

Budget prioritizes actions to reduce firearm violence

The supplemental budget offers a comprehensive, thoughtful approach to reducing incidents of firearm violence through data-driven and research-based approaches. Prevention and intervention programs — as well as group violence intervention strategies that emphasize collaboration with law enforcement and the community — concentrate on areas with the highest rates of firearm violence in the state. These programs use data to identify individuals most likely to be involved in firearm violence and then engages them through interventions proven to be effective.

The budget also plans for [a centralized firearm background check process](#) to increase public safety by improving the accuracy and efficiency of firearm background checks. This centralized system also will streamline the background check process, ease the growing burdens on local law enforcement agencies and simplify steps that firearms dealers must follow.

Prevention and intervention

Department of Children, Youth, and Families – Juvenile rehabilitation

Gun Violence Prevention Grants

Establish a grant program in the Office of Juvenile Justice for services supported by research for youth who are at high risk to perpetrate gun violence and who reside in areas with high rates of gun violence. The grant program will give priority to at least one site serving south King County and one site in Yakima County that partner with the University of Washington to deliver family-integrated transition services through use of “credible messenger” type advocates. (\$800,000 General Fund-State)

Shots Fired Program

Deliver community-based violence prevention and intervention services to approximately 150 individuals in south King County, identified through King County “Shots Fired” social network analysis as being at high risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of a firearm-related offense. (\$425,000 GF-S)

Deterrence and investigation

Department of Commerce

Group Violence Intervention Grants

Create a grant program for group violence intervention strategies. Priority will be given to sites in Yakima and south King counties — areas with the highest rates of gun violence in the state — that can demonstrate the successful leveraging of local or federal resources. The grants require collaboration between law enforcement and the community, using data to identify the individuals most at risk to perpetrate gun violence, as well as connections to services. (\$600,000 GF-S)

Washington State Patrol

Gun violence data analyst

Hire an intelligence analyst to focus on firearm violence activity. The analyst will use data to identify trends, patterns and links to gang and firearm activity, and help law enforcement with analytical case support. This work will assist the multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces and marijuana task forces with investigations that involve higher-level cartel and transnational organized crime. (\$150,000 Dedicated Marijuana Account)

Effectiveness and efficiency of firearm background checks

Washington State Patrol

Centralized firearm background check system

Hire a consultant to design the IT system to implement a centralized firearm background check system and a project manager to develop the plan for setting up the background check system in the Washington State Patrol. (\$400,000 GF-S)