

Chapter XX – COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

§ XX Community Violence Prevention Program

- (a) There is established a Community Violence Prevention Program to be administered by the Department of Health in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, the Director of Violence Prevention, and the Executive Director of Racial Equity. The program shall work with communities to implement innovative, evidence-based and evidence-informed programs addressing cause of youth and community violence. Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be at the discretion of the Commissioner of Health.
- (b) A municipality or organization may submit an application for Community Violence Prevention Program Grant to the Commissioner of Health. Grants awarded under this section shall be for the purposes of funding innovative, evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches to reducing violence and associated community harm. The Commissioner of Health will develop and publish guidelines, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Safety, for the award of such grants. These guidelines should include a focus on increasing community capacity to implement approaches for human services, public health and public safety collaboration to address root causes of community violence and substance use through data-driven projects.
- (c) The Community Violence Prevention Program shall collect data to monitor youth and community violence and its related risk and protective factors and to evaluate the impact of prevention efforts and use the information to plan and implement programs. The program shall use monitoring and evaluation data to track the impact of interventions.
- (d) Statewide strategies organized by the Department of Health may include technical assistance contracts, statewide evaluation of the program, or other strategies that would benefit the grantees and enhance the effectiveness of the Violence Prevention Program.

Sec. XX – APPROPRIATION AND STAFFING

- (a) The sum of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention Program established by 18 V.S.A. § XXXX. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose.
- (b) The Department of Health is authorized to seek and accept grant funding for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention Program to supplement state appropriations.