

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2026

Counsel: Dustin Weber

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 2378 (Gabriel) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

**SUMMARY:** Creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention (OCVI) within the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the OCVI within the BSCC, which shall be led by a director.
- 2) States that the OCVI shall do all of the following:
  - a) Administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP), as defined.
  - b) Advise the board on the implementation of community violence intervention and prevention policies.
  - c) Coordinate with the Department of Justice’s Office of Gun Violence Prevention to create a statewide strategic plan for community violence intervention and prevention programs.
  - d) Develop methods of measuring the capacity of the community violence intervention and prevention field in California and gather data from CalVIP grantees.
  - e) Educate the public about community violence causes and effective solutions.
  - f) Identify and apply for available federal grants and other funding to further its work to prevent community violence. When the office determines it is appropriate, the office may work in collaboration with other state departments and partners to identify and apply for federal grants and other funding.
  - g) Convene and facilitate the executive steering committee.
  - h) Serve as a liaison to community violence intervention and prevention stakeholders, including other governmental agencies.
  - i) Provide technical assistance for community violence intervention and prevention organizations and CalVIP grantees.
  - j) On July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, produce a report that does all of the following:
    - i) Highlights best practices in the community violence intervention and prevention field.

- ii) Identifies barriers to success, policy gaps, and promising practices that could be scaled or replicated in the state.
  - iii) Includes the evaluations of the impact of the prepared violence prevention initiatives.
  - iv) Recommends strategies, policies, and priorities for reducing community violence to the board, Legislature, and other stakeholders.
  - k) Within 60 days after completing the specified report, the office shall make the report publicly available and transmit copies to the Governor's office, the Senate Committee on Public Safety, and the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.
- 3) Requires BSCC to reserve at least \$1,000,000, and may reserve up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year, for the costs of OCVI for the purposes of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program, instead of authorizing up to \$2,000,000 for that purpose.
- 4) Makes conforming changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) States that the CalVIP is hereby created to be administered by the BSCC. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (a).)
- 2) Establishes that the purpose of CalVIP 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (b).)
- 3) Provides that CalVIP grants shall be used to develop, support, expand, and replicate evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiatives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)
- 4) States that CalVIP grants shall be made on a competitive basis to cities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence, to community-based organizations that serve the residents of those cities, and to counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence within their jurisdiction. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (d).)
- 5) States that a city is disproportionately impacted by community gun violence if any of the following are true:
  - a) The city experienced 20 or more homicides per calendar year during two or more of the three calendar years immediately preceding the grant application for which the Department of Justice has available data.
  - b) The city experienced 10 or more homicides per calendar year and had a homicide rate that was at least 50 percent higher than the statewide homicide rate during two or more of the three calendar years immediately preceding the grant application for which the Department of Justice has available data.

- c) An applicant otherwise demonstrates a unique and compelling need for additional resources to address the impact of community gun violence in the applicant's community. Recognizing the historical challenges that California tribes have faced in gathering formal data on violent crime, the Board of State and Community Corrections shall take input from tribal governments on how to determine "compelling need," in the context of tribal governments. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (e).)
- 6) Establishes that an applicant for a CalVIP grant shall submit a proposal, in a form prescribed by the board, which shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:
- a) Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the grant.
  - b) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the grant to implement an evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiative in accordance with this section, including how the applicant will identify, engage, and provide violence intervention services.
  - c) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the grant to enhance coordination of existing community gun violence prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of services in the proposed service area.
  - d) Evidence indicating that the proposed violence reduction initiative would likely reduce the incidence of community gun violence in the proposed service area within the grant period.
  - e) 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (f).)
- 7) 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 without contributing to mass incarceration. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (g).)
- 8) Establishes the amount of funds awarded to an applicant shall be commensurate with the scope of the applicant's proposal and the applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to address community gun violence in the applicant's community.
- a) The BSCC may award competitive grants in amounts not to exceed \$2,500,000 per applicant per year. The length of the grant cycle shall be at least three years.
  - b) The board shall award at least two grants to cities or counties with populations of 200,000 or less. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (h).)
- 9) Provides that upon making CalVIP grant awards, the board 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (i).)

- 10) States that each city or county that receives a CalVIP grant shall distribute no less than 50 percent of the grant funds to one or more of any of the following types of entities:
  - a) Community-based organizations.
  - b) Public agencies or departments, other than law enforcement agencies or departments, that are primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention.
  - c) Tribal governments. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (j).)
- 11) States that the board shall form an executive steering committee including, without limitation, 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (k).)
- 12) States that the board may reserve up to \$2,000,000 of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the costs of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (l)(1).)
- 13) States that the board may, with the advice and assistance of the CalVIP executive steering committee, reserve up to 5 percent 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (l)(2).)
- 14) Establishes that each grantee shall report to the board, in a form and at intervals prescribed by the board, their progress in achieving the grant objectives. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (m).)
- 15) Defines "community gun violence" as 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. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (b).)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, "California's gun violence prevention programs have proven to be some of the most effective ways of stopping gun violence in our state. Through its flagship initiative, the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program, California has achieved measurable reductions in the firearm fatality rate

in many communities most impacted by gun violence. To better position the program moving forward based on lessons that we've learned so far, AB 2378 would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention, overseen by a director, to administer the CalVIP program and provide additional support to applicants and grantees. These changes will better equip the program to continue its growth, and in turn, help California remain the national leader of gun safety and community violence intervention.”

- 2) **The CalVIP Grant Program:** The CalVIP grant program was established in 2017. According to BSCC the purpose of the program is to “enhance public health and safety through support for community-based gun violence reduction efforts in communities that are disproportionately impacted by gun violence.”<sup>1</sup> Grants are awarded to applicants that have developed an evidence-based program to reduce community gun violence.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of the grants, according to BSCC, is “to disrupt cycles of violence and retaliatory actions in order to lower the rates of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults in affected communities.”<sup>3</sup>

AB 2378 would make some modifications to the administration of CalVIP. This bill would create the Office of Community Violence Intervention (OCVI) that would, among other things, establish that the newly created OCVI administers the CalVIP grant program, advise the BSCC on implementation of community violence intervention policies, and provide technical assistance to CalVIP grantees.

The OCVI would be led by a director appointed by the BSCC and be required to produce and submit a report every two years, beginning on July 1, 2028. The intent of the CalVIP program appears to remain intact under AB 2378. But it is unclear whether the OCVI, as a new office with new leadership, would have new or additional focuses that may impact the grants historically awarded under CalVIP. The OCVI additionally would be tasked with developing methods of measuring the capacity of the community violence intervention and prevention field in California and gather data from CalVIP grantees. It is similarly unclear exactly what data is expected to be gathered by CalVIP grantees that is not already collected.

AB 2378 would also require OCVI to measure capacity building methods in the community violence intervention space. Certain capacity building efforts are underway under existing law, including the training and certification of Frontline Community Violence Intervention (CVI) specialists, support for data collection, and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations aiming to implement CVI projects, among others.<sup>4</sup> Presumably, this bill will require OCVI to engage in measuring these and other capacity building attempts. This could provide useful new data on the relative efficacy of CVI programs. The requirement that OCVI identify barriers to success and scalable practices could likewise promote more effective and efficient CVI programs over the long-term.

- 3) **Requirements for Grant Applicants:** The CalVIP grant program is meant to be used by communities that disproportionately suffer from gun violence. Projects funded by CalVIP

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<sup>1</sup> *California Violence Intervention and Prevention Program* (2026) <[https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_cpgpcalvipgrant/](https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalvipgrant/)> [as of Mar. 16, 2026].

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

must be “primarily focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population that is identified as high risk of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

Eligible Cohort 5 (the most recently evaluated applicant cohort) CalVIP applicants fall into four categories: 1) Cities that are “disproportionately impacted by violence,” 2) counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by violence within their jurisdiction, 3) tribal governments located within the identified counties, and 4) identified community-based organizations that serve the residents of the cities and/or tribal governments.<sup>5</sup>

BSCC is required to fund 20 percent of a grantee’s total award available at the start of the grant period.<sup>6</sup> Following the initial 20 percent disbursement, the remaining funds are released on a reimbursement basis.<sup>7</sup> For grantees that choose to receive an advance payment, BSCC will withhold a minimum of 50 percent of funds claimed on each invoice toward reconciliation of the advance until the full advance is expended.<sup>8</sup>

- 4) **Argument in Support:** According to *Youth Alive!* “We write in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 2378, which would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention to administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program.

“Youth Alive is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Through our community-based violence intervention and healing programs, we serve hundreds of gunshot victims and their families every year, while also interrupting violence and resolving conflicts to guide individuals away from committing future violence. As a leader in the community violence intervention (CVI) field, our desire to elevate the state’s ability to fortify and advance the work of life-saving programs around the state informs our support of AB 2378.

“The CalVIP Grant Program supports initiatives across the state that have proven to be among the most effective strategies for preventing gun violence, and is one of the most cost-effective investments in public safety for the state of California. Last year, California had its lowest gun homicide rate ever recorded, driven by significant reductions in the age 15 – 24 demographics that are a key target population of the program. Further demonstrating this success, some communities that have historically received funding through CalVIP have made large enough public safety improvements that they may no longer be eligible for future rounds of funding.

“During the most recent application cycle, requests for over \$1 billion in funding for community-based violence intervention programs were submitted, a dramatic increase from just a few years ago that greatly exceeded available funding. While CalVIP is overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections, there is no dedicated, senior-level position to oversee the program's growth and support the grantees it serves. To better equip this flagship

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<sup>5</sup> *California Violence Intervention & Prevention Cohort 5* (Mar. 3, 2025)

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/grants/california-violence-intervention-prevention-cohort-5/> [as of Mar. 16, 2026].

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

program to continue its growth and success, AB 2378 would establish the Office of Community Violence Intervention, to be overseen by a director, to administer CalVIP, coordinate with the Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention, engage in strategic planning, and provide technical assistance and support to grantees and applicants.

“Through these changes, AB 2378 will provide greater support and guidance to critical community-based work, enabling California to remain a national leader for violence prevention and gun safety.”

- 5) **Argument in Opposition:** According to *Gun Owners of California*, “On behalf of Gun Owners of California, I am writing to oppose your AB 2378, which would create the Office of Community Violence Intervention within the Board of State and Community Corrections, and would require the office to improve public health and safety by supporting effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence. “Community gun violence” is defined as “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.

“Notwithstanding the policy arguments in opposition to this bill, it’s important to note that California’s budget problem is significantly larger than previously anticipated. According to the Legislative Analyst, under current revenue and spending estimates, the Legislature faces an almost \$18 billion budget problem this fiscal year. This is roughly \$5 billion larger than the budget problem projected by the administration in June, despite improvements in revenue. Moreover, the LAO estimates costs in other programs to be about \$6 billion higher than previously thought. Starting in 2027 28, they estimate structural deficits to grow to about \$35 billion annually due to spending growth continuing to outstrip revenue growth.

“This is not the time to create a new ‘office.’”

- 6) **Related Legislation:** AB 1743 (Wicks) would clarify that identification and tracing information for illegal firearms recovered during criminal investigations be made available to any town, city, or county, any state government agency, a California community college or California State University, or the University of California for academic and policy research purposes. AB 1743 is pending a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- 7) **Prior Legislation:**
- a) AB 785 (Sharp-Collins), of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, would have created the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to be administered by the California Health and Human Services Agency to provide funding to local community programs for community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools. AB 785 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
  - b) AB 1452 (Wicks), Chapter 529, Statutes of 2024, established, within the Department of Justice, the Office of Gun Violence Prevention to advise the Attorney General on, among other things, gun violence prevention-related matters and the effectiveness of certain gun violence prevention laws and programs.

- c) AB 762 (Wicks), Chapter 241, Statutes of 2023, specified that the purpose of the CalVIP program is to support effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence, as defined.
- d) AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, would have established the Department of Justice Violence Reduction Grant Program to be administered by the DOJ for the purpose of supporting evidence-based, focus-deterrence collaborative programs that conduct outreach to targeted gangs and offer supportive services to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement. AB 912 was vetoed by the Governor.
- e) AB 2064 (Jones-Sawyer), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, would have created the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to be administered by the California Health and Human Services Agency to provide funding to local community programs for community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools. AB 2064 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- f) AB 1603 (Jones-Sawyer) Chapter 735, Statutes of 2019, codified the establishment of the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program and the authority and duties of BSCC in administering the program, including the selection criteria for grants and reporting requirements to the Legislature.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Alliance for Community Empowerment  
Brady California  
Brady United Against Gun Violence  
Californians for Safety and Justice  
City of Oakland Department of Violence Prevention  
Diversity Research and Consulting Group, INC.  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund  
Giffords  
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
Peace and Justice Law Center  
Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America  
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention  
Youth Alive!  
1 Private Individual

**Opposition**

Gun Owners of California, INC.

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