



Examples of State Offices of Gun Violence Prevention

A growing number of states are investing in state level offices of gun violence prevention. These offices build the infrastructure to effectively address the crisis of gun violence in a comprehensive manner grounded in public health. To date, at least five states have created offices of gun violence prevention and multiple states are considering such proposals. Outlined below is a summary of what these offices do:

Colorado - Office of Gun Violence Prevention: In 2021, Colorado passed legislation creating an Office of Gun Violence Prevention and dedicating \$3 million annually for the office. The Office, housed within the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, is tasked with the following:

- Conduct public awareness campaigns around gun violence prevention
- Educate the general public about extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs) and other existing gun violence prevention laws
- Develop training materials for law enforcement and healthcare professionals
- Share gun violence data and collaborate with research institutions to identify data gaps
- Administer a grant program to conduct community-based gun violence intervention initiatives, if funding is available
- Identify and apply for federal funding sources
- Issue a report every five years summarizing which gun violence prevention measures have been adopted by local jurisdictions.

Washington - Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention: In 2020, Washington created an Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention. The Office is housed in the Department of Commerce and receives approximately \$1 million in funding annually, supplemented with other violence prevention funds. The Office is tasked with the following:

- Coordinate the implementation of gun violence intervention and prevention strategies in communities across the state with a focus on addressing community gun violence
- Facilitate cross-jurisdictional information sharing as well as peer-to-peer learning
- Offer training and technical assistance from nationally recognized experts
- Identify and improve upon available data sources, data collection methods and data-sharing mechanisms
- Issue best practices guidance and model processes
- Administer a firearm violence intervention and prevention grant program
- Coordinate with other state agencies





Virginia – Gun Violence Prevention Infrastructure: In 2022, Virginia approved a state budget that included funding for gun violence prevention infrastructure within the Department of Criminal Justice Services like that of an office of gun violence prevention. Investments of \$12.4 million over two years received bipartisan support. This new infrastructure will do the following:

- Hire four new staff positions to support gun violence intervention and prevention services
- Create a community violence intervention and prevention grant program that allocates funding to localities, hospitals, and community-based organizations
- Provide technical assistance to grant recipients
- Create firearm suicide prevention and safe storage grant programs
- Support and fund initiatives that remove firearms from prohibited persons; enhance ERPO implementation and domestic violence protection order firearm removal efforts
- Support and fund city agencies, law enforcement, and community partners to build focused deterrence/group violence intervention models

New York and **Illinois:** New York and Illinois have recently created offices of gun violence prevention in their health departments. These offices will be primarily aimed at addressing community gun violence through comprehensive public health strategies. Both offices build upon tens of millions in already existing state gun violence prevention programming and grant funding. For example, in 2021, [Illinois dedicated](#) \$250 million toward community violence interventions initiatives over the next three years, and the [New York state budget](#) included \$200 million for gun violence prevention efforts. The offices of gun violence provide infrastructure to support these large-scale investments.

