

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2638

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Break the Cycle of Violence Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Sec. 101. Community-based violence intervention program grants.
- Sec. 102. Office of Community Violence Intervention.
- Sec. 103. Community Violence Intervention Advisory Committee.
- Sec. 104. Creation of a National Community Violence Response Center.
- Sec. 105. Sense of Congress regarding services for victims of violent crime.
- Sec. 106. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- Sec. 201. Improving approaches for communities to thrive (IMPACT) grants.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Community violence is a significant public
 6 health, public safety, and community infrastructure
 7 concern nationwide, and is a leading cause of death,
 8 injury, and trauma for people in the United States.
 9 Community violence also disrupts employment and
 10 hinders a community’s social and economic develop-
 11 ment. Today, gun violence is the leading cause of
 12 death for America’s youth.

13 (2) From 2010 to 2021, over 233,000 people
 14 were murdered in the United States. Hundreds of
 15 thousands more were hospitalized or treated in
 16 emergency departments after surviving life-changing
 17 gunshot injuries and other violent assaults.

1 (3) In 2020, the Nation suffered the largest
2 single-year spike in homicides on record, driven
3 largely by record spikes in fatal shootings. As of
4 2021, 80 percent of all homicides in the United
5 States are committed with a gun.

6 (4) Communities across the Nation experience
7 enormous disparities in safety that are driven by in-
8 equitable social and structural determinants of
9 health. Interpersonal shootings are disproportion-
10 ately concentrated in neighborhoods harmed by past
11 and present racial discrimination, segregation, red-
12 lining, disinvestment, mass incarceration, and con-
13 centrated poverty, and this violence's toll falls over-
14 whelmingly on people of color, especially young
15 Black and Brown men and boys and their loved
16 ones. From 2015 to 2020, Black children and teens
17 were more than 12 times as likely to be shot to
18 death as their White peers. Hispanic children and
19 teens and Native American children and teens were
20 both about 2.6 times as likely to be shot to death
21 as their White peers. Over this period, 72 percent of
22 children murdered before their 18th birthday were
23 people of color, and more than 50 percent were
24 Black.

1 (5) Black boys and men make up less than 7
2 percent of the population in the United States, but
3 account for more than 50 percent of all gun homi-
4 cide victims each year. Violence is responsible for
5 nearly half of all deaths among Black boys and
6 young men, ages 15 through 24, meaning the par-
7 ents of a Black son in this age group are as likely
8 to lose their child to homicide as nearly every other
9 cause of death combined.

10 (6) This violence imposes enormous human, so-
11 cial, and economic consequences. Studies show that
12 gun violence has a national economic cost of
13 \$557,000,000,000 annually. The Director of the
14 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Divi-
15 sion of Violence Prevention presented research to
16 Congress demonstrating that “youth living in inner
17 cities show a higher prevalence of post-traumatic
18 stress disorder than soldiers” in the Nation’s war-
19 time military. While the vast majority of these young
20 people resiliently persevere, people who have been
21 victims of violence are at substantially higher risk of
22 being violently reattacked or killed. Additionally,
23 both direct and indirect violence exposure have been
24 associated with a host of poor health outcomes, in-

1 including chronic illness, anxiety, depression, and sub-
2 stance misuse.

3 (7) When properly implemented and consist-
4 ently funded, coordinated, community-based strate-
5 gies that utilize trauma-responsive care and inter-
6 rupt cycles of violence can produce lifesaving and
7 cost-saving results in a short period of time without
8 contributing to mass incarceration. These strategies
9 identify those at the highest risk, coordinate individ-
10 ualized wraparound resources, provide pathways to
11 healing and stability, and monitor and support long-
12 term success. Many cities have substantially reduced
13 community violence in recent years by implementing
14 various combinations of these strategies, which in-
15 clude the following:

16 (A) Community outreach programs, which
17 hire violence intervention and prevention spe-
18 cialists who have established relationships, re-
19 latable lived experiences, and credibility with in-
20 dividuals in their communities at high risk of
21 violence and connect them with intensive coun-
22 seling, mediation, peer support, and social serv-
23 ices in order to reduce their risk. Evaluations
24 have found that these programs, particularly
25 when integrated into wider networks of sup-

1 portive services, are frequently associated with
2 significant reductions in gun violence. A recent
3 study of Safe Streets Baltimore looked at data
4 from 2007 to 2022 and found that this strategy
5 was associated with a statistically significant 23
6 percent reduction in nonfatal shootings.

7 (B) Hospital-based violence intervention
8 programs (referred to in this section as
9 “HVIP”), which work to break cycles of vio-
10 lence by leveraging credible violence interven-
11 tion and prevention specialists to provide inten-
12 sive counseling, peer support, case management,
13 mediation, and social services to patients recov-
14 ering from gunshot wounds and other violent
15 injuries. Research has shown that violently in-
16 jured patients are at high risk of retaliating
17 with violence themselves or being revictimized
18 by violence in the near future. Evaluations of
19 HVIPs have found that patients who received
20 HVIP services were often less likely to be con-
21 victed of a violent crime and less likely to be
22 subsequently reinjured by violence than patients
23 who did not receive HVIP services.

24 (C) Group violence interventions provide
25 tailored social services and support to group-in-

1 involved individuals at highest risk for involve-
2 ment in community violence. This intervention,
3 which must be trauma-informed, culturally re-
4 sponsive, and community-driven to be most suc-
5 cessful, includes a process for community mem-
6 bers to voice a clear demand for the violence to
7 stop and narrowly focused enforcement actions
8 against those who continue to engage in acts of
9 serious violence. The approach coordinates law
10 enforcement, service providers, and community
11 engagement efforts to reduce violence in ways
12 that do not contribute to mass incarceration.

13 (D) Violence interruption and crisis man-
14 agement, which respond to potentially violent
15 incidents to mediate conflicts or to scenes where
16 violence has occurred to offer trauma-informed
17 services and community supports to survivors
18 and others exposed to violence. These strategies
19 help to prevent retaliatory violence and promote
20 healing and well-being. Programs that include
21 these components have reported deescalating
22 dozens of disputes that were highly likely to end
23 in lethal violence.

24 (8) Access to job and entrepreneurship training,
25 apprenticeship, and technological and digital literacy

1 programs are effective tools in reducing community
2 violence. A 2012 University of Pennsylvania study of
3 13 high-violence schools in the Chicago area found
4 “well-targeted, low-cost employment policies can
5 make a substantial difference”, and the city’s most
6 violent neighborhoods saw a 43 percent drop in vio-
7 lent-crime arrests of participants in a youth job pro-
8 gram.

9 (9) Individualized wraparound services and op-
10 portunities include housing support, financial assist-
11 ance, reentry services, legal assistance, therapeutic
12 services, grief counseling or targeted victim services,
13 and skill building based on the needs of survivors or
14 individuals at the highest risk of community vio-
15 lence. Leveraging the relationships of violence inter-
16 vention and prevention specialists, these services are
17 used in the context of structured, person-centered
18 peer mentorship that facilitates personal trans-
19 formation by meeting people where they are and of-
20 fering to help participants change the trajectories of
21 their lives.

22 (10) The past year has had a disproportionate
23 impact on youth unemployment, with 2,900,000
24 more unemployed youth in mid-2020 compared with
25 pre-2020 levels. Simultaneously, the 2020 recession

1 accelerated an already increasingly digital and auto-
2 mated workforce, and youth must attain the digital,
3 technological, and other technical skills necessary to
4 thrive in the future of work. While jobs in the cus-
5 tomer service and food industry could fall by
6 4,300,000 between 2018 and 2030, health care and
7 science, technology, engineering, and math occupa-
8 tions could grow more now than ever.

9 (11) Intentional and sustained investments in
10 community-based violence reduction strategies can
11 reverse recent increases in homicides, help to heal
12 impacted communities, and reduce the enormous
13 human and economic costs of community violence,
14 without contributing to mass incarceration.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **COMMUNITY VIOLENCE.**—The term “com-
18 munity violence”—

19 (A) means nonfatal firearm injuries, ag-
20 gravated assaults, homicides, and other acts of
21 life-threatening interpersonal violence com-
22 mitted outside the context of a familial or ro-
23 mantic relationship; and

24 (B) does not include acts of violence moti-
25 vated by political beliefs.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

2 The term “eligible unit of local government” means
3 a municipality or other local government that—

4 (A) for not less than 2 out of the 3 cal-
5 endar years preceding the date on which an ap-
6 plication for a grant is submitted under section
7 101—

8 (i) experienced 35 or more homicides
9 per year; or

10 (ii) experienced 20 or more homicides
11 per year and had a homicide rate that was
12 not less than double the national average;
13 or

14 (B) has a compelling need to address com-
15 munity violence, as determined by the Sec-
16 retary, based on high levels of homicide relative
17 to other localities within the same State.

18 (3) OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.—The term “oppor-
19 tunity youth” means individuals who—

20 (A) have attained 16 years of age but not
21 yet attained 25 years of age; and

22 (B) are not—

23 (i) enrolled in education or training on
24 a full-time or part-time basis; or

1 (ii) employed on a full-time or part-
2 time basis.

3 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

5 **SEC. 101. COMMUNITY-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION**
6 **PROGRAM GRANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services (in this title referred to as the “Sec-
9 retary”) shall award grants to eligible entities to support,
10 enhance, and replicate coordinated community violence
11 intervention.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to seek a grant
13 under this section, an entity shall be—

14 (1) a community-based, nonprofit organization
15 that—

16 (A) serves the residents served by an eligi-
17 ble unit of local government; and

18 (B) has a track record of providing com-
19 munity-related activities or support program in-
20 novation in communities of color; or

21 (2) an eligible unit of local government.

22 (c) LIMITATION.—Of the amount made available to
23 carry out this title for a fiscal year, not more than 15
24 percent of such amount shall be made available to eligible
25 units of local government.

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this
3 section shall be used to implement coordinated com-
4 munity violence intervention initiatives, through co-
5 ordinated, community-based strategies.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A community violence
7 intervention initiative implemented using grant
8 funds awarded under this section shall—

9 (A) be primarily focused on providing cul-
10 turally competent, community-based violence
11 intervention services to the portion of a grant-
12 ee’s community who are, regardless of age,
13 identified as being at high risk of being victim-
14 ized by, or engaging in, community violence;
15 and

16 (B) use strategies that—

17 (i) are evidence-informed and have
18 demonstrated promise at reducing commu-
19 nity violence without contributing to mass
20 incarceration;

21 (ii) utilize trauma-responsive care and
22 interrupt cycles of violence;

23 (iii) expand economic opportunity
24 through new jobs, educational opportuni-
25 ties, or training programs; and

1 (iv) are primarily focused on individ-
2 uals at high risk of being victimized by, or
3 engaging in, community violence.

4 (3) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—

5 (A) ELIGIBLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERN-
6 MENT.—Each eligible unit of local government
7 awarded a grant under this section shall dis-
8 tribute not less than 75 percent of such grant
9 funds to one or more of the following:

10 (i) A community-based organization
11 or nonprofit organization.

12 (ii) A public agency or department
13 that is primarily dedicated to the preven-
14 tion of violence or to community safety,
15 but is not a law enforcement agency.

16 (B) HOSPITALS.—Each hospital awarded a
17 grant under this section in the hospital's capac-
18 ity as a community-based, nonprofit organiza-
19 tion described in subsection (b)(1) shall dis-
20 tribute not less than 90 percent of such grant
21 funds to one or more of the following:

22 (i) A community-based organization
23 or nonprofit organization that provides di-
24 rect services to individuals who have been
25 victimized by community violence.

1 (ii) Direct program staff.

2 (iii) Individual subcontractors who
3 provide direct program-related services.

4 (e) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each applicant
5 for a grant under this section shall submit a grant pro-
6 posal, which shall, at a minimum—

7 (1) describe how the applicant proposes to use
8 the grant to implement a coordinated community vi-
9 olence intervention initiative in accordance with this
10 section;

11 (2) describe how the applicant proposes to use
12 the grant to promote or improve coordination be-
13 tween relevant agencies and community organiza-
14 tions in order to minimize duplication of services,
15 complement other community violence intervention
16 efforts, and achieve maximum impact;

17 (3) provide evidence indicating that the pro-
18 posed community violence intervention initiative
19 would likely reduce community violence or address
20 the trauma and collateral consequences for individ-
21 uals at high risk of being victimized by, or engaging
22 in, community violence;

23 (4) describe how the applicant plans to ensure
24 the community violence intervention initiative is im-
25 plemented in a manner that is—

1 (A) evidence-informed; and

2 (B) coordinated with the programs and ac-
3 tivities of other entities for addressing commu-
4 nity violence; and

5 (5) in the case of a unit of local government ap-
6 plicant, demonstrate strong support from community
7 partners with experience engaging individuals at
8 high risk of being victimized by, or engaging in,
9 community violence, as demonstrated by—

10 (A) the development of a community steer-
11 ing committee that—

12 (i) provides advice and assistance to
13 the locality in administering grants award-
14 ed under this section; and

15 (ii) is composed of individuals who
16 substantially reflect local populations im-
17 pacted by community violence, including
18 survivors of community violence and indi-
19 viduals with expertise in culturally com-
20 petent and trauma-informed approaches to
21 reducing community violence; and

22 (B) letters of support from individuals,
23 such as—

24 (i) the mayor or chief executive officer
25 of the unit of local government; and

1 (ii) the director of one or more com-
2 munity-based organizations that provide
3 services to individuals at high risk of being
4 victimized by, or engaging in, community
5 violence.

6 (f) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding grants under this
7 section, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants
8 whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood
9 of reducing community violence in the target area without
10 contributing to mass incarceration.

11 (g) GRANT DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
12 section shall be for a 4-year period.

13 (h) GRANT AWARD.—The amount awarded to an ap-
14 plicant under this section shall be commensurate with—

15 (1) the scope of the proposal; and

16 (2) the demonstrated need for additional re-
17 sources to effectively reduce community violence in
18 the applicant's community.

19 (i) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graphs (2) and (3), the Federal share of each grant
22 awarded under this section shall be 90 percent of
23 the eligible costs incurred by the grant recipient.

24 (2) EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENT.—Para-
25 graph (1) shall not apply to a grant awarded to a

1 community-based organization described in sub-
2 section (b)(1).

3 (3) WAIVER.—The Federal share of a grant
4 awarded to a unit of local government (that is an el-
5 igible entity under subsection (b)(2)) may be up to
6 100 percent if the Secretary determines there is
7 good cause to waive the Federal share requirement
8 under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

9 (j) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 on which the first 4-year grant period under this section
11 ends, the Secretary shall publish a report identifying best
12 practices for grantees under this section to implement
13 community-based violence intervention initiatives.

14 (k) REWARDING SUCCESS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may reserve
16 not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated
17 for a fiscal year to carry out this title for supple-
18 mental incentive funds to be distributed to grantees
19 outside the competitive grant process in accordance
20 with paragraph (2).

21 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—
22 The Secretary may distribute amounts reserved
23 under paragraph (1), in the discretion of the Sec-
24 retary, to grantees under subsection (a) that have—

1 (A) implemented the grant for not less
2 than 2 years;

3 (B) demonstrated exceptional commitment
4 and progress toward implementing the grantee's
5 community violence reduction initiative; and

6 (C) shown that the grantee would likely
7 achieve more substantial reductions in commu-
8 nity violence with additional Federal funding.

9 (3) FEDERAL SHARE.—Subsection (i) shall not
10 apply to any amounts distributed to a grantee under
11 this subsection.

12 (4) EXPLANATION OF DISTRIBUTION.—Upon
13 distributing supplemental incentive funds to a grant-
14 ee, the Secretary shall publish a statement on the
15 website of the Department of Health and Human
16 Services that clearly explains the basis for the deci-
17 sion to award such funds to a particular grantee.

18 (l) EVALUATION AND INTENSIVE SITE IMPLEMENTA-
19 TION SUPPORT.—The Secretary may reserve not more
20 than 8 percent of the funds appropriated for a fiscal year
21 to carry out this title for the purpose of—

22 (1) contracting with or hiring intensive site im-
23 plementation providers with experience implementing
24 community violence intervention strategies;

1 (b) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall delegate to the Di-
 2 rector of the Office responsibility for implementing the
 3 provisions of this title.

4 (c) RESERVATION.—Of the amount made available to
 5 carry out this title for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall
 6 reserve not more than 5 percent for the administrative ex-
 7 penses of the Office.

8 **SEC. 103. COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ADVI-**
 9 **SORY COMMITTEE.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
 11 a Community Violence Intervention Advisory Committee
 12 (in this title referred to as the “Advisory Committee”) to
 13 provide advice and assistance to the Secretary and Office
 14 in carrying out this title, including—

- 15 (1) development of grant solicitations;
- 16 (2) raising awareness about grant solicitations
 17 among potentially eligible units of government and
 18 organizations;
- 19 (3) selection of grant proposals;
- 20 (4) selection of grantees to receive supplemental
 21 funds in accordance with section 101(l); and
- 22 (5) formation of the National Community Vio-
 23 lence Response Center under section 104.

24 (b) MEMBERS.—In appointing members of the Advi-
 25 sory Committee, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) appoint the members from among individ-
2 uals with expertise implementing or evaluating com-
3 munity violence intervention initiatives;

4 (2) include a representative with expertise in
5 workforce development selected by the Secretary of
6 Labor;

7 (3) ensure the membership of the Advisory
8 Committee reflects a commitment to culturally com-
9 petent and trauma-informed approaches to pre-
10 venting violence among individuals at high risk of vi-
11 olence; and

12 (4) ensure that the members of the Advisory
13 Committee include substantial representation of
14 communities of color disproportionately impacted by
15 community violence.

16 **SEC. 104. CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMUNITY VIO-**
17 **LENCE RESPONSE CENTER.**

18 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish
19 and operate a National Community Violence Response
20 Center (referred to in this section as the “Center”).

21 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Center shall have the following
22 roles and responsibilities:

23 (1) **ASSESSMENT; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—
24 The Office and the Center, with the advice of the
25 Advisory Committee, shall—

1 (A) develop a four-tier taxonomy to assess
2 the maturity of community violence infrastruc-
3 ture among grantees under section 101; and

4 (B) provide technical assistance to grant-
5 ees under section 101 in the implementation of
6 coordinated community violence intervention
7 funded through the grant.

8 (2) INTENSIVE SITE IMPLEMENTATION SUP-
9 PORT.—The Center shall—

10 (A) develop intensive site implementation
11 support for each of the four tiers to maximize
12 the effectiveness of the development of commu-
13 nity violence initiatives;

14 (B) develop intensive site implementation
15 support for each eligible unit of local govern-
16 ment that is a grant recipient to assess the con-
17 tours of the community violence within the ju-
18 risdiction and identify relevant community-
19 based interventions that may be successful at
20 preventing future community violence; and

21 (C) provide ongoing support to community-
22 based organizations to facilitate site infrastruc-
23 ture building, program implementation and op-
24 eration, and quality improvement assistance.

25 (3) DATA COLLECTION.—

1 (A) POLICIES.—The Office and the Center
2 shall develop data collection policies for grant
3 recipients that measure safety, community
4 health, opportunity youth engagement, eco-
5 nomic development, and recidivism.

6 (B) ASSISTANCE.—The Center shall assist
7 grant recipients in establishing data collection
8 systems and practices, and collect data from the
9 grant recipients.

10 (4) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—

11 (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COUN-
12 CIL.—The Center, in consultation with non-
13 profit, nongovernmental organizations and re-
14 searchers whose primary expertise is in commu-
15 nity violence, shall establish a Community Vio-
16 lence Research Advisory Council (in this para-
17 graph referred to as the “Research Advisory
18 Council”)—

19 (i) to coordinate research on commu-
20 nity violence; and

21 (ii) to report to the Congress on any
22 gaps on issues related to community vio-
23 lence.

1 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Research Advi-
2 sory Council shall include representatives
3 from—

4 (i) all Federal agencies that fund re-
5 search on community violence; and

6 (ii) the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7 (C) DUTIES.—The Research Advisory
8 Council shall provide advice and assistance to
9 the Center to—

10 (i) develop a coordinated strategy to
11 strengthen research focused on community
12 violence education, prevention, and inter-
13 vention strategies;

14 (ii) track and report all Federal re-
15 search and expenditures related to commu-
16 nity violence; and

17 (iii) identify gaps in community vio-
18 lence research, governmental expenditures
19 on community violence issues, and prom-
20 ising strategies that have not yet been rig-
21 orously evaluated.

22 (5) CONFERRAL.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall estab-
24 lish a biennial conference to include—

1 (i) grantees and providers of intensive
2 site implementation support in the commu-
3 nity violence field that receive funding
4 under this title or title II; and

5 (ii) other key stakeholders.

6 (B) TOPICS.—The topics to be addressed
7 at the biennial conference shall include—

8 (i) the administration of grants;

9 (ii) challenges and gaps in community
10 violence intervention initiatives;

11 (iii) strategies for overcoming such
12 challenges and gaps;

13 (iv) promising practices in the field;

14 and

15 (v) emerging trends.

16 (C) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the conclusion of each biennial conference,
18 the Center shall publish a comprehensive report
19 that—

20 (i) summarizes the issues presented
21 during the conference and what, if any,
22 policies the Center intends to implement to
23 address those issues; and

1 (ii) is made available to the public on
2 the Center's website and submitted to the
3 Congress.

4 (6) CAPACITY BUILDING AND FOSTERING INNO-
5 VATION.—The Center shall—

6 (A) promote expansion and development of
7 the field of community violence intervention and
8 prevention, including fostering collaboration, in-
9 formation sharing, and dissemination of best
10 practices among practitioners, providers of in-
11 tensive site implementation support, and pro-
12 grams and individuals working in the same re-
13 gions or States, including the identification and
14 dissemination to the public of best practices for
15 addressing community violence;

16 (B) develop a plan for expanding providers
17 of intensive site implementation support in the
18 field of community violence intervention and
19 prevention;

20 (C) develop a plan for identifying innova-
21 tive community violence intervention and pre-
22 vention strategies that are in need of further
23 research and evaluation; and

24 (D) develop a plan for providing ongoing
25 intensive site support to organizations imple-

1 menting community violence intervention and
2 prevention strategies.

3 (7) REPORTING.—The Center shall annually
4 provide a report to the Congress addressing topics to
5 include—

6 (A) national trends in community violence
7 statistics;

8 (B) a summary of the activities of the Cen-
9 ter and the Office under this title; and

10 (C) recommendations for improving the
11 national response to community violence.

12 **SEC. 105. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SERVICES FOR**
13 **VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME.**

14 It is the sense of Congress that—

15 (1) community-based violence intervention pro-
16 grams have shown effective results as a strategy in
17 reducing the risk of reinjury of, or retaliation by,
18 victims of community violence, and promoting vic-
19 tims' recovery and well-being;

20 (2) young men, boys, girls, and women of color
21 are disproportionately victimized by community vio-
22 lence, but are frequently underserved by victim serv-
23 ice providers; and

24 (3) States and territories should consider using
25 funding provided through the Crime Victims Fund

1 to support community-based violence intervention
 2 initiatives that provide services for direct and sec-
 3 ondary victims of community violence at high risk
 4 for reinjury and involvement in community violence.

5 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-
 7 ment of Health and Human Services to carry out this title,
 8 in addition to any amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-
 9 propriated or made available to the Department of Health
 10 and Human Services for such purpose—

- 11 (1) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
 12 (2) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and
 13 (3) \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
 14 through 2031.

15 **TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF**
 16 **LABOR**

17 **SEC. 201. IMPROVING APPROACHES FOR COMMUNITIES TO**
 18 **THRIVE (IMPACT) GRANTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor (in this
 20 section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall award grants
 21 to eligible entities for year-round job training and work-
 22 force programs authorized under section 129(c)(1) of the
 23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
 24 3164(c)), with the elements described in section
 25 129(c)(2)(C) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)(C)), for

1 opportunity youth in communities disproportionately af-
2 fected by gun violence for the purposes of connecting op-
3 portunity youth to in-demand occupations.

4 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to seek a grant
5 under subsection (a), an entity shall be—

6 (1) a community-based, nonprofit organization
7 that—

8 (A) serves the residents served by an eligi-
9 ble unit of local government;

10 (B) has a track record of providing com-
11 munity-related activities or support program in-
12 novation in communities of color;

13 (C) focuses on training technical skills to
14 prepare opportunity youth for in-demand occu-
15 pations; and

16 (D) provides—

17 (i) training for opportunity youth who
18 are basic skills deficient; and

19 (ii) soft skills training that enables
20 opportunity youth to engage successfully in
21 work culture;

22 (2) an Indian Tribe or an agency primarily
23 serving Native Americans;

24 (3) an entity that carries out activities author-
25 ized under the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-

1 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) that has a focus
2 on opportunity youth;

3 (4) a federally or State recognized apprentice-
4 ship program;

5 (5) an accredited community college; or

6 (6) an eligible unit of local government.

7 (c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall require grant-
8 ees under this section to report to the Secretary on pri-
9 mary measures funded under this section for—

10 (1) entry into job training, education, appren-
11 ticeship, skilled trades training, or other paid and
12 unpaid work experiences that have as a component
13 academic and occupational education programs; and

14 (2) changes in overall school enrollment, unem-
15 ployment, or weekly earnings for opportunity youth
16 participating in activities of the respective grantee.

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT.—The term
19 “basic skills deficient” means an individual who—

20 (A) is a youth and has English reading,
21 writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th
22 grade level on a generally accepted standardized
23 test; or

24 (B) is unable to compute or solve prob-
25 lems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level

1 necessary to function on the job, in the individ-
2 ual’s family, or in society.

3 (2) IN-DEMAND OCCUPATION.—The term “in-
4 demand occupation” means an occupation described
5 in section 3(23)(A)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation
6 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(23)(A)(ii)).

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
8 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
9 \$1,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024
10 through 2031, to remain available until expended through
11 fiscal year 2031.

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