PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY Office of Justice Programs/Criminal Justice System Improvements Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution Grant Program Project Summary and Analysis

Project Title: Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution Grant Program

Applications: 29 Recommended Applicants in 19 Counties

Project Duration: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024

Project Description:

Act 54 of 2022 established the <u>Gun Violence Investigation & Prosecution Grant Program</u> (GVIP) within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). Act 54 directed PCCD to administer \$50 million in federal COVID Relief - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding as grants to support the investigation and prosecution of violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to firearms and other dangerous articles) and crimes of violence as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714(g) (relating to sentences for second and subsequent offenses) where a firearm or a replica of a firearm, as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9712(e) (relating to sentences for offenses committed with firearms), was used in the commission of the crime.

District Attorneys, local law enforcement agencies (i.e., public agencies of a political subdivision with general police powers and charged with making arrests in connection with enforcement of criminal or traffic laws), campus or university police, railroad or street railway police, airport authority police, and county park police were eligible applicants. Maximum award amounts ranged from \$500,000 to \$25 million, dependent upon the municipal population size of the applicant agency and/or agency type.

Per Act 54, funding could be used for the following purposes:

(1) To improve and enhance coordination of Federal, State and local law enforcement investigations and prosecutions of violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms.

(2) To support personnel costs, including salaries and overtime, relating to investigations and prosecutions of violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms, with priority given to applications focusing on straw purchasers and firearms trafficking.

(3) To purchase technology systems, including related hardware and software, to improve investigations and prosecutions or increase clearance rates, including the purchase of gunshot detection technology and other technologies that support firearm violence reduction initiatives.
(4) Initiatives that support the tracing of firearms used to commit crimes or delinquent acts and the identification of illegal firearms traffickers.

(5) Any other efforts that aid in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of a crime involving firearms.

On September 1, 2022, PCCD released a \$50 million solicitation under this program. The application period closed on October 13, 2022. A total of 41 applications requesting \$90.2 million were received.

Act 54 required PCCD to prioritize applications for areas of the Commonwealth experiencing high rates of gun violence. To meet this requirement, gun violence data provided from the Pennsylvania State Police was referred to during the review. The Act also required PCCD to reserve no less than 10% of available grant funds for county district attorneys' offices and law enforcement agencies serving rural communities. PCCD used available US Census data to make that determination.

Due to the high interest in the grant program versus the availability of funding, priority consideration was given to items or activities that were articulated as having a positive impact on improving the investigation and prosecution of gun violence crimes. Where the applicant failed to articulate specific need for all requested items or the impact on improving investigation or prosecution of gun violence, budgets were

reduced accordingly. Using this method, a greater number of applicants and investigation and prosecutorial activities are being recommended under this grant program.

Staff are recommending approval of 29 applications requesting a total not to exceed \$50 million in GVIP Grant Program funding, pending the resolution of programmatic and fiscal requirements and any outstanding conditions or concerns.

Allegheny County Chief Executive Officer Allegheny County Grant # 39299 Amount: \$2,348,536	The Allegheny County Police Department (ACPD) and the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office (ACDA) will receive \$2,348,536 to expand the ACPD's existing Violent Crimes and Firearms (VCF) Unit, to expand ACDA's community surveillance camera systems, and for the ACDA to purchase digital media collection and storage systems to expedite and provide enhancements to the prosecution of violent offenders. The ACPD is seeking to implement an expansion in the size and reach of its VCF unit that has existed since 2019 and has shown great success in preventing, investigating, and assisting with the prosecution of violent crimes within Allegheny County. Funding will be used to support ACPD personnel salaries and benefits, overtime reimbursement, vehicle and equipment purchasing, software purchasing and licensing, and training. It will also be used to support salary and benefit reimbursement for additional ACDA personnel, software purchasing and licensing, and equipment purchasing and installation costs.
Duquesne City Allegheny County Grant # 39008 Amount: \$645,150	The City of Duquesne will receive \$645,150 to establish an advanced law enforcement unit, namely the Violent Crime Enforcement Team (V.C.E.T.), comprised of well-trained and experienced officers who will strive on a daily basis to meet the unit goals: identify, deter, apprehend, and prosecute the offenders engaged in gun violence, illegal firearm possession, firearms trafficking, and straw purchasing of firearms. The funds will be used to provide for two full-time and one part-time officers dedicated to the unit; overtime for additional officers to assist the unit and to participate in suppression details; and provide and outfit two unmarked police vehicles.
Berks County Commissioners Berks County Grant # 39090 Amount: \$552,341	The Berks County District Attorney's Office (BCDA) will receive \$552,341 to fund a part-time Firearms Examiner position and for the purchase of a Containerized Ballistic Crime Laboratory (CBCL) for the Berks County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory (BCDACL), to aid in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of crimes involving firearms. These funds will be used to support one part-time Firearms Examiner position for two years to supplement the work of the current full-time Firearms Examiner. The CBCL will be purchased and installed in the laboratory to allow for the safe discharge of firearms on-site to expedite analysis.
Reading City Berks County Grant # 39392 Amount: \$686,768	The City of Reading Police Department will receive \$686,768 to supplement its operating budget in order to assign more personnel to directly investigate incidents of gun violence. Reading has experienced an increase in firearms related violence in the past few years, including homicides, non-fatal shootings, robberies, and shots fired incidents. These incidents require a coordinated response using both personnel and technology to identify, analyze, and investigate patterns and trends associated with violent crime in the City of Reading.

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	Funds will be used to staff a Neighborhood Gun Violence Unit in the Patrol Division that will investigate gun violence incidents at the street level in neighborhoods; assign two investigators to follow-up on gun violence incidents; provide funding for increasing the frequency and effectiveness of the Reading Police Department's multi-agency Operation Ceasefire Details; and the purchase of pole cameras.
Bucks County Commissioners Bucks County Grant # 39127 Amount: \$3,079,328	The Bucks County DA's Office (BCDAO) will receive \$3,079,328 to fully investigate and vigorously prosecute all individuals or organizations who illegally possess and/or commit crimes involving firearms, including purchasing firearms in Bucks County with intent to transfer them illegally to unauthorized persons. The BCDAO has led efforts along with all 39 municipal police departments, the PA State Police, PA Attorney General, ATF, the Philadelphia Police Department, Montgomery County DA, Delaware County DA, and other law enforcement agencies in the region to streamline communication and proactively investigate crimes involving firearms. This project would enable the BCDAO establish an official Gun Violence Task Force, whose personnel would focus on aggressively combatting straw purchases, interdict in the trafficking of illegally purchased or privately manufactured firearms (aka, ghost guns), and assist smaller municipal departments in gun crime investigations.
	Funding will be used to support the salary and benefits of two new county detectives, one new prosecutor, and four task force officers.
Butler County Commissioners Butler County Grant # 39394	The Butler County District Attorney's Office will receive \$280,997 to create a county detective position to track guns criminally used or confiscated by law enforcement. The detective will serve as a liaison to the DA Office's Emergency Services Unit (EMU) which is deployed to respond to incidents of gun violence or related incidents where there may be the potential for gun violence. Butler County is also requesting funding to support essential equipment needs for the EMU when responding to these events.
Amount: \$280,997	Funds will be used to support the salary and benefits of the county detective position, bullet-proof vests, drones, night-time vision, and a throw phone.
Chester County Commissioners Chester County	The Chester County District Attorney's Office will receive \$449,264 to hire a firearms examiner who would examine ballistic and firearm evidence collected in Chester County. Funding will also be used to purchase related ballistic testing equipment.
Grant # 39178 Amount: \$449,264	Funds will be used to support the examiner's salary and benefits for two years, training conference and association dues, yearly proficiency testing, a reference publications collection, court related demonstratives, yearly calibration/cleaning scopes-devices, a downdraft system/fuming hood, a bullet recovery system, comparison microscope, stereoscope, portable firing system, scales, calipers and weights, chemical processing restoration, and ammunition.
Cumberland County Commissioners Cumberland County Grant # 38978	The Cumberland County District Attorney's Office will receive \$1,500,000 to construct, establish, equip, staff, and implement a comprehensive ISO 17025 firearms laboratory to complement and enhance their existing suite of five accredited forensic laboratory services. Using GVIP funding, the CCDA Forensic Lab plans to extend its scope of accreditation to include firearms analysis upon initiation of a firearms section. Upon commencement of

	casework, evidence initially will be accepted from Cumberland County
Amount: \$1,500,000	customers, with the intent to expand casework acceptance to law enforcement agencies in surrounding counties (Dauphin, York, Adams, Perry, and Franklin) over time.
	These funds will be used to support construction costs for the laboratory, various equipment (i.e., comparison and stereo microscopes, near infrared camera, fume hood, ballistics shield, remote firing device, water tank, cotton trap with brass catcher, firing range, target retrieval system), a firearms examiner, and a NIBIN technician.
Harrisburg City Dauphin County	The Harrisburg Bureau of Police will receive \$1,262,501 to support its efforts to investigate crimes of gun violence and enhance the investigatory abilities and successful prosecution of gun violence in the City of Harrisburg.
Grant # 39072	These funds will be used to purchase ShotSpotter Technology; fund a Forensic Investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division; support overtime details to
Amount: \$1,262,501	saturate high gun crime areas; purchase Cellebrite Technology to increase clearance rates of gun crimes; and work with community groups to increase lighting and install Ring doorbell service in homes in high crime areas.
Penbrook Borough	The Borough of Penbrook Police Department will receive \$191,325 to hire an additional full-time police officer so that a tenured officer can be reassigned as a
Dauphin County	criminal investigator for the purpose of participating in county-wide task forces and investigate crimes of violence and other gun related offenses.
Grant # 39182	The funds will be specifically used to support the salary and benefits related to
Amount: \$191,325	hiring a full-time police officer and a ballistic protective vest to be issued to the newly hired officer.
Darby Borough Delaware County	The Darby Borough Police Department will receive \$99,000 to install ShotSpotter equipment and technology in Darby Borough for a period of two years.
Grant # 39017 Amount: \$99,000	These funds will be used to purchase, install, and maintain ShotSpotter equipment for a period of two years which will be used in aiding in notifications/investigations and response times.
Delaware County Executive Director	The Delaware County District Attorney's Office (DAO) will receive \$1,003,127 to support, expand, and improve the intelligence gathering, investigatory, and prosecutorial tools that are available to the detectives and attorneys in the DAO.
Delaware County	The project intends to use GVIP funding to upgrade and expand the equipment in its ballistics forensic unit; increase the number of detectives who have training
Grant # 39165	in ballistics forensic examination from one to five; further the goal of the Criminal Investigation Division to achieve accreditation through the Pennsylvania Law
Amount: \$1,003,127	Enforcement Accreditation Commission; acquire technological tools and consulting assistance that will enable detectives to more quickly analyze and synthesize cell phone data; expand the number of "hot spots" equipped with license plate readers; acquire technological tools that will enable detectives to have access to criminal intelligence database which helps capture, analyze, search, and share intelligence on individuals, groups, organizations, vehicles, addresses, and more; acquire poles for the mounting of additional cameras in the Highland Gardens section of the City of Chester; extend the County's license with FUSUS for an additional year; and acquire additional FUSUS appliances

	and cameras to extend the reach of the system to additional areas in the County.
	Funds will be used to support training for detectives, the purchase of updated equipment for the DAO's ballistics lab and new equipment to allow a second lab to be established, and cameras/license plate readers.
Erie City	The City of Erie Police Department will receive \$1,368,002 for increased law enforcement investigation resources to address growing gun crimes in the City
Erie County	of Erie.
Grant # 39052	Funding will be used to increase officer hours dedicated to investigation of gun crimes; gunshot detection technology for improved response, investigation, and
Amount: \$1,368,002	prosecution; new evidence processing equipment used for gun crime investigation and prosecution; and equipment and software for intelligence and investigation of gun crimes.
Erie County Chief Executive Officer	The Erie County District Attorney's Office will receive \$1,178,102 to support efforts to enhance and increase investigation and successful prosecutions of cases involving gun violence in Erie County.
Erie County	Funds will be used to support overtime of efforts for the multi-agency gun control
Grant # 38953	working group; training and travel costs associated with NIBIN Technician Training; equipment costs including a NIBIN Machine and shot barrel; and a
Amount: \$1,178,102	Crime Point Surveillance Vehicle.
Millcreek Township Erie County	The Millcreek Township Police Department (MPD) will receive \$560,387 to support personnel costs in investigating violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms.
Grant # 39113	Funding will be used to support the salary and benefits incurred as a result of assigning one MPD Detective full-time for two years to investigate violations of
Amount: \$560,387	18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms. Funds will also be used to support MPD Officer overtime to provide proactive patrol coverage between May and September 2023 and 2024 between 3 PM to 3 AM on Fridays and Saturdays.
Lawrence County Commissioners	The Lawrence County Office of the District Attorney will receive \$329,236 to initiate and operate an innovative, integrated Track, Trace and Prosecute Program (TTP) in an effort to reduce gun crimes and related acts of criminal
Lawrence County	violence. Gun violence and gun related incidents of crime have steadily increased over the last decade in Lawrence County. The TTP Program initiative
Grant # 39087	conceptualized by the District Attorney's Office seeks to improve and enhance the coordination of multijurisdictional law enforcement investigations and to
Amount: \$329,236	maximize prosecutions for violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Chapter 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms.
	Funding will be used to support the Assistant District Attorneys and Detectives participating in the TTP Program.
Lebanon County Commissioners	The Lebanon County District Attorney's Office, through the Lebanon County Commissioners, will receive \$207,411 to purchase new and/or additional

Lebanon County Grant # 38928 Amount: \$207,411	 technology systems and equipment which will increase their ability to investigate, charge, and hold offenders accountable for crimes of gun violence. GVIP funding will be used to provide new and/or additional equipment and tools for law enforcement's use during investigations of gunshot related crime scenes and various video and investigative software to allow for a quick and efficient review of video obtained in gunshot related investigations. Funding will be used for the purchase of a three-dimensional crime scene LEICA Geosystem scanner and related supplies and training; INPUT ACE software, two annual license fees, and related training; Cellebrite software package; and contracting with PLATELOGIQ to install and maintain ten advanced license plate recognition (LPR) cameras.
Allentown City	The City of Allentown Police Department will receive \$1,500,000 to support gunshot detection technology and overtime pay for patrol officers.
Lehigh County	En dia amin'ny fantsana dia amin'ny fantsana dia atanà amin'ny fantsana dia dia dia
Grant # 39464	Funding will be used to support increased patrol presence for gun violence suppression through supporting overtime pay for patrol officers. Gunshot detection technology will be able to target the location of shots fired in the city
Amount: \$1,500,000	and direct officers where to go in response.
Lehigh County Chief	The County of Lehigh will receive \$11,830 to upgrade their forensic ballistic lab
Executive Officer	to meet current standards. The Lehigh County Firearm and Tool Mark Lab
Labiah County	services Lehigh County and all the police agencies within the county. The
Lehigh County	primary responsibilities are the forensic identification of firearms, bullets, cartridge cases, and miscellaneous other evidence submitted. For the past four
Grant # 38882	years their caseload has increased from 223 cases in 2019, 259 cases (2020), 307 cases (2021), to 184 cases to date in 2022.
Amount: \$11,830	Funds will be used to purchase an upgraded forensic microscope, camera, a doppler chronograph, and a ballistic gel starter kit.
Hazleton City	The Hazleton Police Department will receive \$1,348,953 to combat violent gun crimes in and around the City of Hazleton, PA through technology and
Luzerne County	investigation into violent offenders, firearms traffickers, and straw purchasers.
Grant # 39482	Funds will be used to support a dedicated gun violence detective; overtime for patrol response to shots fired and to target firearms traffickers and straw
Amount: \$1,348,953	purchasers; and purchase a gun-shot detection system with integrated license plate reader cameras.
Luzerne County Chief Executive Officer	Luzerne County, on behalf of the District Attorney's Office, will receive \$608,929 to increase staff needed to investigate and prosecute gun violence cases in Luzerne County, as well as the items that these new employees and the Gun
Luzerne County	Violence Task Force would need to conduct their jobs.
Grant # 39022	Funding will be used to support the salary and benefits of a new detective and assistant district attorney to expand the efforts of the Gun Violence Task Force
Amount: \$608,929	over a two-year period. A wide variety of equipment and office-related purchases to support the new hires are included in the project, including a vehicle for the detective. Funding will also be used to support forensic guiding training for the detective and other detectives currently on the Task Force and other basic training for the new detective.

Monroe County Commissioners Monroe County Grant # 39370 Amount: \$50,000	The Monroe County Office of the District Attorney will receive \$50,000 to create a Gun Violence Prevention Strategic Plan through a comprehensive community needs assessment to accurately address the scope of the problem, contributing factors, investigative and prosecutorial capacity, and financial resources required to prevent gun violence. These funds will be used to subcontract with a consultant to complete a community needs assessment on gun violence prevention outlining the recommendations for required financial and personnel resources to improve investigations and prosecutions in Monroe County through developing an actionable strategic plan and forming a Gun Violence Task Force.
Montgomery County Commissioners Montgomery County Grant # 39297 Amount: \$3,573,865	The Office of the Montgomery County District Attorney will receive \$3,573,865 to create a specialized and centralized Gun Violence Task Force including forensic technology support for local municipalities in identifying, investigating and prosecuting gun trafficking, straw purchasing, and gun violence. Called Operation Cease Fire, GVIP funding will be used to increase staffing for law enforcement personnel exclusively dedicated to combating the illegal use of firearms, ghost guns, gun trafficking and related violent offenses, including homicide; expand collaborative efforts and strengthen communication between law enforcement agencies by allowing officers from various agencies to work collectively on investigations without incurring additional expenses to their local departments; invest in next-gen forensic technology/equipment that allows law enforcement personnel to more effectively and efficiently respond to the rise of gun violence; and promote research and data collection to be shared by local and Federal investigations and prosecutions.
Bethlehem City Northampton County Grant # 38897 Amount: \$350,000	The Bethlehem Police Department will receive \$350,000 to purchase technology to aid in the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of crime involving firearms. Gun violence clearance rates lag behind the rest of the Department's crime clearance rates. Adding surveillance cameras and automated license plate readers to their existing surveillance system will improve their ability to investigate, prosecute, and clear firearm related offenses. Funding will be used to upgrade and expand coverage of the Bethlehem Police Department's video surveillance system in areas associated with gun violence.
Easton City Northampton County Grant # 39508 Amount: \$131,868	The City of Easton will receive \$131,868 to purchase eight license plate recognition cameras (LPR) and five street cameras for the Easton and Wilson Borough Police Departments. Currently, the City of Easton has ten cameras in the city and six LPR that will be installed throughout the City from November 22 - January 23, 2022. Wilson Borough does not have any LPRs or the back-end system to be able to support an LPR system. Because of this, the City of Easton and Wilson Borough will share one system, which will save on cost and allow for expanded access and collaboration between the two municipalities. Funding will be used to support the purchase of license plate readers and street cameras.

Philadelphia City Treasurer Philadelphia County Grant # 39176 Amount: \$20,000,000	On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, the District Attorney's Office in collaboration with the Police Department and Managing Director's Office will receive \$20,000,000 to support citywide gun violence investigation and prosecution initiatives. GVIP funding will be used to support the Digital Forensics Lab's expansion, which is used collaboratively by the Philadelphia Police Department, the Attorney General's Office, and the District Attorney's Office. This project will advance gun violence investigation and prosecution in Philadelphia by leveraging advanced technology with adequate staffing to improve multi-agency coordination by more effectively sharing intelligence and evidence, leading to increased arrests and convictions of the few individuals driving the majority of crime involving firearms. These investigative and prosecutorial technology upgrades will also assist law enforcement efforts to prevent and intervene before future incidents occur while helping further collect evidence for straw purchases cases and trace the origin of firearms found in Philadelphia. Funding will be used to expand digital surveillance capabilities, including video analytics and license plate reader technology; camera installation and maintenance; implement investigator and prosecutor case management system; support technology upgrades to the crime scene kits used by investigators; support technology upgrades for investigation and prosecution of gun violence in Philadelphia, and related office supplies for funded staff.
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia County	The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority will receive \$4,993,639 to install ZeroEyes weapon detection technology on its security cameras and increase police overtime to reduce gun violence and aid prosecution of firearms offenses. The ZeroEyes system quickly identifies whether guns are visible in camera footage, and after verification by trained personnel, alerts emergency responders about their location.
Grant # 39315 Amount: \$4,993,639	These funds will be used to install the ZeroEyes software on security cameras, support the annual DeepZero license subscription for a two-year pilot project, and increase Transit Police overtime in order to partner with the City of Philadelphia and local law enforcement agencies to target gun violence in the transit network.
Schuylkill County Commissioners Schuylkill County Grant # 39207 Amount: \$189,441	The Office of the District Attorney of Schuylkill County will receive \$189,441 to support the implementation of the Schuylkill Gun Violence Investigation Project. The project aims to improve the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed with firearms resulting in the reduction of gun violence throughout urban and rural communities of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The project is based on evidence-based approaches and best practices proven to be effective in targeting gun offenders and traffickers, such as cross-jurisdictional and information sharing efforts in addition to other local investigative tactics to reduce gun crime. Funding will be used to support personnel costs associated with the creation of a new, full-time County Detective II: Gun Violence Investigation position, including adaption banefits finance tagting and partecting guar, and unbide
	including salaries, benefits, firearm, tactile and protective gear, and vehicle lease relating to investigations and prosecutions of violations of 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 and crimes of violence involving firearms.

York County	The York County Commissioners, on behalf of the County of York, will receive
Commissioners	\$1,500,000 to assist the York County District Attorney's Office, York County Detective Bureau, York County Forensic Investigative Unit, York County Quick
York County	Response Team, York County Porensic investigative Onit, York County Quick West York Borough Police Department, Fairview Township Police Department,
Grant # 39183	and Carroll Township Police Department to implement cross-jurisdictional solutions designed to increase competencies and capacity for effective
Amount: \$1,500,000	investigation and prosecution of gun violence and trafficking offenses.
	Funding will be used to support the salary and benefits for two new homicide detectives for the City of York and their related equipment; the salary and benefits of a specialized paralegal within the District Attorney's Office to focus on litigation efforts; Cybergenetics contracted DNA services; vacuum metal deposition system with peripherals; bullet-proof vests; recording devices; pole cameras; laptops; license plate reader systems; training; and other related supplies.