

## **Increase Investment in the California Violence Intervention & Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program**

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** California's local communities are currently suffering from the tragic effects of gun violence. There are a number of local violence reduction, intervention and prevention programs that have had significant success reducing gun violence, and CalVIP is an essential source of funding for these programs. CalVIP enables these programs to sustain life-saving work, particularly in underinvested, black and brown communities which are disproportionately impacted by gun violence. In his 2019 budget, the Governor appropriated \$30 million for 2020 in CalVIP grants but has committed only \$9 million in the proposed 2020 budget. The 2020 CalVIP budget should reflect the need of California's communities. An investment of \$39 million in CalVIP would be appropriate to resource gun violence reduction programs and to support California's most vulnerable communities.
- ❑ **Both the legislature and the Governor prioritized CalVIP funding in 2019, but funding for the program has regressed in the proposed 2020 budget.**
  - Governor Gavin Newsom committed \$30 million in the 2019 budget but has committed only \$9 million to the proposed 2020 budget.
  - The need for increased and sustained funding for local communities remains urgent.
- ❑ **While California is a national leader in gun violence prevention, CalVIP remains underfunded, especially compared to similar programs in other states.**
  - In 2018, when only \$9m in CalVIP funding was available, only 16 out of 120 cities and community-based organizations that submitted grant applications to CalVIP were able to be funded (excluding the City of Los Angeles).
  - If CalVIP funding is capped at \$9m, California will spend only \$0.23 per capita on evidence-based gun violence prevention. By comparison, Massachusetts and New York spend about \$2<sup>1</sup> and \$1<sup>2</sup> per capita, respectively, on their highly successful analogous grant programs. Their substantial investment in local violence reduction strategies has contributed to a drop in gun homicides: the gun homicide rate in Massachusetts and New York are 3 and 2 times lower than California, respectively.<sup>3</sup>
  - To match Massachusetts' per capita investment, California would need to invest \$200 million. The \$39 million appropriation request is a significant, incremental step forward in sustaining gun violence reduction efforts in California.
- ❑ **Failing to address gun violence has both fiscal and moral consequences.**
  - Gun violence brings high health care, law enforcement and criminal justice costs to California taxpayers.
  - The financial burden on the state does not even begin to capture the toll of the lives lost, nor does it account for the effect on local communities, which are often torn apart as a result of gun violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts's Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, Shannan Community Safety Initiative grants, and Department of Public Health youth violence prevention program grants provided at least \$13.9 million in grant funding in FY 2017.

<sup>2</sup> New York's Gun Involved Violence Elimination and SNUG programs awarded \$18.535 million in grant funding in FY 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death. Data reflect a 5-year average (2014-2018) of gun deaths. Analysis includes and homicide including legal intervention.



- These tragic incidents of gun violence disproportionately affect Black Californians, who are 10 times more likely to die by gun homicide than their white neighbors<sup>4</sup> and Hispanics, who are nearly 3 times more likely to die by gun homicide.<sup>5</sup> Black and brown communities are also disproportionately impacted by economic inequity as well as underinvestments in infrastructure and education, structural factors that contribute to gun violence.<sup>6</sup> Investment in gun violence reduction is an investment in the success of Black and Brown communities.

❑ **Funding gun violence intervention programs has a track record of saving lives in California.**

- After the adoption of Operation Peacemaker and other violence prevention strategies in Richmond in 2010, homicide fell 56% in the five years following the intervention, from an average of 41 homicides in the five years before the intervention to an average of 18 homicides in the five years after.<sup>7</sup> An evaluation found that Operation Peacemaker produced a positive economic impact of \$500 million over five years.<sup>8</sup> From 2015-17, the state provided \$1.5 million to Richmond to support these violence reduction programs.
  - By 2014, the city saw the fewest number of people shot and killed in Richmond in 40 years.<sup>9</sup>
- From 2015-17, the state provided \$1.5 million to Oakland to fund Oakland Ceasefire, which is focused on reducing gun violence through the Group Violence Intervention model. Since launching Ceasefire in 2012, Oakland has seen a remarkable 43% drop in homicides and a 49% reduction in non-fatal injury shootings.<sup>10</sup>
- As more cities look to launch comprehensive violence prevention initiatives, CalVIP needs additional, stable funding to propel, sustain and evaluate these efforts. An increase to \$39 million will allow California to support more communities and provide higher grant amounts.

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<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death. Data reflect a 5-year average (2014-2018) of gun deaths in California by race. Analysis includes: all ages, non-Hispanic only, and homicide including legal intervention.

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death. Data reflect a 5-year average (2014-2018) of gun deaths in California by race. Analysis includes: all ages, Hispanic, and homicide including legal intervention.

<sup>6</sup> Acs G, Pendall R, Treskon M, Khare A. The Cost of Segregation: National Trends and the Case of Chicago, 1990-2010. Urban Institute. 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Kaplan, J. Richmond CA Murder, Rate per 100,000. *Crime Data Tool*.

<http://crimedatatool.com/crime.html#state=California&agency=Richmond%20Police%20Department&category=Murder&rate=true>  
Comparison of average murder rate from 2004-2009 and from 2010-2014.

<sup>8</sup> Huguet R, Li J, Servat C, Stofer K. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Operation Peacemaker. University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy. 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Wayne Drash and Tawanda Scott Sambou, "Paying kids not to kill," CNN, May 20, 2016, <http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/19/health/cash-for-criminals-richmond-california>.

<sup>10</sup> See Oakland City End of Year Crime Reports for 2012 and 2017 at

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/police/documents/webcontent/oak050910.pdf> and

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/police/documents/webcontent/oak068519.pdf>. See also, David Muhammad, "Success! Oakland Ceasefire program reduces gun violence," Mercury News: Opinion, Jan. 9, 2018, at

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/01/09/opinion-success-oakland-ceasefire-program-reduces-gun-violence/>.