

# STATE BLUEPRINTS SAVING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

**The federal government is rolling back gun safety regulations.  
States can fight back.**

By **allocating state funds** and **creating sustainable long-term funding streams for community violence intervention (CVI)**, states can help fill in the dangerous void left by federal inaction and build a safer future for their residents.

## BACKGROUND ON CVI

- **Community violence**, the burden of which tends to fall hardest on Black and Latino communities in cities, is defined by the CDC as violence between “unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home.”
- **Community violence intervention** is one of the most successful and cost-effective ways to address community violence. It encompasses a range of non-punitive, community-led strategies that are designed to:
  - ♦ Interrupt the transmission of violence by engaging those at highest risk.
  - ♦ Provide targeted social services to these individuals to help reduce risk.
- In 2022, Congress included a five-year, \$250 million investment in CVI in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that funded the new federal **Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI)** grant program.

**Since taking office, Trump has gutted public safety measures like CVIPI.** In a devastating and dangerous reversal of previous policy, the Trump administration abruptly rescinded over \$800 million in grants to local gun violence prevention and crime reduction programs, including \$145 million in CVIPI grants across 37 states.

The cancellation of this CVIPI funding is a profound setback for violence prevention efforts nationwide and represents a threat to recent gains in violence reduction. States must act now to provide the necessary funding to sustain and expand these essential programs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATES

### Allocate State Funds for CVI Programs

In response to the federal government’s abandonment of CVIPI, states must step in to provide the necessary funding to sustain and expand these essential programs. State legislatures should allocate significant, dedicated funding in their annual budgets to support local CVI initiatives.



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## Funding priorities should include:

- Supporting programs with demonstrated effectiveness or those using evidence-based models.
- Investing in capacity-building for community organizations.
- Ensuring services are delivered in a culturally competent manner by trusted members of the community.
- Prioritizing investment in communities experiencing the highest rates of gun violence.

## Create Sustainable Long-Term Funding Streams for CVI

To ensure long-term stability and effectiveness, states should establish sustainable, dedicated funding streams for CVI. A promising model is outlined in California's landmark Assembly Bill 28, which imposes an 11% excise tax on the sales of firearms and ammunition in the state and directs this money to the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund.

## Future legislation can similarly fund programs such as:

- Community violence intervention and prevention
- Initiatives to improve school safety
- Court firearm relinquishment programs
- Gun violence research
- Services for victims and survivors of gun violence
- Gun violence data collection and reporting systems

In lieu of an excise tax like AB 28, states can pursue other potential mechanisms for sustainable funding, such as dedicating a percentage of existing state revenue sources or establishing specific fees related to firearms or public safety.

Despite the volatile federal landscape, hope resides in the proven power of state action. States have the responsibility—and opportunity—to mitigate the deadly consequences of federal rollbacks by restoring gun industry oversight.

Since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, GIFFORDS has helped pass over 700 significant gun safety laws across the country. Every year, the data proves that states with stronger gun laws experience fewer gun deaths. **Solving our gun violence crisis is a matter of willpower, and GIFFORDS Law Center is ready and able to help.**

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This factsheet is part of a series exploring policies states should pursue as federal leadership falters. **Our recommendations provide a blueprint for states to follow, including a list of concrete steps and model laws state lawmakers should use.**