

NEBRASKA STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM PLAN

NEBRASKA

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COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Nebraska State Crisis Intervention Program Plan

Goals of the Nebraska State Crisis Intervention Program

The Nebraska State Crisis Intervention Program (NESCIP) aims to strengthen community efforts to prevent, respond to, and reduce gun violence and crime in the state through strategic funding of relevant initiatives and programs. Nebraska's Byrne SCIP program is designed to provide funding for and/or implementation of crisis intervention programs, specialized court-based programs, and gun violence reduction programs and initiatives, as authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022. Nebraska has no Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) laws in effect therefore, the Nebraska Crisis Intervention Advisory Board will not pursue any types of ERPO programs.

As a part of the strategic planning process, the Nebraska Crisis Intervention Advisory Board is partnering with the National Criminal Justice Association to distribute a statewide needs assessment survey to assist in developing a comprehensive assessment of priorities prior to developing solicitation and funding priorities. The Crime Commission will also work internally with our Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) to gather Nebraska specific gun/violence data to enhance our ability to assess the impact of grant funding and to assist in making data driven prioritization for projects/initiatives supported with future SCIP awards. Subawards for more narrowed programming will be determined at a later date. For purposes of this plan, broad program priority initiatives have been identified for funding with FY2022-2023 Byrne SCIP funds.

Crisis Intervention Advisory Board

The Crisis Intervention Advisory Board is comprised of a diverse and dedicated team of influential figures from various sectors across the state of Nebraska including representatives from law enforcement, community members, courts, prosecution, behavioral health, victim services, probation, and legal counsel. This board is an integral part of the efforts to oversee and guide the SCIP grant program. The board convenes to determine funding priorities in response to gun violence and crime prevention needs in Nebraska. These priorities are then included in the statewide competitive grant solicitation. Committed to ensuring the program's success, the board will play a pivotal role in approval processes, decision-making, and program governance.

The Crisis Intervention Advisory Board will convene as needed, with the administrative assistance provided by the Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC) staff. An assigned project manager from the NCC will also aid in coordinating and facilitating these meetings. Board meetings will typically take place at the NCC office or convenient meeting location mutually agreed upon by the board, offering flexibility for members to participate either in person or remotely as allowed by open meeting laws, accommodating the busy schedules of the board members.

In the spirit of transparency and community involvement, the board's meetings will be public. This commitment to openness ensures that the decisions are made with the highest level of integrity and that the actions reflect the best interests of the communities they serve.

Current Members:

- Chair, Bryan Tuma, Executive Director, Nebraska Crime Commission, Governor Appointed Designated State Administering Agency
- Dr. Richard Weiner; Professor of Law and Psychology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Representing Community
- Corey Steel; State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of Courts and Probation; Representing Courts and Probation
- Captain Lance Rogers; Nebraska State Patrol; Representing Law Enforcement
- Sheriff Terry Wagner; Lancaster County Sheriff; Representing Law Enforcement
- Gene Cotter, Probation Administrator, Administrative Office of Courts and Probation; Representing Judiciary and Courts
- Nissa Jones; Douglas County Deputy County Attorney; Representing Prosecution
- Daryl Lapointe; YCIC/Youth Shelter Director, Winnebago Tribe; Representing Public and Tribal Community
- Drew Bigham; Systems and Research Director, Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), Nebraska Crime Commission, Representing Data Collection and Analysis
- Melanie Kirk, Legal Director, Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Representing Victim Services and Legal Counsel
- Diana Meadors, Nebraska Division of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Representing Behavioral Health Providers
- Carrie Rouillard, Society of Care, Santee Sioux Tribe, Representing Public and Tribal Community

SCIP Grant Overview

The SCIP Grant Program recognizes the critical importance of comprehensive, innovative, and multi-disciplinary approaches to tackling the complex issue of gun violence. The Grant Program is designed to support strategic interventions and initiatives in three priority areas: Specialized Court-Based Programs, Behavioral Health, and Law Enforcement-Based Programs.

The Grant Program is designed to fund projects over a 24-month period, with an emphasis on initiatives that integrate evidence-based practices, robust data tracking and evaluation, and a commitment to community collaboration. Understanding that change takes time, the projects showing demonstrable progress and effectiveness may be given an option for renewal, thereby ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply:

- State agencies
- Units of local government (city, county, township, town, or federally recognized or state recognized Indian tribes)
- Behavioral Health
- Private and nonprofit community-based organizations, applying in partnership with a state or local unit of government.

Examples of unit of local government include, but are not limited to, a prosecutor's office, public defender's office, law enforcement agency, public health agency, political subdivision, school district, or court system.

A State agency or unit of local government may contract or make subawards to one or more community-based organizations that are private and nonprofit.

Standard Competitive Grant Process

The SCIP Grant Program shall primarily adhere to a competitive grant application and evaluation process as stipulated in NCC's current grant procedures. This Standard Competitive Grant Application Process is outlined as follows:

1. **Eligibility and Application:** All eligible agencies, as defined by the SCIP Grant Program and the NCC, are invited to submit grant applications for funding consideration within the prescribed application period. Each application must conform to the current NCC grant application guidelines and requirements.
2. **Evaluation Process:** All submitted applications will undergo a comprehensive review and scoring process as per NCC's existing evaluation procedures. This will involve an assessment of each project's alignment with the SCIP Grant Program's goals and objectives, its feasibility, budget justification, potential impact, and the applicant's capacity to successfully execute the project.
3. **Selection and Awarding:** Crisis Advisory Board, guided by NCC's evaluation results, will award grants based on merit, potential impact, and alignment with the Program's mission. This process will uphold the principles of fairness, transparency, and competitive opportunity.

This competitive grant process reaffirms the SCIP Grant Program's commitment to fostering innovation, promoting fairness, and maximizing the potential impact of funded projects in alignment with the Program's mission and goals.

Direct Submission Provision

In certain circumstances, the competitive application process may not always serve the best interests of the program, the applying agency, and the achievement of the program's outlined goals and objectives. Therefore, the Program establishes the Direct Submission Provision as described herein:

1. **Eligibility for Direct Submission:** An agency may be eligible to submit a project directly to the Program's Advisory Board for approval, bypassing the traditional competitive application process, if it demonstrates that such a course of action would be more conducive to effectively and efficiently meeting the Program's overall goals and objectives.
2. **Criteria for Direct Submission:** To exercise the Direct Submission Provision, the applying

agency must provide a comprehensive justification outlining the following:

- a. The urgent nature or unique opportunity of the project.
 - b. How the project aligns with the Program's mission and objectives.
 - c. How the direct submission would provide significant benefits that would be unattainable or severely hindered through the competitive process.
 - d. A detailed risk assessment demonstrating that the project has been thoroughly vetted and does not present an undue risk to the Program or its stakeholders.
3. **Advisory Board's Role:** Upon receipt of a direct submission application, the Advisory Board will conduct a rigorous review of the project, assessing its merits, the validity of the provided justification, and its alignment with the Program's goals. The Board holds the right to approve or deny the project or to require additional information or modifications before approval.
 4. **Transparency and Accountability:** To uphold the integrity of the Program, all direct submissions, along with their justifications and the Advisory Board's decisions, will be documented and made publicly accessible, excluding sensitive or proprietary information.
 5. **Limitations and Oversight:** The Direct Submission Provision is not to be utilized as a routine alternative to the competitive application process. It is designed solely for exceptional circumstances.

This provision is designed to maintain the flexibility and adaptability of the SCIP Grant Program, allowing it to effectively respond to diverse and emergent needs while preserving the fair and competitive spirit of the grant application process.

Funding Priorities

The competitive or direct funding process will fund programs in these program areas, but subawards will be determined at a later date. The Crime Commission is currently working in a needs analysis by conducting a statewide survey that will be analyzed with the assistance of the Nebraska Statistics Analysis Center (SAC) and evaluated by the Advisory Board before the solicitation and competitive process is started. The three priority areas include behavioral health, law enforcement and specialized court-based programs, with the top priority being behavioral health.

1. Behavioral Health

This priority is focused on supporting initiatives that provide behavioral health deflection and assertive community treatment. It supports triage services, mobile crisis units, peer support specialists, mental health partnerships, adding additional clinical social workers and mental wellness workers across schools, providing advanced training in de-escalation, digital threat assessment, and trauma response to school resource officers, implementing immediate firearm detection programming in schools, crisis mobile response supports for middle and high schools, other community programming, and behavioral threat assessment programs. The funding also encourages the use of technological supports such as smartphone applications and telehealth initiatives.

2. Law Enforcement-Based Programs, Training, and Technology

This priority aims at enhancing the law enforcement sector's capacity to deal with firearm violence and related issues. It includes support for virtual reality training simulator for police officers to train in a controlled environment for an array of difficult scenarios including de-escalation, unstable subjects, cooperate/uncooperative subjects, shoot/don't shoot situations; Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training: expanding existing programs or implementing new programs; Co-responder related programming – responding to crises involving firearms, and embedding co-responders within police departments to facilitate improved access to and timeliness of mental health resources; securing, storing, tracking, and returning relinquished guns, offering specialized training, and developing software/technologies for tracking relinquished firearms.

3. Specialized Court-Based Programs

This priority emphasizes initiatives such as drug, mental health, veterans' treatment courts, and gun violence recovery courts. The scope also includes programs accepting clients with firearm violations and connecting clients in crisis with essential community resources. Expanding existing treatment court capacity, to include individuals with violent offenses, providing emergency/transitional housing support when necessary, significantly increasing staff to include more clinicians, case managers, dedicated treatment court coordinators, etc., implementing evidence-based screening tools designed to assess risk of committing firearm/violent crime, training for treatment court staff regarding specialty court best practices, data collection and evaluation related court activities.

Process for Awarding Subawards

The NESCIIP, in accordance with the Byrne SCIP guidelines, will allocate a minimum of 40% of grant funding (less 10% administrative allocation) to local governments. This includes providing financial support to the state Administrative Office of the Courts for jurisdictions with populations less than \$10,000. The process for awarding these subawards involves a comprehensive evaluation and approval process:

1. Competitive Grant Process: Potential sub-grantees submit applications through the NCC's Grants Management System during a 6-week grant solicitation period.
2. Application Review: After the application deadline, a team of NCC staff reviews the applications using a standard scoring rubric. They make funding recommendations based on these scores.
3. Approval by Crisis Intervention Advisory Board: The recommended projects are presented to the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board for approval.
 - a) In the event conflict of interest with Board members would prevent a meeting to vote and approve the projects to be presented for approval due to lack of quorum, the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board will create a Crisis Intervention Advisory Funding Panel of members without a conflict of interest in the grants being considered to carry out its work and make the final funding recommendation decision to be presented to the Crime Commission Funding Panel.

4. Approval by Crime Commission Funding Panel: The approved projects by the advisory board are then presented to the Crime Commission Funding Panel for consideration and approval. If the Commission makes any changes to the Advisory Board recommendation, the changes must be ratified by the Advisory Board.
5. Submission to the BJA for Final Approval: The final approved projects are submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for approval via the Grant Adjustment Notice (GAM) system.
6. Disbursement of Funds: Upon approval by BJA, sub-grantee contracts are finalized, and funds are disbursed.

Grant Project Approval Process

The approval process for NESCIP grant projects is a comprehensive sequence of steps designed to ensure the effective utilization of funds toward achieving the defined program goals. The steps are as follows:

1. Competitive Grant Solicitation and Application Submission

At the commencement of the grant process, a public announcement is made about the availability of funding if the board decides a competitive process is taking place rather than direct submission. This announcement, known as the Grant Solicitation, includes information about the funding priorities, guidelines for application, and the submission deadline. Eligible agencies and non-profit organizations are then invited to submit applications through the NCC's Grants Portal website. The application contains a detailed proposal of the project, including objectives, proposed activities, expected outcomes, and budget details.

2. Application Review and Evaluation

After the application deadline, the NCC Staff Review Team begins the process of evaluating all received applications. Each application is assessed based on a scoring rubric that considers various factors, including feasibility, relevance to the NESCIP's goals, budget justification, and potential impact. This stage aims to identify the most promising and impactful projects that align with the NESCIP's priorities.

3. Grant Proposal Recommendation and Advisory Board Approval

Following the review, the NCC Review Team compiles a list of recommended projects based on the scores from the evaluation process. These recommended projects are then presented to the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board or Crisis Intervention Advisory Funding Panel, if necessary, for consideration. The Advisory Board/Funding Panel reviews each recommended project thoroughly, considering the potential contribution of each to the program's goals, before giving their approval. The Advisory Board/Funding Panel approval must then be submitted to the Crime Commission Funding Panel for final approval. This approval is necessary for NCC to have the authority to contract with subrecipients.

4. Submit Approved Projects to BJA for Approval

Once the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board gives its approval, the proposed projects are then submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for final approval. The submission to BJA

includes a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAM) containing the necessary project details.

5. BJA Notifies NCC of Approved Projects

After evaluating the submitted projects, the BJA communicates its decisions to the NCC. Projects that have been approved by the BJA are ready to move into the implementation phase.

6. NCC Sends Out Grant Awards for Approved Projects

Upon receipt of BJA approval, the NCC prepares and sends out grant award documents to the entities whose projects have been approved. These documents detail the terms and conditions of the grant, the obligations of the sub-grantees, reporting requirements, and other pertinent information. Sub-grantees must sign and return these agreements to the NCC as an acceptance of the terms.

7. Grant Projects Can Begin

After the grant awards have been signed and returned, the approved projects can commence. The start of these projects signifies the beginning of an important journey toward the reduction of gun violence and crime in Nebraska and the improvement of public safety. Regular monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out throughout the project period to ensure successful implementation and impact.

Plan for Collecting Required Data

The grant management system utilized by the NCC is capable of administering grants from application through close out. The NCC will integrate the required Byrne SCIP performance measures into its application process, ensuring sub-grantees can collect the necessary data and meet the program goals. In order to ensure accountability, transparency, and the effectiveness of the SCIP Grant Program, sub-grantees will be required to submit quarterly activity and progress reports. Financial and program reporting is a standard component for each grant and includes the BJA Justice Assistance Grant Program Performance Measures along with other special reporting requirements associated with the grant program. Sub-grantees are required to submit quarterly reports on their programmatic and fiscal activities, which are entered into the BJA Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) and the NCC Reporting System. Sub-grantees are currently required to submit financial reimbursement requests monthly. The NCC grant coordinator will review these reports, ensuring data quality and completeness. If challenges arise regarding programming, goal attainment, or data collection and reporting, technical assistance is available to sub-grantees. This thorough monitoring and reporting structure will enable the accurate tracking of progress and the successful implementation of the SCIP program in Nebraska.

In addition to those indicators prescribed by BJA, the Crime Commission continues to collect performance measures which track the activities and specific objectives of individual projects & programs. This information will be combined with the data collected for BJA in assessing program performance and will be submitted in the state annual report. The grant management system will require that sub-recipients be current with program progress reporting to be eligible to process financial claims for reimbursement.

Project related performance measures will be reported to the Department of Justice by NCC on a quarterly basis by the Grant Manager. Financial performance measures will be reported to the Department of Justice on a quarterly basis by the Financial Officer.

We have partnered with the Nebraska SAC who will assist in describing the nature and extent of gun violence in Nebraska. The data and descriptive overview will in turn be used by Commission and the Advisory Board in establishing program priorities and developing future SCIP program plans. Copies of all reports/articles generated by Commission will be shared with the Department of Justice.

The initial workplan includes gun/violent crime data collection, a review of literature, data analysis and visualization, and reporting of findings. The research conducted by Board is expected to identify areas where limited data is available and reveal issues requiring new or additional focus. Following the initial presentation of the data, the Board will provide additional data/analysis on areas of interest to the Commission and the Advisory Board.

Byrne SCIP Passthrough Funds

Direct Local Pass-Through for Subrecipients

Based on Nebraska's formula allocation, \$573,500 must be passed through directly through units of local government. The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice alongside BJA, has the discretion to decide how funds are sub-awarded through units of local government within the state of Nebraska.

Less Than \$10,000

Based on Nebraska's formula allocation, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice has \$151,927 to sub-award to the determined "less than \$10,000" jurisdictions. According to the Office of Justice Programs, some units of local government were not eligible to receive a direct award funding due to their small size in FY 2021 and FY 2022. (These small-sized units of local government are referred to as "less-than-\$10,000 jurisdictions.") However, under Byrne SCIP, states must provide additional funds to state courts that provide criminal justice and civil justice services for the "less-than-\$10,000 jurisdictions" within the state and/or subaward the funds to such jurisdictions.

Funding Priorities for Byrne SCIP

| Funding Category | State Fiscal Year | Budget | Notes |
|--|--|--|---|
| State Share of Sub-Awards Pass-through (60%) | July 1, 2024 (FY 25)- June 30, 2026 | \$1,088,141 supporting the Nebraska Byrne SCIP funding goals and objectives. | Competitive RFP application process or direct awards. Anticipated sub-award grant project period 7/1/2024-6/30/2026 |
| Required Local Pass-Through Sub-Awards | July 1, 2024 (FY 25)- June 30, 2026 | \$537,500 supporting the Nebraska Byrne SCIP funding goals and objectives. | Competitive RFP application process or direct awards. Anticipated sub-award grant project period 7/1/2024-6/30/2026 |
| Required Local Pass-Through Sub-Awards (<\$10,000) | July 1, 2024 (FY 25)- June 30, 2026 | \$151,927 supporting the Nebraska Byrne SCIP funding goals and objectives. | Applications or direct awards. Anticipated sub-award grant project period 7/1/2024-6/30/2025 |
| Administrative Costs | January 2024- September 30, 2026 | \$181,357 | NCC Administrative Costs |