

UPDATED February 10, 2026 (see “Recommendation/Action Needed”)

MEETING DATE: February 12, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: F

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Mike Martinez, Field Representative, michael.martinez@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Funding Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Cohort 5 awards as recommended by the CalVIP Cohort 5 Scoring Panel (Attachment F-1). If the proposed list of recommendations is approved, 26 community-based organizations, 12 cities, 3 counties, and 1 tribal government will share \$107 million in funding to provide violence intervention and prevention services. A list of the proposals recommended for funding can be found in Attachment F-2 and corresponding project summaries are included in Attachment F-3.

Background

Formerly known as the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Grant, the State Legislature established the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18. In 2019, the CalVIP Grant Program was codified as the Break the Cycle of Violence Act (Assembly Bill 1603, Chapter 735, Statutes of 2019). Historically, the grant has been available to California cities and the community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve them. BSCC has administered four prior rounds of CalVIP funding, providing more than \$250 million toward local violence intervention and prevention efforts.

Assembly Bill 762, enacted in 2023, narrowed the focus of the CalVIP program, specifying that the purpose of the program is to support effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence. It expanded the CalVIP program to include counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence and tribal governments. It requires BSCC to make at least 20 percent of a grantee's total award available at the start of the grant period and it eliminated the match requirement which has been a barrier for many CBOs.

Historically, the CalVIP program was funded through the General Fund, at \$9 million per year, with several one-time augmentations. Commencing July 1, 2024, Assembly Bill 28, also known as the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act, imposed an excise tax in the amount of 11 percent of gross receipts from the retail sale of firearms and ammunition in California. Revenues collected from the fund are deposited in the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund and the first \$75 million available in the fund, or as much of that

amount as is available, shall be continuously appropriated annually to BSCC for the CalVIP Grant.

RFP Release

On July 11, 2024, the Board appointed Board Member Judge Janet Gaard as Chair of the CalVIP Executive Steering Committee (ESC) (Attachment F-4). The ESC convened in September, October, and December of 2024 to develop the CalVIP Cohort 5 Request for Proposals (RFP).

As RFP development was underway, early projections of revenue generated from the new firearms tax came in significantly lower than expected. With the CalVIP Cohort 5 RFP, BSCC released \$103 million, which captured projections for the first two annual deposits. The ESC worked with this funding amount to establish funding thresholds for individual grantees, and for applicant type (shown in the table below).

On February 14, 2025, the Board approved the ESC's recommendation to release the CalVIP Cohort 5 RFP with a proposal due date of August 18, 2025. The RFP contained the following key components:

- Grant period. CalVIP grants will be awarded for a 42-month term, from April 1, 2026 to September 30, 2029. The first three years are for implementation and service delivery. The last six months are for completion of the financial audit and final local evaluation report.
- Eligibility. Eligibility is restricted to cities, counties, and tribes that are disproportionately impacted by violence and the community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve them.
- Funding thresholds. The ESC established seven applicant categories, and divided available funding among those categories, setting a maximum individual grantee threshold for each, as shown here:

Applicant Category	Maximum Individual Grant	Funding by Category
1. Eligible Large Cities	\$5,000,000	\$18,540,000
2. Eligible Large Counties	\$5,000,000	\$10,300,000
3. Eligible Medium and Small Cities	\$2,000,000	\$15,450,000
4. Eligible Medium and Small Counties	\$1,000,000	\$4,120,000
5. Eligible Tribal Governments	\$3,000,000	\$4,120,000
6. Eligible CBOs - Large Scope Project	\$5,000,000	\$35,020,000
7. Eligible CBOs - Small Scope Project	\$1,000,000	\$15,450,000
Total Funding		\$103,000,000

- Eligible grant activities. CalVIP grants must be used to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives that seek to interrupt cycles of violence. Strategies eligible for funding could include but are not limited to: hospital-based

violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

- Target population. Initiatives funded by CalVIP must 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 gun violence in the near future. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)
- Pass-through requirement for cities and counties. City and county applicants must agree to distribute at least 50 percent of the grant funds they receive to one or more of the following: a) CBOs or b) public agencies that are not law enforcement and are primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (j).)
- Reporting requirements. CalVIP grantees will be required to submit quarterly progress reports, a Local Evaluation Plan (six months post-award) and a Final Local Evaluation Report.

Response to RFP and Two-Phased Scoring Process

In response to the RFP, BSCC received a record-setting 394 proposals requesting a little over \$1 billion in funding. After BSCC staff conducted the initial technical review, 312 proposals moved forward to the scoring process. The 312 proposals were distributed among the applicant categories as follows¹:

- CBO Large Scope Projects: 191
- CBO Small Scope Projects: 88
- Large Cities: 9
- Medium to Small Cities: 15
- Large Counties: 8
- Tribal Governments: 1

Due to the higher-than-expected number of proposals received, BSCC was unable to use its traditional proposal evaluation process. Instead, BSCC recruited 16 additional individuals to serve with ESC members on a Scoring Panel. BSCC's Research Division developed and piloted a two-phased rating process, and on October 14 and November 18, 2025, administered rater training to the CalVIP Cohort 5 Scoring Panel members.

Phase one of the rating process focused on the two highest-weighted factors: Project Description and Organizational Capacity. CBO proposals in both the large and small scope categories were rated on these factors and ranked by their combined score. This phase was applied to CBO categories because they had the greatest number of proposals relative to available funding. The highest-ranked CBO proposals, along with proposals from all other applicant categories, advanced to phase two for a comprehensive review using the traditional evaluation process.

¹ *There were no proposals submitted in the "Small to Medium Counties" category.*

Once proposal scores were submitted by the Scoring Panel, BSCC Research staff developed a ranked list with funding allocations for each applicant category. In addition to the original \$103 million released in the RFP, BSCC will use \$4 million from future deposits to the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund to fully fund proposals that fell at the cut-off points on the ranked lists.

There are 42 proposals recommended for funding. These include:

- CBO Large Scope Projects: 9
- CBO Small Scope Projects: 17
- Large Cities: 4
- Medium to Small Cities: 8
- Large Counties: 3
- Tribal Governments: 1

Recommendation/Action Needed

On behalf of the CalVIP Cohort 5 Scoring Panel, staff recommends that the Board:

1. Authorize staff to include an additional approximately \$4 million from anticipated future deposits to the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund, so that no grantees are partially funded.
2. Fully fund 26 total CBO proposals, 12 total city proposals, 3 county proposals, and 1 tribal government proposal, for programs and initiatives to prevent and reduce violence.
3. Authorize staff to continue awarding funds from the rank-ordered list if any applicant is unable to accept the award, relinquishes an award, or is deemed ineligible first by offering ~~to any partial awardee and then~~ to the next highest-ranked application(s).
4. Dissolve the CalVIP Cohort 5 Scoring Panel upon approval of the funding recommendations.

Attachments

F-1: CalVIP Cohort 5 Scoring Panel
F-2: CalVIP Proposals Recommended for Funding
F-3: CalVIP Project Summaries
F-4: CalVIP Cohort 5 ESC Roster