

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 FY27 budget.



Communities receiving Shannon Grant funding

“The Y has been able to provide leadership skills to certain youth by creating a culture of leadership. Many youths are interested in the transition from being a member of the Teen Center to working for the Y as an organization. They look to the Y for opportunities for growth. The Y employed a former Teen Center participant, and he is an example to other youth of available opportunities and that they are capable of representing the organization.”

Malden/Mystic Valley YMCA

“One student at the Cambridge Police Department boxing program was involved in some juvenile incidents, where the student was getting into trouble at school and outside of school. The student was given an opportunity to participate in the boxing program and now has thrived in this new role. The student has been mentoring new participants and leading the boxing sessions. The student has expressed staying involved as he gets older and wants to now become a police officer helping others make good decisions with their lives..”

Cambridge PD

“Through Shannon Grant funding, the Revere Police Activities League has provided programming such as the Revere Police Summer Youth Academy. As the result of a PAL youth participating in this program — that person is scheduled to attend the Police Academy Training to become a police officer in Revere.”

Revere PD

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 nine communities (Braintree, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop) that receive Shannon Grant funds to implement regional strategies to combat youth and gang violence.

In 2025:

1500 youth participated in youth development programs

250 youth participated in employment programs

1,050 community members attended events, meetings, and presentations

680 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 FY25, the Metro Mayors CSI was awarded \$815,703.

- \$280,430 was allocated to the Coalition’s law enforcement partners for hotspot patrols, hosting junior police academies, attending community events, staffing open recreation nights, etc.
- \$348,708 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.
- \$58,404 was allocated to bolster public housing violence prevention initiatives.
- \$127,251 was allocated for site program management costs and for Coalition events like the Shannon Summerfest and Safety Summit.

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