

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



**State Fiscal Year 2026
Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative**

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

June 2026

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Governor**

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Introduction

Legislation – 8100-0111

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY26 Shannon Community Safety 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

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 FY26 Shannon Community Safety Initiative.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2026 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) inviting applications from geographically-based, multi-disciplinary collaborators working to address gang violence in their area to apply for funds through the Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI). The relevant appropriation language states:

8100-0111 For a grant program to be known as the Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. community safety initiative, to be administered by the executive office of public safety and security to support 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; provided, that the secretary of public safety and security shall distribute grant funds through a competitive grant program that gives preference to applications that: (i) demonstrate high levels of youth violence, gang problems and substance use in a region; (ii) 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; (iii) clearly 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; (iv) 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; (v) make a written commitment to match grant funds with a 25 per cent match provided by either municipal or private contributions; and (vi) identify a local governmental unit to serve as the fiscal agent; provided further, that clusters of municipalities, in partnership with nonprofit organizations and other agencies, including district attorneys' offices, may apply for such grant funds; provided further, that such grant funds shall be considered 1-time grants awarded to public agencies and shall not annualize into fiscal year 2027 or subsequent years; provided further, that administrative costs for successful grant applications shall not exceed 10 per cent of the value of the grant; provided further, that no grant funds shall be awarded to the department of state police; provided further, that not later than August 15, 2025, the executive office shall publish guidelines and an application for the competitive portion of the grant fund program; provided further, that not later than December 16, 2025, grant funds shall be made available to applicants; provided further, that not later than 60 days after the distribution of grant funds, the executive office shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing the distribution of grant funds; and provided further, that not later than March 3, 2026, the office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (a) the number of young adults served by the grant program during fiscal year 2026; (b) executive summaries of the programs currently operating under the grant

program; and (c) outcomes and findings that demonstrate program success from the grant awards from fiscal year 2025..... \$10,087,424

Allocated funding was used to fund three program elements – Program Sites, Local Action Research Partners (LARP), and Statewide Research Partner (SRP). A separate, competitive application process is offered annually for each element of the program.

Shannon CSI Program Sites: The Shannon CSI program sites take a multi-pronged approach to address a community’s gang and youth violence problem. The program supports regional, multi-disciplinary collaborations combating gang violence through coordinated prevention, intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reentry programs. Shannon CSI incorporates the key elements of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model. The program supports regional, multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention, intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reentry programs. Program partners may include state, local, and nonprofit organizations, with one municipal partner serving as the fiscal agent for the Shannon CSI program site. Funding that was allocated in the FY25 state budget to support programming in publicly funded housing sites within communities receiving Shannon CSI funding was not included in the FY26 budget language. As a result, this program element was not included in the FY26 Shannon CSI.

Shannon CSI LARPs: A LARP is funded to support each Shannon CSI program site. The LARP assists the Shannon CSI site program director, steering committee, and funded program partners by providing strategic thinking, critical analysis, and continuous feedback to improve or maintain program operations and ensure that the goals of the funded Shannon CSI programs are within scope, on schedule, and within budget.

Shannon CSI SRP: One SRP is selected to assist all funded Shannon CSI sites, Local Action Research Partners (LARPs), and OGR by providing strategic, analytic, and research support.

This approach provides strong research-backed support for Shannon CSI Program Sites and promotes effective, evidence-based programming to better address the needs of communities impacted by gang violence.

Funding for the Shannon CSI was reduced to \$10,087,424 in FY26. The FY25 state budget allocated \$13,332,730 for the Shannon program, which included \$400,000 to target violence in publicly funded housing sites that was not included in the FY26 state budget. The FY25 budget also allocated \$75,000 of the program funding to the Racism-based Violence Injury & Prevention Lab at Boston College to “conduct a study evaluating the impacts of early life trauma on those incarcerated in the commonwealth for violent offenses[.]”

As a result of limited available funds, awards for each Program Site and most LARPs were lower in FY26 than in FY25.

Applicant Eligibility

OGR encouraged a municipal entity to serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent of the applicant program site. Applicants were expected to demonstrate the gang violence issues faced by their community and a collaborative effort within the applicant's municipality or region.

Public and quasi-public entities or nonprofit research entities established to fulfill a primary public purpose were eligible to apply for LARP funding.

Allowable Funding Purposes

The Shannon CSI is a multi-pronged approach to address gang and youth violence through coordinated programs for prevention and intervention, coordinated law enforcement responses including regional gang task forces and regional crime mapping strategies, focused prosecutions, and reintegration strategies for prior offenders. The program incorporates key elements of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model. Research partners utilize funding to provide strategic, analytic, technical, and research support.

Allowable Costs

Allowable costs fall into the following cost categories:

- Personnel costs,
- Contractors/Consultants,
- Subawards,
- Equipment, and
- Supplies.

Application Process

Competitive application processes were held for the Shannon CSI Program Sites and LARPs according to the following schedule:

Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) Posted: August 15, 2026

Deadlines for Questions: September 5, 2025

Proposals Due: September 26, 2025, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Award Announcements: December 2025

Grant Period: January 2026, through December 31, 2026

A competitive application process for the SRP is expected to be held in Spring 2026. The anticipated award amount is \$207,538.62.

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 FY26 Shannon CSI Availability of Grant Funds (AGF). These criteria include:

- Saliency of Gang Violence Problem Statement as depicted by statistical data
- Link between the Gang Violence Problem Statement and the proposed strategy
- Justification for participant eligibility
- Collaboration with other funding sources
- Consistency between the proposed budget and strategy

Due to limited available funding, the review team recommended that all fifteen (15) of the applicants receive partial funding. No applicants were recommended for rejection. Reviewers identified requested costs that were not recommended for funding. After recommended reductions were calculated, OGR made additional reductions of approximately 13.4 percent to all Program Sites.

Additionally, a review team completed this review process for the LARP applications. The team recommended all fifteen (15) research-focused organizations receive either full or partial funding to serve as LARPs for the funded Shannon CSI sites.

Awarded Funds

Funds were allocated in accordance with the following table:

Program Site	Program Site Award Amount	Local Action Research Partner (LARP)	LARP Award Amount
Boston	\$1,073,239	Northeastern University	\$45,710
Brockton	\$647,185	Bridgewater State University	\$45,524
Fall River	\$659,769	Crime and Justice Institute	\$45,712
Fitchburg/ Leominster/Gardner	\$322,082	University of Massachusetts, Chan Medical School	\$45,052
Haverhill/Methuen	\$314,785	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	\$38,156
Holyoke/Chicopee	\$415,951	CERTE Inc., Amherst	\$45,692
Lawrence	\$249,997	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	\$38,156
Lowell	\$612,919	University of Massachusetts, Lowell	\$45,712
Lynn	\$327,223	North Shore Community College	\$33,756
Metro Mayors Coalition (Braintree, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop in collaboration with	\$587,258	Boston University	\$45,626

Program Site	Program Site Award Amount	Local Action Research Partner (LARP)	LARP Award Amount
Metropolitan Area Planning Council)			
New Bedford	\$973,125	Sean Varano, Kingston	\$36,382
Pittsfield	\$340,726	Westfield State University	\$38,148
Springfield	\$860,688	Salem State University	\$41,420
Taunton	\$115,391	Kelley Research Associates, Norwell	\$25,200
Worcester	\$956,588	Clark University	\$45,704

Contracting

In December 2025, the lead applicant/fiscal agent for each Shannon CSI Program Site as well as each LARP was sent a link providing access to contracting materials. These materials included a Standard Contract, Contractor Authorization Signature Listing Form, OGR Subrecipient Grant Conditions, and additional materials.

In January and February 2026, each grantee was sent a copy of its executed Standard Contract, its formal notification to begin incurring costs.

Disbursement

Fifty percent of the approved award is rendered once a contract is executed, all reporting forms from the previous grant cycle are approved, and all unspent funds from the previous year are reverted. To help ensure compliance with grant rules and regulations, the remaining fifty percent is rendered after OGR receives and approves a grantee's first quarterly report.

In accordance with appropriation language, no more than 10 percent of total awards was set aside for administrative costs. A total of \$806,994 was initially set aside for OGR administration but subsequently reduced to \$706,120.