



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

August 18, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matthew Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Shaheen and Rogers, and Ranking Members Moran and Cartwright:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association, which is comprised of over 3,000 elected Sheriffs nationwide, we write to ask you to consider appropriating \$200 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 for the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI), administered by the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP), with the condition that this increase in funding does not come from reduced funding in other law enforcement funding streams.

As law enforcement professionals, we witness firsthand the extensive impact of violent crime on our communities.

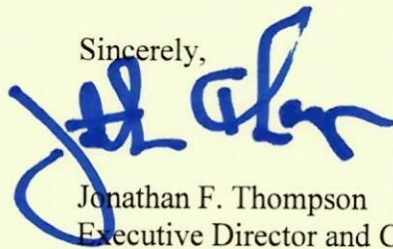
Throughout the nation, communities and cities have invested in community violence intervention and prevention efforts to effectively combat violent crime through initiatives carried out by several stakeholders – such as law enforcement, community-based organizations, local units of government, and others. Law enforcement officers work with community partners to prevent shootings, homicides, and retaliatory and interpersonal violence by identifying and mediating conflicts, and providing services to those who are accountable and do not continue to reoffend. Studies show that gang-member involved homicides can be reduced by community violence intervention initiatives that foster partnerships between law enforcement and community members.

We are appreciative of the funding Sheriffs' Offices received last year through the CVIPI grant program. For example, the Leon County Sheriff's Office in Tallahassee, Florida, was awarded

over \$1.4 million to set up a Council on the Status of Men and Boys, which targets at-risk school aged boys and provides mentorship.<sup>1</sup> So far, they have begun working with over 50 boys and have plans to reach 500 while partnering with other community organizations.<sup>2</sup> Other programs like the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, along with other law enforcement agencies in the city, are carrying out a \$1.5 million award with *Reclamation and Restoration Ministries* to help at-risk youth in Baton Rouge Police District #4 with education and vocational training credentials, life skills, and employment.<sup>3</sup>

Our association believes the CVIPI grant program will help fund Sheriffs' efforts to address criminal activity and foster community trust and collaboration with law enforcement. Moreover, investments in community violence intervention and prevention will allow law enforcement to perform their jobs in a more effective and efficient manner in both urban and rural communities. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Jonathan F. Thompson  
Executive Director and CEO  
National Sheriffs' Association

---

<sup>1</sup> Gramlich, J. (2023, April 26). What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/>.

<sup>2</sup> Leigh, T. (2023, March 27). Sheriff McNeil provides update on Council on the status of men and boys. Tallahassee Reports. <https://tallahasseereports.com/2023/03/27/sheriff-mcneil-provides-update-on-council-on-the-status-of-men-and-boys/>.

<sup>3</sup> READY4LIFE community violence intervention and prevention project for underserved communities. Bureau of Justice Assistance. (n.d.-b). <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/awards/15pbja-22-gg-04754-cvip>.