

# August 2021 | Community Expansion Grants – Application

## Community Expansion Grant Application Summary

- Grant award amount range: \$100,000 - \$1,000,000
- Application deadline: Friday, September 3, 2021, with the selection process beginning on a rolling basis starting after August 20, 2021
- Funded projects must take place between Fall 2021 and Summer 2022
- Applications MUST be submitted electronically and filled out completely (including all required documents) to be considered. All other applications will be considered incomplete and will be disqualified.
- Completed applications should be emailed to [AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov](mailto:AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov) by Friday, September 3, 2021.

## Statement of Purpose

In 2020, Philadelphia lost 447 people to gun violence—the most gun-related homicides in 30 years. Philadelphia is facing a growing public health crisis that is claiming a generation of young people—last year, homicide was the leading cause of death for Black men ages 15 to 43 and Latino men ages 15 to 31.

We also know a small number of individuals contribute to most gun crimes. Two percent (2%) of known individuals continue to be perpetrators of 80% of gun crimes in Philadelphia's violence hotspots. The City's plan to address gun violence, *Philadelphia Roadmap for Safer Communities*, is focused on key interventions that address the most at-risk individuals, as well as prevention measures in neighborhoods most deeply impacted. To learn more about the *Roadmap* and progress on its strategies, [click here](#).

Recognizing the continued rise in gun violence across Philadelphia and the trauma it inflicts on families, communities, and neighborhoods alike, the City of Philadelphia has launched the new Anti-Violence Community Partnership Grant Program. To achieve and sustain a reduction in gun violence and improve the quality of life in affected communities, the City is investing in organizations with strong track records of delivering quality anti-violence interventions to help them expand and strengthen their efforts. Part of the Anti-Violence Community Partnership Grants includes the launch of the new Anti-Violence **Community Expansion Grants**.

**Community Expansion Grants** will focus on supporting mid-sized organizations with a proven track record working in neighborhoods vulnerable to gun violence to expand their reach, deepen their impact, and achieve scale.

This document outlines the requirements, eligibility, and the application information for the **Community Expansion Grant** application cycle (Friday, August 6, 2021 – Friday, September 3, 2021, with the selection process beginning on a rolling basis starting after August 20, 2021).

If you have further questions, please review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) by [clicking here](#).

You can also email [AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov](mailto:AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov) and your question and its response will be added to the FAQs, or you can attend one of our virtual Community Expansion Grant information sessions below:

- Monday, August 16, 2021 (12PM – 1PM)
- Tuesday, August 17, 2021 (5:30PM – 6:30PM)

Details for joining the virtual information sessions can be found by [clicking here](#).

### **Funding Priorities**

In alignment with the [Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities](#), special consideration will be given to applications that address the needs of its target population – in particular men and boys of color at a high risk of gun violence between the ages of 16-34, as well as those that show youth, community, and/or multi-organization collaboration.

Special consideration will be given to projects in areas that are the most impacted by gun violence; however, this grant opportunity is open to city-wide participation. The following zip codes are most impacted by gun violence; organizations working in these zip codes are strongly encouraged to apply: 19104, 19118, 19119, 19120, 19121, 19122, 19124, 19126, 19129, 19131, 19132, 19133, 19134, 19135, 19136, 19137, 19138, 19139, 19140, 19141, 19142, 19143, 19144, 19145, 19146, 19149, 19150, 19151, 19152.

Organizations must have a history of programming in designated geographic areas. Staff must be reflective of the community served.

Organizations aligned with the above programmatic requirements are asked to propose activities that have either of the following concentrations:

#### *1. Trauma Informed Healing and Restorative Practices*

- Trauma-informed care is a treatment framework that acknowledges the effects of all types of trauma on the individual and emphasizes physical and emotional safety while rebuilding to a sense of control and wellness. Behavioral health interventions would address trauma and support the resilience of impacted individuals and communities.
- Restorative practices are programs that allow impacted communities (i.e., victims, offenders and their respective family members and friends) to come together to explore the effects of violence or an offense and, when possible, to decide how to repair the harm within their respective communities.

- Utilization of cognitive behavioral health tactics as a form of persistent engagement of high-risk youth and young adults designed to support their involvement in voluntary or court mandated programs that are aimed at reducing recidivism and/or disrupting individual and family economic disadvantages.

#### *Trauma Informed Health & Restorative Practice Sample Metrics*

- Changes in attitude and behavior related to mental health, mental health access and/or stress scale, including anxiety, depression, PTSD
- Measures of decreased substance abuse
- Measures of increased social skills
- Measures of increased social cohesion
- Measures of decreased child abuse rates
- Recruitment and retention of participants from high risk groups
- Arrest & recidivism rates among participants
- Rates of gun violence victimization among participants

#### *2. Safe Havens and Mentorship*

- Safe havens are physical environments and programs that are culturally relevant and support positive youth development, reduce risk factors for perpetration or victimization of gun violence, and serve as alternatives to delinquent activities.
- Mentorship is defined as innovative approaches to engaging youth and young adults in positive relationships that will promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Programs could include engaging the business community, peer-to-peer programs, credible messengers, and/or parental seminars.
- Structured programming that supports the recruitment and retention of participants in workforce programs designed as interventions to reduce poverty and improve economic mobility to prevent violence.

#### *Safe Haven and Mentorship Sample Metrics*

- Graduation rate among participants
- On-track-to-graduate rate among participants
- Recruitment and retention of high risk participants
- Attendance rate among participants
- Suspension rate among participants
- Delinquency measures among participants
- Increased social capital
- Improvements to physical/built environment
- Increased green space usage
- Unemployment rate among participants
- High school diploma or GED attainment among participants
- College entrance, degree rates among participants
- Arrest & recidivism rates among participants

- Rates of gun violence victimization among participants

### Expectations for All Proposed Projects

Organizations must tailor their proposed intervention to the high-risk activities and behaviors of community members who are most likely to be involved in or impacted by violent activities—specifically gun violence—in the immediate future. Programs must be conducted in the targeted communities or with the targeted population. Proposed violence reduction approaches must engage faith- and/or community-based organizations/leaders to intervene in conflicts or potential conflicts and promote alternatives to violence. Programs must include improved coordination of existing resources and activities that support complementary multi-disciplinary anti-violence strategies.

### Expectations of Awardees

Organizations awarded Community Expansion Grants are expected to participate in all required activities, including but may be not limited to:

- Project scope, detailed budget development
- Fiscal, background check, and insurance documentation
- Data sharing and evaluation process
- Fiscal and reporting orientation
- Technical assistance and capacity building workshops and activities
- Evaluation activities
- Monthly reporting on key programmatic activities, program participants, metrics, and fiscal activities, including preparing invoices and documentation as required by the fiduciary
- Final report

### Use of Funds

- Funds must be used to support direct trauma-informed healing or restorative practice programs and/or safe haven or mentorship program services to those directly affected by gun violence as defined above in *Funding priorities*.
- Funds must be used to supplement (not replace or redirect) any Federal, State, and/or local funding currently provided for the program.
- Applicants currently receiving program funding from the City must clearly state in the application how these funds will be used to enhance and/or expand current programming in an innovative manner.
- Funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to additional staffing support, and/or operational costs, such as transportation, supplies and material, food, and stipends for participants and/or volunteers.
- Funds can be used for indirect/administrative costs (e.g. insurance, printing of flyers/advertising, administrative staff, etc.) up to ten percent (10%) of the award.
- Funds can be used for background checks (i.e., FBI and Child Abuse Clearance).
- Funds cannot be used for scholarships.

More details on the expectations for awardees are available in the [Community Expansion Grant FAQs](#).

### **Eligibility**

The Anti-Violence Community Partnership Grant Program will award **Community Expansion Grants** ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 to Philadelphia-based mid-size non-profit organizations with proven track records in supporting violence reduction and that have annual operating budgets below \$15,000,000. Community Expansion Grant awards will help organizations expand their reach, deepen their impact, and achieve scale. To be eligible for a Community Expansion Grant award, applicants are expected to meet the following skill requirements:

- Culturally appropriate
- Responsive to the needs of disadvantaged individuals
- Knowledge or experience with the justice system
- An understanding of and credible presence within the targeted Philadelphia neighborhoods
- Experience working with youth and families
- Demonstrated capacity to establish trusting relationships
- Ability to accept individual differences
- Experience and willingness to work with culturally diverse populations
- Familiarity with the unique challenges faced by youth who live in the targeted neighborhoods
- Ability to promote positive attitudes and philosophies
- Knowledge of community services
- Ability to reduce youth isolation by connecting youth and families to informal and formal support systems and resources
- Ability to assist youth in recognizing and developing their own strengths
- Ability to assist parents/guardians in developing their advocacy skills and demonstrating their own transformation and ongoing integrity
- Ability to develop growth strategy to support identified communities
- Ability to appropriately manage, track, and report on spending and programmatic activities
- Ability to participate in data sharing and evaluation process

### **Organization Requirements:**

- Philadelphia-based 501(c)3, B Corp, or LLC, with a valid 501(c)3, B Corp, or LLC designation for more than three years, OR Philadelphia-based organization with a fiscal sponsor for more than three years whose mission and work are consistent with the goals of the Anti-Violence Community Grants Program to reduce gun violence and sustain reduced gun

violence, OR a Philadelphia-based 501(c)3, B Corp, or LLC led by an individual whose personal proven track record extends to over 3 years of community anti-violence work

- At least one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff person
- Annual operating budget below \$15,000,000
- An understanding of and credible presence within the targeted Philadelphia neighborhoods
- Proposed programming must directly serve/respond to the high-risk activities and behaviors of community members who are most likely to be involved in or impacted by gun violence
- All staff and volunteers who work with youth must complete and maintain current child abuse clearance and criminal background checks throughout the duration of grant-funded activities
- Organizations cannot have a deficit greater than 10% of its operating budget in the past year

*Strongly Preferred (but not required):*

- Written, board-approved policies regarding whistleblowing, conflict of interest, and document retention and destruction
- Interim or permanent executive leadership in place for at least three months
- No familial relationships among board and staff members
- Financial audit completed in the last 12 months

**Application**

All Community Expansion Grant application proposals are due by Friday, September 3, 2021, with selection beginning on a rolling basis starting after August 20, 2021.

Only one Community Expansion Grant application can be submitted per organization. If multiple grant applications are received from the same organization, the last application will be reviewed; previous applications will be disqualified.

Submit an application proposal via email to [AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov](mailto:AntiViolenceGrants@phila.gov) that does not exceed 15 pages, and that addresses the following:

- Community Expansion Grant Cover Page & Checklist - [Find template here](#)
- Contact information: Organization name, project leader name, project leader telephone, project leader email, organization mailing address (street, city, state, zip code), address where your project will operate and provide services (including zip code)
- Grant amount requested
- Project concentration (Trauma Informed Healing & Restorative Practices or Safe Havens & Mentorship)

- Proposal narrative
  - Proposed work and chosen approach, including but not limited to:
    - Purpose, goals, and mission of your project
    - Activities that will take place during your project
    - What need your project is addressing and how it will contribute to the goal of preventing or reducing gun violence in Philadelphia
    - Community to be served: Number of participants your project will serve, age range of participants you expect to serve and target for recruitment, strategies to ensure your program is recruiting individuals who are highly at risk, in which zip code your recruitment will be focused, proposed address for your project
    - How your proposed activities will contribute to either Trauma Informed Healing & Restorative Practices or Safe Havens & Mentorship concentration areas as described above
    - How your project will encourage other community members to get involved in violence prevention efforts
    - How many weeks long your project will be, and projected schedule
  - Research and evidence to support the work and its impact on reducing gun violence and/or, if applicable, evidence of your program's past success
  - Known risks
  
- Results & Milestones
  - Anticipated result that your organization expects to achieve through successful completion of your project at the end of the grant period
  - What changes your organization expects to see in participants or in the community you plan to serve if you achieve your project goals and the timeframe where you expect to see those changes
  - Planned milestones that will be critical to achieving the anticipated result
  - Metrics your organization will track, how they will be tracked, and a description of your current approach to data collection and reporting (e.g., what does your organization currently track, how frequently does it report publicly or to an outside organization on the data it collects)
  - Whether your organization has implemented this project before and, if so, the history and prior outcomes
  - Expected implementation partners, community partners (collaboration strongly encouraged)
  
- Organizational capacity, including by not limited to:
  - Summary of staff/team supporting the proposed activity. Include staff/consultant titles, their full time equivalents (FTEs) at the organization, and their proposed FTEs to support the proposed project
  - Organizational qualifications, including existing programming and successes to date, recent grant awards, etc.

- Project budget
- Organization background: Tax status (501(c)(3), LLC, or B Corp and the month, day and year its status was verified; total organization operational budget for 2020; total funding from the City of Philadelphia received in the last 12 months (if any); number of years in operation as an organization; current number of FTEs on staff and demographic breakdown of staff; total deficits and percentage of deficits compared to operating budget
- Other funding sources – Description of other committed or prospective sources of funds toward the project

In addition to the proposal, the following documentation is required. This documentation does not count toward the 15-page proposal page limit.

- Audited Financial Statement (if available) – For the most recently completed fiscal year
- Internal Financial Statements – Current Year-to-Date Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities/Income Statement
- IRS Form 990 or other documentation of organization legal status – Most recently filed
- Documentation of affirmation of bank statement linked to the identified legal status
- Operating budgets - Current fiscal year and one year previous
- Board of Directors list (including demographic breakdown, and disclosure of any familial relationships among board and staff members)
- Copy of board-approved policies regarding whistleblowing, conflict of interest, and document retention and destruction (if available)
- Two reference letters

Applicants that advance to the second round of consideration will be required to make a presentation and participate in an interview as part of the selection process. Applicants must be available to participate in an interview/presentation between August 30, 2021 - September 17, 2021.