Application Deadline: September 18, 2024, by 4:00 pm.
 Extended Application Deadline: September 20, 2024, by 4:00 pm.
 Anticipated Award Announcements: October 2024
 Grant Award Period: November 2024 – June 30, 2025

Review Process

Each application was reviewed by three members of the review committee. In the application review meeting, the review team discussed the quality, feasibility, and reasonableness of each application’s: (1) definition of problem, (2) proposed strategy, and (3) budget. The review form provided to reviewers detailed items to be rated and the possible point allowance for each element.

Recommendations provided by the review team were then cross-referenced with funding criteria listed within the FY25 Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood Initiative AGF. These criteria included:

- A needs assessment, including the use of data to demonstrate need and a description of how requested programming addresses the stated need;
- A narrative that clearly describes the items to be purchased and/or programming to be implemented, and the benefits to the agency and/or community;
- Implementation plan and timeline that are feasible and ensure the initiative will be implemented and completed within the anticipated grant period; and
- A detailed, reasonable, relevant, and complete budget.

Awarded Funds

Award Recipient	Award Amount	Project Description
Berkshire County District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Berkshire District Attorney's Office requested funding to increase law enforcement capabilities by purchasing equipment to enhance the State Police Detective Unit's Digital Forensic Evidence Lab.
Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office	\$124,305.63	The Cape and Islands District Attorney’s Office requested funding to allow local police departments and the State Police Detective Unit to obtain equipment to augment investigative capabilities.

Hampden County District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Hampden District Attorney's Office requested funding for overtime task forces, state and local police to coordinate enforcement and suppression efforts in identified areas of concern.
Middle (Worcester County) District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Middle District Attorney's Office requested funding to address community-based criminal activity related to gang violence, illegal firearms, and narcotics use and distribution in the City of Worcester.
Norfolk County District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Norfolk District Attorney's Office requested funding to support the Randolph Police Department's efforts to reduce gang, narcotics, and gun violence in Randolph.
Northwestern District Attorney's Office	\$100,000.00	The Northwestern District Attorney's Office requested funding to conduct targeted surveillance and other enforcement strategies of high drug areas and high-value targets to stem the flow of illegal narcotics and firearms in the district.
Plymouth County District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Plymouth District Attorney's Office requested funding to purchase two Cellebrite Inseyets annual licenses to increase MSP's access to critical digital evidence.
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office	\$125,000.00	The Suffolk District Attorney's Office requested funding to enhance its violence prevention and suppression efforts, particularly in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by gun violence, gang activity, and narcotics distribution.
Massachusetts State Police – Barnstable/Brockton/Fall River	\$200,000.00	The MSP requested funding for suppression of gun violence, targeting impact players deemed most violent, cooling “hot spots,” and increasing community safety in the cities of Fall River, Brockton, and Barnstable.
Massachusetts State Police - Boston	\$120,000.00	The MSP requested funding for suppression of gun violence, targeting impact players deemed most violent, cooling “hot spots,” and increasing community safety in the City of Boston.

Massachusetts State Police – Hot Spots	\$100,000.00	The MSP requested funding for suppression of gun violence, targeting impact players deemed most violent, cooling “hot spots,” and increasing community safety in identified priority areas across the Commonwealth.
Massachusetts State Police – Lawrence/Lynn	\$160,000.00	The MSP requested funding for suppression of gun violence, targeting impact players deemed most violent, cooling “hot spots,” and increasing community safety in the cities of Lawrence and Lynn.
Massachusetts State Police - Springfield/Holyoke	\$160,000.00	The MSP requested funding for suppression of gun violence, targeting impact players deemed most violent, cooling “hot spots,” and increasing community safety in the cities of Springfield and Holyoke.
Massachusetts State Police - Youth Programming	\$185,000.00	The MSP requested funding to implement new programs or expand existing MSP TEAM programs across the Commonwealth, particularly in cities and communities participating under the MSP Gang Unit PSN Initiative such as Boston, Lawrence, Brockton, Holyoke, Worcester, and Springfield.

Disbursement and Administrative Costs

As all recipients are state agencies, OGR funding was disbursed via Interdepartmental Service Agreements.

A total of \$100,000 was initially set aside for OGR administrative costs and subsequently reduced to \$80,000.