

# Office of Violence Prevention

Strategic Plan

January 1, 2023 –  
June 30, 2025

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**NEBRASKA**

Good Life. Great Service.

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

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## Executive Summary

### Vision

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice—as the trusted partner of our state’s citizens, law enforcement agencies, detention facilities, and policymakers—is focused on establishing Nebraska’s criminal justice system as a model of 21-st century public-sector leadership and public safety.

### Mission

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice—as the trusted partner of our state’s citizens, law enforcement agencies, detention facilities, and policymakers—is focused on establishing Nebraska’s criminal justice system as a model of 21-st century public-sector leadership and public safety.

### Our Core Beliefs

- We are stewards of this agency, entrusted by the citizens of Nebraska with its well-being and operation.
- We have a relentless focus on our customers.
- Ethics means knowing what is right and doing what is right—every day.
- As teammates, we have respect and appreciation for one another.
- All are empowered to question and drive improvements.

## Office of Violence Prevention

The purpose of the Office of Violence Prevention is to provide leadership, resources, and assistance to entities engaged in activities that reduce street and gang violence, homicides, and injuries, and seek to build a future by creating employment opportunities and other alternatives that keep Nebraska youth out of violence-prone lifestyles.

### Our Purpose

The purpose of the Office of Violence Prevention is to provide leadership, resources, and assistance to entities engaged in activities that reduce street and gang violence, homicides, and injuries, and seek to build a future by creating employment opportunities and other alternatives that keep Nebraska youth out of violence-prone lifestyles.

### Our Motivation

The Office of Violence Prevention seeks to provide resources and options that safeguard Nebraska’s youth from violence and violence-prone lifestyles. OVP is committed to leveraging its resources to innovate, develop, sustain, and expand programs that address violence so that Nebraska’s youth may realize their full potential and contribute to Nebraska’s Future.

## Goals and Objectives

### Fundraising

#### **Goal 1: Develop a prospectus for fundraising by December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, that includes:**

- Attributes of a likely donor
- Identify potential donors
- Establish a target dollar amount for the year

#### Objectives:

1. Create funding separate from the state budget to use towards training, workshops, programs, evaluations, and any other funding opportunities voted on by the OVP Council.
2. Build community support.

#### **Goal 2: OVP will host a fundraising event by December 30, 2024.**

#### Objectives:

1. Partner with a community group or company to assist in the fundraising event.
2. Select a type of fundraising event.

### Funded Programs

#### **Goal 1: Funded programs must be assigned to a spectrum of operational maturity:**

- Developing – new programs
- Growth – previously funded
- Maintaining – established programs funded for several years

#### Objectives:

1. The spread of operational maturity should be:
  - a. 25% Developing
  - b. 25% Growth
  - c. 50% Maintaining

The current funding spectrum (SFY 2023) is as follows:

- 28% New Programs (Developed)
- 19% Previously Funded (Growth)
- 52% Established funded programs (Maintaining)

**Goal 2: By July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at least 3 funded programs need to serve areas outside of Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska.**

Objectives:

1. Conduct outreach to program areas outside of Omaha and Lincoln.
2. Send OVP grant solicitation announcements to community partners and law enforcement groups throughout the state.

**Goal 3: Create educational training about gangs and gang prevention by January 1, 2025.**

Objectives:

1. Create gang/ gang prevention training for the staff of funded programs to attend.
2. Attendance will be mandatory for all funded programs after January 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified by the Director.
3. Collaborate with Lincoln and Omaha Law Enforcement Gang Units for educational pieces.
4. Collaborate with MGIA (Midwest Gang Investigator's Association) for education pieces.

**Management of Funded Programs**

**Goal 1: All funded programs will have a site visit conducted by the Director of OVP by June 30, 2023.**

Objectives:

1. To gain insight into how the programs are functioning.
2. Determine future goals of the program.
3. Develop a plan for OVP to help move the programs forward.
4. Connect with program staff and program participants.
5. Use information obtained from site visits to request an increase in funds from future biennium budgets.

**Goal 2: Develop a methodology for an overall assessment of all program evaluations by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Objectives:

1. Evaluation of the program will be used to ensure ongoing alignment with evidence-based practices.
2. A plan for ongoing evaluation of programs will be developed by an evaluation party and the Commission. It must be approved by the OVP Council.
3. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (SFY 2024), all funded programs will be required to have an external evaluation of their program completed every 4 years.
4. The OVP Council will use these evaluations to determine the validity of the program and justify future funding.
5. The OVP Director will conduct at least 10% of program evaluations needed for each year, especially of new or problematic programs.

## Office of Violence Prevention Manual

### **Goal 1: Update the entire OVP Management Manual by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

#### Objectives:

1. Detail the program evaluation developed by an evaluation party and the Commission.
2. Update the OVP Payment Process by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
3. Update the OVP Director Section by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
4. Update the Fundraising Section by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## Annual Report

### **Goal 1: Develop an annual report template by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

### **Goal 2: Develop an Executive Summary for the annual report to detail the previous year of OVP events by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

### **Goal 3: Develop a section of the annual report to clearly assess the progress and successes of each program awarded funds. This section needs to be added to the annual report by SFY 2024/2025.**

#### Objectives:

1. Compare each program to assess the overall success of OVP.
2. Include evaluation reports of the programs.
3. Specify evaluations conducted by the Director of OVP.
4. Detail site visits of each program.

## History

### Overview

In 2009, the Legislature passed LB 63, creating the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). The primary responsibility of OVP is to help develop, foster, promote, and assess statewide violence prevention programs in the State of Nebraska. OVP aids privately funded organizations, local government subdivisions, and other community groups in developing prevention, intervention, and enforcement theories and techniques.



### Grants

OVP, through a competitive grants process administered by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission), awards funding annually to organizations in Nebraska that are focused on the reduction of violent crime in Nebraska.

### Focus

Projects that align with the State’s goals and have the greatest potential to reduce street and gang violence, homicides and injuries caused by firearms receive priority-funding consideration. In March 2015, the Legislature passed LB 167, which included the creation of youth employment opportunities in high-crime areas as an additional priority focus.

### Programs Elements

Communities must develop a multi-faceted approach that includes violence prevention activities, intervention and enforcement, punishment when necessary, and rehabilitation. The grant recipients are required to develop goals, objectives, and performance indicators in order to help evaluate the success of the financial distribution.

### Grant Work

Upon awarding of the funds, grantees are required to submit quarterly activity and cash reports to OVP/Crime Commission. Grantees are required to provide an evaluation

report and a portion of the grant funds can be used for a professional evaluator. The report must provide a comprehensive review of the program's overall effort and measurable results during the grant cycle. Those results are provided to OVP and reviewed by the director.

### OVP Advisory Council

With the passage of LB 63 in 2009, the Legislature also created the Advisory Council to the Office of Violence Prevention. The members are appointed by the Governor. Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1447 (1), the Council consists of six members appointed to meet the following criteria:

- Each congressional district shall have at least one member on the Council (as such districts existed on May 28, 2009)
- Two members representing local government.
- Two members representing law enforcement.
- One member representing community advocacy.
- One member representing education with some expertise in law enforcement and juvenile crime.

Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1447 (2), members serve:

- Four-year terms.
- May be reappointed without limit.
- "Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment."

Council members are not paid but may have expenses reimbursed (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1449).

Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1450 (2), duties of the Council include, but are not limited to:

- Meet quarterly
- "Shall recommend to the commission rules and regulations regarding program fundraising, program evaluation, coordination of programs, and the criteria used to assess and award funds to violence prevention programs."
- Receiving applications for violence prevention funds.
- Evaluating such applications.
- Making recommendations to the commission regarding the merits of each application.
- Amount of any funds that should be awarded.
- Continuously monitor how such funds are being used by the program.
- Conduct periodic evaluations of such programs.



- Assess the progress and success regarding the stated goals of each program awarded funds.
- Recommend to the commission any modification, continuation, or discontinuation of funding.