



Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative 8100-0111

Gang Prevention Grant Program

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 multi-disciplinary efforts.

We call on the Legislature and Governor to increase Shannon Grant funding to **\$13 million** in the FY23 budget.

“By equipping youth with the resources necessary to lead safe and productive lives, Shannon CSI aims to deter violence and prevent homicides long before these individuals ever encounter a gun.”

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

“As a result of the pandemic, youth need connection and support more than ever. Shannon CSI funding allows us to offer positive youth development and asset-based programming to many youth who would otherwise be disconnected.”

The Center for Teen Empowerment

“Because of this [Shannon CSI] program and the students’ hard work, we have had students enroll in college, gain employment, and find better-paying jobs. One of our previous students, after receiving her HiSet diploma, enrolled in a training program at a community college and received her CNA certification. This allowed her to gain employment that ultimately helped her get an apartment for her and her daughter.”

Holyoke Community College



Communities receiving Shannon Grant funding

A National Model

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

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METROPOLITAN MAYORS COALITION

a local initiative facilitated by METROPOLITAN AREA
PLANNING COUNCIL

The Metro Mayors Community Safety Initiative is a coalition of eight communities (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop) that receives Shannon Grant funds to implement regional strategies to combat youth and gang violence.

IN 2020:

605 youth participated in youth development programs

101 youth participated in employment programs

194 community members attended events, meetings, and presentations

870 hot spot patrols conducted

Youth Mental Health Initiative

Surveys and health assessments in Metro Mayors communities have indicated increasing rates of depression and anxiety among young people.

With Shannon Grant funding, the Metro Mayors Coalition contracted with the North Suffolk Mental Health Association to provide law enforcement officers in Revere and Chelsea with training and support to better address the needs of young people with mental health issues.

Beyond the Badge Podcast

Winthrop CASA and Winthrop PD have partnered together to create the “Beyond the Badge” podcast series. The podcast aims to break down barriers between police and the public, especially as COVID-19 has decreased in-person contact. The weekly podcast features youth and police officers and explores what community policing is and how it can be an effective approach to bringing together police and residents to create a more culturally aware and inclusive community.

Prevention-First Model

The Metro Mayors Community Safety Initiative (CSI) dedicates the majority of Shannon funds to prevention. The program primarily funds efforts to address the root causes of youth violence and gang involvement, and provides support for youth people before they are impacted by or involved in violence.

In FY21, the Metro Mayors CSI dedicated 62% of Shannon funds (\$327,580) to these prevention efforts. The remaining 38% (\$198,583) funded interventions with young people already involved in gangs or engaging in violent behavior.

COVID-19 Response

With funding from the Metro Mayors Community Safety Initiative, partners work together to creatively address COVID-19 restrictions and create safe, exciting programs serving local youth and their communities. Many partners have pivoted to remote and hybrid programming, distributed PPE to staff and participants, and performed wellness checks on youth and their families.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has led to families experiencing financial hardship, food insecurity, and housing instability. Shannon Grant funding enabled the Revere Police Activities League to offer alternative programming that promotes social/emotional health while exposing youth to local natural resources such as our state parks and conservation areas in a safe and healthy environment.”

Revere Police Athletics League