



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #399

### Violence Interruption Grants (Justice)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 370, #8]

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#### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Assembly Bill 68/Senate Bill 111, provides \$1,000,000 PR in 2021-22 and \$1,000,000 GPR in 2022-23 to create a program that supports grants to community organizations that use evidence-based strategies to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation and connect individuals to community support. The bill would create an annual GPR appropriation and a continuing PR appropriation for the program. In 2021-22, AB 68/SB 111 specifies that \$1,000,000 would be transferred from DOJ's continuing GPR-funded school safety grants appropriation to the new PR appropriation. In 2022-23, \$1,000,000 GPR would be provided in the new GPR appropriation.

2. A violence interruption grant program was first included in the Governor's August 2020 special session call with the same funding structure. It should be noted that in May, 2021 guidance from the US Department of Treasury, community violence intervention programs as an eligible use of funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to "take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic."

3. Under 2017 Act 143, an Office of School Safety was created in the Department of Justice. In conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Office is required to create model practices for school boards and private schools to use when developing or reviewing a school safety plan. The Department of Public Instruction is directed to provide any resources or staff requested by the Office to create the model practices. The Office is required to consult with the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association and the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Training and Technical Assistance Center. When requested, the Office is required to assist a school board or the governing body of a private school in developing or reviewing the school safety plans. In addition, the Office must offer, or contract with a state agency to offer, training to school teachers,

school counselors, and coaches on school safety. Act 143 allows DOJ to collect fees from schools that receive a grant for the training and creates an appropriation to receive these fees. Training subjects are required to include trauma informed care.

4. The Office is required to award the grants for expenditures related to improving school safety. The Office must accept grant applications from public schools, private schools, independent charter schools, and tribal schools. The Office developed a plan for awarding the grants, in consultation with DPI, and must include a description of what types of expenditures are eligible to be funded by grant proceeds.

5. Statute specifies certain eligible expenditures, but does not otherwise limit DOJ authority to determine how grants are awarded or what expenditures are eligible. Eligible expenditures explicitly include expenditures for compliance with DOJ model practices for school safety; expenditures for DOJ school safety training; expenditures for safety-related upgrades to school buildings, equipment, and facilities; and expenditures necessary to comply with requirements to submit school blueprints to law enforcement and the Office of School Safety.

6. The Office is responsible for administering the grants for school safety and safety-related upgrades to school buildings, equipment, and facilities. Act 143 appropriated \$100 million in GPR funding for this purpose under a continuing appropriation. The Office initially awarded \$91 million for over 1,300 grants in two rounds of funding. As of May 5, 2021, approximately \$86,217,500 has been used to reimburse schools for eligible expenses and an additional \$4,797,100 in funds are pending final processing.

7. After the two rounds of grant funding, the Office opened three grant modification programs for further funding opportunities including a School Resource Officer project (\$97,000), Digital Threat Assessment (\$74,000), and Adolescent Mental Health Training hosting (\$1,290,100). If a school was awarded one of these grants their original grant amount was increased.

8. In addition, there are five other grant programs including: (a) Critical Incident Response grant program for schools experiencing critical events; (b) Speak up speak out materials grant which reimburse schools for expenses on promotional materials; (c) validating the digital threat assessment tools study; (d) anti-hate curriculum; and (e) critical incident response training.

9. The Department indicates that the OSS has plans for all of the \$100 million as shown in the table below. The Office indicates that it will reallocate any additional turnback funds identified to existing programs such as the Critical Incident Response Grant, Allyship Skill-Building (Anti-Hate Curriculum) and School Resource Office (SRO) trainings. Note that in the table DOJ is currently in the process of evaluating awards for the validation study. In addition, school safety grant funds are budgeted to serve as a match to a federal grant for the crisis mental health services.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Awarded Funds</u>	<u>Payments Made</u>	<u>Obligation (Pending/ Remaining)</u>	<u>Unawarded</u>
Round 1 & 2	\$91,015,600	\$91,014,591	\$86,217,460	\$4,797,131	\$1,009
Adolescent Mental Health Training host	1,290,139	1,290,139	1,222,591	67,548	0
Digital Threat Assessment	74,000	74,000	74,000	0	0
Critical Incident Response (CIR)	2,000,000	239,329	239,329	0	1,760,671
Speak Up Speak Out (SUSO) Marketing and Promotional materials	1,456,000	1,456,000	131,112	1,324,888	0
Validation Study*	3,325,000	0	0	3,325,000	0
School Resource Officer (SRO) Project	100,000	97,020	30,690	66,330	2,980
Anti Hate Curriculum - Federal Match**	500,000	0	0	500,000	0
CIRT Education - Federal Match**	237,649	0	0	237,649	0
Refund of Prior Year- GPR Earned in SFY20	<u>1,612</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,612</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	\$100,000,000	\$94,171,079	\$87,916,794	\$10,318,546	\$1,764,660

\* Award evaluation in process.

\*\* Use as federal grant match.

10. The Department indicates that there likely will be \$1,000,000 in funds that are not be obligated or utilized that could be directed to violence interruption grants. Therefore, if the Committee wishes \$1,000,000 PR in 2021-22 and \$1,000,000 GPR in 2022-23 could be provided to create a program that supports grants to community organizations that use evidence-based strategies to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation and connect individuals to community support and create a new GPR appropriation for the program. [Alternative 1]

11. Alternatively, the Committee could create only the PR appropriation utilizing \$1 million transferred from the existing school safety grants appropriations. Under this alternative, expenditure authority of \$500,000 PR annually could be provided to support violence interruption grants. This alternative would allow the grant program to be create using existing funding. [Alternative 2]

12. The school safety grant program has no sunset date. Given that all funds from the original \$100 million are committed or have planned purposes, the Committee may decide to delete the appropriation as of June 30, 2023 and lapse any remaining funding. [Alternative 3] This alternative would result in the deletion of the continuing appropriation for School Safety grants.

13. Violence interruption grants are an eligible expense under APRA and, therefore, monies may be available for this purpose. While federal funding provided in such a manner would be one-time in nature, if federal funding is initially provided continued funding of a violence interruption program could be addressed in subsequent biennial budgets. Given this, the Committee could take no action. [Alternative 4]

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$1,000,000 PR in 2021-22 and \$1,000,000 GPR in 2022-23 to create a program

that supports grants to community organizations that use evidence-based strategies to mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation and connect individuals to community support. Create an annual GPR appropriation and a continuing PR appropriation for the program.

<b>ALT 1</b>	<b>Change to Base</b>
GPR	\$1,000,000
PR	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	\$2,000,000

2. Provide \$500,000 PR annually to create a program that supports grants to community organization that use evidence-based strategies to mediate conflict, prevent retaliation, and connect individuals to community support. Create a continuing PR appropriation for the program.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Base</b>
PR	\$1,000,000

3. Sunset the School Safety Grant program on June 30, 2023. Require DOJ to lapse any remaining funds in the school safety grant program at the end of the 2021-23 biennium.

4. Take no action.

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