



# Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative 8100-0111

## Gang Prevention Grant Program

### OVERVIEW

In 2006, the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition worked with the Legislature to establish the Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative. Shannon Grant funding has been dedicated to combating youth violence, gang violence, and substance abuse through regional, multi-disciplinary efforts.



Communities receiving Shannon Grant funding

We call on the Legislature and Governor to increase Shannon Grant funding to **\$10 million** in the FY20 budget.

The Shannon Grant program is nationally recognized for its effective approach to deterring gang and youth violence through targeted enforcement and prevention strategies. Additional funding is needed to bolster programs and services to address the needs of a growing region, changing communities, and episodic spikes in crime.

### State-wide, Shannon partners are limited in their ability to provide adequate services and programs

*"As the program loses funding it loses momentum in the community, even though the support and services are needed more than ever. These are critical services that need state investment to continue the progress of combating gang violence, and prevent a resurgence of the problems of 10 years ago."*

- Catholic Charities North | Lynn, MA

*"With additional funding the Worcester Boys and Girls Club could expand their onsite driver's education program to more eligible youth participants. In today's economy, more jobs require applicants to have a valid driver's license. Many low-income youth lack access to programs due to high-cost and location for traditional driver education programs. This service opens up employment opportunities and gives youth an advantage in the competitive job market."*

- Worcester Boys & Girls Club | Worcester, MA

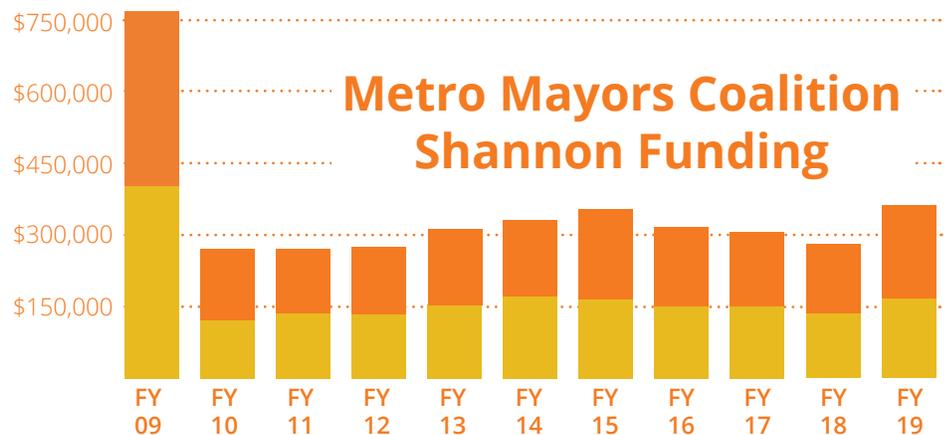
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**METROPOLITAN MAYORS COALITION**  
 a local initiative facilitated by METROPOLITAN AREA  
 PLANNING COUNCIL

**The continuous decrease in funding challenges the efficacy of the grant's mission...**

	MMC Enforcement Funding	MMC Prevention Funding
FY 2009	\$411,101	\$344,771
FY 2010	\$121,367	\$148,884
FY 2011	\$136,026	\$134,225
FY 2012	\$136,100	\$137,000
FY 2013	\$151,800	\$155,200
FY 2014	\$173,500	\$166,500
FY 2015	\$170,500	\$180,240
FY 2016	\$153,473	\$165,846
FY 2017	\$153,147	\$157,958
FY 2018	\$137,780	\$144,750
FY 2019	\$173,690	\$188,268



Hotspot patrols target areas that gang activity and youth violence has occurred. These patrols allow police officers to interact with members of the community and proactively deter violence.



The Coalition can no longer fund Metro Gang Taskforce trainings and regular meetings, limiting the group to 1-2 meetings per year.

**There has been a 40% decrease in Shannon-funded hotspot patrols by MMC police departments since FY 2015.**

Additional funding would allow community programs to engage with more youth and to be more creative with new programming to provide youth with enriching experiences.

**2018 OUTCOMES**

**1158** people attended community meetings and other events facilitated by community partners

**1921** youth served by MMC Shannon Grant programs

**92** participants in Shannon employment programs

*"In the past, the Jordan Club was able to fully fund a Teen Advocate position with Shannon Grant funding. The advocate worked with at-risk communities, the Chelsea Police Department, schools, DCF/DYS, and other social service agencies to ensure teens received support and guidance at the Club and/or were connected with additional services to ensure their safety and development."*  
 - Jordan Boys & Girls Club | Chelsea, MA

*"City Peace used to operate in three centers, open to youth from across the city. This program helped break down barriers amongst neighborhood cliques. However, funding cuts have limited the program to one youth center for the city."*  
 - Cambridge Youth Programs  
 Cambridge, MA

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