

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM CRISIS ADVISORY BOARD

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the **State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board** and the general public that the **State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board** will hold a meeting open to the public on **February 14, 2024**, beginning at **1:30 p.m.** at the **Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Office, 1110 W. Washington, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**. Members of the Committee may attend either in person or by telephone, video, or internet conferencing.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission endeavors to ensure the accessibility of its meetings to all persons with disabilities. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Commission Office at (602) 364-1146. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

	Agenda Items	Presenter
I.	Call to Order and Roll Call	Chairperson
II.	Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Chairperson
	- August 1, 2023	P-F-T
III.	Approval of the Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program Grant Allocation Plan	Tony Vidale P-F-T
VI.	Call to the Public	
	Those wishing to address the Advisory Board need not request permission in advance. In order to facilitate virtual participation in the meeting, members of the public wishing to address the Advisory Board will need to email dcadmin@azcjc.gov in advance of the meeting and provide the phone number where staff can reach you. Staff will email you an acknowledgment of your request and call you during the Call to the Public for your comment. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or rescheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.	
VII.	Next Meeting	
	The next State Crisis Intervention Advisory Board meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.	
A copy of the agenda background material provided to Committee members is available for public inspection at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Office, 1110 West Washington, Suite 230, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, (602) 364-1146. This document is available in alternative formats by contacting the Commission Office.		

**ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM CRISIS ADVISORY BOARD
ACTION-MOTION/ INFORMATION ITEM**

Presenter	Dave Byers	Chairperson, SCIPCAB
Agenda Title	Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	

Recommended Action	Approval of the minutes for the August 1, 2023 meeting
Details/Discussion	See attached
Fiscal Impact	None
Alternatives Considered	Not Approve-Modify-Table

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board
Minutes
August 1, 2023

A public meeting of the State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board of the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission was convened on August 1, 2023, at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission: 1110 W. Washington, Suite 245, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Members Present:

Dave Byers - Director AOC- Shanda Breed representing in person
Jeffrey Glover - Director AZDPS – Eloyed Griego Jr representing virtually
Laura Conover - County Attorney Pima County - Baird Greene representing virtually
Rachel Mitchell - County Attorney Maricopa County - Rebecca Baker representing virtually
Kris Mayes - Attorney General AZAG – Kirstin Flores representing virtually
David Sanders - Chief of Probation Pima County attending virtually
Dan Levey - Director AZ Crime Victim Rights Law Group- Colleen Hendricks representing virtually
Adam Adinolfi - Pub Def Pinal County attending virtually
Margie Balfour - Behavioral Health provider Connections Health Solutions attending virtually
Rosemarie Pena-Lynch - Pub Def Maricopa County attending virtually

Members Absent:

Kara Riley - Chief Oro Valley PD
Paul Penzone- Sheriff MCSO
Jean Bishop - County BOS Mohave County

Staff Participating:

Andrew LeFevre, Director
Molly Edwards, Public Information Officer/Legislative Liaison
Tony Vidale, Deputy Director
Ashley Mully, Program Coordinator
Matt Bileski, Applications Developer
Siyeni Yitbarek, Program Coordinator

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Dave Sanders at 1:31 pm. Roll was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Dave Sanders called for a motion on the minutes. Baird Greene entered a motion to approve the minutes. Rebecca Baker seconded the motion, and was unanimously approved by the Board members.

Tony Vidale gave a brief update on the State Crisis Intervention Program. Shanda Breed had a question on the competitive vs. non-competitive solicitation timeline for the State Crisis Intervention Program.

III. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) Data

Matt Bileski gave a 12-minute presentation and discussed the National Violent Death Reporting System data. Shanda Breed commented on the presented data and requested further insight on young adults aged 18-24 for future presentations.

IV. Gun Violence Observation in Maricopa County – Phoenix Police Department

Lt. James Hester gave a 10-minute presentation on gun violence data in Maricopa County.

V. Gun Violence Observation in Pima County- Tucson Police Department

Sgt. Benjamin Soltero gave a 12-minute presentation on gun violence data in Pima County.

IV. Mental Illness Crisis Services- Connections Health Solutions

Dr. Margie Balfour gave a 20-minute presentation on mental health crisis and firearm deaths and how to access mental health crisis services in Arizona. David Sanders provided a comment.

V. Call to the Public

Dave Sanders made a call to the public, and no public comments were provided.

VI. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

The next State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board meeting will be held at the call of the Chairperson.

VII. Adjournment

Dave Sanders motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew T. LeFevre
Executive Director

**ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM CRISIS ADVISORY BOARD
ACTION-MOTION/ INFORMATION ITEM**

Presenter	Tony Vidale	Deputy Director
Agenda Title	Approval of the Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program Grant Allocation Plan	

Recommended Action	The State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board approve the Arizona Crisis Intervention Program Grant allocation plan as displayed in table DC1 on page 5. Staff is also recommending the Advisory Board discuss three projects for possible approval.
Details/Discussion	See the attached background for more details on this agenda item.
Fiscal Impact	Significant for recipient agencies
Alternatives Considered	None or Not Approve-Modify-Table

Recommendation

Staff recommends moving forward to BJA seven projects totaling \$1,751,963.40, according to Table DC1 of the agenda. Staff recommends the Advisory Board discuss three projects from the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community as displayed in Table DC1a. These projects do not strongly align with the objectives and priorities of the federal State Crisis Intervention Program grant and may not receive BJA approval.

DC1		
Agency	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Melabiz Community Hub	\$667,250.00	\$315,755.00
Buckeye Police Department	\$283,045.00	\$283,045.00
Arizona Supreme Court	\$114,519.00	\$108,894.00
Pima County Attorney's Office	\$352,429.00	\$352,429.00
Arizona Supreme Court	\$191,440.40	\$191,440.40
Cox Media/ACJC	\$205,000.00	\$205,000.00
Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County	\$295,400.00	\$295,400.00
Total	\$2,109,083.40	\$1,751,963.40

Projects For Further Discussion

DC1a		
Agency	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Arizona Supreme Court	\$3,974,250.00	\$2,670,643.00
Maricopa County Attorney's Office	\$476,701.27	\$476,701.27
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Total	\$4,700,951.27	\$3,397,344.27

Program Background

The Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program (AzSCIP Grant) assists state, local, tribal government, and nonprofit and community-based organization efforts to prevent or reduce gun-related crime and violence. These efforts also focus on improving the functioning of the criminal justice system, specifically through support for innovative and evidence-based practices, more effective information sharing, and multi-agency collaboration. As authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, Byrne SCIP provides formula funds to implement state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, extreme risk protection order programs that work to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts.

The program established the following goals and objectives:

Goal #1: Mitigate Gun Violence in Arizona.

Objective: Decrease the population at risk of instigating gun violence.

Objective: Minimize the population vulnerable to becoming gun violence victims.

Objective: Enhance the availability and accessibility of crisis intervention services to high-risk individuals.

Objective: Augment public awareness and understanding of gun violence and its preventive measures.

Objective: Decrease the count of unlawful firearms possessors.

Goal #2: Preserve Lives by Diminishing the Prevalence of Gun-related Fatalities.

Objective: Decrease the occurrences of gun-related homicides.

Objective: Minimize the instances of gun-involved suicides.

Goal #3: Decrease the Frequency of Gun-related Injuries.

Objective: Reduce incidents of gun-related injuries resulting from deliberate shootings.

Objective: Minimize occurrences of accidental injuries due to firearms.

The Grant Program is designed to fund projects over a 24-month period, emphasizing initiatives that integrate evidence-based practices, robust data tracking and evaluation, and a commitment to community collaboration.

Funding

The Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program Grant (AzSCIP) is funded through the federal FY 2022- 2023 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Formula (Byrne SCIP) grant awarded to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA). The AzSCIP, in accordance with the Byrne SCIP guidelines, will allocate a minimum of 40% of grant funding (less 10% administrative allocation) to local governments. This includes providing financial support to the state Administrative Office of the Courts for jurisdictions with populations less than \$10,000.

At the June 7, 2023, State Crisis Intervention Program Crisis Advisory Board meeting, the program size available for grant projects was set at \$5,500,487. Of that amount, \$3,055,826 was set aside for state-level projects (including non-profit organizations), \$2,253,200 for local agencies, including city, county, township, town, or certain federally recognized American Indian tribes, and \$191,441 directly allocated to the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts. This direct allocation met the "less than \$10,000 jurisdiction" requirement imposed by the DOJ/BJA grant. Table DC2 summarizes the grant funding for the grant program.

Table DC2	
Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program Grant Funding	
Subaward Funding:	
State-level Awards	\$3,300,292
Local Pass-through Awards	\$2,008,754
Less than \$10,000 Jurisdictions	\$191,441
Total Subaward Funding	\$5,500,487

Recommendation

The Staff recommendation would fund eight projects according to table DC1 of the agenda. Staff is further recommending the Board discuss three projects from the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office. These projects did not strongly align with the grant’s primary focus on crisis intervention and direct measures to reduce gun violence, injury, or death. All projects approved by the Advisory Board will be forwarded to BJA for their approval. Those projects that BJA determines are not in alignment with the crisis intervention requirements of the grant project will not be approved. See the section, “Proposals Requiring Further Discussion” below for the issues that may arise with approving these projects as submitted.

A summary of each project is contained in the agenda beginning on page 12. These are the summaries that will be submitted to the BJA for projects the Board moves forward.

Proposals Requiring Further Discussion

Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Strengthening Adult Probation Services to Directly Impact the Increase of Public Safety and Minimization of Gun Violence

The grant proposal is comprehensive and detailed, focusing on improving the probation system to minimize gun violence and enhance public safety. However, there are several areas where the proposal could face criticism, particularly in relation to its alignment with the grant’s primary focus on crisis intervention and direct measures to reduce gun violence, injury, or death:

1. **Indirect Approach to Gun Violence:** The proposal primarily focuses on systemic and administrative improvements within the probation system rather than directly addressing gun violence. While these improvements are likely to have a positive impact on reducing recidivism and indirectly may reduce gun violence, the connection between the proposed actions and immediate reductions in gun violence, injury, or death is somewhat tenuous. Critics might argue that the proposal does not provide enough direct interventions specifically targeted at gun violence, such as gun buyback programs, community-based violence intervention strategies, or direct education and outreach on gun safety.

2. **Lack of Specificity on Gun Violence Metrics:** The proposal outlines general goals for improving the probation system and mentions reducing gun violence as a part of its objectives. However, it lacks specific metrics or benchmarks related to gun violence reduction. Critics may question how the success of these initiatives will be measured specifically in terms of reducing gun-related incidents, injuries, or deaths, and how these measurements will be distinguished from other forms of violent or criminal behavior.
3. **Assumption of Causality:** The proposal assumes that improving the probation system will directly lead to a reduction in gun violence. While there is merit to the idea that better probation management can reduce recidivism and potentially decrease the likelihood of probationers engaging in gun violence, this causality is complex and influenced by numerous external factors. Critics might argue that the proposal underestimates the multifaceted nature of gun violence and overestimates the impact of probation system improvements on immediate gun violence reduction.
4. **Resource Allocation Concerns:** The proposal requests significant funding for system improvements, staff training, and technology upgrades. Critics might argue that the allocation of resources towards administrative and systemic improvements, while important, could be better spent on direct intervention strategies that have an immediate impact on reducing gun violence. There is a concern that the funding might not directly contribute to the grant's goals if not carefully monitored and evaluated for effectiveness in reducing gun violence specifically.
5. **Potential for Overemphasis on Surveillance and Control:** Some of the proposed measures, such as the improvement of case management systems for better tracking and supervision of probationers, could be critiqued for potentially leading to an overemphasis on surveillance and control. Critics might argue that without a strong emphasis on rehabilitation, community engagement, and support services, the approach may not address the root causes of gun violence and could contribute to a punitive rather than restorative justice model.
6. **Evaluation and Adaptability:** The proposal provides a comprehensive plan but lacks detailed information on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented projects. Critics might question how the program intends to adapt if initial strategies do not yield the expected decrease in gun violence or if they encounter unforeseen challenges.

Overall, while the grant proposal is ambitious and has the potential to contribute positively to public safety and the rehabilitation of offenders, it could benefit from a stronger emphasis on direct strategies for gun violence reduction, clearer metrics for success in this area, and a more nuanced discussion of how these systemic improvements will specifically address the complex issue of gun violence.

*The Maricopa County Attorney's Office
MCAO CGIC Paralegal Project*

The grant proposal by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) for enhancing the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Paralegal Project presents a structured approach towards tackling gun violence through legal and investigative enhancements. However, there are areas where the proposal may face criticism, especially given its emphasis on crisis intervention and the aim to

reduce gun violence, injury, or death:

1. **Reactive Rather Than Preventive Focus:** The proposal heavily focuses on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of legal proceedings after gun-related crimes have occurred. While improving the prosecution process for gun crimes is crucial, this approach is inherently reactive. For a grant focused on crisis intervention, which implies a preventative stance against gun violence, the proposal lacks a strong component of proactive measures aimed at preventing gun violence before it happens. Programs or initiatives aimed directly at intervention before crimes occur, such as community outreach, education programs on gun safety, and early warning systems, are not prominently featured.
2. **Lack of Direct Community Engagement:** The proposal outlines a thorough process for managing and prosecuting gun-related crimes but does not detail direct engagement with communities most affected by gun violence. Effective crisis intervention strategies often include community-based programs that work directly with at-risk populations to prevent violence. The proposal could be criticized for missing opportunities to integrate community resources, local organizations, and direct intervention programs that could help address the root causes of gun violence.
3. **Limited Scope on Crisis Intervention:** The emphasis on legal and investigative enhancements, while important, offers a limited view of crisis intervention. The proposal could be critiqued for not incorporating a broader range of intervention strategies that encompass mental health services, conflict resolution programs, and other social services designed to prevent gun violence from occurring in the first place.
4. **Measurement of Impact on Gun Violence Reduction:** The objectives and performance measures are centered around the legal process (e.g., expedited case resolution, efficiency in evidence collection, reduction in case returns) and the successful prosecution of gun-related crimes. However, there's a gap in directly measuring the impact of these activities on the reduction of gun violence, fatalities, and injuries in the community. Critics might argue that the proposal does not sufficiently detail how these legal and investigative improvements will translate into tangible decreases in gun violence and improvements in public safety.
5. **Sustainability Beyond Prosecution Enhancements:** While the proposal effectively addresses the need for specialized paralegal support in managing CGIC cases, it might be critiqued for its sustainability and long-term impact on reducing gun violence. The reliance on prosecutorial success as a primary metric for impact does not account for the broader, systemic changes needed to sustainably reduce gun violence, such as education, economic opportunities, and community support systems.
6. **Integration with Other Violence Prevention Efforts:** The proposal might be critiqued for not detailing how the CGIC Paralegal Project will integrate with or complement other gun violence prevention efforts in Maricopa County. Effective crisis intervention strategies often require a multifaceted approach, involving coordination with public health initiatives, education systems, and community organizations. The proposal could be strengthened by demonstrating how it fits into a larger ecosystem of violence prevention efforts.

In summary, while the MCAO's proposal outlines a clear and structured approach to enhancing the prosecution of gun-related crimes, it could benefit from a stronger emphasis on preventive

measures, direct community engagement, and a broader integration with comprehensive violence prevention strategies to fully align with the grant's focus on crisis intervention.

*Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Salt River Police Department AzSCIP Project*

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) grant proposal to address gun violence within its jurisdiction is ambitious and reflects a comprehensive approach to tackling an urgent problem. However, there are several areas where the proposal might face criticism, particularly in aligning with the grant's focus on crisis intervention to reduce gun violence, injury, or death. Here are some critical points:

1. **Reactive vs. Preventive Measures:** The proposal places a significant emphasis on law enforcement and the prosecution of gun-related crimes through the Special Operations Division (SOD) and associated units. While these are critical components of a comprehensive strategy to combat gun violence, the proposal leans more towards a reactive approach rather than preventive measures. For a grant focused on crisis intervention, which ideally involves preventing crises before they occur, there is insufficient emphasis on programs designed to prevent gun violence directly, such as community-based interventions, education on gun safety, and programs aimed at addressing the root causes of violence.
2. **Community Engagement and Prevention:** Although the proposal mentions community-based policing and educational programs, it could be criticized for not detailing these elements sufficiently or demonstrating how they will be integrated into the broader strategy to prevent gun violence proactively. Engaging community members in developing and implementing prevention strategies is crucial for sustainable change, which seems to be an underdeveloped aspect of this proposal.
3. **Evidence-Based Practices and Innovation:** The proposal references the employment of "Evidence-Based" policing procedures but does not elaborate on innovative or new evidence-based interventions specifically designed for crisis intervention and the prevention of gun violence. It would benefit from including more detailed descriptions of these practices, how they will be applied within the SRPMIC context, and how they will address the unique challenges faced by the community.
4. **Evaluation and Measurement of Success:** While the proposal includes an evaluation plan with specific benchmarks, it focuses primarily on law enforcement metrics such as the number of apprehensions, prosecutions, and firearms recovered. These are important indicators, but the proposal could be strengthened by including measures that evaluate the impact on reducing gun violence from a broader perspective, including changes in community perceptions of safety, reductions in the number of people at risk of engaging in gun violence, and the effectiveness of preventive and educational initiatives.
5. **Sustainability and Long-term Impact:** The sustainability plan relies heavily on securing additional funding or budget increases for the continuation of the project beyond the grant period. While this is a common challenge for grant-funded projects, there is a critique to be made regarding the lack of detail on building partnerships, leveraging community resources, or developing innovative funding strategies that could ensure the long-term

sustainability of the initiative without over-reliance on external funding.

6. Collaborative Efforts: The proposal outlines collaborations with various law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies but could be criticized for not sufficiently detailing partnerships with non-law enforcement community organizations, public health agencies, and other stakeholders who play a crucial role in crisis intervention and the prevention of gun violence. Expanding on how these collaborations will work, the roles of each partner, and how they will contribute to the project's goals could enhance the proposal.

In summary, while the SRPMIC's proposal outlines a structured approach to addressing gun violence within its community, it could be enhanced by incorporating a stronger focus on preventive measures, detailing community engagement strategies, expanding on the use of evidence-based practices for prevention, and providing a more comprehensive approach to sustainability and collaboration.

Projects Summaries

The Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Violence and Gun Reductions Initiative

The Arizona Supreme Court Juvenile Violence/Gun Reduction Initiative, developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), is a targeted approach to reduce juvenile violence and gun-related offenses in Arizona. This initiative encompasses two primary strategies: the development of the Juvenile Violence Assessment Tool (JVAT) and the organization of a Juvenile Violence Summit. JVAT, created in partnership with Arizona State University's Youth Justice Lab, is designed to assist probation officers in making informed custody decisions by identifying risks specific to gun violence. This tool is set to complement existing detention screening assessments and will undergo a thorough validation process using Arizona data.

The Juvenile Violence Summit, a two-day event, aims to bring together stakeholders from the juvenile justice system, including national experts, to discuss and strategize on gun-related offenses by juveniles. The summit will focus on identifying system gaps and formulating recommendations for improvement. These strategies are grounded in evidence-based practices and are supported by collaborative efforts with juvenile probation departments, ASU, and other key criminal justice agencies. The initiative also includes a detailed evaluation plan to assess the effectiveness of the tools and strategies implemented, ensuring continuous improvement. With a total budget of \$114,519.00, the project emphasizes proactive measures within the juvenile justice system to mitigate gun violence, aiming to enhance public safety and provide a structured response to juvenile gun-related offenses.

Arizona Supreme Court Strengthening Adult Probation Services

The Arizona Adult Probation Services Division (APSD) under the Supreme Court proposes several projects to address the challenges within the probation and pretrial systems, particularly focusing on the young adult probation population aged 18-30. This group has been identified as contributing significantly to new felony violent crimes and has higher risks of reoffending and substance abuse. The APSD plans to revamp the Intensive Probation Supervision program, which has a lower success rate than standard probation cases. There is also an urgent need to upgrade the outdated case management system to improve field accessibility for probation officers, ensuring better public safety and efficient case handling.

The proposed projects, with a total requested funding of \$3,974,250, aim to prevent gun violence and enhance public safety. Key initiatives include refocusing the Intensive Probation Supervision program on young adults, improving the case management system for better field accessibility, ensuring pretrial services in all counties, implementing a peer mentor program, and developing a weapons removal plan. These strategies are designed to address the specific needs and risks of the probation population, thereby reducing reoffending rates and minimizing gun violence. The APSD's approach combines evidence-based policies and promising best practices, ensuring that the interventions are grounded in research and adapted to the local context. Collaborative efforts with various stakeholders and continuous evaluation of the projects will guide and assess their effectiveness, ensuring sustainability beyond the grant funding period.

Arizona Supreme Court Arizona Court's Response for Reduction of Gun Violence

Arizona Court's Response for Reduction of Gun Violence project seeks to address the pressing issue of gun violence and gun-related deaths or injuries within Arizona communities through a

multifaceted initiative driven by data and community-specific insights. The total budget request for this preventative project is \$191,440.40. The problems identified include the heightened vulnerability of individuals with mental health issues to gun violence and the need for improved training for law enforcement officers on Form IV, which informs pretrial release decisions that could impact community safety. The project is preventative in nature as it aims to reduce gun violence by identifying at-risk individuals early in the justice process and providing them with access to treatment and care. This approach is designed to lessen the chances of these individuals becoming victims or perpetrators of gun violence. Additionally, enhancing law enforcement's use of Form IV is expected to lead to more informed judicial decisions, potentially reducing the release of individuals who might pose a risk to community safety.

The AzSCIP grant will support three key projects: the development of a Mental Health Order Repository to avoid duplication of court orders and facilitate care provider coordination, the creation of an online Mental Health Professional Certification Training to improve the availability and competence of mental health evaluations in legal proceedings, and the implementation of Form IV Training to ensure its consistent and effective use by law enforcement. These projects are aligned with evidence-based policies and promising best practices, focusing on information sharing, professional training, and improved judicial processes to reduce the likelihood of gun-related incidents preemptively. Collaborations with key stakeholders such as law enforcement, mental health professionals, and judicial officers are integral to the project, ensuring a comprehensive approach to mitigating gun violence in Arizona.

Buckeye Crisis Intervention Program 2023

The Buckeye Crisis Intervention Program 2023 aims to address the interconnected challenges of mental health, substance abuse, gun violence, and recidivism in the City of Buckeye. This initiative is a response to the rising trend of violent crimes in Buckeye, where young offenders increasingly use firearms, and historically disadvantaged neighborhoods (HDC) suffer the brunt of gun violence and related deaths. The program's focus on behavioral health deflection targets individuals at risk to themselves and others, recognizing the significant overlap between mental health issues, substance abuse disorders (MHSUD), and the propensity for gun violence.

Central to this initiative is implementing the Julota software system, designed to improve crisis intervention outcomes by maintaining a comprehensive database of at-risk individuals. This system will allow first responders to access critical information during interventions, enhancing the quality and effectiveness of crisis response. Julota's case management component will enable ongoing care and monitoring, aiming to divert individuals from incarceration into appropriate healthcare and social services, thereby reducing gun violence incidents. This approach is preventive in nature as it seeks to intervene before crises escalate, addressing underlying issues like mental health and substance abuse that contribute to the cycle of violence and recidivism. The program's collaborative efforts involve various city departments and neighboring communities, strongly emphasizing building a sustainable network through pooled resources and opioid settlement funds.

The City of Buckeye's comprehensive strategy, supported by a requested budget of \$283,045, represents a proactive effort to reduce gun violence and improve community safety through integrated health and social services.

Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County Youth Gun Intervention Program

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County Juvenile Department is addressing a critical surge in firearm-related offenses among juveniles. This increase, notably in referrals for serious crimes like first and second-degree murder, highlights a growing concern about youth involvement in gun violence. The project is noteworthy for its preventive nature, aiming to address the issue before it escalates. The rise in gun-related offenses, particularly among juveniles with minimal prior contact with the justice system, underscores the need for early intervention.

To combat this, the JBAMC seeks \$295,400 for a project that proposes a multifaceted approach. It includes establishing a Firearms Possession Problem-Solving Court focused on juveniles charged with firearm possession and integrating educational and intervention services within the court process. The program will involve various components such as victim impact panels, legal education, credible messenger involvement, medical insights, and youth presentations. This initiative is preventive in nature as it aims to educate and intervene early in the lives of these juveniles, thereby reducing the likelihood of further gun-related offenses. The project's emphasis on family involvement and a mobile learning platform like Journey.do, which offers online modules, reflects a commitment to comprehensive and accessible education. Furthermore, the project extends its reach beyond the court system, proposing a community awareness campaign to educate on firearm safety and legal consequences. The holistic approach, combined with collaborative efforts with schools, law enforcement, and community organizations, positions the project as a pivotal step toward mitigating gun violence involving youth in Maricopa County.

MCAO CGIC Paralegal Project

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) in Arizona is addressing the significant challenge of rising firearm-related crimes through the CGIC Paralegal Project. This initiative responds to the increasing use of firearms in violent crimes within the county, as highlighted by FBI and local crime statistics showing a notable rise in firearm-related homicides, assaults, and robberies. The project is particularly focused on managing the growing volume of NIBIN leads, which is essential for linking firearms used in multiple crimes.

To effectively handle this surge in firearm-related cases, the MCAO seeks to hire three grant-funded paralegals under the project, funded with a requested total of \$476,701.27. These paralegals will be pivotal in streamlining the evidence collection process, fostering collaboration between prosecutors and law enforcement, and aiding in the comprehensive development and management of CGIC cases. Their roles include conducting initial case reviews, coordinating with law enforcement for evidence gathering, legal research, and managing digital evidence. This approach is preventive in nature, aiming to strengthen the legal process against firearm offenses, thereby deterring such crimes and enhancing public safety in Maricopa County.

The effectiveness of the project will be gauged through specific performance measures, such as expedited case resolution and increased successful prosecutions. The investment in these paralegals is expected to lead to more efficient case processing, stronger prosecutions, and a consequent reduction in gun violence. This strategic funding request underscores MCAO's commitment to addressing the complex challenge of gun-related crimes through enhanced legal support and collaboration, ultimately aiming to reduce firearm-related incidents and fatalities in the community.

MYGuard Initiative

The MYGuard Initiative in Maricopa County, Arizona, is a comprehensive program designed to combat the escalating problem of gun violence, particularly among the youth. Funded by a grant request of \$667,250.00, the program aims to address the high incidence of gun-related deaths and injuries that have plagued the county, as evidenced by the alarming data from the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's report for 2022. This report revealed a record number of homicides, with 438 cases, the highest since 1991. The initiative's preventive nature lies in its focus on youth aged 12-24, who are most at risk of becoming involved in gun violence.

MYGuard's services include crisis intervention, mentorship, conflict resolution workshops, community engagement, and education on the consequences of gun violence. By offering a range of interventions, the initiative not only addresses the immediate needs of at-risk individuals but also works towards long-term prevention of gun-related incidents. The program is unique in its community-based approach, involving local organizations, law enforcement, and residents in creating tailored solutions. Additionally, it emphasizes the empowerment of young individuals, actively involving them in designing and implementing interventions. The initiative is preventive in nature as it aims to equip youth with the necessary skills and resources to make positive life choices, thereby reducing their likelihood of involvement in gun-related activities.

To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the MYGuard Initiative, various strategies have been outlined. These include diversified funding sources, integration with existing programs, capacity building, policy advocacy, and community support. The project budget encompasses personnel services, contractual and consultant services, in-state travel, equipment purchases, supplies, and other operating expenses. The goal is to create a safer, more resilient community by empowering youth and reducing firearm-related incidents and fatalities.

Reducing Gun Violence Potential for the Lethally Vulnerable

The Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO) in Arizona addresses gun violence in vulnerable populations through a project funded by a requested AzSCIP grant of \$352,427. This project targets groups at high risk of gun violence, including traumatized children, battered spouses, the homeless, drug addicts, and those with severe chronic trauma. In 2022, gun violence was the fourth leading cause of death among the homeless in Pima County, following overdose, accidents, and cardiovascular disease. The project encompasses the entire Pima County, focusing on the Tucson metropolitan area, where over half of the county's population resides.

The PCAO's initiative is multi-faceted, involving outreach, education, and support to help these vulnerable groups distance themselves from gun-related dangers. The project's preventive nature lies in its approach to reducing gun violence by focusing on safety from abusers, treatment and sobriety for substance abusers, and successful community reintegration. Key strategies include distributing educational materials, training legal and court personnel, and collaborating with neighborhood initiatives to improve environments where many victims and program participants reside. This holistic approach aims to lower the risk of gun violence by addressing the overlapping vulnerabilities of these groups and providing pathways to safety and stability. The project's goals align with mitigating gun violence in Arizona, decreasing the frequency of gun-related injuries, and preserving lives by diminishing the prevalence of gun-related fatalities. The total project cost is \$352,429, with the PCAO leveraging federal funding and existing partnerships to ensure the

project's sustainability and effectiveness.

Salt River Police Department AzSCIP Project

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), located adjacent to the Phoenix metropolitan area, is confronting a rising tide of gun-related crimes, including homicides, aggravated assaults, and shootings. In response, the Salt River Police Department (SRPD) has created the Special Operations Division (SOD) to target these issues specifically. The SOD, comprising the Special Investigations Bureau, Gang Suppression Unit, and Canine Unit, focuses on undercover operations crucial for monitoring and intervening in gun-related activities. However, the SRPD faces significant challenges in funding, particularly for maintaining crucial undercover vehicles used in these operations.

To address these challenges, the SRPD is requesting a grant of \$250,000. This funding will primarily support the lease of six undercover vehicles and cover overtime expenses for officers engaged in these specialized tasks. The project aims to blend preventive and reactive strategies: using intelligence-driven patrols to identify and prevent potential gun crimes and responding to and investigating incidents to capture and prosecute offenders. This comprehensive approach is enhanced through collaborations with tribal, local, state, and federal entities, ensuring a robust and coordinated response to gun violence in the community. By regularly collecting and analyzing data, the SRPD aims to adapt and fine-tune its strategies, maintaining an effective response to evolving gun violence patterns within SRPMIC.

Cox Media and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Cox Media, in collaboration with the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), is embarking on a comprehensive grant project to address gun safety and reduce gun violence in Arizona. This ambitious initiative centers on the development and execution of a targeted digital media campaign over a one-year marketing plan contract. The project encompasses various critical components, including account management, strategic marketing, media services, and creative content creation. The primary goal is to educate and inform key audiences, including at-risk individuals, firearm owners, and families with children, on the importance of gun safety. The campaign intends to maximize its reach and impact by employing a 24-month strategy covering the entire state of Arizona.

To achieve its objectives, the project has allocated a total budget of \$205,000, which includes \$180,000 for paid media channels, focusing on visually engaging content through streaming video, online video/YouTube, and online display ads. Cox Creative Studios, with an investment of \$25,000, will also collaborate with the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission to produce three distinct Public Service Announcement (PSA) ads tailored to the specific needs of firearm owners, at-risk individuals, and families with children. These creative services encompass concept development, scripting, production, and post-production.

Moreover, Cox Media and the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission plan to leverage a valuable partnership with Yurview/Cox Channel 4 in Phoenix and Channel 7 in Tucson to promote gun safety messaging in Arizona. The final value of this partnership will be determined upon campaign completion. It's important to note that budget allocations and impression targets are subject to market conditions and potential adjustments. At the same time, certain digital tactics require specific implementations and access to analytics for comprehensive reporting. Furthermore, the project adheres to political restrictions by ensuring that any talent or spokesperson featured in

creative elements will not be up for reelection in 2024. ACJC will be responsible for the website and landing page creation, and Cox Media will focus solely on the campaign's media and creative aspects.