

By Senator Rouson

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Community Violence Intervention  
3       and Prevention Grant Program; creating s. 402.88,  
4       F.S.; creating the Community Violence Intervention and  
5       Prevention Grant Program within the Department of  
6       Children and Families; authorizing the department to  
7       award grants, subject to legislative appropriation, to  
8       certain organizations and entities; requiring grants  
9       to be used for specified purposes; authorizing  
10      applicants to apply independently or jointly;  
11      specifying application requirements; requiring the  
12      department to prioritize certain applicants;  
13      prohibiting the department from requiring grant  
14      recipients to participate in certain activities as a  
15      condition of receiving a grant; requiring that funds  
16      awarded be commensurate with the scope of the  
17      applicant's proposal and demonstrated need; requiring  
18      grant funds to be used only for the applicant's  
19      specified purpose; prohibiting grant funds from  
20      reverting to the general budget of specified entities;  
21      requiring grants to be awarded for a specified  
22      duration; requiring grant recipients to submit  
23      specified reports to the department at prescribed  
24      intervals; authorizing the department to use up to a  
25      specified percentage of the appropriated funds for  
26      implementing and administering the grant program;  
27      requiring program costs to include a specified  
28      evaluation and analysis; requiring that such  
29      evaluation and analysis be made available to the

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30 public; requiring the department to hold an annual  
31 public hearing for specified purposes; requiring the  
32 department to annually submit a report to the Governor  
33 and Legislature by a specified date; authorizing the  
34 department to adopt rules; providing an effective  
35 date.

36  
37 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

38  
39 Section 1. Section 402.88, Florida Statutes, is created to  
40 read:

41 402.88 Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant  
42 Program.—

43 (1) There is created the Community Violence Intervention  
44 and Prevention Grant Program within the Department of Children  
45 and Families.

46 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department  
47 may provide grants on a competitive basis to nonprofit  
48 organizations and community-based partnerships which serve  
49 communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence to  
50 support, expand, and replicate effective violence reduction  
51 initiatives. The grants must be used to:

52 (a) Implement, expand, or enhance coordination between  
53 evidence-informed violence reduction initiatives, including, but  
54 not limited to, hospital-based violence intervention, street  
55 outreach, and group violence intervention strategies that have  
56 demonstrated effectiveness at reducing homicides, group  
57 violence, and other interpersonal violence without contributing  
58 to mass incarceration.

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59 (b) Support the development and delivery of intervention-  
60 based strategies by entities that provide targeted services to  
61 persons at risk of being victimized by or of engaging in  
62 violence to interrupt cycles of violence, reinjury, and  
63 retaliation.

64 (c) Support initiatives that primarily target a reduction  
65 of violence among persons who have been identified as having the  
66 highest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by violence in  
67 the near future based on the best available medical and public  
68 health research.

69 (3) Applicants may apply either independently or jointly.

70 (4) An applicant for a grant shall submit a proposal in a  
71 form prescribed by the department which must include all of the  
72 following:

73 (a) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to  
74 use the grant to implement an evidence-informed violence  
75 reduction initiative in accordance with this section.

76 (b) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to  
77 use the grant to enhance coordination of existing violence  
78 prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of  
79 services.

80 (c) Evidence indicating that the proposed violence  
81 reduction initiative would likely reduce homicides, group  
82 violence, and other interpersonal violence.

83 (d) Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the  
84 violence reduction initiative.

85 (5) In awarding grants, the department shall prioritize  
86 applicants operating in areas disproportionately affected by  
87 violence and whose proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood

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88 of reducing homicides, group violence, and other interpersonal  
89 violence without contributing to mass incarceration. The  
90 department may not require grant recipients to participate in  
91 the policing, enforcement, or prosecution of any crime as a  
92 condition of receiving a grant.

93 (6) The amount of funds awarded to an applicant shall be  
94 commensurate with the scope of the applicant's proposal and the  
95 applicant's demonstrated need for additional resources to reduce  
96 homicides, group violence, and other interpersonal violence in  
97 the community served by the applicant.

98 (7) A grant may be used only for the purposes specified in  
99 the grant application. Grant funds may not revert to the general  
100 budget of a law enforcement agency, municipality, or other  
101 public entity participating in a community-based partnership.

102 (8) A grant must be awarded for a minimum of 3 years'  
103 duration, subject to the availability of state funding.

104 (9) Each grant recipient shall report to the department, in  
105 a form and at intervals prescribed by the department, the  
106 recipient's progress toward achieving the grant objectives.

107 (10) (a) The department may use up to 8 percent of the funds  
108 appropriated or made available, or such percentage as may be  
109 authorized under program guidelines for funding made available  
110 to the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant  
111 Program through federal funding sources, for the costs of  
112 implementation and administration of technical assistance and  
113 for the costs of implementing and administering the program,  
114 including, but not limited to, employment of dedicated grants  
115 management and programmatic personnel.

116 (b) The program costs under paragraph (a) must include an

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117 annual program evaluation and an analysis of the effectiveness  
118 of violence reduction initiatives. The evaluation and analysis  
119 must be made available to the public.

120 (11) The department shall annually hold at least one public  
121 hearing that provides a forum to receive information on how the  
122 public funds are spent, testimony from grant recipients on the  
123 effectiveness of their programs and best practices, and input  
124 from the public on whether the initiatives and the grant-funded  
125 programs are accomplishing their respective missions. Public  
126 input must be used to assess and revise grant-making metrics and  
127 processes for awarding grants.

128 (12) Beginning January 1, 2024, and on or before January 1  
129 of each year thereafter, the department shall prepare and  
130 transmit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
131 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that must  
132 include a listing of the grants awarded under the program,  
133 descriptions of the initiatives and impact on the communities  
134 served through the grants, and such other information as the  
135 department deems appropriate.

136 (13) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
137 section.

138 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.