

Violence Interruption Program (VIP) Grant Opportunity FAQ

The Department of Health hosted two pre-bidders conferences on September 15th and 25th. Below are questions and answers from both of those sessions.

Applicant eligibility

Q: Is this grant looking for one organization to apply or is there an opportunity for organizations doing different aspects of this work to apply together?

A: Ideally we are looking for one organization to apply. It is acceptable for multiple organizations to apply together, but the organizations will have to work with the Department of Health to determine how to disperse the funds.

Q: Is this funding opportunity open to for-profit organizations?

A: This funding opportunity is open to not-for-profit, non-governmental agencies.

Q: Is there an organization currently filling in this role?

A: There is not currently an organization serving as a violence interruption program in the Eastport community.

Application requirements

Q: Should the applicant mention prevention strategies to demonstrate their understanding of the Cure Violence model?

A: Prevention for a violence interruption program would happen at a community level. The organization would be less focused on upstream activities to prevent violence and more on immediate efforts to get ahead of real-time violence and target the current highest risk individuals. There is a question prompt in the application requirements that asks the applicant to describe their understanding of the Cure Violence model and how they can implement it. In this section the applicant should note their capacity to implement the prevention and intervention activities of the model.

Training and implementation

Q: How involved will Cure Violence Global be in this process?

A: The selected organization will receive ongoing technical assistance to ensure the model is implemented with fidelity. The Health Department and Cure Violence will meet on a routine basis during training and implementation. Training and technical assistance is covered through the Department of Health so applicants do not need to include that in their budget.

Q: Is this a seven day, twenty-four hour operation?

A: This program will operate when violence is most often to occur. Staff hours are to be determined. May be weekends or evenings so that staff can be out when community members are out and active. The organization needs to be able to accommodate that level of flexibility.

Q: Will Cure Violence do safety training for site employees?

A: This is a part of the Cure Violence onboarding training for staff.

Q: Can organizations who are not selected as the grant awardee still participate in the Cure Violence trainings?

A: The staff training will only be open to the organization selected for the grant. This is to ensure that the Cure Violence model is implemented fully with fidelity, which requires staffing and activities that go beyond the onboarding training.

Q: Are mental health services provided to neighborhood residents under the Cure Violence model?

A: Relationships built with other organizations will be key to provide wraparound services. Cure Violence is focused on violence interruption, but outreach workers providing case management will link residents with mental health services at local agencies. Staff will not provide or pay for those services themselves, but they will be responsible for connecting residents to those services and following-up to ensure they are able to access them.

Q: Will training include technical training as well as an overview of the Cure Violence model?

A: Cure Violence will provide onboarding training to the organization and there will be a point-of-contact made available to the organization. Staff will be fully trained: violence interrupter and outreach worker training, program management training, and database training.

Q: Is there a list of what charges are or are not allowable for hiring staff?

A: To reach the highest risk individuals, the organization should seek to hire individuals who may have been exposed to violence but have shown a lengthy separation from that sort of lifestyle. There is general guidance in the RFP around hiring requirements. Part of the requirements for the organization will be to write up a hiring policy prior to beginning to solicit for staff positions.

Data

Q: What is the software that will be used for collecting and storing all of the program site data?

A: Cure Violence uses a specialized, confidential system to store data with a log-in. The information collected is not shared out to other agencies; it stays internal to the organization, select Department of Health and Cure Violence staff. Cure Violence will provide training to the selected organization to onboard them to the data portal.

Q: Once the community-based organization is selected, is the database and training included or does that need to be added to the budget?

A: The database and training will be provided to the selected organization. It does not need to be added to the budget.

Future funding and sites

Q: Is there going to be funding beyond year one?

A: Currently funding through this grant will go through the end of 2024. Additional funding will depend on the success of the Eastport site and the availability of funding sources.

Q: Are there plans to do another site in the Annapolis area?

A: The goal would be to establish additional Cure Violence sites around the county, contingent on the success of the Eastport site and the availability of other funding sources. The location of any subsequent sites would be decided by identifying where the highest levels of gun homicides, injuries and youth gun violence are happening throughout the county.

Q: If there are additional Cure Violence sites, would they be led by one community-based organization or several in the different areas?

A: The Cure Violence model utilizes a different community-based organization to lead each individual site. Each site is run by its own organization and hires its own team of staff. The different sites can network and coordinate, but leadership falls under an organization who has credibility in that neighborhood block.

Q: Are there certain organizations in mind for any future potential sites?

A: The county does not have a particular organization or location in mind for any future sites. Right now the focus is on supporting the Eastport site to be successful so that this program can grow to additional sites in the county. The Health Department is looking for the strongest applicants that will best meet the criteria to set the program up quickly.