

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 use through multi-disciplinary efforts.



We call on the Governor and Legislature to increase Shannon Grant funding to **\$13.4 million** in the FY24 budget.



Communities receiving Shannon Grant funding

“The social isolation these kids have experienced during COVID is real. We had one girl, who is really introverted, come to the program. Initially, she did not participate or engage, but over time, we really saw her blossom. She began interacting positively with others and started volunteering with us. Now, she is a part time employee at the YMCA and is a huge asset.”

Merrimack Valley YMCA

“A Shannon youth learned how to design in Procreate, created friendships and connections to other teens in the program, worked collaboratively on a large project, and ultimately designed what would be a very large mural unveiled in Kendall Square... their mother approached Art Center staff and held back tears... they were overwhelmed with pride for the work that the youth had created and completed at the Art Center. The Shannon youth was beaming with pride and confidence in their accomplishments.”

The Cambridge Community Art Center

“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

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.



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 2021:

776 youth participated in youth development programs

160 youth participated in employment programs

810 community members attended events, meetings, and presentations

3,200 hot spot patrols conducted

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 young people before they are impacted by or involved in violence.

In FY22, the Metro Mayors CSI was awarded \$757,147.86.

- \$271,301.95 was allocated to the Coalition's law enforcement partners for hotspot patrols, attending community events, hosting junior police academies, staffing open recreation nights, etc.
- \$353,003.29 was allocated to the Coalition's prevention partners (community based organizations) to fund their youth programming, staffing costs, equipment, the youth mental health initiative, etc.
- \$132,842.62 was allocated for site program management costs and for Coalition events like the Shannon Basketball Tournament.

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.

"Roca's work in the Shannon partnership is focused on serving young people who are affected by increasing gang activity in Chelsea and surrounding communities by engaging them in our Transitional Employment Program (TEP). TEP is about much more than providing job opportunities — it serves as a behavior change accelerator by providing a safe space for our young men to be challenged on the emotionally-driven behaviors that arise throughout the workday in the midst of physically demanding work and other stressors."

Roca Inc., Chelsea