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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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### AB 762 (Wicks) - California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program

**Version:** May 25, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 14, 2023

**Policy Vote:** PUB. S. 4 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Matthew Fleming

**Bill Summary:** AB 762 would makes a variety of changes to the California Violence Intervention and Prevention program (CalVIP) including modifying its purpose, increasing the maximum grant award, and expanding eligibility.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- The Board of State and Community Corrections reports annual ongoing costs of approximately \$300,000 in order to hire 2.0 permanent positions (General Fund). See Staff Comments for additional detail.
- Unknown general fund cost pressures to appropriate funds to support the \$1 million increase in grant caps and provide new and additional grants to entities that qualify for funding under the expanded eligibility provisions. Because CalVIP grants are competitive, it's possible to expand both the caps and eligibility pool even in the absence additional funding. However, to the extent that existing funds are insufficient to support the corresponding increased demand for grant money, there will be cost pressures to the General Fund.

**Background:** The State Legislature established the CalVIP Grant Program in 2017 to replace the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention grant program that began in 2007. CalVIP provides funding for cities and community-based organizations with the goal of reducing violence in the city and adjacent areas. In October, 2019 the Governor signed AB 1603 (Wicks). AB 1603 codified the establishment of CalVIP and defined its purpose: to improve public health and safety by supporting effective violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence, particularly group-member involved homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults.

AB 1603, The Break the Cycle of Violence Act, specifies that CalVIP grants shall be used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including but not limited to: (1) hospital-based violence intervention programs, (2) evidence-based street outreach programs, and (3) focused deterrence strategies. These initiatives should seek to interrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults and shall be primarily focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population that is identified as having the highest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by violence in the near future.

Under existing law, only cities that are disproportionately impacted by violence and the CBOs that serve the residents of those cities are eligible to apply for a CalVIP grant.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) eligible for CalVIP funding include any nongovernmental organization that provides direct services to the community and meets the following eligibility criteria. Private individuals, independent contractors, professional grants management organizations, consulting firms, auditors, and evaluators may not apply directly for CalVIP funds (though they may be included as partners on a CalVIP grant project).

Historically, CalVIP has received approximately \$9 million each year. In 2021, however, the state Budget Act provided a one-time augmentation of \$200 million across three fiscal years to enhance CalVIP (FY 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24). The total available funding through CalVIP is \$53,440,829. Existing law requires all CalVIP grantees contribute a 100 percent (100%) match to all grant funds awarded. The match can be cash or in-kind, or a combination of both.

**Proposed Law:**

- Makes changes to the purpose of CalVIP by stating that the purpose of the program is to improve public health and safety by supporting effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence.
- Defines “community gun violence” to mean “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.”
- Requires an applicant for a CalVIP grant to provide the following:
  - A statement on how the applicant will identify, engage, and provide violence intervention services to individuals at high risk of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.
  - Where relevant, include a description of efforts to coordinate with tribal governments located near or within the planned service delivery area; and,
  - For city or 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.
- Increases the maximum award amount to \$2,500,000 and provides that the grant cycle shall be at least three years.
- Provides that upon making CalVIP grant awards, BSCC shall make at least 20 percent of an 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.
- Adds tribal governments to the list of entities that must receive at least 50 percent of CalVIP grant funds.

- Requires BSCC to form an executive steering committee including persons who have been impacted by community gun violence, formerly incarcerated persons, subject matter experts in community gun violence prevention and intervention, the director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention or the director's designee, and 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 of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.
- Authorizes the BSCC, with the advice and assistance of the executive steering committee, to reserve up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated 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 have the highest need for violence intervention services.
- Eliminates the CalVIP sunset date of January 1, 2025 and allows the CalVIP to operate indefinitely.

**Related Legislation:**

- AB 28 (Gabriel and McCarty, 2023) would impose an excise tax of 11% on the retail sale of a firearm, firearm precursor part, or ammunition, require that the monies collected be deposited into the Gun Violence Prevention, Healing, and Recovery Fund, which the bill creates, and would require that the first \$75 million collected be continuously appropriated to the BSCC for purposes administering the CalVIP program.
- AB 1603 (Wicks), Ch. 735, Stats. 2019, established the CalVIP program in statute.

**Staff Comments:** Existing law authorizes the BSCC to use up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the costs of administering the program including, without limitation, the employment of personnel, providing technical assistance to grantees, and evaluation of violence reduction initiatives supported by CalVIP. AB 762 would instead cap the amount the BSCC can use at \$2 million. The bill also requires additional duties of the BSCC. The BSCC currently administers the CalVIP grant at \$1.1 million annually. With the additions made in AB 762, the BSCC reports that it would require an additional 1 FTE Associate Governmental Program Analyst and 1 FTE Associate Management Auditor which would include staffing needs, travel, supplies, and indirect costs totaling an additional \$302,501 annually.

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