



## **FY 2024-25 VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION (VIP) FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Open Solicitation Period:**

Monday, September 9, 2024 to Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 8:00 PM

### **Application Materials and Reference Documents Available Here:**

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/Grants-and-Funding.aspx>

### **Link to Electronic Submittal Form (SurveyMonkey):**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024VIPGrants>

### **Introduction**

For FY 2024-25, a total of \$45 million<sup>1</sup> in state funding for Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) has been directed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for providing grants and technical assistance to address community violence throughout the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this funding announcement, ‘community violence’ is defined as intentional interpersonal violence (e.g., gun violence, group-related violence, domestic violence/intimate partner violence) in areas of Pennsylvania with high rates of firearm-related violent crime (using Uniform Crime Report offense data or similar local crime statistics) and/or firearm-related injury (using injury and hospitalization data or similar local data sources).<sup>2</sup>

The School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC), which is responsible for the oversight of VIP funding, approved a VIP Solicitation Framework on September 4, 2024. VIP funding is intended to support [community violence intervention \(CVI\)](#) strategies designed to address violence that is already occurring in communities. (Note: Applicants seeking funding for upstream prevention programming, such as youth-focused prevention programs, are strongly encouraged to seek funding through the new [BOOST Grant Program](#).)

Community-based organizations (i.e., active, registered 501(c)(3) organizations), institutions of higher education, municipalities, counties, and district attorneys<sup>3</sup> are eligible to apply for funding under this solicitation.

**NOTE: This funding announcement document outlines the process to apply for VIP funding using designated Proposal Narrative templates and an online SurveyMonkey form. Please read it carefully**

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<sup>1</sup> An additional \$11.5 million in state VIP funds has been allocated to a new Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grant Program. Please see the [BOOST Funding Announcement](#) for additional information.

<sup>2</sup> You can use PCCD’s [Gun Violence Grants & Data Dashboard](#) to see data on firearm injury rates in local ZIP codes as well as county-level homicide data through 2023.

<sup>3</sup> A district attorney’s office is eligible to submit an initial funding request via SurveyMonkey. However, in the event a district attorney’s office is approved for VIP funding by the School Safety and Security Committee, PCCD expects the county to make a formal Egrants application on their behalf as part of the grant award process. For the CCVI solicitation, counties must submit applications in Egrants on behalf of district attorney’s offices.

**prior to making application.** Due to the competitive nature of the VIP solicitation, PCCD staff are unable to answer questions about your organization’s specific proposal.

Questions regarding this funding announcement can be sent to [ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov](mailto:ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov) with “VIP FA” in the subject line. Responses to all questions will be posted on PCCD’s [Funding Announcement webpage](#).

**1. Funding Availability & Maximum Budgets:**

A total of \$45 million in VIP Grant funding is being announced for FY 2024-25 through two solicitations: 1) VIP Grants (online SurveyMonkey application form), and 2) Collaborative CVI Strategies Grants (PCCD’s Egrants System). Each solicitation offers two ‘tracks’ for eligible applicants:

Solicitation	Application ‘Track’ Name	Expected # of Awards	Dollar Amount for Award	Project Start Date	Project Duration (Months)
VIP	Track 1: Expansion, Enhancement or Continuation of Established Programs	25-30	Up to \$950,000	March 1, 2025	36
VIP	Track 2: VIP Start-Up Grants	15-20	Up to \$100,000	March 1, 2025	18
CCVI	Track 1: CCVI Planning Grants	5-10	Up to \$75,000	March 1, 2025	18
CCVI	Track 2: CCVI Implementation Grants	2-3	Up to \$2,000,000	March 1, 2025	36

Under this VIP Grants solicitation, applicants may seek funding through one of two tracks:

- **VIP Track 1: Expansion/Enhancement Grants for Established Programs**
  - **Goal:** Support the continuation, expansion, and enhancement of effective, community-led strategies to intervene and respond to community violence.
  - Community-based organizations (i.e., active, registered 501(c)(3) organizations) with existing, established programs and entities with demonstrated impact and higher levels of organizational capacity and experience managing grant funds are eligible to apply for funds under VIP Track 1. Community-based organizations that have not previously received funding from PCCD or another publicly funded grant program (such as a federal grant) are STRONGLY encouraged to consider applying for funds under VIP Track 2: Start-Up Grants.
- **VIP Track 2: Start-Up Grants**
  - **Goal:** Provide financial, technical assistance, training, coaching, and other supports to grassroots community organizations to support new programming as well as strengthen their infrastructure, enhance sustainability, and meet essential capacity needs.
  - Community-based organizations (i.e., active, registered 501(c)(3) organizations) that have not previously received funding from PCCD or another publicly funded grant program (such as a federal grant) and/or have not existed for more than two years are eligible to apply for funds under VIP Track 2. Community-based organizations without 501(c)(3) status may use a fiscal sponsor to apply for funds under VIP Track 2.

**Applicants may only submit one application under this funding announcement;** however, nothing prohibits an organization from making direct application and also being included as a proposed subrecipient in another eligible applicant’s application. (Note: Applicants must ensure all funding requested, whether directly or through another entity’s application, is not duplicative and aligns with requirements identified in this funding announcement as well as [PCCD’s Applicant’s Manual](#).)

### How Much Can My Organization Apply for in VIP Funds?

Under this funding solicitation, maximum award amounts will be based on an applicant's current annual actual operating expenditures (not actual or budgeted revenue or budgeted expenditures). **Applicants may not request more than 50% of their total actual operating expenditures for the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, or the maximum allowable amount for each VIP Track, whichever is less.** **Note:** This limit applies to your entire VIP funding request (e.g., over the entire project period, not a per year max).

**Examples:** As an example, an organization that had \$250,000 in actual expenditures between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, applying under Track 1 (VIP Expansion/Enhancement) would be allowed to request a total of up to \$125,000 for their whole project. The same organization coming in under VIP Track 2 (Start-Up Grants) could request up to the maximum allowed \$100,000 for their project. Another organization with \$100,000 in total actual expenditures between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, applying under either VIP Track 1 or VIP Track 2 could not ask for more than \$50,000 total for their entire VIP request.

**Please note:** As this is a competitive application process, it is incumbent on the applicant to request the appropriate and allowable amount of funding. PCCD will not pre-determine which funding levels your organization qualifies for but will verify this information through the review process. Proposals seeking funding that significantly exceeds allowable amounts may be administratively rejected. Applicants will also be required to provide documentation confirming their organization's total annual operating expenditures to confirm their funding request is allowable. Examples of documentation that would be sufficient to verify the grant amount requested include:

- Statement of Activity, Profit/Loss Statement, or similar report from the applicant's accounting system
- Form 990
- Audited Financial Statement

PCCD is not liable for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award. Applicants are required to follow PCCD's procurement guidelines (see page 17 of [PCCD's Applicant's Manual](#)).

## 2. FY24 VIP Funding Priorities:

Under both VIP Tracks, priority consideration under this competitive solicitation will be given to proposed initiatives that would take place in ZIP code(s) in the Commonwealth with the highest levels of firearm-related injury and/or counties that experienced an increase in homicides between 2022 and 2023. (See Appendix A for list of these counties.)

- **Track 1 (VIP Expansion/Enhancement Grants) Funding Priorities:** Priority consideration will be given to proposed VIP Track 1 applications seeking funds to:
  - Serve individuals with highest risk for gun violence involvement (e.g., those most likely to shoot and/or be shot) through evidence-based CVI strategies.
  - Support collaborative projects co-implemented with multiple partners which are included as proposed sub-recipients.
  - Support continuation of successful projects whose current VIP Grant awards have ended, or are ending, as of June 30, 2025.
- **Track 2 (VIP Start-Up Grants) Funding Priorities:**
  - Applicants which are grassroots, community-based organizations that have not previously received a state grant (including from PCCD) will be given priority consideration under Track 2.

In addition to reviewers' scores, other factors that may be considered include geographic diversity, other applications received for similar activities in the region, the applicant's compliance history with fiscal and

program reporting (if applicable), the applicant’s historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals (if applicable), and available funding.

### 3. Non-supplantation:

Per state law, VIP Grant funding cannot be used to replace (“supplant”) state, federal, or local funds that would otherwise be available for program-related services. PCCD funding must be used in addition to other funds that are made available for services.

**Supplanting** occurs when an entity reduces funding budgeted for an activity because grant funds are available to fund that same activity. Requesting funding for activities, personnel, and/or items currently included in the entity’s annual budget, including salaries for existing positions, would be considered supplantation.

**Supplementing** occurs when grant funds are used to enhance existing funds for program activities. Examples of supplementing may include items/personnel that are currently funded but not included or re-occurring in the entity’s budget (e.g., funded with other grant funds that are ending, etc.), hiring new staff, increasing hours of part-time personnel above and beyond current budgeted/authorized levels, increasing salaries/compensation for existing full-time staff, and increasing program activity/capacity.

### 4. Project Dates:

Grant award project periods vary depending on the VIP “Track”:

- **Track 1 projects:** Up to 36 months (March 1, 2025 – February 29, 2028)
- **Track 2 projects:** Up to 18 months (March 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026)

**Note:** Project dates are contingent upon availability and authorization of funds. There should be no expectation that funding will be extended past these periods.

### 5. Eligible Applicants:

Per state law, VIP funding is limited to the following entities that may submit an initial funding request/application:

- Community-based or nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status<sup>4</sup>
- Institutions of higher education
- \*\*Municipalities
- \*\*Counties
- District attorney’s offices<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Community-based organizations must be a registered 501(c)(3) in order to make direct application for VIP funds. Use of fiscal sponsors who are eligible to make direct application is allowable for community-based organizations that do not have 501(c)(3) status. In the application, organizations will be asked to provide information related to the nonprofit’s operations (e.g., number of employees, board structure/membership, minutes, etc.) to verify eligibility. In addition, PCCD will ask nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status to provide the link to your organization’s nonprofit notation in [GuideStar.org \(Candid\)](https://www.guidestar.org), [IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search](https://www.irs.gov/efile), or another similar nonprofit data search engine to confirm this status. If that notation is not provided or available, you may receive follow-up communications from PCCD staff to confirm your 501(c)(3) status.

<sup>5</sup> A district attorney’s office is eligible to submit an initial request via SurveyMonkey. However, in the event a district attorney’s office is approved for VIP funding by the Committee, PCCD expects the county to make a formal Egrants application on their behalf as part of the grant award process.

**\*\*Note:** Law enforcement agencies may not make direct application for funding under this solicitation; however, counties and municipalities may make application on behalf of a law enforcement agency or agencies under their jurisdiction.

Eligible applicants who are also eligible under the [Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time \(BOOST\) Grants funding announcement](#) may only submit one application to PCCD (e.g., you cannot submit an application under both funding announcements). BOOST funding is designed to support youth-focused prevention programs. Please see the [BOOST Grants funding announcement](#) for additional details regarding that solicitation.

- **NOTE:** While PCCD strongly encourages eligible applicants seeking funding for prevention-focused projects to submit an application through the BOOST solicitation, PCCD will not penalize applicants who submit through the VIP Tracks.

## 6. Eligible Program Activities & Approaches:

VIP funding supports a wide range of programs designed to reduce community violence. All grants and technical assistance supported with VIP Grants (all Tracks) are to align with one of the following list of eligible activities included in [Section 1306-B\(j\)\(22\) of the PA Public School Code](#):

- (i) Increasing access to quality trauma-informed support services and behavioral health care by linking the community with local trauma support and behavioral health systems.
- (ii) Providing health services and intervention strategies by coordinating the services provided by eligible applicants and coordinated care organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers and community-based organizations.
- (iii) Providing mentoring and other intervention models to children<sup>6</sup> and their families who have experienced trauma or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, in foster care, involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed, experiencing a mental illness or substance abuse disorder or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution.
- (iv) Fostering and promoting communication between the school entity, community, and law enforcement.<sup>7</sup>
- (v) Any OTHER program or model designed to reduce community violence and approved by the committee.

Applicants will be asked to identify the category from the list above that is most applicable to the project they are proposing. Applicants seeking funding for ‘OTHER’ programs/models should clearly describe how proposed activities align with VIP funding goals, objectives, and priorities, including how the proposed project will reduce/address community violence.

Applicants will also be asked to identify how their proposed project aligns with specific type(s) of anti-violence strategies (i.e., Intervention or Transformation/Healing).<sup>8</sup>

### EXAMPLES OF STRATEGIES THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED WITH VIP GRANTS:

- Street outreach and violence interruption programs utilizing credible messengers seeking to stop immediate violent incidents or respond in the aftermath of an incident to prevent retaliatory violence (e.g., [Cure Violence](#)).
- Group-based violence intervention (e.g., [Group Violence Intervention/GVI](#)).

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<sup>6</sup> Note: Applicants who are interested in utilizing VIP funds to support afterschool and out-of-school time programs are strongly encouraged to review PCCD’s [BOOST Funding Announcement](#).

<sup>7</sup> Applicants seeking VIP funds to support school-based programming are required to provide a letter of commitment or similar documentation confirming the school entity’s willingness to participate in the proposed project.

<sup>8</sup> Please see Appendix B for an overview and examples of these anti-violence strategies.

- Identification, outreach, and engagement of individuals who are most likely to be involved in violence and providing tailored, holistic case management supports to meet a wide range of education, employment, mental and behavioral health, and other basic needs (e.g., [Chicago CRED](#), [Safe and Successful Youth Initiative](#), [Rapid Employment and Development Initiative/READI](#), etc.).
- [Hospital-based and hospital-linked violence intervention programs \(HVIPs\)](#).
- Increasing availability of safe routes and transportation options for youth and adults in neighborhoods with high rates of gun violence (e.g., [Safe Passages](#), [Safe Routes/Corridors](#)).
- Strengthening pre-release and reentry programs, interventions, services, and supports for youth and adults arrested and/or charged with firearm-related offenses.
- Trauma-informed approaches that engage individuals who have experienced/witnessed gun violence (e.g., Cognitive Behavioral Therapy).
- Programming engaging and/or directly supporting youth with elevated risk of violence involvement, including justice-involved youth (e.g., Juvenile Engagement Officers, diversion and reentry/aftercare programs, youth advocacy/case management, etc.).
- Strategies to identify and address drivers of youth gun involvement and gun violence.
- Programs, services, and strategies to prevent domestic violence and intimate partner violence injuries and fatalities involving firearms (e.g., programs, services, and strategies to prevent domestic violence and intimate partner violence injuries and fatalities, especially those involving firearms (e.g., [Lethality Assessment Program/LAP](#), domestic violence fatality/near fatality reviews, [Act 79 of 2018](#) implementation, etc.).
- Establishing [Violence Reduction Councils \(VRCs\)](#)<sup>9</sup> and/or enhancing existing local interagency planning bodies, such as [Criminal Justice Advisory Boards \(CJABs\)](#),<sup>10</sup> to enhance focus on gun violence prevention/reduction strategies.
- **Other** violence intervention and/or response strategies that demonstrate promise in meeting the goals of this program.

**NOTE:** This list of programs and models is for reference purposes only. Programs not specifically identified in these examples can still be presented to the Committee/PCCD for consideration. Regardless of the proposed approach, applicants must be able to demonstrate why the strategy was selected for the proposed project’s target area and/or population(s) and provide evidence indicating the strategy is likely to reduce violence.

## **FUNDING GOALS & ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES BY VIP TRACK:**

1. **VIP Track 1 (Expansion/Enhancement):** Applicants may request funding to support expansion, enhancement, and/or continuation of existing (for a minimum of two years) programs and initiatives aligned with VIP Grants eligible activities described above. VIP Track 1 funds can be used for a range of project-related expenses, including:
  - a. Allowing continued services for these programs, including serving additional participants.

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<sup>9</sup> Violence Reduction Councils (VRCs) are a public health-focused, interdisciplinary approach to preventing community violence, bringing together public health, criminal justice, social services, and community-based organizations to collaboratively review homicide and assault data to identify and implement long-term solutions. See Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s [Violence Reduction Council Toolkit](#) for additional information about this approach.

<sup>10</sup> All 67 counties in Pennsylvania have established Criminal Justice Advisory Boards (CJABs). CJABs are local planning boards comprised of diverse, multidisciplinary members representing various justice system entities, victims’ services, mental and behavioral health services, housing authorities, and other stakeholders. More information about CJABs, including Minimum Operating Standards, is available on PCCD’s [Criminal Justice Advisory Boards](#) webpage.

- b. Providing additional services, resources, and supports aligned with VIP eligible activities, goals, and priorities.
- c. Project-specific technical assistance for program or model implementation (i.e., training staff and consultants in a given approach, establishing data collection/reporting protocols, etc.).
- d. Costs associated with effectively administering grant funds, such as related business/administrative functions (i.e., contracted services for administrative or accounting support to manage bookkeeping functions).

**Note:** Entities that have previously received PCCD funding to support violence prevention/reduction efforts (including current/past VIP grantees) will be asked to articulate the impact of those initiatives. Current/past grantees will also be asked to distinguish how proposed activities would differ from (or build upon/expand) previously funded projects and/or explain why funding is needed to continue services/programming.

2. **VIP Track 2 (Start-Up Grants):** This funding track is designed to provide shorter-range “start-up” funding paired with intensive, required technical assistance and coaching supports provided by WestEd and LISC (VIP TTA Providers) and other partners. Smaller, more grassroots organizations or newer programs that have been in place for less than two years are encouraged to apply under this new VIP funding track. Track 2 applicants can request funding to support a combination of programmatic and operation-focused activities, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Activities designed to increase the organization’s capacity to employ CVI strategies.
  - b. Implementation costs to begin a new violence intervention/response strategy or support costs associated with a program that has existed for less than two years.
  - c. Support professional development and training for staff and volunteers.
  - d. Other eligible expenses to support grant-related activities.

Approved VIP Track 2 applicants will be required to participate in technical assistance and coaching supports provided by VIP Technical Assistance providers. These will include a combination of virtual and in-person engagement designed to improve organizational health and sustainability and enhance readiness/capacity to effectively administer grant funds. Examples of VIP Track 2 TTA supports include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Board training focused on areas like recruitment, orientation, and retention;
- Board governance (e.g., fiduciary responsibilities, effective meeting facilitation, etc.);
- Leadership development;
- Strategic planning;
- Financial management and oversight (e.g., budgeting, financial management and reporting, etc.);
- Technology and information management systems;
- Staff development and training;
- Program management; and
- Evaluation and data collection/reporting.

**Note:** Community-based organizations receiving VIP Start-Up Grants who successfully complete grant requirements and demonstrate increased organizational capacity will be given priority consideration for future VIP Expansion/Enhancement funding rounds (subject to availability of funds).

PCCD's School Safety and Security Committee has [funded](#) a wide range of programs and activities designed to prevent and reduce community violence previously using VIP Grant funding.

## 7. Allowable Grant Expenses:

Generally, grant funding can support expenses associated with direct project activities, including program implementation. All VIP funding (regardless of application track) can be used to support the following allowable grant activities and expenses:

- Salaries and benefits for personnel (full-time or part-time), including overtime;
- Contractors/consultants;
- **\*\*Costs associated with referring program participants to community-based service providers and programs (including meals, incentives and/or stipends for participants);**
- Expenses and activities related to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), such as greening, clean-up, lighting, etc.;
- Supplies and equipment;
- Training and technical assistance;
- Travel/transportation expenses; and
- Other activities and expenses necessary to meet the needs of programs and participants.<sup>11</sup>

**\*\*NOTE:** PCCD recognizes that offering meals, incentives, and participant supports can help increase participation among clients/individuals engaged in services. Therefore, VIP funds may be used to purchase meals or snacks, items or activities used as program/participant incentives, and participant support items, provided that these incentives are used to encourage these outcomes (e.g., rewards for participants meeting certain documented milestones, celebrating program completion, etc.). In all cases, there must be a direct and documented link to grant-funded activities. PCCD will determine whether each expense is appropriately explained and justified and will have final approval of all budget requests. In addition, PCCD requires that grantees who utilize grant funds to support purchase of gift cards and similar incentives comply with documentation requirements prescribed by PCCD. Information on gift cards and similar incentives can be found here: [Gift Cards and Near Cash Items Policies and Procedures](#).

PCCD has approval of all final budgets and may require budget adjustments.

## 8. Indirect Costs:

Indirect costs are limited to 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC).<sup>12</sup> If an applicant's indirect request exceeds 10%, and the grant moves forward, it will be reduced to 10%. Administrative costs that are not clearly justified to be direct project costs within the applicant's proposed budget detail will be considered indirect and will be counted toward the 10% maximum indirect rate.

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<sup>11</sup> This includes costs associated with grant management, technical assistance, and related activities. PCCD staff recommend budgeting approximately 10 hours of staff time for orientation and onboarding activities in Year 1, as well as for staff time commensurate with involvement in grants administration (e.g., program reporting, evaluation and technical assistance activities, fiscal reporting and oversight, etc.). This can also include costs associated with enhancing readiness/capacity to effectively administer grant funds, such as related business/administrative functions (i.e., contracted services for administrative or accounting support to manage bookkeeping functions, etc.).

<sup>12</sup> Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) is the base to which indirect costs rates are applied. MTDC includes direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for rent, tuition remission, participant support costs (e.g., gift cards, stipends), and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000.



## 9. Ineligible or Limited Program Activities & Expenses:

In general, physical security/infrastructure costs (such as security cameras, building modifications, and other “hardening” strategies) are not allowable under this solicitation.

**NOTE:** Applicants seeking funding to support Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) or similar approaches can request VIP funds to support the purchase of equipment and related expenses necessary to carry out these activities; however, proposals may not include costs/activities that are considered to be construction.

In addition, grant funds may not be used for:

- Construction;
- Land acquisition;
- Lobbying and political contributions;
- Honoraria or bonuses;
- Vehicle purchases; and/or
- Any expenses that fall significantly outside of the scope of the funding announcement.

PCCD reserves the right to require that approved VIP applicants remove items from the project’s proposed budget that are deemed ineligible. For example, license plate readers and facial recognition software, unless being used by law enforcement, would be deemed ineligible.

Funding cannot be used for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award.

## 10. Technical Assistance:

All VIP Grant-funded projects will receive initial and ongoing technical assistance supports at no cost to grantees over the course of the project period. These resources are offered by PCCD’s [VIP Training and Technical Assistance \(TTA\)](#) provider, WestsEd’s Justice & Prevention Research Center and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). More information about available TTA resources and supports can be found at [www.papeacealliance.org](http://www.papeacealliance.org).

Applicants can also request a portion of their VIP Grant funding to support project-specific technical assistance for program or model implementation (e.g., training staff and consultants in a given approach, establishing data collection/reporting protocols, etc.).

PCCD staff will also be available to assist approved/awarded entities related to grants management procedures and requirements.

## 11. Application Process:

The online SurveyMonkey form serves as an applicant’s initial request for VIP funding and can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024VIPGrants>

A PDF of the [SurveyMonkey form questions and application instructions](#) are available to view and download on PCCD’s website to help you formulate your responses and application materials in advance.

**Applicants are required to develop and upload a separate Proposal Narrative using a Word/PDF template provided by PCCD as part of their online SurveyMonkey request form submission in order to be considered for VIP Grant funding.** The Proposal Narrative will provide additional details

regarding an applicant's proposed project, need for funding, and other details. Please ensure you are completing the correct one depending on your specific proposal type/application 'track':

1. Track 1: VIP Expansion/Enhancement Grants
2. Track 2: VIP Start-Up Grants

**You can view/download a copy of each track's Proposal Narrative Template on PCCD's *Gun Violence Grants & Funding* webpage.** The templates provide specific questions not found in this funding announcement or in the online SurveyMonkey request form.

Applicants must provide a completed Proposal Narrative and Budget Table(s) within their SurveyMonkey submission form using the designated attachment/upload fields. VIP Proposal Narratives may not exceed 15 pages total. Proposal Narratives must be **double spaced** using a standard 12-point font, with 1-inch page margins.

Applicants must also complete the designated Budget Table and Narrative information within their submitted Proposal Narrative document. A Budget Table and Narrative should be provided for the applicants AND for any proposed subrecipients and should not exceed three (3) pages each. As an example, an applicant seeking funding in partnership with another subrecipient would submit a single Proposal Narrative document (up to 15 pages, double spaced) with two Budget Tables and Narratives, one for the applicant and one for the proposed subrecipient organization, not exceeding an additional six (6 pages); the total page count of this applicant's Proposal Narrative would be no more than 21 pages.

Applicants are also encouraged to submit additional information using supplemental attachments, if desired. **Please note: File uploads in SurveyMonkey are limited to 16MB each.**

<b>The online SurveyMonkey initial request form with the uploaded Proposal Narrative and Budget Table(s) document must be submitted to PCCD no later than Thursday, October 31, 2024 by 8:00 PM (ET).</b>
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#### **REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

1. Applicants must upload a completed VIP Grants Proposal Narrative (Track 1 or Track 2) as part of their online funding request using the templates provided by PCCD (Word/PDF). Applicants must include relevant budget information for their proposed project, including any information regarding proposed subrecipients, using the designated Budget Table and Narrative template. (This should be included in your Proposal Narrative and uploaded as a single file in DOC/DOCX or PDF format.)
2. Applicants must also provide communications of support (e.g., letters, videos, etc.) or other mechanisms demonstrating commitment of named partners to the proposed project.

#### **OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS/INFORMATION:**

1. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to provide the following:
  - a. Additional information about their organization and/or proposed initiative by submitting a short, 2-5 minute video or providing other supplemental materials/information that can support their funding request. The initial request form in SurveyMonkey will include optional 'Attachment' fields where applicants can upload video files (maximum of 16 MB) or other materials (e.g., photos, newsletters, annual reports, etc.), as well as text fields to link to YouTube, Vimeo, or other video or social media platforms.

All applicants will also be required to complete acknowledgments that the initial request is only the first step, and that selected entities will be required to develop a more formal application in PCCD's Egrants

system as part of the grant award process if they are recommended for funding by the Committee/PCCD; that performance metrics will be required for all grant-funded projects; and that the applicant may be required to participate in webinars, calls, technical assistance, and/or virtual meetings as part of their award.

Applicants do not have to complete the SurveyMonkey form in one sitting; however, to continue working on your application, you must use the same computer/device/system (e.g., web browser) that you started the application on. **To reduce the risk of lost work, applicants are strongly encouraged to develop their funding request responses and application content outside of the SurveyMonkey form first before entering final information, uploading attachments, and submitting the online application.** Please refer to the [online SurveyMonkey form questions](#) and Proposal Narrative templates for questions applicants will be asked to respond to in the initial funding request form. Please note that you must hit “Next” on each section to save your information for the previous screen. Once you hit the “Submit/Done” button, you will not be able to modify your request. Additionally, SurveyMonkey will not provide a confirmation or a copy of your submission.

## 12. Application Review & Award Process:

The VIP Grants application review process will commence once the initial funding request period in SurveyMonkey closes on Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (ET). PCCD staff will verify if the applicant is an eligible entity during a preliminary review. Applicants may be contacted by PCCD staff during the review for additional information or clarification, if needed.

Using review teams comprised of internal and external scorers, PCCD conducts a review of eligible applications using criteria to gauge alignment of proposals with VIP Grant goals, objectives, and funding priorities.

Subject to availability of funds, organizations/entities recommended and approved for FY 2024 VIP Grants by PCCD’s School Safety and Security Committee will be notified sometime between mid-December 2024 to early January 2025 (TBD). **Approved entities will be required to complete and submit an Egrants application in order to receive an award.** The sooner approved applicants complete their Egrants application, the sooner PCCD can process their award. Any approved applicants that do not submit an application within 45 days risk forfeiting their award. Egrants technical assistance supports will be available to all approved entities, if needed. Approved entities that fail to complete an Egrants application, including responding to issues flagged by PCCD staff in a timely manner, may risk forfeiting their award.

Approved applicants may need to make programmatic and/or fiscal modifications from what was proposed in their initial funding request to comply with state fiscal requirements, conditions from reviewers and/or PCCD staff, or this funding announcement. PCCD reserves the right to make final budget determinations and modifications as part of this process.

Approved applicants will also be asked to participate in pre-award onboarding activities to prepare for project implementation, including technical assistance and training activities, as needed or required.

Subject to completion of the Egrants application and availability of funds, approved VIP Grant projects will have a start date of March 1, 2025. VIP Track 1 projects will have up to 36 months to complete activities (February 29, 2028); VIP Track 2 projects will have up to 18 months for project activities (August 31, 2026).

### 13. Additional Resources & Assistance for Applicants:

Questions regarding this solicitation or the application process can be directed to PCCD staff at [ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov](mailto:ra-cd-vipgrants@pa.gov) with “VIP FA” in the subject line. Responses to all questions submitted will be posted on PCCD’s [Funding Announcement webpage](#).

**Pre-Application Resources:** Interested applicants who are community-based nonprofit organizations are also strongly encouraged to review and complete a [PCCD Grants Readiness Self-Assessment Checklist](#). This interactive document provides an overview of the minimum requirements nonprofit organizations must have in place to directly apply for and receive grant funding from PCCD, as well as recommended (but not required) practices for grantees. You can also learn more about these and other requirements by reviewing the [PCCD Grant Application Pre-Award Checklist](#).

**Informational Webinar for Applicants:** In addition, interested applicants are invited to register for a virtual webinar on this funding announcement.<sup>13</sup> During these webinars, PCCD staff will provide an overview of the VIP Grants program, including the competitive solicitation requirements and application process. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive instructions on accessing the online SurveyMonkey initial application, developing and uploading the required Proposal Narrative, and other application tips. Other topics may include, but are not limited to, eligibility criteria, funding goals and priorities, and an overview of other programmatic and fiscal requirements.

#### Webinar for Interested VIP Applicants

October 9, 2024 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET)

Webinar Registration Form:

<https://forms.office.com/g/RXgrZdPAdR>

\*\*Note: Webinar recordings and any related materials will be posted on [PCCD’s Gun Violence Grants and Funding webpage](#) for reference.

**Additional Technical Assistance Resources:** PCCD’s designated VIP Technical Assistance providers at WestEd and LISC are available to provide support for organizations during the application process. More information about these resources is available at the [PA Peace Alliance website](#). You can also check out the site’s [interactive resource library](#), including research, tools, checklists, and other information.

**Data Resources:** PCCD encourages applicants to reference the following data tools and datasets as they develop their Proposal Narrative and other application materials:

- [Gun Violence and VIP Grantees Data Dashboard \(PCCD\)](#) – Includes interactive data on all VIP Grant projects currently/previiously funded by PCCD (including project categories and project service locations), as well as data layers on firearm-related injuries by ZIP code (2016-2023) and homicides by county (2022, 2023).
- [Gun Violence Data & Research \(PCCD\)](#) – Includes additional data resources as well as links to recently published reports on gun violence in Pennsylvania.

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<sup>13</sup> **Note:** While encouraged, participation in these informational webinars is not a requirement to apply for VIP funding. In addition, no preference is given to applicants who register for or attend webinars. Recordings of webinars will be made available on [PCCD’s Gun Violence Grants & Funding webpage](#) and [PCCD’s YouTube channel](#) following the conclusion of virtual sessions.

- [Crime in Pennsylvania Dashboard](#) (*PA State Police*) – Includes Uniform Crime Report (UCR) System data for all law enforcement agencies and counties by crime offenses.
- [Violence Dashboard](#) (*PA Department of Health*) – An interactive tool designed to display aggregated statistics for hospital discharge reasons and causes of death in Pennsylvania.
- [Mapping Philadelphia’s Gun Violence Crisis](#) (*City of Philadelphia*) – Provides up-to-date data on fatal and nonfatal shootings in the City of Philadelphia, with multiple data filters.
- [Community Violence Intervention](#) (*U.S. Department of Justice*) – Provides data, research, implementation guidance, and other resources related to CVI strategies.
- [Gun Violence in PA](#) (*CeaseFirePA*) – Provides data on community violence, mass shootings, domestic violence, and firearm suicide in Pennsylvania.
- [Domestic Violence Statistics](#) (*PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence*) – Data and statistics on domestic violence and intimate partner violence in Pennsylvania.
- [Gun Violence Archive](#) (*Gun Violence Archive*) – Provides ‘real-time’ data on shootings across the United States.
- [Justice Data Snapshots](#) (*Justice Reinvestment Initiative*) – Provides data snapshots for all 50 states, including Pennsylvania, across a wide range of public safety and justice-related indicators and can serve as a baseline for local and regional data trends.

**Additional PCCD Funding Opportunities:** If you haven’t already done so, please sign up for email notifications of future PCCD funding announcements [HERE](#). You can also view all open funding announcements and related Q&A documents on PCCD’s [Active Funding Announcements webpage](#).

**APPENDIX A: Pennsylvania Counties with Increased Homicides in 2023**

County	2022 Pop	2022 - Homicide Offenses	2022 Homicide Rate Per 100,000	2023 - Homicide Offenses	2023 Homicide Rate	Change (#) - 2022 to 2023
Adams	104,604	1	0.96	3	2.87	2
Beaver	167,629	7	4.18	10	5.97	3
Bradford	60,159	0	0.00	1	1.66	1
Butler	194,562	1	0.51	9	4.63	8
Clarion	37,489	1	2.67	2	5.33	1
Cumberland	261,269	8	3.06	12	4.59	4
Erie	270,495	8	2.96	15	5.55	7
Fayette	128,417	9	7.01	10	7.79	1
Juniata	23,535	1	4.25	2	8.50	1
Lackawanna	215,672	5	2.32	6	2.78	1
Lancaster	553,202	12	2.17	18	3.25	6
Lawrence	85,907	2	2.33	5	5.82	3
Lebanon	143,258	3	2.09	8	5.58	5
Lehigh	374,110	13	3.47	20	5.35	7
Luzerne	325,396	12	3.69	20	6.15	8
Mercer	110,600	0	0.00	5	4.52	5
Monroe	168,128	2	1.19	11	6.54	9
Montgomery	856,399	17	1.99	22	2.57	5
Northampton	314,299	4	1.27	5	1.59	1
Potter	16,390	0	0.00	1	6.10	1
Schuylkill	143,201	2	1.40	9	6.28	7
Union	42,908	0	0.00	2	4.66	2
Wayne	51,227	0	0.00	1	1.95	1

## APPENDIX B: Types of Community Violence Intervention & Anti-Violence Strategies

INTERVENTION (Short-Term)	
Overview	Examples of Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing the risk of violence among individuals who are at increased risk for involvement or reducing the escalation of violence among individuals who are already involved in violent behavior</li> <li>• Also known as secondary prevention</li> <li>• <i>Results expected in less than 3 years</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street outreach and violence interruption programs utilizing credible messengers/outreach workers (e.g., <a href="#">Cure Violence</a>, <a href="#">Group Violence Intervention</a>, etc.) including school-based programs.</li> <li>• Increasing availability of safe routes and transportation options for youth and adults (e.g., Safe Passages, Safe Corridors).</li> <li>• Identification, outreach, and engagement of individuals who are most likely to be involved in violence and providing tailored, coordinated, and holistic supports to meet a wide range of education, employment, mental and behavioral health, and other basic needs (e.g., <a href="#">Chicago CRED</a>, <a href="#">Safe and Successful Youth Initiative</a>, etc.).</li> <li>• Strengthening pre-release and reentry programs, interventions, services, and supports for youth and/or adults charged with firearm-related offenses.</li> <li>• Anti-violence programming engaging/directly supporting at-risk and/or system-involved youth (e.g., Juvenile Engagement Officers, deflection/diversion and reentry programs, youth advocacy and case management services, strategies to reduce gun involvement/violence among at-risk youth, etc.).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Hospital-based and hospital-linked violence intervention programs</a>.</li> </ul>
TRANSFORMATION & HEALING (Long-Term)	
Overview	Examples of Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing both individual and community trauma that violence has caused</li> <li>• May include shifting towards restorative and transformative approaches that prioritize community strength, healing, and safety opportunities; support and resourcing for all people impacted; practicing and strengthening connection with support systems</li> <li>• Also known as tertiary prevention</li> <li>• <i>Results expected in more than a decade</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma-informed approaches that engage individuals who have experienced/witnessed gun violence (e.g., Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, individual/group therapy, etc.)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)</a> strategies.</li> </ul>