



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

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Chief Deputy Director

January 13, 2026

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The Honorable Charniele L. Herring
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The Honorable L. Louise Lucas
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General Assembly Building
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
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201 North 9th Street
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The Honorable Patrick A. Hope
Chair, House Courts of Justice
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Senator Scott A. Surovell
Chair, Senate Courts of Justice
General Assembly Building, Room 1405
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Report of the Office of Safer Communities: Gun Violence Intervention Programs

As required by the language in the 2025 Appropriation Act and enacted by the Virginia General Assembly and Governor (Chapter 2, Acts of Assembly, 2024 Special Session I), attached please find the Report of the Office of Safer Communities: Gun Violence Intervention Programs. The updates and annual reports summarize the efforts of the Office.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson H. Miller".

Jackson H. Miller
Director

Attachment

Annual Report on the Office of Safer Communities Fiscal Year 2025

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

Safer Communities Program
Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund
Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund

Issued: November 1, 2025



Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov

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PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report details the activities of the Office of Safer Communities (OSC) during fiscal year (FY) 2025 (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025) pursuant to the 2024 Appropriation Act (Chapter 2, 2024 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I) which states:

394 N.4.c. The Office shall provide quarterly updates to the Virginia Crime Commission and submit an annual report by November 1 of each year to the Chairs of the Virginia Crime Commission, House Courts of Justice Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. The updates and annual reports shall summarize the efforts of the Office, to include information collected pursuant to provision (iv) of the preceding paragraph and the findings of the Office's research on best practices.

Background

In 2022, the Virginia General Assembly initiated new strategies to address violence intervention and prevention within the Commonwealth through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). These strategies included two new funding programs, replacing the gun violence intervention and prevention initiative from 2020: the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Fund and the Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Fund. In 2023, a new program was added, the Safer Communities Program (SCP).¹

The FVIP Fund supports local units of government, community-based organizations, and hospitals in implementing evidence-informed gun violence intervention and prevention efforts, such as street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, and other violence intervention programs. These funds also support firearm suicide prevention and safe firearm removal practices from people prohibited from possessing a firearm, including subjects of domestic violence protective orders, people convicted of prohibitory crimes, and people subject to substantial risk orders. A specified amount of funding appropriated each year is designated for localities with disproportionate firearm-related homicides to support crime intervention and prevention through community engagement and youth programs.

The OCG Fund supports violent crime reduction strategies through group violence interventions. As defined in the authorizing language, group violence interventions are comprehensive law enforcement, prosecutorial, and community-based initiatives that aim to intercept and eliminate local cycles of violence through effective and sustainable solutions, similar to those of Operation Ceasefire implemented in Boston, Massachusetts and the Gang Reduction Programs implemented in Richmond and Los Angeles, California. Funding is used to implement violent crime reduction strategies, provide training for law enforcement and prosecutors, and purchase forensic and analytical equipment for law enforcement.

SCP funding supports holistic, community-based strategies that address the root causes and conditions of community violence in the City of Richmond, the City of Norfolk, the City of Portsmouth, and the City of Roanoke. SCP funding is used for evidence-informed and

¹ Chapter 1289, Acts of Assembly, 2020 Session (Appropriation Act, Item 406.M); Chapter 2, Acts of Assembly, 2022 Special Session I (Appropriation Act, Item 408.N); Chapter 1, Acts of Assembly, 2023 Special Session I (Appropriation Act, Item 408.N).

community-based strategies, such as after-school programs, mentorship programs, vocational and employee skills programs, trauma-informed mental health care services, credible messengers and violence interrupters, and initiatives to foster trust between law enforcement and the community. Further, SCP localities are required to use these funds to employ a full-time position dedicated to planning, implementing, and coordinating community violence reduction strategies.

Recognizing the need for stronger support and coordination, the Virginia General Assembly also established the Office of Safer Communities (OSC) within DCJS in 2023. OSC supports communities impacted by violence through providing direct technical assistance and outreach to current and potential recipients of violence intervention and prevention grants, issuing grant solicitations through the FVIP, OCG, and SCP funding streams, and serving as a resource for research and best practices.

Both the FVIP Fund and OCG Fund are special nonreverting funds, allowing DCJS to maximize fund utilization and support communities through multi-year awards. Adjustments to appropriations for the FVIP Fund, OCG Fund, and SCP funding have occurred since implementation. Other adjustments have also been made to the directives attached to the funds. Beginning with FY 2025, grant funding provided through any of the three programs for law enforcement equipment must solely be used for forensic and analytical purposes. Also beginning with FY 2025, OCG Funds may not be awarded to state agencies or offices.²

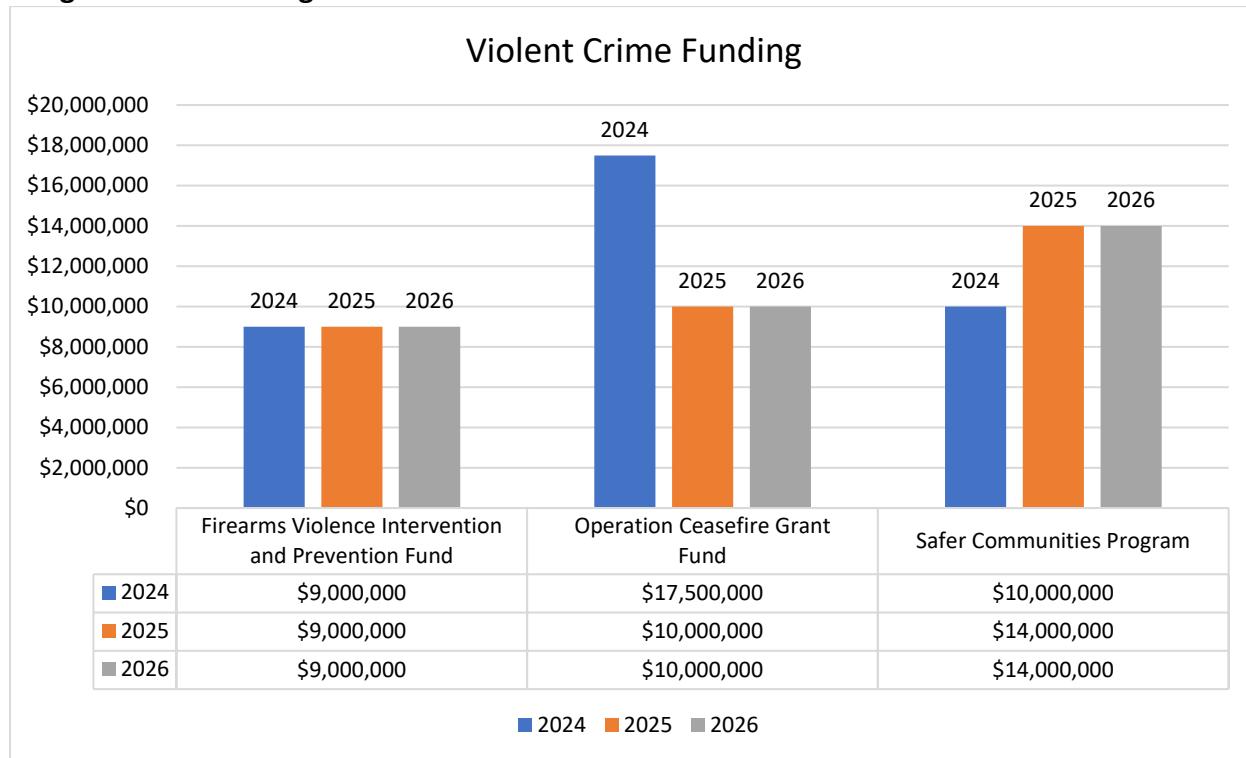
See Appendix A for current authorizing language.

OFFICE ACTIVITIES

The Office of Safer Communities (OSC), housed in the DCJS Division of Programs and Services, oversees three funding streams: the Safer Communities Program (SCP), the Firearms Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Fund, and the Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Fund. Across fiscal year (FY) 2025, OSC staff provided grantees and potential applicants with information and technical assistance on capacity building, sustainability, project scope, and data collection. Image 1 shows state funding by OSC funding stream from FY 2024–2026.

In addition to the three main funding streams, OSC oversees four related earmarks the General Assembly designated in the 2024 Appropriation Act (Item 394 S, T, and V) to the Community Resource Opportunity Project, Big Heroes of Minority in Every Society (Big H.O.M.I.E.S.), Cleaning Up the Streets Youth Employment Program (C.U.T.S.), and the REAL LIFE Initiative. A list of the related earmarks and their corresponding funding is included in Appendix B.

² Chapter 2, Acts of Assembly, 2024 Special Session I (Appropriation Act Item 394.N)

Image 1. State Funding to the Office of Safer Communities

In accordance with the 2024 Appropriation Act, DCJS contracted with the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs to collaborate with local entities who received funding from OSC to evaluate violence reduction programs and use data to provide strategic planning (Item 394 N.4.d.). VCU is completing an evaluation of the Safer Communities Program and Operation Ceasefire. Additionally, VCU is creating grantee training tools and developing grantee performance measures. The evaluation will include an analysis of violent crime, community needs, and existing programs within the localities.

In February 2025, OSC held virtual community of practice convenings for FVIP and OCG grantees. During both convenings, the OSC team provided information on the VCU contract and the purpose of their work as well as instructions on how to complete quarterly reports. During the FVIP convening, the team introduced a new readiness screening tool for non-profit organizations applying for funding opportunities. Additionally, the convenings provided an opportunity for round table discussions on the initiatives each grantee was implementing.

In June 2025, OSC hosted a grantee convening in Newport News for current FVIP grantees and potential applicants. The convening addressed key components of a grant application and navigating the DCJS On-line Grants Management System (OGMS). This event also provided grantees with an opportunity to network and share program successes and challenges with other organizations within the OSC statewide community of practice.

OSC is planning the 2025 Statewide Community of Practice Conference for December 8–9, 2025, in Virginia Beach for law enforcement agencies, local government agencies, and non-profit organizations from across the Commonwealth. This event will provide an opportunity to

share innovative interventions and build stronger networks. Breakout sessions will include program highlights, real-world case studies, and panel discussions.

Throughout FY 2025, OSC released four competitive FVIP solicitations and two competitive OCG solicitations. As of September 2025, there are five FVIP cohorts of grantees and four OCG cohorts of grantees.

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Update

From February 2025 to present, OSC has met with VCU semi-monthly for planning meetings to discuss project deliverable updates and other matters pertaining to the contract. In May 2025, VCU finalized a timeline for research and deliverables that will be provided to OSC. VCU provided the first set of deliverables, which include grantee training modules on data collection, prevention evaluation, and how to create overview sheets, in August 2025.

Safer Communities Program (SCP) Update

During the fourth quarter of FY 2025, OSC staff conducted several in-person visits with key staff from SCP cities. OSC staff traveled to Norfolk and Portsmouth on April 16, 2025, completing monitoring visits with program staff at the Norfolk Police Department and Portsmouth Police Department. On May 20, 2025, OSC staff completed an in-person site visit with the City of Norfolk's SCP. OSC staff reviewed financial tracking documentation and confirmed grant reporting practices through interviews with the program's grants coordinator and program administrator. Additionally, staff toured the Norfolk Police Department's Real Time Crime Center. OSC staff also completed an in-person site visit with the City of Roanoke's SCP on May 27, 2025, interviewed the program's grants coordinator and finance officer, and reviewed budget documentation to confirm the accuracy of reimbursement claims to date.

OSC released the Safer Communities Program Grant for FY 2026. Each SCP city completed and submitted detailed project narratives and accompanying budget requests for the upcoming year, which were reviewed and approved by DCJS staff in July.

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Fund Update

In January 2025, OSC released the FVIP to Enhance Safety in Public Housing Communities Grant solicitation, available to local public housing agencies for an award period of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027. The purpose of this grant is to support local public housing agencies' efforts to enhance safety and address violent crime. The Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) approved seven grant awards, totaling \$1,780,304.

In March 2025, OSC posted the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) Continuation Grant opportunity through FVIP funding. HVIPPs are multidisciplinary programs that combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, services, and trauma-informed care to victims injured in gun violence and their families. This funding opportunity was available to current HVIPPs for a grant period of July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027. The CJSB awarded \$5,000,000 to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) to continue their work at six current HVIPPs in Virginia.

In coordination with the above funding opportunity, in April 2025, OSC posted the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) Grant for new HVIPPs. Through

this offering, the CJSB awarded \$3,550,675 to the VHHA to support implementation of six new HVIPPs throughout the Commonwealth.

Also in April, OSC released a solicitation exclusively for non-profit organizations providing human services or criminal justice services. The organizations' projects must address gun violence and violent crime with effective and sustainable intervention and prevention programming designed to interrupt and prevent local cycles of violence. This funding opportunity has a grant period of January 1, 2026–December 31, 2027. The application closed on July 14, 2025.

Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Fund Update

OSC posted a general OCG opportunity in March 2024 with a 24-month grant period of July 1, 2024–June 30, 2026. This funding opportunity supports law enforcement, local units of government, and local prosecutors in implementing solutions and programs to reduce violent crime. The CJSB approved a total of 34 awards, totaling \$3,971,438.

In November 2024, OSC provided a grant continuation opportunity eligible to grantees awarded funds under the 2023 Operation Ceasefire Grant Program. This grant is for a 24-month grant period and supports local law enforcement and prosecution programs. OSC received four applications, and the CJSB approved all four, totaling \$799,223.

In December 2024, OSC released a OCG solicitation for Forensic and Analytical Technology for Law Enforcement. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support law enforcement efforts to address violent crime through the use of forensic and analytical technology. This is a two-year grant from July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027. The CJSB awarded 55 grants totaling \$4,937,467.

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

Safer Communities Program (SCP)

The following summarizes activities of all SCP cities during this reporting period (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025).

City of Norfolk

The City of Norfolk utilized SCP funding for a variety of initiatives, including hosting and participating in community events, creating targeted units and offices, extending police patrols, improving investigative operations, providing youth engagement and education programs, and more. Funding was also used to support six Norfolk community-based organizations with purchasing equipment, hosting community events, and programming. The SCP funding significantly strengthened Norfolk's ability to proactively address violent crime, especially in the most vulnerable communities across the city. Hotspot neighborhoods have seen an unprecedented decline in firearm related incidents. Per the final status report for FY 2025, Norfolk reported a 5% decrease in violent crimes involving a person injured by a firearm and a 10% decrease in crimes involving a firearm being fired into an occupied space.

Recently, Norfolk successfully implemented the Community First Court Revitalization Initiative, a crime prevention through environmental design program, in one of their hotspot neighborhoods. Further, Norfolk is in the process of recruiting staff for the new Victim Services Unit (VSU),³ and the office space for the unit was recently completed. They plan to have the positions filled and VSU operational within the next fiscal year.

City of Portsmouth

The City of Portsmouth awarded subgrants to 24 non-profit organizations through the Portsmouth United Micro-Grant funding opportunity. Awarded organizations use credible messengers, after-school programs, academic success programs, economic development, and trauma-informed case management to address violent crime within the community.

Portsmouth provided technical assistance and grant monitoring to these organizations, which included developing a data reporting procedure and training on writing measurable goals.

Further, SCP funding supported initiatives of the Portsmouth Police Department (PPD), such as utilizing violence interrupters, hosting gun violence awareness events, and launching media campaigns. PPD held community meetings with a variety of stakeholders, including community-based organization leaders, Portsmouth Public School leaders, and violence interrupters, to identify individuals who are committing and influencing violent crimes. This group established a crisis stabilization policy to provide relocation and basic needs to individuals and families influenced by violence. During the third quarter of the grant period, PPD also partnered with the Help and Emergency Response (HER) Shelter to expand crisis stabilization efforts that provide support to domestic violence survivors.

City of Richmond

In FY 2025, the City of Richmond implemented and expanded multiple programs and offices with SCP funding. Richmond delegated funding between two community-based organizations and five city agencies. The city also created the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention (GVPI) to unify and coordinate citywide violence reduction strategies and efforts. The creation of GVPI led to improved coordination and collaboration with community and local government stakeholders. Efforts to reduce community violence included providing after-school and out-of-school programming, creating positive youth development opportunities, delivering career readiness and personal growth courses, and hosting family wellness and engagement programs. Additionally, during the fourth quarter of FY 2025, a budget amendment allowed Richmond to fund the Richmond Police Department's Community Engagement Unit, building capacity for focused deterrence and gun violence reduction strategies in hotspot neighborhoods.

City of Roanoke

The City of Roanoke used SCP funding to develop several programs and teams to target gun violence. For example, Roanoke created the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Unit which

³ The Safer Communities Program-funded Victim Services Unit (supervisor and specialists) will be housed under the Norfolk Family Justice Center. These advocates will provide comprehensive wrap-around services to crime victims in one centralized location, including legal representation, cultural and faith-based support, and housing and educational resources, among others. The Norfolk Victim/Witness Assistance Program supported by other funds administered by DCJS will continue to represent victims of crime and witnesses in criminal cases, serving as a liaison between prosecutors, law enforcement, and victims/witnesses until cases reach their conclusion.

works to identify and mediate violent situations and alter the thinking and behavior patterns of those at-risk for becoming a victim or perpetrator of violent crime. Additionally, Roanoke has the Rapid Engagement of Support in the Event of Trauma (RESET) Team which combats gun violence by offering alternatives to detention, providing trauma-informed services, and supplying resources to at-risk youth and adults. RESET programming served over 70 youth and 67 families during the reporting period.

Further, Roanoke launched the Planting Peace initiative to plant a tree in remembrance of unsolved homicides due to gun violence. Roanoke reported this initiative helped provide closure for victims' families, promoted trauma-informed mental health care, and opened a community discussion around gun violence.

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Fund

The following chart (Image 2) shows the distribution of FVIP grant awards by type of grant recipient. It is important to note that this includes the earmarked funds for the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth as well as the funds distributed competitively. A list of grants funded through this funding stream is included in Appendix C.

Image 2. Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Awards by Distribution

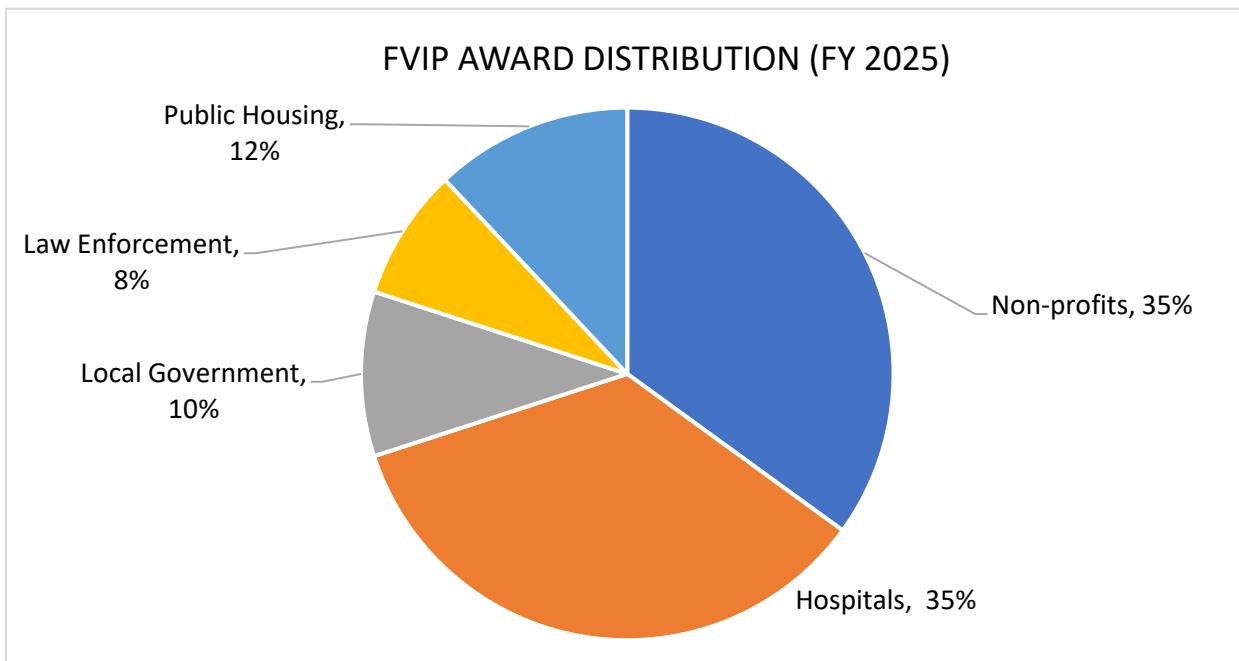


Table 1. Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (FVIP) Grant Programs Summary

FVIP Grant for CY 2024–2025	
Number of Organizations	6
Total Awarded	\$1,025,594 (2-year grant period, 1/1/2024–12/31/2025)
Positions Funded	Full-time: 2 local coordinators Part-time: 2 violence prevention specialists
Other Purposes	Contracts for local coordination and community assessment

FVIP Grant for FY 2025–2026	
Number of Organizations	20
Total Awarded	\$2,447,724 (2-year grant period, 7/1/2024–6/30/2026)
Positions Funded	Full time: 13 employees (i.e., program coordinators and case-managers) Part-time: 27 employees (i.e., mentors, summer camp staff, program assistants)
Other Purposes	Evidence-based curriculums, travel, pro-social skill activities, office supplies, assessment planning, and mentor leadership and emotional intelligence training
Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (HVIPP) Grant for FY 2024–2025	
Number of Hospitals Included	6*
Total Awarded	\$5,000,000 (2-year grant period, 7/1/2023–6/30/2025)
Positions Funded	Full time: 16 intervention specialists and 5 program managers Part-time: 1 partnership liaison
Other Purposes	Violence intervention training
FVIP Earmark Grant for FY 2025–2026	
Number of Localities	2 (Norfolk and Portsmouth)
Total Awarded	\$1,500,000 (2-year grant period, 7/1/2024–6/30/2026)
Other Purposes	Community outreach events and victim services

*During the last quarter of the grant period, a seventh HVIPP was added at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center.

The following summarizes activities of all FVIP grants open during this reporting period (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025).

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP)

The seven hospitals with HVIPPs funded through FVIP are as follows:

- Sentara Norfolk General Hospital,
- VCU Health-MCV,
- Bon Secours Southside Regional Medical Center,
- Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital,
- Chesapeake Regional Medical Center,
- Riverside Regional Medical Center, and
- The Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.

Throughout FY 2025, over 1,250 victims of violence were served through HVIPPs. HVIPP sites also partnered with a variety of community service providers and referred 747 patients for services to address urgent needs, such as food insecurity, housing, mental health/substance abuse, and more. In addition to community partnerships, HVIPPs regularly met with local gun violence prevention task forces.

Non-profit Organizations

The non-profit organizations funded through FVIP provided a variety of intervention and prevention programming targeting those at-risk of being a victim or perpetrator of violence. Initiatives centered on conflict resolution, community building, family engagement, and positive youth development. Youth-centered programming included after-school and summer programs, social-learning programs, mentorship connections, academic support programs, and mental health services. Programming targeting adults and the community included personal development programs, employment skills training, credible messengers, and parent education courses. The following is the number of non-profit organizations serving various target populations.

- Positive Youth Development Programs: 13
- Community-based programs: 4

Local Government Agencies

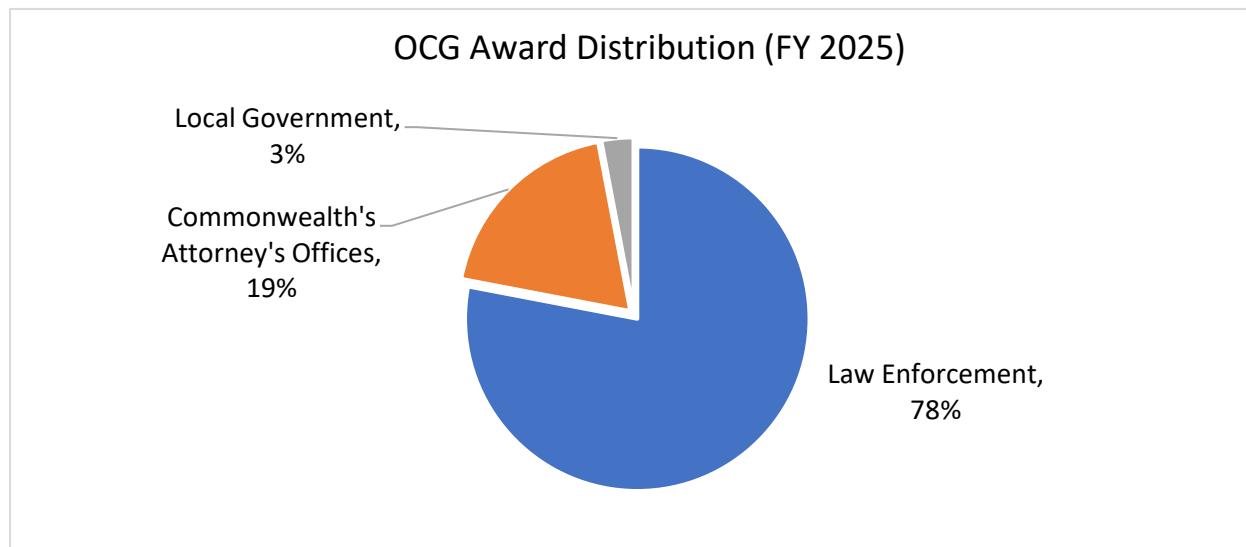
Local government agencies utilized FVIP for local coordinators who are responsible for coordinating violent crime reduction initiatives and multi-agency collaboration, analyzing crime data to inform preventative measures and support research, conducting policy analysis, and directly connecting residents with community services. Further, local government agencies used FVIP funding to host community outreach events, provide case management services, offer youth development programs, and establish truancy programs.

Earmarks

The Norfolk and Portsmouth Police Departments purchased forensic and analytical technology to improve violent crime prevention and intervention efforts within their communities, including the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes. Additionally, funding supported successful community outreach programs targeting local youth.

Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Fund

The following chart (Image 3) shows the distribution of OCG awards by type of grant recipient. As is evident in the chart, the greatest amount of funding goes toward law enforcement. A list of grants funded through this funding stream is included in Appendix D.

Image 3. Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Awards by Distribution**Table 2. Operation Ceasefire Grant (OCG) Fund Programs Summary**

OCG for Prosecutorial Resources for CY 2024–2025	
Number of Programs	14
Total Awarded	\$5,417,317 (2-year grant period, 1/1/2024–12/31/25)
Positions Funded	Full-time employees: 3 victim specialists, 3 investigators, 1 legal assistant, 1 forensic examiner, and 2 attorneys Part-time employees: 1 attorney
OCG for FY 2025–2026	
Number of Programs	34
Total Awarded	\$4,904,801 (2-year grant period, 7/1/2024–6/30/2026)
Positions Funded	Full-time employees: 4 crime analysts, 4 violent crime detectives, and 1 public safety officer
Other Purposes	Equipment: forensic workstations, digital forensic software, body worn cameras, automated license plate readers (ALPR)*, gunshot detection systems, mobile data terminals, a mobile crime scene trailer, tactical equipment, and thermal scanners Training: APEX Officer training, open-source intelligence training, Sniper Range training, SWAT training, and Child First training.
OCG Continuation for CY 2025–2026	
Number of Programs	4
Total Awarded	\$799,223 (2-year grant period, 1/1/2025–12/31/2026)
Positions Funded	Full-time employees: 1 attorney and 2 program coordinators Part-time employees: 1 attorney and 1 legal assistant
Other Purposes	Office equipment for grant-funded staff, case management software, Virginia State Bar dues, and conference fees

*ALPRs were purchased prior to the Virginia General Assembly placing a restriction on grant funding in the 2024 Appropriation Act that stated only equipment used for forensic and analytical purchases may be funded.⁴

The following summarizes activities of all OCG grants during the reporting period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025).

Prosecutorial Resources

Of the 13 awarded Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices, nine have grant-funded, full-time Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys (ACA) and two have grant-funded, part-time ACAs. Grant-funded local prosecutors reviewed concealed weapon permit requests and worked on more than 676 active felony cases involving weapons, including narcotics offenses, homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults. One grant-funded prosecutor has employed the use of a multi-jurisdictional grand jury to improve investigations and convictions of violent crime. Additionally, grant-funded investigators served subpoenas and assisted with active investigations across the Commonwealth.

OSC awarded a grant to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for a two-year grant period (January 1, 2023–December 31, 2024) to fund seven additional prosecutors and four Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Coordinators; the grant was extended through June 30, 2025. Throughout the grant period, grant-funded prosecutors aided Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices in the prosecution of violent crime cases across Virginia. The GVI Coordinators implemented a variety of evidenced-based practices within the community to reduce and prevent violent crime, including coordinating activities and intervention services targeting employment readiness skills, personal growth, and at-risk behavior.

Law Enforcement

Awarded law enforcement agencies have implemented a variety of training with grant funding, such as APEX Officer training, Social Media and Open Source Intelligence training, Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) training, and more. Additionally, law enforcement agencies used grant funding to purchase the following forensic and analytical technology:

- Raven gunshot detection systems
- Axon Interview Software
- Talino and Sumuri forensic workstations
- Axiom forensic software
- iPads and digital cameras
- Cellebrite Premium digital forensics software
- Crime scene lighting
- Mobile data terminals

⁴ Item 394 N.4.e. in the 2024 Appropriation Act (Chapter 1, Acts of Assembly, 2024 Special Session I) states funding provided through subsection N., including the FVIP Fund, the OCG Fund, and the SCP Fund, that is used to purchase law enforcement equipment may solely be used for forensic and analytical purposes.

APPENDIX A

2024 Appropriation Act (Chapter 2, 2024 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I) Item 394 N.1.a-N.4.e

N.1.a. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (the Fund). The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All moneys accruing to the Fund, including funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used for the purpose of supporting gun violence intervention and prevention programs. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Director of the Department⁵.

b. The Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund shall be administered by the Department, and the Department shall adopt guidelines and make funds available to agencies of local government, community-based organizations, and hospitals for the purpose of supporting implementation of evidence-informed gun violence intervention and prevention efforts, including street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, and other violence intervention programs. Grant funds shall also support firearm suicide prevention and safe firearm removal practices from persons prohibited from possessing a firearm, including subjects of domestic violence protective orders, persons convicted of prohibitory crimes, and persons subject to substantial risk orders. The Department shall establish a grant procedure to govern funds awarded for this purpose.

c. Out of the amounts appropriated for this item, \$9,000,000 the first year and \$9,000,000 the second year from the general fund shall be deposited into the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund. At least \$1,500,000 each year shall be provided to localities with disproportionate firearm-related homicides to support crime intervention and prevention through community engagement, including youth programs, to include at least \$500,000 the first year for the City of Portsmouth and at least \$1,000,000 the first year for the City of Norfolk.

2.a. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund (the Fund) and managed by the Department. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the Fund, and from any other sources, public or private, shall be paid into the state treasury and be credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Expenditures

⁵ "Department" in the *Code of Virginia* refers to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request of the Director of the Department.

b. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of implementing violent crime reduction strategies, providing training for law-enforcement officers and prosecutors, providing forensic and related analytical equipment for law-enforcement agencies, and awarding grants to organizations such as local law-enforcement agencies, local attorneys for the Commonwealth, localities, social services providers, and nonprofit organizations that are engaged in group violence intervention efforts. No grants awarded shall be given to state agencies or offices. For the purposes of subsection N.2. of this item, "group violence intervention" means comprehensive law enforcement, prosecutorial, and community-based initiatives, substantially similar to Operation Ceasefire as implemented in Boston, Massachusetts and the Gang Reduction Programs implemented in Richmond and Los Angeles, California, which are documented by the Department of Justice and are carried out between members of law enforcement, members of the community, and social services providers. The Department shall establish an application process for awarding grants from the Fund, including criteria and procedures for determining the amount of a grant. Out of the amounts appropriated for this item, \$10,000,000 the first year and \$10,000,000 the second year from the general fund shall be deposited into the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund.

3. Out of the amounts in section N of this item, the Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services, is authorized to expend no more than three percent per year for state administration of these programs.

4.a. Out of the amounts appropriated for this item, \$14,000,000 the first year and \$14,000,000 the second year from the general fund is provided for the Safer Communities Program to support holistic, community-based strategies that address the root causes and conditions of community violence. Such strategies shall be evidence-informed and/or community-driven and shall include: (i) afterschool programs and mentorships; (ii) connections to education and economic opportunities; (iii) trauma-informed mental health care; (iv) credible messengers and violence interrupters; and (v) strategies to build trust between law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders. Out of this amount, at least \$13,000,000 the first year and at least \$13,000,000 the second year shall be provided to the City of Norfolk, the City of Portsmouth, the City of Roanoke, and the City of Richmond, with a minimum award of \$2,500,000 per locality and the remainder allocated to each of the four localities based on population. Recipient localities shall (i) use grant funds to employ a full-time position dedicated to planning, implementation, and coordination of community violence reduction strategies, including utilizing existing violence reduction grants and pursuing additional grant opportunities, and (ii) provide quarterly reports to the Department detailing expenditures to date to ensure alignment with the requirements established in this paragraph.

b. There is hereby established the Office of Safer Communities ("the Office") in the Department. The Office shall serve as a resource for research, evidence, and best practices for community-based violence intervention, including: (i) providing consultation to the Board of Criminal Justice Services as it administers the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Fund and the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund; (ii) liaising with Safer Communities Program recipient localities

to ensure collection of the expenditure reports required by the preceding paragraph; (iii) conducting outreach to current and potential recipients of violence intervention and prevention grants; and (iv) summarizing violence reduction grantees' use of funds, including any available outcome measures, noting alignment with national promising practices.

c. The Office shall provide quarterly updates to the Virginia Crime Commission and submit an annual report by November 1 of each year to the Chairs of the Virginia Crime Commission, House Courts of Justice Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. The updates and annual reports shall summarize the efforts of the Office, to include information collected pursuant to provision (iv) of the preceding paragraph and the findings of the Office's research on best practices.

d. Out of the amounts in subsection N.4.a of this item, \$925,000 the first year and \$900,000 the second year is provided to support the Office, to include positions and support services for research, outreach, and reporting. The Office shall employ at least one position focused on coordination and outreach and at least one position focused on research and evidence. In addition, existing administrative funding and positions authorized under paragraphs M. and N. of this item shall support the Office. Of these amounts designated to support the Office, at least \$425,000 the first year and at least \$400,000 the second year shall be used for a contract with the Virginia Commonwealth University L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs (the School) for the School to collaborate with local entities who have received grant funding appropriated pursuant to subsection N. of this item, including local law enforcement agencies, to provide strategic planning, program evaluation, and data-driven innovations to improve the public sector's response to community violence. The School may collaborate with faculty and students from Virginia State University and Norfolk State University as needed.

e. Grant funding provided pursuant to this subsection N. of this item that is used for law-enforcement equipment may solely be used for forensic and analytical purposes, in addition to other requirements set forth in this subsection N.

APPENDIX B

Related Earmark Grants

Awarded on June 12, 2025

Grant Period: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026 (12 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Big Heroes of Minority in Every Society (Big H.O.M.I.E.S.)	\$1,988,000*
Community Resource Opportunity Project (C.R.O.P.) Foundation	\$30,000
Cleaning Up the Streets (C.U.T.S.) Youth Employment Program	\$1,000,000
REAL LIFE Initiative	\$500,000

*Although the General Assembly appropriated \$2M to Big H.O.M.I.E.S. and that was the amount they were invited to apply for, their request totaled only \$1,988,000

APPENDIX C

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) Continuation Grant

Awarded on June 12, 2025

Grant Period: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Virginia Hospital Research and Education Foundation	\$5,000,000

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIPP) Expansion Grant

Awarded on June 12, 2025

Grant Period: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Virginia Hospital Research and Education Foundation	\$3,550,675

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant for Public Housing Authorities

Awarded on June 12, 2025

Grant Period: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$298,502
City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$299,916
Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$282,810
Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$300,000
Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$299,076
Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$300,000

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program

Awarded on June 13, 2024

Grant Period: July 1, 2024–June 30, 2026 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Center for Youth and Family Advocacy	\$128,548
City of Danville; Administering Agency: Office of Violence Prevention	\$142,000
Hopegiver USA	\$75,000
Ketchmore Kids	\$200,000
King William County; Administering Agency: King William Juvenile Services	\$226,390
M.A.Y.A. Foundation	\$50,000
New Life Community Center	\$59,381
Pretty Purposed	\$49,885
Reck League	\$100,000

Grantee	Total Award
Rings vs. Rent Scholarship Program	\$154,000
City of Roanoke; Administering Agency: City Manager's Office	\$250,000
St. Luke Legacy Center Foundation	\$107,990
Stop the Violence 757	\$176,000
Sustain Equity Group	\$80,000
Boys and Girls Club—Northern Neck	\$49,000
Boy and Girls Club—Northumberland	\$49,530
The Broken Men Foundation	\$250,000
The Buck Squad	\$50,000
The University of Lynchburg	\$200,000
Today's Jesus	\$50,000

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Grant Program

Awarded on December 7, 2023

Grant Period: January 1, 2024–June 30, 2026 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
City of Alexandria; Administering Agency: City Manager	\$250,000
Colonial Heights; Administering Agency: Colonial Heights Police Department	\$155,906
Emporia; Administering Agency: Emporia Police Department	\$200,000
City of Petersburg; Administering Agency: Petersburg Police Department	\$172,344
City of Roanoke; Administering Agency: City Manager's Office	\$223,083
City of Richmond; Administering Agency: Richmond Department of Justice Services	\$12,075

Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Grant Program

Awarded on December 20, 2022

Grant Period: July 1, 2023–June 30, 2025 (24 months)

Program	Total Award
Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program Virginia Hospital Research & Education Foundation	\$5,000,000

APPENDIX D

Operation Ceasefire Grant Program

Awarded on March 13, 2025

Grant Period: July 1, 2025–June 30, 2027 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Abingdon Town; Administering Agency: Abingdon Police Department	\$75,193
Albemarle County; Administering Agency: Albemarle Police Department	\$26,585
Alleghany County; Administering Agency: Alleghany Police Department	\$80,000
Amherst Town; Administering Agency: Amherst Police Department	\$7,375
Bedford County; Administering Agency: Bedford Sheriff's Office	\$150,000
Big Stone Gap Town; Administering Agency: Big Stone Gap Police Department	\$80,000
Brunswick County; Administering Agency: Brunswick Sheriff's Office	\$130,000
Buchanan County; Administering Agency: Buchanan Sheriff's Office	\$80,000
Charlottesville City; Administering Agency: Charlottesville Police Department	\$150,000
Chesapeake City; Administering Agency: Chesapeake Police Department	\$104,000
Chesterfield County; Administering Agency: Chesterfield Police Department	\$43,000
Colonial Heights City; Administering Agency: Colonial Heights Police Department	\$150,000
Crewe Town; Administering Agency: Crewe Police Department	\$87,725
Culpeper County; Administering Agency: Culpeper Sheriff's Office	\$120,000
Dickenson County; Administering Agency: Dickenson Sheriff's Office	\$150,000
Dinwiddie County; Administering Agency: Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office	\$7,000
Emporia City; Administering Agency: Emporia Police Department	\$100,000
Farmville Town; Administering Agency: Farmville Police Department	\$15,000
Franklin City; Administering Agency: Franklin Police Department	\$120,000
Franklin County; Administering Agency: Franklin Sheriff's Office	\$63,395
Fredericksburg City; Administering Agency: Fredericksburg Police Department	\$100,000
Greene County; Administering Agency: Greene Sheriff's Office	\$80,000
Greenville County; Administering Agency: Greenville Sheriff's Office	\$150,000
Hampton City; Administering Agency: Hampton Police Department	\$100,000
Hanover County; Administering Agency: Hanover Sheriff's Office	\$82,919
Henrico County; Administering Agency: Henrico Police Division	\$100,200
Hurt Town; Administering Agency: Hurt Police Department	\$7,682
Louisa County; Administering Agency: Louisa Sheriff's Office	\$100,000
Lynchburg City; Administering Agency: Lynchburg Police Department	\$148,850
Martinsville City; Administering Agency: Martinsville Police Department	\$107,000

Grantee	Total Award
Mathews County; Administering Agency: Mathews Sheriff's Office	\$100,662
Montgomery County; Administering Agency: Montgomery Sheriff's Office	\$100,000
Orange County; Administering Agency: Orange Sheriff's Office	\$85,140
Patrick County; Administering Agency: Patrick Sheriff's Office	\$150,211
Pennington Gap Town; Administering Agency: Pennington Gap Police Department	\$15,950
Petersburg City; Administering Agency: Petersburg Police Department	\$125,000
Powhatan County; Administering Agency: Powhatan Sheriff's Office	\$64,190
Pulaski County; Administering Agency: Pulaski Sheriff's Office	\$80,000
Pulaski Town; Administering Agency: Pulaski Police Department	\$83,108
Radford City; Administering Agency: Radford Police Department	\$130,855
Saint Paul Town; Administering Agency: Saint Paul Police Department	\$29,138
Scott County; Administering Agency: Scott Sheriff's Office	\$57,195
Spotsylvania County; Administering Agency: Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office	\$58,733
Strasburg Town; Administering Agency: Strasburg Police Department	\$81,630
Suffolk City; Administering Agency: Suffolk Police Department	\$140,510
Tazewell County; Administering Agency: Tazewell Sheriff's Office	\$90,000
Virginia Beach City; Administering Agency: Virginia Beach Police Department	\$120,000
Warren County; Administering Agency: Warren Sheriff's Office	\$100,000
Washington County; Administering Agency: Washington Sheriff's Office	\$79,772
Weber City; Administering Agency: Weber City Police Department	\$100,000
Wise County; Administering Agency: Wise Sheriff's Office	\$100,000
Wythe County; Administering Agency: Wythe Sheriff's Office	\$95,000
York County; Administering Agency: York Sheriff's Office	\$100,000

Operation Ceasefire Grant Program

Awarded on June 13, 2024

Grant Period: July 1, 2024–June 30, 2026 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Chesterfield County; Administering Agency: Chesterfield Police Department	\$154,190
Colonial Heights; Administering Agency: Colonial Heights Police Department	\$49,500
Dinwiddie County; Administering Agency: Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office	\$206,274
Emporia City; Administering Agency: Emporia Police Department	\$120,000
Fairfax County; Administering Agency: Fairfax Police Department	\$80,000
Franklin County; Administering Agency: Franklin Sheriff's Office	\$65,900
Fredericksburg City; Administering Agency: Fredericksburg Police Department	\$200,000

Grantee	Total Award
Greene County; Administering Agency: Greene Sheriff's Office	\$62,693
Greenville County; Administering Agency: Greenville Sheriff's Office	\$107,960
Haysi Town; Administering Agency: Haysi Police Department	\$16,407
Henrico County; Administering Agency: Henrico Police Department	\$200,000
Lexington City; Administering Agency: Lexington Police Department	\$200,000
Lunenburg County; Administering Agency: Lunenburg Sheriff's Office	\$130,035
Martinsville City; Administering Agency: Martinsville Police Department	\$80,000
Mathews County; Administering Agency: Mathews Sheriff's Office	\$167,667
Newport News City; Administering Agency: Newport News Police Department	\$180,000
Norfolk City; Administering Agency: Norfolk Police Department	\$113,753
Patrick County; Administering Agency: Patrick Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$9,000
Patrick County; Administering Agency: Patrick Sheriff's Office	\$65,000
Petersburg City; Administering Agency: Petersburg Police Department	\$158,595
Prince George County; Administering Agency: Prince George Police Department	\$186,380
Prince George County; Administering Agency: Prince George Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$163,547
Pulaski County; Administering Agency: Pulaski Sheriff's Office	\$10,732
Pulaski County; Administering Agency: Pulaski Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$130,000
Richmond City; Administering Agency: Richmond Police Department	\$100,000
Richmond City; Administering Agency: Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority	\$184,279
Roanoke City; Administering Agency: Roanoke Police Department	\$200,000
Strasburg Town; Administering Agency: Stra"sburg Police Department	\$40,626
Sussex County; Administering Agency: Sussex Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$200,000
Tazewell County; Administering Agency: Tazewell Sheriff's Office	\$57,359
Virginia Beach City; Administering Agency: Virginia Beach Police Department	\$80,000
Warren County; Administering Agency: Warren Sheriff's Office	\$94,827
Wise County; Administering Agency: Wise Sheriff's Office	\$48,586
Wythe County; Administering Agency: Wythe Sheriff's Office	\$179,634

Operation Ceasefire Grant Program

Awarded December 7, 2023

Grant Period: January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026 (36 months)

Program	Total Award
Alexandria City Administering Agency; Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$497,282
Chesterfield County; Administering Agency: Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$496,986
Emporia/ Greenville City; Administering Agency: Greenville Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$277,580
Hampton City; Administering Agency: Hampton Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$487,870
Newport News City; Administering Agency: Newport News Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$429,999
Nottaway County; Administering Agency: Nottoway Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$369,452
Patrick County; Administering Agency: Patrick Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$258,686
Petersburg City; Administering Agency: Petersburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$301,749
Portsmouth City; Administering Agency: Portsmouth Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$467,257
Prince George County; Administering Agency: Prince George Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$125,808
Prince William County; Administering Agency: Prince William Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$250,000
Richmond City; Administering Agency: Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$489,395
Spotsylvania City; Administering Agency: Spotsylvania Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$465,500
Virginia Beach City; Administering Agency: Virginia Beach Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$499,753

Operation Ceasefire Grant Program⁵

Awarded December 20, 2022

Grant Period: January 1, 2023–December 31, 2024 (24 months)

Grantee	Total Award
Office of the Attorney General	\$2,600,000
Virginia State Police	\$256,044
The Buck Squad	\$94,000
Chesapeake Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$100,905 ⁶
Hampton City Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$230,460
Help Me Help You Foundation	\$150,000
Lancaster County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$125,020
Lee County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$156,646
New Life Community Development Center	\$30,000
Prince George Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$249,996
Prince William County	\$353,974
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office	\$57,200
REAL LIFE Program	\$145,600
Richmond Police Department	\$50,000
Scott County Sheriff's Office	\$74,095
South Boston Police Department	\$34,517
Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office	\$326,500

⁶ Three Operation Ceasefire grantees, Chesapeake Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Lancaster Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and Lee Commonwealth Attorney's Office, originally applied for one year of funding instead of the two that was offered. These three were funded for an additional year, which extended the awards through December 31, 2024. The total award listed in the chart reflects two years of funding.