

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 762 (Wicks)

As Amended April 17, 2023

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Changes the purpose of the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP), as well as the eligibility requirements for the grant, and makes the program permanent.

Major Provisions

- 1) Changes the purpose of CalVIP from reducing violence in the form of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults to reducing community gun violence.
- 2) States that, for the purposes of CalVIP, "community gun violence" means intentional acts of interpersonal violence involving a firearm, generally committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim, and which result in physical injury, emotional harm, or death.
- 3) Expands CalVIP to counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence, and to tribal governments.
- 4) Revises CalVIP grant proposal requirements to include, but not limited, to the following:
 - a) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the grant to implement an evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiative, including how the applicant will identify, engage, and provide violence intervention services to individuals at right of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun in the near future; and
 - b) For city and county applicants, a statement demonstrating support for the proposed violence reduction initiative from one or more community-based organizations, or from a public agency or department other than a law enforcement agency that is primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention.
- 5) States that in awarding CalVIP grants, the board shall give preference to applicants whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of reducing the incidence of community gun violence, in the applicant's community within the grant period, rather than reducing the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults generally.
- 6) Allows the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to award competitive grants in amounts not to exceed \$2.5 million per applicant per year. The length of the grant cycle shall be at least three years.
- 7) Requires the BSCC to award at least two grants to cities or counties with populations of 200,000 or less.
- 8) Eliminates the requirement that grant recipients must commit a cash or in-kind contribution equivalent to the amount of the grant awarded.

- 9) Requires the BSCC, upon making CalVIP grant awards, to make at least 20% of approved grantee's total grant award available to the grantee at the start of the grant period or as soon as possible thereafter, in order to enable grantees to immediately utilize such funds to support violence reduction initiatives.
- 10) States that a city or county that receives a CalVIP grant shall distribute no less than 50% of the grant to one or more of any of the following types of entities, as specified.
- 11) Requires the BSCC to form an executive steering committee including, without limitation:
 - a) Persons who have been impacted by community gun violence;
 - b) Formerly incarcerated persons;
 - c) Subject matter experts in community gun violence prevention and intervention;
 - d) The director of the California Office of Gun Violence Prevention or the director's designee; and,
 - e) At least three persons with direct experience in implementing evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiatives, including initiatives that incorporate public health and community-based approaches focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population identified as high risk perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.
- 12) Allows the BSCC to reserve up to \$2 million of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the costs of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program rather than the existing 5% allowed for administrative purposes. .
- 13) Allows the BSCC, with the advice and assistance of CalVIP executive steering committee, to reserve up to 5% of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the purpose of supporting programs and activities designed to build and sustain capacity in the field of community gun violence intervention and prevention, and to support detailed community gun violence problem analyses that help service providers and other stakeholders inform and develop community gun violence reduction initiatives by identifying individuals in their community who are at high risk of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future and highest need for violence intervention services.
- 14) Provides that activities to build and sustain capacity in the field of community-based gun violence intervention and prevention may include, without limitation:
 - a) Contracting with or providing grants to organizations that provide training, certification, or continued professional development to community-based gun violence intervention and prevention professionals, including frontline professionals and technical assistance providers;
 - b) Contracting with or providing grants to nonprofit intermediary organizations that foster the development and growth of community-based organizations dedicated to community gun violence intervention and prevention;

- c) Providing mental health support and other supportive services to frontline community gun violence intervention professionals in order to recruit, retain, and sustain these professionals in their field; and,
 - d) Providing mental health services or financial assistance to family members of frontline community gun violence intervention professionals who are killed or violently injured in the performance of their work.
- 15) Changes the reporting requirements the Legislature from 90 days following the close of each grant cycle, to 120 days.
- 16) Requires evaluations of CalVIP-supported initiatives be made available to the public.
- 17) States that these provisions shall only apply to CalVIP grant applications and awards made after January 1, 2024, and shall not be construed to affect grant applications or awards made prior to this date.
- 18) Removes the sunset date of January 1, 2025 and allows the CalVIP to operate indefinitely.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

"Back in 2019, myself along with my colleague Asm. Petrie-Norris, authored and passed AB 1603, formerly known as the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which codified and significantly reformed the then-new CalVIP grant program. Within that measure however, a sunset date of January 1, 2025 was established. To foster program stability, longer-term strategic planning, and renew the state's commitment to violence intervention professionals' lifesaving work, we must renew the Break the Cycle of Violence Act and write the CalVIP program more permanently into the public safety infrastructure of our state.

"AB 762 will indefinitely extend the provisions already established within the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. In addition, AB 762 will make various technical changes to the authorizing statute to clarify definitions for grant administrators and applicants, authorize tribal governments and counties to apply for grants, and incorporate some vetted best practices that will help address some of the barriers to access for new programs."

Arguments in Support

According to *Urban Peace Institute*, "Because of CalVIP, hundreds of violence intervention professionals across the state have been able to provide targeted services to protect and heal thousands of people at highest risk of community gun violence. From 2019-2022, the CalVIP program has invested over \$250 million in community violence reduction initiatives to promote individuals' safety, help them recover from trauma and exposure to violence, and help deter retaliatory shootings. The vast majority of these investments were just awarded in two rounds of grant awards made in July and October 2022.

"However, without further action, the Break the Cycle of Violence Act will expire at the end of 2024. To foster program stability, longer-term strategic planning, and renew the state's commitment to violence intervention professionals' lifesaving work, we thank you for

introducing this bill to renew the Break the Cycle of Violence Act and write the CalVIP program more permanently into the public safety infrastructure of our state.

"Just a short time ago, when the Break the Cycle of Violence Act was enacted in 2019, California had provided stunningly little state investment or support *ever* for coordinated, community-based efforts to interrupt cycles of community gun violence. Other states and the federal government had also often similarly ignored this vital work, too often overlooking or tolerating astronomical rates of gun violence and massive racial and economic disparities in violent victimization and access to safety, particularly for young men and boys of color.

...

"In the years since passage of the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, grantees and other stakeholders have also continued to build a record of best practices and identified some barriers to access and success. Accordingly, we have developed priorities for relatively technical but vital changes to the CalVIP grant program's authorizing language to provide more definitions guidance for grant administrators and applicants, support broader investments for programs that train, certify, and support the field of violence prevention workers, and especially, to minimize administrative burdens and barriers to entry for gun violence intervention initiatives who lack significant financial resources to meet, for instance, the current 100% funding match requirement and all the accounting burdens that come with it for grantees and the state. We believe this Act would help effectively address these priorities, ensure more cities and organizations doing effective violence prevention work can focus on and expand that work, and build on the CalVIP program's important successes to date."

Arguments in Opposition

None submitted.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, costs to BSCC (General Fund) of approximately \$300,000 annually. BSCC reports that these costs would cover two additional FTE positions and travel, supplies, and indirect expenses required to fulfill the requirements of this bill for the CalVIP program.

VOTES

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-0

YES: Jones-Sawyer, Alanis, Bonta, Bryan, Lackey, Ortega, Santiago, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1

YES: Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Pellerin, Sanchez, Weber, Ortega

ABS, ABST OR NV: Robert Rivas

UPDATED

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