



**Wisconsin Community Safety Fund
Community Violence Intervention and Prevention
Initiative**

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
2025-2027



**Wisconsin Community Safety Fund
Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative
Request for Applications**

CVIPI Application Summary	
Funding Level	\$2,000,000 total for up to 5 subrecipients at approximately \$400,000 each
Funding Period	January 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
Goal of the Funding	To increase capacity for community-based organizations to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. serve high risk individuals through CVI strategies 2. provide support for development of CVI team members
Eligible Applicants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nonprofit, nongovernmental with current 501(c)3 tax-exempt status with the IRS, registered with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and having one of the following statuses as of the RFA deadline date: in good standing, restored to good standing, incorporated/qualified/registered, organized, or registered. 2. Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments). 3. Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities.
Application Deadline	October 15, 2025
Q&A Deadline	September 26, 2025
Contact	Wisconsin Community Safety Fund wcsf@mcw.edu
Application Link	Click here for application link

Overview

The Wisconsin Community Safety Fund (WCSF) was established in 2022 as part of the Comprehensive Injury Center (CIC) at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) to support local, evidence-informed programs to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children, youth, and families throughout Wisconsin. Recognizing the need to increase capacity in local communities in the state for community violence intervention and prevention, this new funding opportunity is being made available to support projects led by community-based organizations (CBOs) taking a public health approach to increasing public safety. This Request for Applications (RFA) is designed to enhance the capacity of community violence intervention (CVI) programs in Wisconsin, to increase their ability to serve high risk individuals through CVI strategies and enhance support for the personal and professional development of CVI team members, with a focus on communities carrying the highest rates of community violence.

The MCW CIC will allocate a total of \$2,000,000 to fund CBOs engaged in CVI work in Wisconsin. Approximately 5 projects will be awarded grants with a maximum award of \$400,000 per subrecipient, and an implementation period that ends September 30, 2027. This funding is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), US Department of Justice (USDOJ) Grant No 15PBJA-24-GK-03113-CVIP through the [FY24 Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\) Site-Based Grant](#) Category 4: CVIPI Capacity Building for CBOs via Intermediary Organizations.

Program Description

Since 2020, firearm-related injuries have become the leading cause of death for children and adolescents age 1 to 19 in the U.S.¹ and is also the leading cause of death for this age group in Wisconsin.² With annual costs estimated at \$280 billion nationally, the economic impact of firearm violence on society exceeds that of many diseases and includes the burden of criminal justice costs, loss of productivity and wages, and costs for the health care system.³ In Wisconsin, gun violence is estimated to cost each taxpayer approximately \$1,448 annually.⁴

¹ Goldstick JE, Cunningham RM, Carter PM. Current causes of death in children and adolescents in the United States. N Engl J Med. 2022;386(20):1955-1956. doi:[10.1056/NEJMc2201761](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMc2201761)

² Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>, Mortality and WVDARS Modules, accessed 8/6/2024.

³ Lee J, Quraishi SA, Bhatnagar S, Zafonte RD, Masiakos PT. (2014). The economic cost of firearm-related injuries in the United States from 2006 to 2010. Surgery, 155(5), 894-898. doi:10.1016/j.surg.2014.02.011

⁴ <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/>

In Wisconsin and across the country, traumatic injury clusters non-randomly, including community and firearm violence.⁵ Community violence (CV) is used to describe violence that tends to occur in public spaces between individuals who are not related and may or may not know each other.^{6,7,8} It also tends to be highly geographically concentrated and disproportionately impacts youth and young adults. CV impacts individuals, families, and communities and can lead to trauma at the individual and community level. Community violence intervention (CVI) is an approach intended to interrupt CV and to use evidence-informed prevention and intervention strategies that are community-informed and specifically designed to address the needs of individual communities.⁹ In particular, “these multidisciplinary strategies engage individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation and establish relationships between individuals and community assets to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the conditions that drive violence.”¹⁰ The intent is for these programs to address gun, gang, or group-based violence and to involve “...partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders.”¹⁰

Community-based CVI strategies tend to focus on prevention with individuals at highest risk for victimization or involvement in CV as “CVI strategies should involve holistic, coordinated interventions attending to the multiple needs of individuals at highest risk of group/gang and gun violence.”¹² For example, hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) work with victims of gun violence to connect them with credible messengers and work to support their individual psychosocial needs and address aspects of social determinants of health (SDoH) through connecting individuals with a variety of services such as employment, housing, behavioral health, and others that are part of the approach to “...prevent retaliation and build connections with these victims once they leave the hospital setting.”¹²

The range of services in local programs that are part of a broader CVI ecosystem can include, but are not limited to:

- Mediation and street outreach

⁵ Tomas C, Flynn-O'Brien K, Harris J, Kostelac C, Moore R, Cassidy L, et al. (2023). Increase in traumatic injury burden amidst COVID-19 was disproportionately shouldered by racial and ethnic minority patients: An urban case study. *Trauma*, published online, doi: [10.1177/14604086231165127](https://doi.org/10.1177/14604086231165127)

⁶ CDC About Community Violence <https://www.cdc.gov/community-violence/about/index.html> and BJA FY24 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Site-Based, <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2024-172063.pdf>.

⁷ For additional information on CV, see [CVI Glossary | Office of Justice Programs](#) and

⁸ For additional information on CV, see [A Public Health Approach to Community Violence Prevention | Community Violence Prevention | CDC](#)

⁹ <https://www.ojp.gov/topics/community-violence-intervention>

¹⁰ BJA FY24 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Site-Based, <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2024-172063.pdf>, page 4.

- Hospital-based Intervention Programs (HVIPs)
- Aftercare and survivor services
- Intensive mentoring and case management for those at highest risk for victimization
- Wraparound support services for individuals at highest risk for violence victimization
- Cross-sector coordination and partnerships addressing community violence
- Trauma-informed training, support, and development for the CVI workforce

Through this RFA, MCW will allocate funds to CBOs across Wisconsin to develop, implement, enhance, or expand capacity for their CVI efforts. Those that are funded will receive training and technical assistance (TTA) and will participate in a statewide community of practice (COP). The TTA and COP will support the funded programs to establish or expand CVI strategies in their community through robust partnerships and direct service to youth, young adults, families, and communities most directly impacted by community violence.

Funding

A total of \$2,000,000 is available under this announcement with an implementation period ending September 30, 2027. Approximately 5 projects will be awarded with a maximum award of \$400,000 per subrecipient. Funded projects are expected to commence on or about January 1, 2026. No additional funding beyond September 30, 2027, is currently committed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to pursue supplemental funding to sustain projects beyond the funded grant period covered by this granting program. No matching funds are required for this program, however agencies must demonstrate administrative and financial capacity to manage reimbursement-based grant contracts. MCW reserves the right to extend the RFA deadline or reissue this RFA until all grant funds are allocated.

This funding is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), US Department of Justice (USDOJ) Grant No 15PBJA-24-GK-03113-CVIP through the [**FY24 Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\) Site-Based Grant**](#), Category 4: CVIPI Capacity Building for CBOs via Intermediary Organizations. The CIC will act as the intermediary for this funding and has extensive experience providing tools, training, and technical assistance to entities and communities advancing work to address violence and injury as a public health issue. The funds will be administered through the WCSF in collaboration with OJP/BJA to align with the goals and intent of the CVIPI. The subrecipient agreement(s) resulting from this RFA will be administered by MCW.

Eligibility Requirements

MCW provides guidelines for eligibility below. MCW will interpret eligibility criteria to

align with program objectives and FY24 CVIPI Site-Based Grant requirements. Eligibility determinations by MCW are final. This RFA is for projects serving populations in the State of Wisconsin only.

Applicants must review and sign the Attestation of Compliance with Federal Terms and Conditions document and include it in the attachments section of the application.

Eligible Applicant Agencies

1. Nonprofit, nongovernmental with current 501(c)3 tax-exempt status with the IRS, , registered with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions and having one of the following statuses as of the RFA deadline date: “in good standing”, “restored to good standing”, “incorporated/qualified/registered”, “organized”, or “registered.”
2. Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments).
3. Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities.

For the purposes of this RFA, a Community Based Organization (CBO) is an organization or agency with deep relationships in the community and engage in authentic community engagement that is well positioned to implement a CVI program and its services. A CBO values lived experience along with professional qualifications and relevant credibility with the individuals, groups, and location of those at highest risk of experiencing community violence.

CBOs are often best positioned to lead CVI work yet sometimes face significant challenges in:

- obtaining funding for programs, including eligibility, management, and allowability.
- developing the capacity to plan and implement CVI strategies.
- receiving training to use research and data to implement CVI strategies.
- measuring program outputs and outcomes.
- leveraging tools and expertise from a network of experts.

This funding is intended to provide support to CBOs across the continuum of implementing and evaluating their CVI work. If a CBO uses a fiscal agent for fiscal, administrative or programmatic reasons, this may be allowable given the CBO meets all the other selection criteria for this grant program. However, it is the CBO who needs to develop the project narrative and participate in the required training and technical

assistance for the CVIPI grant program.

Note: Applicants that subsequently receive an award under this RFA will be required to provide MCW its SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier, have an active SAM.gov registration and completed all sub-recipient monitoring requirements prior to an award being issued.

Project Expenses

The table below highlights selected allowable and unallowable expenses to consider for project budgets.

Project Expenses	
Generally Allowable	Not Allowable
Salary and Fringe	Facility Construction or Repairs
Program Operations, Materials, and Activities	Enforcement personnel, facilities, or equip
Equipment	Court/Prosecution Services
Events or conferences*	Correctional Services
General Operating Costs	Academic Research Studies
Travel costs associated with obtaining TTA (food, lodging, mileage, etc)	Drug/Substance Misuse Treatment Services
Training opportunities	Food for Meetings/Activities
Consultant and contract services needed to implement the program	Land Acquisition
Participant services (stipends)	
Developing curricula, assessment tools, policies and procedures (such as wellness plans)**	
Indirect (federally negotiated or de minimis)	

*Requires prior approval from MCW and OJP/BJA

**To support CVI staff as long as these investments contribute to increased capacity to prevent and reduce community violence using evidence-based strategies within a comprehensive approach.

Facilities and Administrative (Indirect) Costs

Reimbursement of facilities and administrative (indirect) costs are listed in Appendices III – VII of 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Applicants should follow the guidelines applicable to its type of organization. If an applicant has a current federally-approved indirect cost rate agreement it will need to be provided with the application. Otherwise, the costs should be included at the de minimis rate of up to 15%. These costs should be included in the project budget.

Clarifications and/or Revisions to the Request for Applications

If an applicant discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy,

omission, or other deficiency in this RFA, the applicant should notify MCW of such error at WCSF@mcw.edu and request modification or clarification of the RFA. If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of this RFA, revisions/amendments and/or supplements will be posted to the [WCSF CVIPI RFA web page](#).

MCW will post a pre-recorded informational webinar to explain the details of the RFA. MCW will accept questions by email until 09/26/2025 at 11:59pm and post answers in a Q&A document on the WCSF webpage by 10/01/25. This will ensure that information is available to all potential applicants. Questions should be sent to: WCSF@mcw.edu.

Reasonable Accommodations

MCW will provide reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternate format, for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Any applicant in need of reasonable accommodation should contact MCW at: WCSF@mcw.edu

Equity Statement

Health equity is defined as assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people. **The driving mission of the CIC at the MCW is to reduce injury within populations who are experiencing or are at risk for health disparities**, as reducing disparities in health is a way to achieve health equity. **Our vision is a healthier and safer community for all.** We are committed to being a model for other communities experiencing injury disparities through sharing our knowledge. To achieve this mission and vision, the MCW CIC prioritizes health equity across the center and its activities as it relates to education and training, outreach, and research.

Calendar of Events

Listed below are specific dates/times of actions related to this RFA. The actions with specific dates must be completed as indicated unless otherwise changed by MCW. If MCW finds it necessary to change any of these dates and/or times, it will do so by issuing an amendment(s) to this RFA via the [WCSF CVIPI RFA webpage](#). There may or may not be formal notification issued for changes to target dates and times.

Item	Due Date
RFA Post Date	9/15/2025
Informational webinar recording available	9/15/2025
Deadline to submit questions for Q&A document	9/26/2025, 11:59pm CST
Final Q&A document posted to WCSF webpage	10/01/2025
Full Application Deadline	10/15/2025, 11:59 pm CST
Virtual Interviews (if needed)	10/20/2025 – 10/22/25
Applicants Notified	12/15/2025
Project Start Date	01/01/2026
Post Award Webinar	01/12/2026

Grant Agreement Term

Funds administered under this RFA shall be effective on the subaward execution date and shall be in force until all eligible activities are completed and all required documents are submitted to MCW. Expenses must be incurred between the official project start date and September 30, 2027, unless otherwise adjusted.

Participation Requirements

Applicants selected for funding will be required to participate in:

- Quarterly financial and programmatic reporting as detailed below
- CVI Capacity Assessment
- Community of Practice (COP) participation
- Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) on program implementation
- Trainings provided by WCSF/CIC staff and national CVI partners
- State and (potentially) national convenings
- Data collection and evaluation TTA
- Evaluation activities as determined in collaboration with MCW
- Ongoing contact with WCSF program staff

CVI Capacity Assessment

As a CVIPI subrecipient, organizations will engage in a structured capacity-building process designed to strengthen their CVI programming. This process consists of six key steps: (1) conducting a needs assessment, (2) identifying and understanding opportunities, (3) identifying capacity constraints, (4) creating logical and effective solutions, (5) taking actionable steps, and (6) evaluating results. Through these steps, your organization will receive guidance and support to build sustainable improvements in your CVI programming and organizational effectiveness. To guide this process, WCSF will use the **Community Violence Intervention Readiness, Opportunities and Strengths Evaluator** (CVI-ROSE) to assess grantee organizations, shape a tailored technical assistance plan and inform cohort wide community of practice offerings.

As part of the application, organizations will complete a self-assessment using the seven domains of the tool, which are critical to effective CVI programming: Program Leadership, Program Design, Program and Performance Management, Staff Management, Staff Wellness, Data, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Partnership, Engagement and Development. For each domain, applicants will rate their organization on a four-point Likert scale, providing a foundation for identifying strengths, areas for growth, and priority areas for capacity-building support. The self-assessment during the application is intended to introduce organizations to the CVI-ROSE domains and assessment process. Domain ratings will **NOT** factor into final decisions. If selected, grantees will complete a full self-assessment post award.

Reporting Requirements

Applicants awarded funding under this RFA will be expected to submit quarterly program and financial reports to MCW detailing the use of funds, activities conducted, populations served, and progress toward desired results. Agencies will also be required to submit data to support performance measurement and evaluation of the project and overall programs, as determined by MCW. MCW will supply a report document for completion by subrecipients and prescribe the dates upon which the reports are due. MCW will also provide training and technical assistance on data collection and evaluation throughout the duration of the award.

Preparing and Submitting Application

General Instructions

The evaluation and selection of a subrecipient and the resulting subrecipient agreement will be based on the accurate completion of the full application, attestation responses, and submission of all required attachments. Failure to respond to each of the questions or requirements in the RFA may result in rejection of an application.

Incurring Costs for Completing Application

The Medical College of Wisconsin is not liable for any cost incurred by applicants in replying to this RFA.

Submitting the Application

Applicants must submit a completed application with any required attachments and materials **no later than October 15, 2025 at 11:59pm CST** through the on-line application portal located on the [WCSF CVIPI RFA webpage](#). MCW will not accept applications by email, mail, hand delivery, or facsimile machine (fax).

Full Application Organization and Format

The application contains the following sections. All sections are required. Failure to completely address all questions may result in disqualification of the application. The details required in each section are listed below:

Section 1	Organization Information	See word limit in application
Section 2	Capacity Self-Assessment	Survey in application
Section 3	Project Narrative	See word limit for each question in application form
Section 4	Budget and Budget Justification	Template provided.
Section 5	Project Workplan	Template provided.
Section 6	Letters of Support	Attach through application form
Section 7	Attestations and Required Signature	Form provided

Multiple Applications

An eligible agency may only submit one application as a lead applicant.

Virtual Interviews

MCW may require applicants to participate in a virtual interview to support and clarify their applications. MCW will make every reasonable attempt to schedule each presentation at a time that is agreeable to the applicant. Failure of an applicant to interview on the mutually agreed upon date scheduled may result in rejection of the applicant's application. If needed, interviews would occur the week of October 20, 2025.

Withdrawal of Applications

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by submitting a request via email from an authorized representative of the applicant to WCSF@mcw.edu. If a previously submitted application is withdrawn prior to the application submission due date and

time, the applicant may submit another application on or before the RFA due date and time.

Application Selection and Award Process

Application Evaluation

This RFA was developed with input by a statewide advisory committee and in consultation with OJP/BJA. Accepted applications will be reviewed by a separate selection committee (“Committee”), consisting of members who have been selected because of their professional expertise and knowledge of the topic(s) relevant to the focus of this RFA. Applications will be evaluated based on merit, demonstrated effectiveness, fiscal responsibility, and commitment to principles of individual accountability alongside community support.

The Committee will review and score all accepted applications against the criteria listed below. The Committee’s scoring will be tabulated, and applications will be ranked based on the numerical scores received. Other factors including but not limited to geographic diversity, population focus, and program saturation may be considered beyond numerical rankings for selection. These factors are at the discretion of MCW in consultation with OJP/BJA.

Application Review Criteria

The project narrative, budget and budget justification, and project workplan should be completed by the CBO that has identified capacity building goals and will be participating in the CVIPI grant program activities. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described below. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal *addresses* each of the criteria listed. As this is a capacity building grant program, it is to be expected that organizations would have differing levels of experience in grants management and program implementation. The questions are weighted according to importance.

Applicant Organization Mission	Max. 5 points
Community Violence and CVI Experience	Max. 15 points
Project Description	Max. 20 points
Community Engagement, Support, and Partnerships	Max. 20 points
Capacity for Project Management, Implementation, and Reporting	Max. 15 points
Plan for Tracking Progress and Evaluating	Max. 10 points

Results	
Project Budget and Budget Justification	Max. 5 points
Project Workplan	Max. 10 points

Right to Reject Applications and Negotiate Grant Agreement Terms

MCW reserves the right to reject all applications. MCW reserves the right to negotiate the terms of the contract grant agreement(s) that result from this RFA including the total award amount and individual budget items with the selected applicant prior to entering into a contracted grant agreement.

Award Amounts

Grant amounts shall not exceed a total of \$400,000 over the implementation period which ends September 30, 2027 (unless subsequently amended). MCW reserves the right to negotiate, limit or amend grant awards in accordance with objectives of the program and available funding.

Federal Authorization

Any application recommended for a subaward from this RFA must be reviewed and approved by OJP/BJA prior to award.

Method of Award

Awards will be primarily based on selection committee scores. Funds may not be requested for expenses reimbursed from any other funding source. MCW reserves the right to consider other factors for granting awards in addition to selection committee scores.

Notification of Award

All applicants who submit an accepted full application will be notified of their application result at the primary point of contact email provided in full application. Notifications will be emailed to primary contact from applicant agency by **December 15, 2025, unless otherwise notified**. Upon notification, subrecipient monitoring and subaward negotiation will commence by the Grants and Contracts Office at MCW.

Full Application Form

Full application can be completed by [clicking here](#).