

FACT SHEET

AB 2378 (Gabriel) – Office of Community Violence Intervention

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 2378 would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) to administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program. Led by a director, the Office would provide greater support and guidance to critical violence intervention work across California.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which codified the CalVIP Grant Program to award competitive grants for violence intervention and prevention. In 2023, Governor Newsom signed the California Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act, which established a permanent, dedicated funding source for CalVIP and other violence prevention initiatives.

The CalVIP program is one of the most cost-efficient community-based violence prevention programs in the state and has proven to be the most effective manner of preventing gun violence. Communities and community-based organizations that received CalVIP funding during the 2018 cycle saw homicides decrease by three times more than those that did not receive CalVIP support. Last year, California had its lowest gun homicide rate ever recorded, driven by significant reductions in the age 15 – 24 demographics that are a key target population of the program. Further demonstrating this success, some communities that previously received funding through CalVIP have made large enough improvements that they may no longer be eligible for future rounds of funding.

This success has led to communities across the state being eager to take advantage of the CalVIP program. During the most recent application cycle, requests for over $1 billion in funding for community-based violence intervention programs were submitted, a dramatic increase from just a few years ago that greatly exceeded available funding. While CalVIP is overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), there is no dedicated, senior-level position to oversee the program's growth and support the grantees it serves.

THIS BILL

AB 2378 would establish the Office of Community Violence Intervention within the BSCC, along with a director to lead that work. The Office would be funded through the existing allocation for CalVIP and be responsible for administering the program, coordinating with the Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention, engaging in strategic planning, and providing technical assistance and support to CalVIP grantees and applicants.

With the CalVIP program's record-breaking demand, providing dedicated subject matter expertise and leadership will enable the program to continue growing and maximizing the state's investment. Additionally, the Office will assist CalVIP recipients and applicants in improving outcomes and effectiveness, and determine best practices from the many successes the program has generated.

AB 2378 will better equip California's flagship gun violence prevention program to continue its growth and success and help the state maintain its place as the national leader of community violence prevention and gun safety laws.

SUPPORT

Giffords (Sponsor)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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March 11, 2026