
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 785 (Sharp-Collins) - Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program

Version: April 9, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 1, HEALTH 9 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: AB 785 creates the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to be administered by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS).

Fiscal Impact:

- CalHHS anticipates \$6,720,000 annually and ongoing (General Fund) to implement the requirements of the bill. CalHHS would require 4 full-time equivalent (FTEs), local assistance funding, a training and technical assistance contract, and a university research contract to effectively administer the grant program in this bill.
- Costs (General Fund) of an unknown amount to the Department of Finance (DOF) and Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) to annually calculate the savings accrued to the state from the closure of state prisons.
- Unknown, likely minor and absorbable administrative costs to the State Controller's Office (SCO) (General Fund) to create and manage the newly created Survivor Support Fund account within the State Treasury

Background: In recent years, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has closed several prison facilities and announced plans to close additional an additional facility. According to the LAO:

The prison population has declined significantly in recent years and is expected to remain low through June 2028. In 2021, CDCR completed a multiyear drawdown of people housed in contractor operated prisons made possible by the declining prison population. Since 2021, the administration has deactivated (1) two state owned prisons—the Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) in Tracy and the California Correctional Center in Susanville, (2) eight yards at various state owned prisons, and (3) the California City Correctional Facility—a leased prison that was operated by CDCR staff. CDCR estimates that these deactivations resulted in ongoing General Fund savings totaling about \$620 million annually. Deactivation also allowed the state to avoid funding infrastructure repairs that would otherwise have been needed to continue operating these facilities.

Proposed Law:

- Requires CalHHS to administer the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to provide funding to local community programs for community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools.
- Provides that eligible programs shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - Evidence-based, focused-deterrence collaborative programs that conduct outreach to targeted gangs and offer supportive services to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement;
 - Programs that create and enhance recreation- and health-based interventions for youth during peak times of violence;
 - Programs that implement evidence-based interventions for pupils impacted by trauma for the improvement in the health and well-being of the youth and school and community stability;
 - Youth diversion programs that promote positive youth development by relying on responses that prevent a youth's involvement or further involvement in the justice system; and,
 - The creation and operation of school-based health centers.
- Requires CalHHS to develop an application process and criteria for funding.
- States that grants shall be made on a competitive basis with preference to cities and local jurisdictions that are disproportionately impacted by violence and gang involvement and with preference to community-based organizations that serve the residents of those cities and local jurisdictions.
- Provides that, in implementing the grant program, CalHSS must work with relevant stakeholders to promote and implement the grant program in a manner that effectively reaches a wide geography throughout the state and ensures that regions most impacted by violence and gang involvement are adequately considered with an emphasis on addressing the violence prevention and gang deterrence needs within these regions.
- Requires applicants seeking grant funding to implement evidence-based interventions for pupils impacted by trauma shall demonstrate how they will prioritize interventions for pupils most impacted by trauma and typically unable to access traditional services, including, but not limited to, pupils who are low income or homeless, display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or severe trauma-related symptoms, members of immigrant and refugee groups, pupils with exceptional needs, and pupils who interact with child protective systems or who have had contact with the juvenile justice system.
- Establishes the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Fund within the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund shall be made available, only upon appropriation

by the Legislature.

- Requires on or before July 31, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office to calculate the savings that accrued to the state from the closure of state prisons during the preceding fiscal year. In making the calculation, the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office shall use actual data or best available estimates where actual data is not available.

Related Legislation: AB 2064 (Jones-Sawyer), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, was substantively the same as this bill. AB 2064 was held on this Committee's suspense file.

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