

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP)

Cohort 2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated 03/21/2025

Proposal Submission

- 1. Q: What is the deadline to submit proposals for the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) Cohort 2 Grant?**

A: The Deadline to submit Byrne SCIP Proposals is Monday, April 7, 2025, at 5:00pm PDT. (Request for Proposals (RFP), p. 3.)

- 2. Q: Does the authorized officer need to sign the letter of intent?**

A: No. The non-binding letter of intent may be signed by any official authorized by the applicant to sign the letter.

- 3. Q: Can the person preparing the proposal check the Authorized Officer Assurance box on behalf of the Authorized Officer after receiving confirmation from the Authorized Officer?**

A: Yes. By checking the Authorized Officer Assurance box, the person preparing the application is attesting that the Authorized Officer is aware of and approves the assurance.

- 4. Q: Can the proposal be sent electronically, or do you need a hard copy?**

A: The proposal **MUST** be submitted online through the Submittable website. Applicants can access the application by going to <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/byrne-state-crisis-intervention-program/> and clicking the button that says “**Click here to Submit.**” Then click on the appropriate application titled, “**Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program.**” Neither hard copies nor other methods of submission of the proposal will be accepted. (RFP, p. 3.)

- 5. Q: If an applicant has a previous Submittable account under a former employee, does the applicant need to use the previous account or can a new one be established for this proposal?**

A: No, the applicant does not need to use the previous account. There is no preference for which account an applicant uses as long as the email linked to the account is active and can receive responses. Applicants may want to designate one account to submit the proposal to ensure the proposal is not submitted multiple times.

- 6. Q: On the Submittable website, if the work is saved prior to the final submission of the proposal, will the user be able to make edits to the saved portions until the**

proposal is finally submitted?

A: Yes, all parts of the application can be edited up to the final submission of the proposal. Once a user clicks the submit button the proposal will no longer be editable.

7. Q: The template for the Project Work Plan included in the RFP (Attachment B) only includes space for the top three Goals, Objectives, and Activities. Are applicants to include only the top three Goals, Objectives, and Activities?

A: Applicants should complete the Project Work Plan (Attachment B) for the three most important Goals, Objectives, and Activities for their project. Any additional goals, objectives, or activities should be addressed in the proposal narrative.

8. Q: Is a Governing Board Resolution required to begin encumbering funds? Will BSCC reimburse funds encumbered after the Grant Project Period has begun but before the resolution has been received?

A: BSCC requires a Governing Board Resolution or other proof of signing authority prior to executing the grant agreement and cannot reimburse any funds before the resolution is received and grant agreement is executed. BSCC *may* reimburse allowable expenses that occurred after the grant project period has commenced once the contract is executed. Grantees incur costs prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement at their own risk. (RFP, p. 14; see also BSCC, Grant Administration Guide (July 2023) p. 3.)

9. Q: Will the collaborator option be enabled in the Submittable for this grant proposal?

A: The BSCC does not have the collaborator option enabled within Submittable.

10. Q: Is the Grantee Information Session available online?

A: Yes, a recording of the Byrne SCIP Grantee Information Session and a copy of the PowerPoint Presentation used in the session are available on the BSCC website here: <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/byrne-state-crisis-intervention-program/>.

Eligibility

11. Q: Who is eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP funds? What geographical areas will this grant serve?

A: California cities and counties are eligible to apply for Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) Cohort 2 Grant funds. Programs funded by Byrne SCIP must align with the program goal of reducing gun violence or improving firearms relinquishment procedures in California. (RFP p. 2, 6-8.)

Note: All programs/initiatives funded by Byrne SCIP must have a direct connection to the goal of reducing gun violence or improving firearms relinquishment procedures **AND**; Crisis intervention, which is focused on identifying risk and intervening before harm occurs. Programs/activities exclusively focused on response to crime in progress or already committed would not be considered crisis intervention. (RFP, p. 8-10.)

12.Q: Does an applicant need to provide services for the entire State?

A: No. The applicant may determine the geographical scope of their services within the State of California.

13.Q: Does having an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) disqualify California cities or counties from applying for or receiving funding from the Byrne SCIP Cohort 2 RFP?

A: No, having a JAG grant does not disqualify a California city or county from applying for or receiving funding from Byrne SCIP funds.

14.Q: Does having a Cohort 1 Byrne SCIP Grant (from the 2024 RFP) disqualify California cities or counties from applying for or receiving funding from the Byrne SCIP Cohort 2 RFP?

A: No, Current Byrne SCIP grantee counties and cities are eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP Cohort 2 funding. However, the Cohort 2 proposal must designate a different Lead Public Agency than was designated for the Cohort 1 project. Additionally, the proposed project for Cohort 2 must be separate and substantively different than the Cohort 1 project. (RFP, p. 6-7.)

15.Can an organization apply for two BSCC grants?

A: Yes. Unless one of the grants restricts or prohibits applications from organizations who have another grant (for example, see question 13 above) eligible applicants may apply for and receive more than one grant from BSCC.

16.Q: Are Community Based Organizations (CBOs) eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP funding?

A: No, only California cities and counties are eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP funding. However, the cities and counties are allowed to sub-contract with CBOs as long as the CBO's contracted activities work to address at least one of the PPAs and program related activities.

NGOs receiving Byrne SCIP funds as a subcontractor must meet certain eligibility criteria. These can be found in Attachment C, Criteria and Assurance for NGOs that Receive BSCC Grant Funds as a Subcontractor. (RFP, p. 7 and 56.)

17.Q: Are agencies permitted to apply for this Byrne SCIP Grant as well as funding through the Judicial Council of California (JCC)?

A: No. Only State Courts are eligible for awards funded through the JCC component of the Byrne SCIP program. This RFP makes funds available to California cities and counties.

18.Q: Does the Byrne SCIP Grant include restrictions for funding of Sanctuary Cities:

A: No. The federal Byrne SCIP grant does not include any special conditions related to sanctuary cities and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the federal agency that oversees these funds, has not notified BSCC of any restriction on Byrne SCIP funds related to sanctuary cities.

19.Q: Are Joint Power Authorities eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP funding?

A: No. Only California cities and counties are eligible to apply for Byrne SCIP funding. However, a Joint Power Authority could participate as a subcontractor for a grantee.

Funding

20.Q: Are there limits on eligibility based on the size of a prospective applicant's agency? Are there population or other requirements that determine how much funding an applicant may request?

A: All California cities and counties are eligible for Byrne SCIP funding regardless of size. Instead, the RFP offers two opportunities based on the scope of a project:

- Small Scope for projects with proposed budgets of up to \$500,000.
- Large Scope for projects with proposed budgets of between \$500,001 and \$1,000,000.

Proposed projects may only select one scope category and will compete only with other projects in the same scope category. Each applicant determines which scope category their project will compete for, based on the proposed budget. There are no population or other criteria to determine the scope category for which a county or municipality chooses to apply. (RFP, p. 11-12.)

21.Q: Is Byrne SCIP funding continuous beyond September 30, 2027?

A: No, the term for this grant is August 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027. Only costs incurred during the grant period may be reimbursed. (RFP, p. 16.)

Allowable Activities

Note: All programs/initiatives funded by Byrne SCIP must have a direct connection to the goal of reducing gun violence or improving firearms relinquishment procedures **AND**; Crisis intervention, which is focused on identifying risk and intervening before harm occurs. Programs/activities exclusively focused on response to crime in progress or already committed would not be considered crisis intervention. (RFP, p. 8-10.)

Note: The allowability of specific programs and activities are subject to BJA approval. Once the Byrne SCIP Advisory Board acts on the Scoring Panel's recommendations, awards will be contingent on the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) approval of the subawards (grants), as required by the Byrne SCIP federal solicitation.

22.Q: Are proposals for this RFP required to address the collaborative court programs that address behavioral health issues?

A: Proposals for this RFP are not required to include collaborative court programs. The court related component of the Byrne SCIP program is being addressed through a separate set of sub-awards within the court system. Applicants are required to address at least one of the PPAs and corresponding Related Program Activities listed in the RFP. (See p. 8 – 10.)

23.Q: Can a proposal include Related Program Activities for a PPA that are not listed under that PPA in the RFP?

A: Yes. Grant-funded activities must address one or more of the PPAs listed in the RFP and at least one of the Related Program Activities for the PPA(s) being addressed. Additional activities that address a PPA but are not listed as a Related Program Activity may be funded as well.

Note: Program activities/expenses funded by Byrne SCIP must have a direct connection to the goal of reducing gun violence or improving firearms relinquishment procedures **AND** crisis intervention, which is focused on identifying risk and intervening before harm occurs. Programs/activities exclusively focused on response to crime in progress or already committed would not be considered crisis intervention. (RFP, p. 8-10.)

24.Q: Is there a minimum number of participants that must be aided using Byrne SCIP Grant funds?

A: There is no minimum number of participants your Byrne SCIP program must serve.

25.Q: Can training expenses be allocated for officers to contribute to program outcomes?

A: Yes, applicants may allocate funding for training costs that support the Program

Purpose Area(s) and corresponding Related Program Activities being addressed by the proposed project.

Note: Applicants intending to host training events or conferences would be subject to BJA restrictions on expenses related to such events. Please see p. 64 of the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Grants Financial Guide (October 2024) available at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/overview>.

26.Q: Is it permissible to use Byrne SCIP funding to hire temporary staff to support program outcomes?

A: Yes, applicants may allocate funding for staffing costs, including temporary staff, that support the Program Purpose Area(s) and corresponding Related Program Activities being addressed by the proposed project.

27.Q: Can funds be allocated for technology/software aimed at addressing gun violence?

A: Yes, applicants may allocate funding for technology and software that support the Program Purpose Area(s) (PPA) and corresponding Related Program Activities being addressed by the proposed project. (RFP, p. 8-10.)

Note: Equipment and fixed assets with an acquisition cost of \$3,500 or more per unit (including tax and installation) require separate post-award approval, even if they are included in the project's budget. (BSCC, Grant Administration Guide (July 2023) p. 33 - 35.)

28.Q: Can Byrne SCIP funds be used for firearms forensic equipment used to help in firearms activity mapping, identifying those who are responsible for gun violence, assisting in preventing future gun violence.

A: Yes. PPA 3 includes a related program activity for data collection, analysis, and strategic planning to address community gun violence. (RFP, p.10.)

29.Q: Can Byrne SCIP funds be used for Crisis Intervention Initiatives design to support Sheriff employees?

A: It depends. Byrne SCIP allows for crisis intervention initiatives focused on law enforcement staff and/or first responders if the applicant can demonstrate a direct connection between such a program and the goal of reducing gun violence and crisis intervention as described on p. 8 of the RFP. For example, initiatives that involve specialized crisis intervention training for law enforcement or embedding mental health professionals on crisis response teams to support law enforcement would be allowable.

Q: Will gun buyback programs be eligible for Byrne SCIP funding?

A: No, the Byrne SCIP grant does not allow for funding gun buyback programs.

30.Q: Can Byrne SCIP Funds be used to fund a Law Enforcement Task Force to secure weapons as part of enforcing a court order (e.g., Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVROs), or other civil protection orders)?

A: Yes, Byrne SCIP allows funding for task forces design to secure weapons as a result of any court order, including Extreme Risk Protection Orders (as defined in the RFP). (RFP p. 30.)

31.Q: Can Byrne SCIP funding be used to recover firearms related to Assembly Bill 732?

A: Yes, Byrne SCIP funds allow for projects to secure firearms from individuals prohibited from possessing them.

32.Q: Can Byrne SCIP funding be used to fund a Gang Reduction and Intervention Program or a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team?

A: Byrne SCIP funding can be used for activities that reduce gun violence in California and address one or more of the PPAs listed in the RFP. If activities in a specific program support the project in addressing one or more PPA listed in the RFP, those activities may be funded as part of a Byrne SCIP project. (RFP, p. 8-10.)

33.Q: Can Byrne SCIP funding be used for construction to increase the storage size of an evidence gun room, including cameras and alarms?

A: PPA 3 includes a Related Program Activity for law enforcement to safely secure, store, track, and return relinquished guns. This would include the installation of storage and related equipment. However, construction projects are not allowable for the Byrne SCIP program. (RFP, p. 10)

34.Q Can Byrne SCIP funds be used to purchase forensic equipment to assist with getting fired cartridge casings entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) system to link, solve, and prevent gun crimes.

A: No. Because evidence entered into the NIBIN is primarily related to firearms crimes that have already been committed, this would not be considered crisis intervention.

35.Q: Is overtime for existing positions an example of supplanting?

A: Overtime for existing positions to support allowable grant activities is allowable, as long as the grant funds for overtime are not replacing existing funds allocated for

overtime from another funding source.

36.Q: Can current employee time be included in the RFP or do we need to hire new staff for the program?

A: Use of grant funds for current employee time is allowable as long as the project is not replacing existing funding for the position with grant funds (see supplanting above).

37.Q: What is supplanting? How do I know if my proposed project will be considered supplanting?

A: Supplanting is strictly prohibited for all BSCC grants. Supplanting is the deliberate reduction in the amount of federal, state, or local funds being appropriated to an existing program or activity because grant funds have been awarded for the same purposes. Byrne SCIP funds shall be used to support new program activities or to augment or expand existing program activities but shall not be used to replace existing funds.

It is the responsibility of the grantee to ensure that supplanting does not occur. The grantee must keep clear and detailed financial records to show that grant funds are used only for allowable costs and activities. (RFP, p. 15.)

To help clarify the difference between supplementing and supplanting, we provide the following examples (where the city/county is the grantee):

Supplementing: City/County funds are appropriated to hire 50 new police officers, and Federal funds are awarded to hire 60 new police officers. At the end of the year, the grantee has hired 50 new officers with city/county funds and 60 new police officers with Federal funds. Under this scenario, there is no supplanting violation because the grantee used the Federal funds to supplement (rather than to supplant) the hiring of the new police officers.

Supplanting: City/County funds are appropriated to hire 50 new police officers, and Federal funds are awarded to hire 60 new police officers. At the end of the year, the grantee has hired 60 new police officers with Federal funds and none with city/county funds. Under this scenario, it may be considered a supplanting violation because the grantee used the Federal funds to supplant (rather than to supplement) the hiring of new police officers.

(See U.S. Dept. of Justice, Grants Financial Guide (October 2024) p. 14 -15, available at <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedojo/overview>.)