

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

BYRNE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 into law to reduce gun violence, save lives, and progress toward keeping guns out of dangerous hands. In signing the bill into law, the President noted that this historical act “invests in antiviolence programs that work — that work directly with the people who are most likely to commit these crimes or become victims of gun crimes.”

As authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides formula funds to implement state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives. These include, but are not limited to, extreme risk protection order (ERPO) programs that work to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts.

Byrne SCIP furthers the Department of Justice’s mission by assisting state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence. Byrne SCIP focuses on gun violence and the programs and initiatives that target the risk factors that are likely to lead to this kind of violence, such as funding for the creation and implementation of ERPO programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives.

Legislation

Byrne SCIP is authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-159, 136 Stat. 1313, 1339); 28 U.S.C. 530C.



President Joe Biden, joined by First Lady Jill Biden, signs gun safety bill S. 2938, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Saturday, June 25, 2022, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Erin Scott)

Funding and Awards

For FY 2022 and FY 2023, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded over \$231 million to states through Byrne SCIP. Updated award information can be found online at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171458>

Eligibility and Program Guidance

Only states may apply for Byrne SCIP. States must designate a single State Administering Agency (SAA) that has the authority to apply on their behalf. For Byrne SCIP, the term “states” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Where applicable, states must pass through 40 percent of the award to local governments. Grantees



must form a diverse Crisis Intervention Advisory Board to inform and guide the state's related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives. An FAQ with additional information is available at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/byrne-scip-faq.pdf>. The allocations by state for Byrne SCIP are based on the Justice Assistance Grant formula from the prior fiscal year.

Allowable Uses

Byrne SCIP supports state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, particularly ERPO programs; these include, but are not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts.

In addition to implementing ERPO programs, funds may also be used for:

- Training for those implementing ERPO programs
- Communication, education, and public awareness
- Specialized court-based programs such as drug, mental health, and veterans treatment courts, including those that specifically accept clients with firearm violations
- Behavioral health deflection for those at risk to themselves or others
- Funding for law enforcement agencies to safely secure, store, track, and return relinquished guns

ERPO programs funded under Byrne SCIP must be designed to protect the constitutional rights of individuals. Byrne SCIP recipients who plan to use funding to support ERPO programs must submit a principal legal officer signed [Certification Relating to Pub. L. No. 90-351, Title I, Sec. 501\(a\)\(1\)\(I\)\(iv\) \(Extreme-Risk Protection-Order Programs\)](https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/byrne-scip-faq.pdf), certifying that the ERPO program to be funded satisfies each of the statutory requirements related to protecting the constitutional rights of individuals prior to the use of grant funds for ERPO programs. More information on this requirement is available in the FAQs at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/byrne-scip-faq.pdf>

Match Requirement

There is no match requirement for Byrne SCIP.

Award Length

The combined FY 2022-2023 Byrne SCIP awards have a performance period of 48 months. Future single fiscal year awards will have a 36-month performance period.

Extensions beyond the performance period for all awards may be approved on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the BJA.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Bureau of Justice Assistance funds training and technical assistance (TTA) to support grant recipients. TTA is available in the following areas:

- **Developing and Supporting ERPO Programs:** This TTA provider will assist grantees and their subrecipients in implementing ERPO programs, including identifying and promoting national best practices and model programs, such as validated risk assessment tools.
- **Supporting State, Local, and Tribal Courts Implementing Safer Communities:** This TTA provider will support state, local, and tribal courts in the examination of current court capacity for screening, assessing, and assigning cases to appropriate case processing. This could include assessment for services/programming and for individuals in crisis, as well as court capacity for meeting the needs of those identified as at risk of harm to themselves or others with a firearm, including judicial and other court staff training and safety considerations.
- **Implementing Safer Communities:** This TTA provider will support grantees in gathering sufficient information to meet the reporting requirements outlined in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, and in data collection and preparation for potential participation in evaluating the effectiveness of the crisis intervention programs or initiatives in preventing violence and suicide.

No-cost TTA for each area can be requested at:

www.ncja.org/byrne-scip

ABOUT BJA

BJA helps America's state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.ojp.gov or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter ([@DOJBJA](https://twitter.com/DOJBJA)). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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