



Pennsylvania
**Commission on Crime
and Delinquency**

2026

**PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Progress Report & Action Plan

September 2026

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Executive Summary

Gun Violence: A Public Health *and* Public Safety Issue

Gun violence impacts the health, safety, and quality of life for people and communities across Pennsylvania. Approximately 1,600 Pennsylvanians die each year from firearm-related injuries, most due to self-harm and suicide. These tragedies are preventable, and Pennsylvania is addressing them through a coordinated public safety and public health approach, investing in comprehensive strategies in communities ranging from small towns to large urban centers.

Reducing Gun Violence & Improving Public Safety in PA

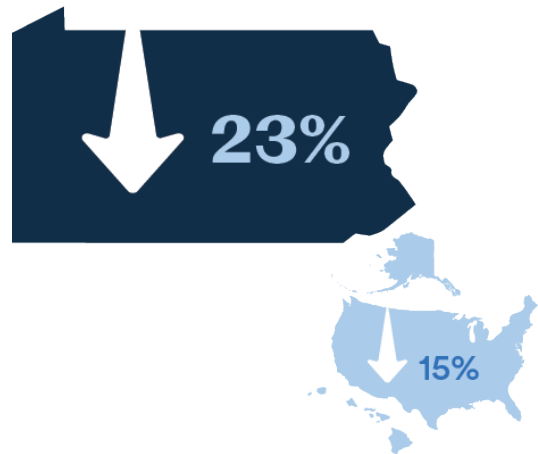
Under the leadership of Governor Josh Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, Pennsylvania has made significant progress in reducing gun violence and improving public safety. Recent analysis¹ from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) found that, since the start of the Shapiro-Davis Administration, violent crime has decreased significantly statewide.

PENNSYLVANIA'S HOMICIDE DECLINE FROM 2023 TO 2024 OUTPACED THE NATIONAL DECREASE OF 15%.

Source: PA UCR (8/18/25)

2023 | 2024

880 → 671 DEATHS



During its first term in office, the Shapiro-Davis Administration has:

- Invested heavily in effective strategies to reduce violence where it is already happening and prevent it from occurring in the first place, such as through PCCD's Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) and Building Opportunities Through Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants.
- Proposed commonsense reforms and policies.
- Increased coordination across state government to tackle gun violence through a public safety *and* public health lens.
- Created new tools and resources to help support community-based efforts, including establishing the PA Peace Alliance technical assistance initiative.
- Re-established and staffed Pennsylvania's Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) within PCCD.

¹ [Violent Crime Trends & Clearance Rates in PA](#), PCCD, January 2026.

About Pennsylvania's Office of Gun Violence Prevention

Re-established within PCCD by Governor Shapiro in 2024,² the OGVP leads a coordinated, data-driven effort to reduce firearm injuries, deaths, and crime statewide. The Office brings together agencies and partners to align strategies, expand data and research, strengthen victim supports, and develop comprehensive gun violence initiatives. More information about the OGVP and PCCD's efforts to reduce gun violence is available on [PCCD's website](#).

About this Document

This document provides a **Progress Report sharing updates on the implementation of the OGVP's 2025 Initial Report & Strategic Plan**.³ Published in early 2025, OGVP's first Strategic Plan established a shared vision among state agencies and stakeholders for addressing the drivers and impacts of gun violence, strengthening community engagement, and advancing data-sharing and research across Pennsylvania. It also identified eight key goals as well as underlying objectives and actions to guide this work.

Following each goal's Progress Report is an updated **Action Plan** that reflects recommendations developed by OGVP's Executive Committee and informed by a series of regional listening sessions held across Pennsylvania during the summer of 2026. These recommendations were developed by members of four subcommittees – the **Community Violence, Domestic Violence, Firearm Suicide Prevention, and Youth Gun Violence Subcommittees** – and are organized thematically to align with the goals and priorities established in last year's Strategic Plan.

² In September 2024, Governor Josh Shapiro signed [Executive Order 2024-02](#), re-establishing the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within PCCD.

³ [2025 Pennsylvania Office of Gun Violence Prevention Initial Report & Strategic Plan](#)

OGVP 2026 Progress Report

1. Improving Interagency Coordination & Community Engagement

Background

OGVP's initial 2025 Strategic Plan was developed in the early stages of the Office's re-launch, and was shaped by extensive stakeholder and partner input. Collaboration and coordination are central to OGVP's efforts; [Executive Order 2024-02](#) charges the OGVP with bringing together state, local, and federal agencies, survivors, public health experts, law enforcement, and community groups to share data, insights, and resources to ensure a unified, evidence-based strategy.

Implementation Status

Goal 1: Improve Interagency Coordination & Community Engagement	
Objective	Status
1.1: Serve as a forward-facing state Office for gun violence-related resources and information, supporting and elevating state and local efforts to address this complex issue through policies, programs, and strategies.	Ongoing
1.2: Assemble a robust, diverse Advisory Group to help inform Pennsylvania's gun violence prevention strategy.	Complete
1.3: Convene experts and stakeholders to share insights and findings, including through a Pennsylvania Gun Violence Prevention Symposium or similar events.	In Progress
1.4: Identify a Director to lead the Office with experience and expertise aligned with key strategic priorities.	Complete

Highlights & Key Milestones

- Hosted community listening sessions and issued stakeholder surveys to elicit feedback to inform the OGVP's first *2025 Initial Report & Strategic Plan*.
- Hired and onboarded three full-time staff, including a Director of Gun Violence Prevention.
- Launched the [OGVP Executive Committee](#) in September 2025, which serves as an advisory group to help inform the Office's efforts.
- Established four subcommittees within the OGVP Executive Committee in January 2026 focused on key issues - firearm suicide, youth gun violence, domestic violence/intimate partner violence, and community violence.
- Hosted a dedicated gun violence prevention-focused track at PCCD's 2026 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference, which had more than 500 justice practitioners, behavioral health professionals, community members, and researchers participate.
- Hosted additional regional listening sessions in Summer 2026 to gather insights from community members and system partners to inform state-level actions and the continued work of OGVP.

2. Enhancing Pennsylvania's Investments in Gun Violence Prevention

Background

Enhancing Pennsylvania's investments in gun violence prevention gives communities resources to strengthen partnerships with public safety and public health organizations, support people and neighborhoods most affected, and help prevent violence before it happens. Sustained state investments in initiatives like PCCD's VIP grants have helped expand programs associated with reductions in community violence, improve coordination and data-driven decision-making, promote firearm safety, and better support victims and survivors to create safer, healthier communities across the Commonwealth. These state investments build on long-standing - but recently declining - federal supports for Pennsylvania's victims' services programs, which provide critical supports for survivors of gun violence and need reforms to remain a reliable resource in the years ahead.

Implementation Status

Goal 2: Enhance Pennsylvania's Investments in Gun Violence Prevention	
Objective	Status
2.1: Identify and pursue actions to adapt, increase, and sustain state-level investments in gun violence prevention and intervention strategies, with an emphasis on resources reaching community-based organizations supporting direct work with impacted individuals in both the short- and long-term.	Ongoing
2.2: Bolster Pennsylvania's victims' services infrastructure to ensure resources are available to help individuals and communities heal.	Additional Action Needed*
2.3: Nurture and develop public-private partnerships to expand opportunities for securing philanthropic and private funding supports to augment state investments in CVI and gun violence prevention strategies.	In Progress

**See Action Plan Strategies D.1 and D.5 for relevant information and recommendations.*

Highlights & Key Milestones

- Since 2023, Pennsylvania has more than doubled the amount of state funding appropriated to PCCD's successful Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) grants, providing funding to more than 354 projects statewide.
- The Shapiro-Davis Administration has secured infusions of state funding to maintain availability of supports through PCCD's Victim's Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) in response to demand for resources outpacing deposits.
- In the wake of declining federal funding for victims' services programs through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Pennsylvania leaders - including Lt. Governor Austin Davis - have called for action to stabilize and prioritize VOCA funding, including promoting passage of the federal Crime Victims Fund (CVF) Stabilization Act, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House in January 2026.
- To build on Pennsylvania's public investments in community violence prevention, intervention, and healing strategies, efforts are underway to engage philanthropic networks and other partners to explore expanding available funds to meet individuals' and organizations' needs in ways that cannot be accomplished with

public funding, such as offering “start-up” or ongoing operational costs for organizations as well as emergency funding needs for victims that are unallowable under VOCA or VCAP.

3. Improving Data, Research & Evaluation

Background

Understanding where and why violence is happening helps identify which strategies are making the biggest difference and can help target resources where they are needed most. Executive Order 2024-02 directs OGVP to build a statewide gun violence data dashboard, strengthen data sharing across agencies, and support research to inform state and local decision-making. Improving the quality and completeness of data on firearm injuries, deaths, and crime can provide a clearer picture of where violence is happening, what interventions are needed, and how to strengthen responses to gun violence. To accomplish this, Pennsylvania must also continue to enhance statewide participation in critical data systems, especially the [National Incident-based Reporting System \(NIBRS\)](#) and [Pennsylvania’s Violent Death Reporting System \(PAVDRS\)](#), to enhance the quality of data on firearm-related crime and deaths.

Implementation Status

Goal 3: Improve Gun Violence-related Data, Research & Evaluation	
Objective	Status
3.1: Gather and analyze comprehensive data on firearm-related injuries, fatalities, and criminal activity in PA to offer policymakers insights on emerging trends.	Ongoing
3.2: Invest in gun violence-related data analysis and research, including evaluation of statewide and local initiatives.	In Progress

Highlights & Key Milestones

- Launched the [Pennsylvania Gun Violence Data & Resources Hub](#) in April 2026, serving as a one-stop shop for data, research, and state-level resources.
- PCCD has made funds available to support local law enforcement agencies’ adoption of record management systems (RMSs) and other activities necessary to support compliance with NIBRS.
- PCCD has executed data-sharing agreements with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) to access relevant public health datasets related to firearm crimes and injuries/fatalities and develop regional fact sheets for stakeholders.⁴
- PSP’s crime data and Protection from Abuse Database (PFAD) allow for analysis of firearm-related crime trends and weapons relinquishment orders pursuant to Act 79 of 2018.

⁴ Fact sheets: [Northcentral PA](#) | [Northwest PA](#) | [Northeast PA](#) | [Southcentral PA](#) | [Southeast PA](#) | [Southwest PA](#)

- The Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) also presented data on youth arrests and other relevant trends to help inform the Youth Gun Violence Subcommittee's and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee's efforts.

4. Supporting Youth Safety & Well-being

Background

Investing in youth prevents gun violence before it starts by giving young people the support, opportunities, and connections they need to thrive. For OGVP, this means strengthening programs that keep youth engaged, reducing risk factors for violence, and building safer schools and communities. By investing in young people early, the Commonwealth can help reduce future violence, improve long-term outcomes, and create healthier, safer communities for everyone.

Implementation Status

Goal 4: Invest in Youth Safety & Well-being	
Objective	Status
4.1: Develop a comprehensive youth gun involvement and violence prevention strategy for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in consultation with youth, youth-serving organizations, and other key partners.	Complete
4.2: Identify and share best practices for supporting youth impacted by gun violence and to address increasing rates of firearm suicide among young people.	Additional Action Needed*
4.3: Continue and increase investments in youth-focused programming where kids feel safe, supported, and inspired.	In Progress

**See Action Plan Strategies B.1, B.2, B.9, C.1, C.6, and C.7 for relevant information and recommendations.*

Highlights & Key Milestones

- In FY 2024-25, Pennsylvania established the Building Opportunities through Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program - part of PCCD's VIP line item - which provides state funding to support a wide range of youth mentoring and prevention programs designed to create safe space for kids beyond school hours.
- Helped shape a youth gun involvement/violence reduction plan included within the [2025 Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Plan to the Governor](#), adopted by PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDC) in November 2025.
- More than \$65 million was awarded in FY25-26 VIP + BOOST grants in spring 2026, with the majority of funds supporting youth-focused programs. An additional \$62.15 million was authorized for the VIP and BOOST grants in the enacted FY 2026-27 state budget.
- PCCD also prioritized funding for community organizations working with elevated-risk youth and young adults in its FY 2025-26 Violence & Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP) solicitation.

5. Promoting Safer Gun Ownership Practices

Background

Promoting safer gun ownership practices helps prevent firearm-related injuries before they happen. Encouraging safe firearm storage, responsible ownership, and public education is a practical and evidence-based⁵ way to reduce preventable harm - including firearm suicide, unintentional shootings, and other forms of gun violence - while helping protect children, families, and communities across the Commonwealth.

Implementation Status

Goal 5: Promote Safer Gun Ownership Practices	
Objective	Status
5.1: Increase awareness of secure firearm storage and safer firearm use practices among Pennsylvania gun owners, especially first-time gun owners and those living in households with children.	Additional Action Needed*
5.2: Reduce barriers to gun owners obtaining devices to secure firearms and firearm safety training, including financial costs associated with these practices.	In Progress
5.3: Require secure storage practices for gun owners in households with children through Child Access Prevention legislation.	Additional Action Needed*

*See Action Plan Strategies C.6, C.8, C.9, and C.10 for relevant information and recommendations.

Highlights & Key Milestones

- PCCD has dedicated more than \$2 million in FY 2024 and FY 2025 [federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program \(SCIP\) grant](#) funds for “Firearm Suicide Prevention, Intervention & Postvention” initiatives, including supporting costs to offset costs for firearm storage devices (e.g., gun safes, lock boxes, and cases).
- Multiple state agencies (PCCD, DOH, DMVA, etc.) have supported efforts to increase access to firearm safety training and lethal means reduction efforts, including distributing gun locks and other devices to more securely store firearms.

6. Advancing Firearm Suicide Prevention, Intervention & Postvention Strategies

Background

Advancing firearm suicide prevention and postvention helps save lives, support people in crisis, and strengthen communities. In addition to safe firearm storage efforts and expanding prevention strategies, helping communities respond and recover from a suicide loss can reduce the risk of future tragedies.

⁵ <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/child-access-prevention.html>

Implementation Status

Goal 6: Advance Firearm Suicide Prevention & Postvention Strategies	
Objective	Status
6.1: Use available state funding sources to support local firearm suicide reduction and response efforts, including prevention, intervention, and postvention supports.	In Progress
6.2: Increase attention to the issue of firearm suicide among broader suicide prevention efforts and state-level policy discussions.	In Progress

Highlights & Key Milestones

- PCCD is leveraging more than \$2 million in federal Byrne SCIP funds to address current state funding gaps in firearm suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies, and has provided grants to local organizations implementing [Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors \(LOSS\) Teams](#) and other evidence-based approaches.
- DMVA has also used federal funds to establish and enhance regional LOSS Teams, helping to provide trauma-informed supports to suicide loss survivors.
- PCCD continues to participate in state-level task forces, teams, and workgroups and has lifted up opportunities to improve cross-agency efforts to reduce firearm suicides.
- DHS released [Pennsylvania's latest 2025-2027 Suicide Prevention Plan](#) to continue supporting and coordinating statewide suicide prevention efforts.

7. Supporting Effective Community Gun Violence Prevention & Intervention

Background

Investing in the people and organizations that know their communities best has been demonstrated to reduce community gun violence, and is central to Pennsylvania's efforts to invest in community-led gun violence prevention strategies. For OGVP, this means partnering with local organizations, supporting proven violence intervention and prevention programs, and helping communities build the resources they need to prevent violence before it happens.

Implementation Status

Goal 7: Support Effective Community Gun Violence Prevention Approaches	
Objective	Status
7.1: Increase and sustain state-level investments in community violence intervention (CVI) approaches, with a goal of providing predictable, reliable funding for organizations and people providing critical services.	In Progress
7.2: Thoughtfully expand law enforcement strategies, with an emphasis on approaches that can reduce the number of unsolved gun crimes and homicides.	In Progress

7.3: Establish and enhance programs that help individuals and communities heal in the aftermath of gun violence, including hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs), Trauma Recovery Centers (TRCs), and Resiliency Centers.

In Progress

Highlights & Key Milestones

- Pennsylvania has more than doubled available state funding for CVI through PCCD's VIP line item, and the enacted FY 2026-27 state budget maintained funding levels for this critical initiative at more than \$62 million - including \$11.5 million for BOOST.
- PCCD's Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution and Local Law Enforcement Support Grants invested heavily in local investigative capacity, and [recent analysis of data published by PCCD](#) in 2026 suggests these investments helped contribute to statewide improvements in homicide and violent crime clearance rates.
- [Using up to \\$2 million in SCIP funds](#), PCCD is supporting the development, launch, and implementation of the Philadelphia Healing & Hope Center (PHHC), led by ICF and Congreso. The PHHC is based on the federal "resiliency center" model and will provide crisis intervention, counseling, case management, outreach, referrals, and training for first responders through a "no wrong door" approach.
- PCCD was awarded a [\\$4 million federal FY 2024 Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\) grant](#) by the U.S. Department of Justice to expand access to HVIPs in high-need communities, supporting a statewide training and technical assistance partnership with the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) and supporting four Local HVIP projects.

8. Reducing Domestic Violence Homicides & Shootings

Background

Addressing domestic violence homicides and shootings saves lives by addressing one of the most dangerous forms of gun violence. Strengthening partnerships, supporting prevention efforts, promoting firearm safety in high-risk situations, and improving coordination with victim services and other agencies protect victims and families while reducing preventable firearm deaths across the Commonwealth.

Implementation Status

Goal 8: Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides & Shootings	
Objective	Status
8.1: Stabilize and enhance Pennsylvania's victims' services and compensation infrastructure to address the needs of gun violence survivors.	Additional Action Needed*
8.2: Strengthen protections provided via Act 79 and increase adoption of evidence-based domestic violence homicide prevention programs by increasing resources and technical assistance, with a goal of improving consistency of implementation statewide.	Additional Action Needed*

*See *Action Plan Strategies A.1, D.1, and D.7* for relevant information and recommendations.

Highlights & Key Milestones

- In August 2025, PCCD published a [VOCA 101 Toolkit](#) to assist individuals as they reach out to policymakers to educate them on the importance of VOCA and efforts to stabilize the federal Crime Victims Fund.
- Act 45 of 2025, signed as part of the FY 2025-26 state budget, amended the PA Fiscal Code and authorizes the transfer of funding to stabilize PCCD's VCAP. The FY 2026-27 budget also transferred \$4.5M of Medical Marijuana Act funds authorized by Section 1934-C(d) of the Fiscal Code to support VCAP.
- PCCD has prioritized funding and partnered with the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), to help counties and PSP adopt proven strategies, such as the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) adoption, through multiple funding streams (STOP, Byrne SCIP, VIP).
- PCCD is investing \$500,000 in FY22-23 Byrne SCIP funds to support a Temple University research project that will examine how Act 79 of 2018 is being implemented, identify barriers and best practices, and recommend ways to improve the timeliness and consistency of firearm relinquishment procedures.

2027-2029 OGVP Action Plan

The OGVP's updated **2027-29 Action Plan** builds directly on the goals, priorities, and recommendations established in its 2025 Strategic Plan. This Action Plan was developed in partnership with members of the OGVP's Executive Committee and its four Subcommittees and shaped through feedback gathered from regional listening sessions. The Action Plan reflects a continued commitment to reducing firearm-related injury, death, and crime across the Commonwealth and advancing a coordinated public safety and public health approach to gun violence.

The Action Plan organizes its recommendations across **cross-cutting needs** as well as four key focus areas: **youth gun violence, firearm suicide, domestic violence, and community gun violence**. Recommended strategies take a comprehensive approach to addressing these issues, including through:

- **Prevention:** Stopping gun violence before it occurs by addressing root causes and strengthening community well-being and resilience.
- **Intervention:** Disrupting and reducing gun violence in areas where the rate of firearm injuries, fatalities, and crime is currently high and/or increasing through coordinated, targeted actions.
- **Healing:** Helping individuals, families and communities impacted by gun violence through trauma-informed supports that promote recovery and long-term well-being.

Finally, each recommended strategy is paired with state-level actions needed to accomplish it:

- **Legislation/Policy:** Advancing policy solutions (including executive and agency-level actions) and legislative actions to strengthen gun violence prevention, improve safety, and support effective implementation of statewide priorities.
- **Funding:** Securing, coordinating, and maximizing public and private investments that help communities, agencies, and partners to carry out impactful, sustainable gun violence prevention strategies.
- **Public/Private Partnerships:** Building collaboration across government, nonprofits, philanthropy, business, and community organizations to align efforts and support innovative, effective solutions.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Strengthening collaboration among state and local agencies to share information and data, coordinate services and programs, and improve ability to address gun violence across the state.
- **Awareness, Communications & Stakeholder Input:** Sharing clear information - including data, best practices, and updates - and ensure stakeholders are informed and involved in guiding solutions.
- **Data & Research:** Expanding data use to understand the scope and drivers of gun violence.
- **Training, Technical Assistance & Capacity Building:** Giving individuals, organizations, and communities the tools and support they need to implement effective, evidence-based practices and sustain those efforts locally.

A. Cross-cutting Recommendations

These cross-cutting recommendations provide the foundational actions needed to support all the other focus areas of the Action Plan, including strategies to strengthen statewide investments in core services and programming, improve data infrastructure to accurately understand gun violence trends, and commonsense policy solutions to prevent gun violence.

Recommended Strategy	Action(s) Needed
A.1. Stabilize and sustain a strong infrastructure of victims' services and compensation in response to significant declines in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, including supporting federal legislation to reform VOCA funding mechanisms (e.g., Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act) as well as state-level actions.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Public/Private Partnerships
A.2. Increase state investments in PCCD's Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) grants, which support a wide range of prevention, intervention, and healing-focused initiatives focused on high-risk youth and adults.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
A.3. Support and enact legislation establishing universal background checks in PA.	• Legislation/Policy
A.4. Support local law enforcement agencies' transition from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to provide a more complete picture of violent crime, including those involving firearms, in PA.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Public/Private Partnerships • Communications & Stakeholder Input • Data & Research
A.5. (NEW) Identify data elements to understand statewide and local trends related to illegal firearms access and gun violence victimization.	• Data & Research
A.6. (NEW) Continue to identify datasets and resources to include in the PA Gun Violence Prevention Data & Resources Hub.	• Data & Research
A.7. (NEW) Continue to capture qualitative data from stakeholders through regional and local meetings to understand issues not currently captured by quantitative data sources.	• Communications & Stakeholder Input • Data & Research

B. Youth Gun Violence

Investing in youth prevents gun violence before it starts by giving young people the support, opportunities, and connections they need to thrive. For OGVP, this means strengthening programs that keep youth engaged, reducing risk factors for violence, and building safer schools and communities. By investing in young people early, the Commonwealth can help reduce future violence, improve long-term outcomes, and create healthier, safer communities for everyone.

Recommended Strategy	Action(s) Needed
B.1. Maintain and increase state investments to improve the safety and well-being of youth, such as through PCCD's School Safety and Mental Health, Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program (VDPP), and VIP/BOOST grants.	• Legislation/Policy
B.2. Develop and implement a comprehensive youth gun involvement and violence prevention strategy for PA, in consultation with youth, youth-serving organizations, and other key partners, with an emphasis on strategies to reduce firearm-related injuries and fatalities among children.	• Legislation/Policy • Public/Private Partnerships • Communications & Stakeholder Input
B.3. Work with law enforcement partners to identify and monitor trends in the supply of firearms to youth (e.g., sales and gun trafficking to minors) and develop strategies to improve enforcement and reduce youth gun access.	• Interagency Coordination • Data & Research
B.4. (NEW) Develop guidance and other resources with other youth-serving state agencies to improve conflict resolution and bullying prevention across schools and communities as part of upstream prevention efforts.	• Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
B.5. (NEW) Support JJDC as it develops recommended diversion protocols for first-time, non-violent firearm possession offenses by youth that are responsive to victim input and barriers that may limit referrals to community organizations.	• Legislation/Policy • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
B.6. (NEW) Collaborate with JJDC and other state-level entities/agencies to explore and identify youth treatment courts that could serve youth with non-violent firearm-related offenses (e.g., possession only).	• Legislation/Policy • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
B.7. (NEW) Research and inventory currently available programs, strategies, and practices through PCCD's network of state and local partners, such as those engaged in the Building Local Continuums of Care for Youth project and those represented on PCCD's relevant advisory committees and subcommittees.	• Interagency Coordination • Data & Research
B.8. (NEW) Identify potential gaps and recommendations for ensuring existing state-level resource directories (e.g., PA Navigate, PA 211) provide relevant resources and supports for justice-involved youth and their families.	• Legislation/Policy • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
B.9. (NEW) Expand access to and investments in trauma-informed behavioral health services and family/caregiver supports, with a focus on addressing root causes of youth gun violence.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
B.10. (NEW) Increase awareness of existing statewide initiatives to provide awareness education and self-reporting/peer reporting options for youth safety concerns.	• Legislation/Funding • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input

C. Firearm Suicide

Advancing firearm suicide prevention and postvention helps save lives, support people in crisis, and strengthen communities. In addition to safe firearm storage efforts and expanding prevention strategies, helping communities respond and recover from a suicide loss can reduce the risk of future tragedies.

Recommended Strategy	Action(s) Needed
C.1. (NEW) Invest in community-based youth firearm suicide prevention and intervention programs, including programs specifically focused on justice-involved youth and their families.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
C.2. (NEW) Provide funding and long-term support for county-wide suicide prevention efforts through public and private funding sources (e.g., state/federal grants, foundations, healthcare systems, etc.).	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
C.3. (NEW) Monitor trends in firearm-related suicides using available data to guide statewide and local prevention strategies.	• Data & Research
C.4. (NEW) Develop and publish a toolkit with best practice recommendations, including short-, mid-, and long-term strategies that local communities can use to reduce firearm suicide.	• Communications & Stakeholder Input • Interagency Coordination
C.5. Advance comprehensive suicide prevention curriculum and awareness education programs focused on increasing local adoption of effective prevention/peer response strategies.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Interagency Coordination
C.6. Support Child Access Prevention legislation requiring secure storage practices for gun owners in households with children.	• Legislation/Policy
C.7. Reduce barriers for gun owners obtaining devices to secure firearms and/or participate in firearm safety training (e.g., explore tax credits or other funding mechanisms for individuals and community-based organizations), with an emphasis on reaching households with children.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Communications & Stakeholder Input
C.8. (NEW) Explore additional legislative and policy avenues to increase safer gun ownership practices (including training) and develop recommendations for the Administration to consider.	• Legislation/Policy • Training & Technical Assistance
C.9. (NEW) Increase culturally competent suicide prevention awareness among the general public by pairing education with firearm safety device distribution by local entities (e.g., local suicide prevention task forces, law enforcement agencies, firearm retail shops and ranges, sportsmen/hunting/veterans organizations, behavioral health providers, etc.).	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Communications & Stakeholder Input
C.10. (NEW) Support the establishment of accessible, voluntary out-of-home safe storage options for firearms during periods of crisis, including pathways for temporary transfer or full relinquishment when desired by the firearm owner.	• Legislation/Policy

D. Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Violence Involving Firearms

Addressing domestic violence homicides and shootings saves lives by addressing one of the most dangerous forms of gun violence. Strengthening partnerships, supporting prevention efforts, promoting firearm safety in high-risk situations, and improving coordination with victim services and other agencies protect victims and families while reducing preventable firearm deaths across the Commonwealth.

Recommended Strategy	Action(s) Needed
D.1. Advocate for stable, long-term funding for victim compensation and services for gun violence survivors.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
D.2. Continue to partner with the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) to expand awareness and statewide implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) with local law enforcement and PSP.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Interagency Coordination • Training & Technical Assistance
D.3. Educate policymakers on the value of domestic violence fatality review teams in preventing future deaths.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
D.4. (NEW) Support recommendations from the Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Initiative's statewide needs assessment through implementation of the Philadelphia Hope & Healing Center (PHHC) pilot.	• Funding • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
D.5. (NEW) Based on lessons learned from the PHHC pilot and using statewide and regional needs assessment findings, explore the replication of the Center pilot model in another area of the Commonwealth hard-hit by gun violence.	• Data & Research • Funding • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
D.6. (NEW) Support the goals of PA's federal STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Plan to reduce domestic violence homicides.	• Funding • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input
D.7. (NEW) Review findings and recommendations from Temple University's qualitative research project examining PA counties' implementation of Act 79 of 2018's weapons relinquishment requirements.	• Data & Research • Legislation/Policy
D.8. (NEW) Enhance training and awareness of domestic violence and its intersections with gun violence.	• Training & Technical Assistance • Interagency Coordination • Communications & Stakeholder Input

E. Community Gun Violence

Investing in the people and organizations that know their communities best has been demonstrated to reduce community gun violence. The OGVP is recommending strategies that will maintain Pennsylvania’s momentum and focus on sustained partnerships with local organizations, maintaining and increasing support for effective violence intervention and prevention programs, and helping communities build the resources they need to prevent violence before it happens.

Recommended Strategy	Action(s) Needed
E.1. (NEW) Building on principles of participatory grantmaking, ⁶ establish a structured community input process that collects insights from residents, survivors, and CVI practitioners that help inform grant program priorities.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Communications & Stakeholder Input
E.2. (NEW) Explore opportunities for more flexible funding structures, such as those offered by public-private partnerships, that may reduce upfront financial barriers for grantees.	• Public/Private Partnerships • Funding
E.3. (NEW) Continue simplifying budget templates and grant compliance guides using plain language.	• Training & Technical Assistance • Communications & Stakeholder Input
E.4. (NEW) Continue investing in technical assistance to support community-based organizations in their capacity building and grant program compliance efforts.	• Training & Technical Assistance • Communications & Stakeholder Input
E.5. (NEW) Develop and publish a CVI toolkit with best practices local communities can use to reduce gun violence.	• Training & Technical Assistance • Communications & Stakeholder Input • Interagency Coordination
E.6. (NEW) Prioritize funding for healing-centered organizational and leadership development in community-based organizations.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding
E.7. (NEW) Support development of trauma-informed training for law enforcement partners, as well as efforts to expand CIT adoption.	• Training & Technical Assistance • Communications & Stakeholder Input
E.8. (NEW) Encourage local governments to directly support CVI programs as a core public safety strategy.	• Communications & Stakeholder Input • Funding
E.9. (NEW) Expand funding for alternative community violence prevention approaches, such as healing arts, clinical methods, and peer-led mental health models, and position healing practices as a core component of public safety.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Interagency Coordination
E.10. (NEW) Expand trauma recovery centers (TRCs) across PA.	• Legislation/Policy • Funding • Training & Technical Assistance

⁶ Participatory grantmaking is an approach that shares decision-making power with people and communities most directly affected by an issue. In community gun violence prevention, it means involving residents, survivors, young people, grassroots leaders, and others with lived experience in developing funding priorities and helping shape which community-led solutions receive grants. This approach recognizes that communities closest to the challenges often have the expertise needed to identify effective, culturally-responsive strategies and helps ensure that philanthropic resources are directed toward solutions that reflect local needs and priorities.

Acronym List

BOOST	Building Opportunity through Out of School Time (<i>state grant program</i>)
DHS	Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
DMVA	Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
DOH	Pennsylvania Department of Health
JCJC	Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
JJDPC	Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Committee
LAP	Lethality Assessment Program
OGVP	Pennsylvania Office of Gun Violence Prevention, <i>within PCCD</i>
OVA	Office of Victim Advocate
PCCD	Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
PFAD	Protection from Abuse Database (<i>PSP database</i>)
PHC4	Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
PSP	Pennsylvania State Police
SCIP	Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (<i>federal grant program</i>)
STOP	Services, Training, Officers, & Prosecutors Violence Against Women (<i>federal grant program</i>)
UCR	Uniform Crime Reporting (<i>PSP database</i>)
VOCA	Victims of Crime Act
VCAP	Victims Compensation Assistance Program
VDPP	Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program (<i>state grant program</i>)
VIP	Violence Intervention and Prevention (<i>state grant program</i>)