



STATE CVI COALITION ALLIANCE 2025 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

When it comes to addressing the public health epidemic of community violence, 2024 ended with both very good and very bad news. The good news: By early counts, overall levels of homicide in the US have [dropped back to or even below their pre-pandemic levels](#), continuing a positive trend of nationwide violence reductions for two consecutive years. These public safety gains coincide with historic state and federal investments in [community violence intervention \(CVI\)](#) strategies that work by providing critical supportive services to the small number of people at the highest risk of engaging in and/or suffering from violence—effectively breaking cycles of retaliation.

In recent years, state investment in CVI has [increased dramatically](#), and the cities and states that have gone “all in” with their support for CVI in recent years are seeing truly remarkable outcomes.

Homicides are down 43% in Philadelphia, dropping to a [level not seen in a decade](#); violent crime is down 35% in Washington, DC to a [30-year low](#); homicides are down 78% in Boston, to an [all-time low](#); and in the areas of Detroit served by the city’s CVI programs, homicides and shootings are [down as much as 83%](#). In all of these cities, local, state, and federal investments have intertwined to help build CVI infrastructure to an unprecedented level, resulting in meaning a greater ability to mediate conflicts, connect individuals at highest risk with mentoring and jobs, and provide access to trauma-informed support for survivors of violence.

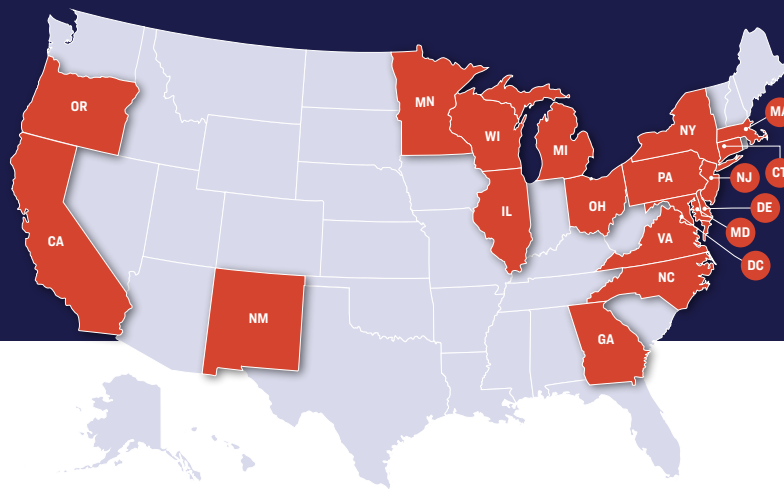
All of this is helping to break cycles of violence, adding to the growing evidence that CVI is an [effective public safety strategy](#) and an [essential complement](#) to traditional law enforcement.

Now for the bad news: Tens of thousands of Americans continue to be killed or injured by acts of violence every single year, and much of the recent progress at the federal level is now in jeopardy. Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are set to expire soon, and the 119th Congress is likely to significantly cut the first-of-their-kind federal investments in CVI, including the Department of Justice’s [Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\)](#). A sweeping federal funding freeze issued by the Office of Management and Budget on January 27th, 2025, underscores the vulnerability of federal funding across the board. **This new federal landscape means that state support for CVI is now more important than ever before.**

In recent years, more than a [dozen statewide CVI coalitions](#) have launched around the country to provide a platform for practitioners, advocates, and other stakeholders to educate policymakers about the importance of CVI work, provide training and professional development to frontline workers, and share best practices to effectively drive down violence. Members of these coalitions have come together to form the **State CVI Coalition Alliance (SCCA)** and are calling on state leaders to support CVI work in order to maintain [historic gains](#) in public safety.

The State CVI Coalition Alliance has identified five policy priorities for state leaders to more effectively support community-based public safety ecosystems. Our membership is available to answer questions and provide more information about each recommendation.

WHERE TO FIND SCCA MEMBERS



1. Create Sustainable Funding Streams for Community-Based Public Safety Efforts

As of the start of 2025, states remain the single largest financial supporter of CVI programs, and their role will be more important than ever as federal support is likely to recede. In order to fill this coming gap, state leaders should assess their level of commitment to this lifesaving work and prioritize the expansion of CVI funding streams—while also exploring creative policy solutions to create long-term sustainability for a rapidly growing CVI workforce.

For states looking to make this investment for the first time, successful examples abound. In the last few years, Pennsylvania has become a national leader in CVI investment, appropriating [\\$56M in 2024](#) to support programs in cities including Philadelphia, which saw a [40% reduction in homicides in 2024](#) and the lowest number of shootings in a decade, and Pittsburgh, where [homicides were down 19% in 2024](#). Other state leaders in CVI investment include [Illinois](#) (\$175M); [New York](#) (\$145M); [California](#) (\$75M); [Virginia](#) (\$36M); and [Wisconsin](#) (\$10M).

Successful CVI implementation requires sustainable funding, and states must look for innovative ways to move CVI funding beyond the boom-and-bust of traditional budget cycles. California, for example, [enacted AB 28 in 2023](#), which imposes a modest excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales in order to fund the state's \$75M-a-year [California Violence Intervention and Prevention](#) grant program, and Colorado voters directly approved a similar funding measure through a ballot initiative in 2024, with the [successful passage of Proposition KK](#).

Funding for CVI should be on the table in every state, regardless of politics—this is a solution that addresses root causes rather than restricting access to firearms. In 2024, [Florida](#) and [South Carolina](#) both appropriated funds to support CVI work, joining a diverse array of states across the political spectrum including Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington.

2. Establish a Statewide Office of Violence Prevention

Community violence is increasingly understood as a [multi-dimensional](#) crisis that touches on many issue areas, including housing policy, education, employment, mental health, and healthcare. States that are having the most success in addressing this violence are building the infrastructure to direct the efforts of these diverse systems, both across government agencies and through [public-private partnerships](#).

In 2024, for example, Governor Wes Moore signed a bill creating the [Maryland Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention](#) within the Department of Health as a way to improve the state's coordinated response to gun violence. In 2023, [North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper used an executive order](#) to create the [Office of Violence Prevention](#) within the Department of Public Safety, with a mission to “promote local success in violence prevention by enhancing coordination across state agencies, improving data collection and sharing, offering technical assistance to local officials, promoting collaboration and sharing of best practices between localities, and managing grant programs to pursue and direct available federal funding to law enforcement and community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence.” At the beginning of 2025, [Wisconsin created the Office of Violence Prevention through an executive action by Governor Tony Evers](#).

State leaders should explore ways to implement or expand an offices of violence prevention to help coordinate the kind of multi-sector response that community violence demands.



3. Leverage Medicaid Funding to Reimburse Violence Prevention Professionals

[Medicaid offers another important source of funding](#) to support the development of the CVI field by leveraging federally-subsidized resources to reimburse violence prevention professionals for their services in the same way that Medicaid reimburses for other essential healthcare services. In recent years, [nine states have passed laws](#) or otherwise implemented regulations to allow for this to happen: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, and Oregon. State governments should consider leveraging Medicaid to support CVI work for several reasons, including the fact that a significant portion of victims of community violence are themselves enrolled in Medicaid or otherwise eligible.

In addition to the enormous human cost, gun violence also imposes tremendous economic costs on state taxpayers—and **expanding access to services that will reduce the occurrence of violence is simply good policy.** For state leaders, the deal is even better because of significant federal costsharing that is available to Medicaid expansion states under the Affordable Care Act. Finally, state leaders should allocate resources for capacity-building efforts to help CVI organizations leverage this new funding stream.

4. Provide Direct Support to Statewide CVI Coalitions

In recent decades, the American movement to end intimate partner violence, including domestic violence (DV), has made incredible strides. America has transformed from a nation where such violence was considered a “private issue” with a small handful of scattered and grassroots shelters for women to one where every state and the federal government has made the protection of women a top public policy priority and invested billions of dollars to support a host of solutions. As a result, annual rates of domestic violence [dropped in the US by 67% between 1993 and 2022.](#)

Statewide DV coalitions have been [essential to this progress](#) and serve as a hub of information sharing, technical assistance, and peer connection in the DV field. It is [longtime federal policy](#) and the policy of many states to directly support DV coalitions, and such coalitions now exist in all 50 states and several territories.

In the last few years, statewide community violence coalitions have begun to emerge in at least a dozen states. Although these efforts have been grassroots and organic, **state and federal governments should directly support their development and growth, just as they have done in the intimate partner violence space.** For example, in 2024 California allocated funds to the state’s certified DV coalition in order to [support the creation of a statewide resource center](#) to distribute training materials to support the capacity of DV service providers. States should take similar steps to foster the development of CVI coalitions.



5. Fund Innovative and Emerging Best Practices in Community-Based Public Safety

Community-based public safety is both a science and an art that is constantly refined. **State leaders should incentivize innovative practices by reserving funding specifically to support pilot and demonstration projects to hone new ideas.** In recent years, for example, cities have begun experimenting with alternative emergency response models, where trained civilians respond with—or in some cases, instead of—law enforcement officers when a situation calls for a behavioral or mental health intervention rather than the use of force. Similarly, many CVI organizations are recognizing the need to quickly and effectively relocate clients that may be in immediate danger of retaliation, but such resources are non-existent in their communities.

Each state has different needs, and the above are just a few examples of the areas where state funding can provide a catalyst for innovative practice. Especially in states with developed CVI coalitions, best practices can be generated and shared statewide more quickly than ever before. State leaders should consult with in-state CVI experts to determine local needs and direct funding to demonstration projects that will help improve the efficacy of service delivery, support initiatives evaluating program impact, and move promising practices into the mainstream when supported by evidence.

State support for community violence intervention is more important than ever before.

The **State CVI Coalition Alliance**, representing more than a dozen statewide CVI coalitions in states around the nation, recognizes the ongoing importance of state governments in supporting community-based public safety efforts that are making our communities more peaceful. The five policy priorities outlined here provide a starting point, and coalition members are available to assist state leaders with model legislation, studies, and any other materials useful to policymakers who wish to support this lifesaving work in their home state.

We also recognize that addressing community violence requires policy change in many intersectional areas, including but not limited to criminal justice practices (e.g., improving homicide clearance rates), housing, education, and support for survivors of violence. These will be covered in more detail in subsequent SCCA publications.

For more information, please contact us by email at SCCACoalition@gmail.com.

