

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to community violence intervention and
 3 prevention grant program; creating s. 402.88, F.S.;
 4 creating the Community Violence Intervention and
 5 Prevention Grant Program within the Department of
 6 Children and Families; providing uses for grants
 7 provided by the department; providing application
 8 requirements and procedures for such grants; providing
 9 restrictions on grant funds; prohibiting certain
 10 conditions on grants; providing for grant duration;
 11 requiring reports from recipients; requiring an annual
 12 report by the department; providing for program costs;
 13 requiring specified evaluations; requiring public
 14 hearings; providing rulemaking authority; providing an
 15 effective date.

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 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19 Section 1. Section 402.88, Florida Statutes, is created to
 20 read:

21 402.88 Community Violence Intervention and Prevention
 22 Grant Program.—

23 (1) There is created within the Department of Children and
 24 Families the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention
 25 Grant Program.

26 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation the department
27 may provide grants on a competitive basis to nonprofit
28 organizations and community-based partnerships that serve
29 communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence to
30 support, expand, and replicate effective violence reduction
31 initiatives. The grants shall be used to:

32 (a) Implement, expand, or enhance coordination between
33 evidence-informed violence reduction initiatives, including, but
34 not limited to, hospital-based violence intervention, street
35 outreach, and group violence intervention strategies that have
36 demonstrated effectiveness at reducing homicides, group
37 violence, and other interpersonal violence without contributing
38 to mass incarceration.

39 (b) Support the development and delivery of intervention-
40 based strategies by entities that provide targeted services to
41 persons at risk of being victimized or engaging in violence to
42 interrupt cycles of violence, reinjury, and retaliation.

43 (c) Support initiatives that primarily target a reduction
44 of violence among persons who have been identified as having the
45 highest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by violence in
46 the near future based on the best available medical and public
47 health research.

48 (3) Applicants may apply either independently or jointly.

49 (4) An applicant for a grant shall submit a proposal, in a
50 form prescribed by the department, which shall include all of

51 the following:

52 (a) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to
53 use the grant to implement an evidence-informed violence
54 reduction initiative in accordance with this section.

55 (b) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to
56 use the grant to enhance coordination of existing violence
57 prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of
58 services.

59 (c) Evidence indicating that the proposed violence
60 reduction initiative would likely reduce homicides, group
61 violence, and other interpersonal violence.

62 (d) Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the
63 violence reduction initiative.

64 (5) In awarding grants, the department shall prioritize
65 applicants operating in areas disproportionately affected by
66 violence and whose proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood
67 of reducing homicides, group violence, and other interpersonal
68 violence without contributing to mass incarceration. The
69 department may not require grant recipients to participate in
70 the policing, enforcement, or prosecution of any crime as a
71 condition of receiving a grant.

72 (6) The amount of funds awarded to an applicant shall be
73 commensurate with the scope of the applicant's proposal and the
74 applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to reduce
75 homicides, group violence, and other interpersonal violence in

76 | the community served by the applicant.

77 | (7) A grant may only be used for the purposes specified in
78 | the grant application. Grant funds may not revert to the general
79 | budget of a law enforcement agency, municipality, or other
80 | public entity participating in a community-based partnership.

81 | (8) A grant shall be awarded for a minimum of 3 years'
82 | duration, subject to the availability of state funding.

83 | (9) Each grant recipient shall report to the department,
84 | in a form and at intervals prescribed by the department, the
85 | recipient's progress toward achieving the grant objectives.

86 | (10) (a) The department may use up to 8 percent of the
87 | funds appropriated or made available, or such percentage as may
88 | be authorized under program guidelines for funding made
89 | available to the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention
90 | Grant Program through federal funding sources, for the costs of
91 | implementation and administration of technical assistance and
92 | for the costs of implementing and administering the program,
93 | including, but not limited to, employment of dedicated grants
94 | management and programmatic personnel.

95 | (b) The program costs under paragraph (a) shall include an
96 | annual program evaluation and an analysis of the effectiveness
97 | of violence reduction initiatives. These evaluations shall be
98 | made available to the public.

99 | (11) The department shall annually hold at least one
100 | public hearing. The public hearing shall provide a forum to

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101 receive information on how the public funds are spent, testimony
102 from grant award recipients on the effectiveness of their
103 programs and best practices, and input from the public on
104 whether the initiatives and the grant-funded programs are
105 accomplishing their respective missions. Public input shall be
106 used to assess and revise grant-making metrics and processes for
107 awarding grants.

108 (12) Beginning January 1, 2024, and on or before January 1
109 of each year thereafter, the department shall prepare and
110 transmit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
111 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that shall
112 include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,
113 descriptions of the initiatives and impact on the communities
114 served through the grants, and such other information as the
115 department deems appropriate.

116 (13) The department may adopt rules to implement this
117 section.

118 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.