



THE BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

Information on Implementation of Key Provisions

President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act into law on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Here is information on the Act's key provisions and on how the agencies responsible for the funding provisions are implementing them as of November 28, 2022.

Firearms Provisions

1. Procedures for Firearms Purchases by Individuals Under 21 Years of Age

- Requires the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to conduct an enhanced review of purchasers under the age of 21 to determine whether juvenile records disqualify that individual from purchasing the firearm;
- Provides up to 10 business days total for NICS to complete that investigation if there is cause to investigate further whether records are disqualifying after the initial three business day search period;
- Sunsets after 10 years.

2. Defining "Engaged in the Business"

- Updates the definition of who is considered a dealer of firearms to clarify the law and put high volume sellers on notice that they should obtain Federal Firearms License.

3. Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act

- Prohibits the straw purchasing and trafficking of firearms by criminals;
- Enhances penalties for possession of firearms by prohibited persons.

4. Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence

- Protects domestic violence victims by prohibiting criminals convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as part of a current or recent former dating relationship from purchasing or possessing firearms for five years;
- Provides a federal process for a restoration of rights for those individuals if they do not commit any similar crimes during the intervening period.

Funding Provisions

Department of Justice

1. Crisis Intervention Funding

- Provides \$750 million over five years in a new pot of funding that will go to states for crisis intervention programs like red flag laws, including mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection orders that have sufficient due process protections.
- Adds a new provision of the Byrne JAG program to be used by states for crisis intervention programs, including mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts, and extreme risk protection orders that have sufficient due process protections.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [NOFA](#) posted for state applications 10/19/22; applications due 12/19/22

2. STOP School Violence Act

- Provides \$300 million over five years in additional funding to the STOP School Violence Act.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** The additional \$20 million for FY 2022 made available through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was used to supplement the existing STOP School Violence Act funding, and expanded the number of awards the COPS Office was able to make under the FY 2022 School Violence Prevention Program.

3. National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

- Allocates \$200 million over five years for grants and technical assistance to states to improve the quality, timeliness, and immediate accessibility of criminal history records and related information.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [NOFA](#) posted for state and tribal applications 11/17/22; applications due 2/28/23

4. Community Violence Intervention Program

- Appropriates \$250 million over five years in funding for violence intervention and prevention initiatives.

5. FBI Salaries and Expenses

- Provides \$100 million in funding to meet additional resource needs of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Department of Health and Human Services

1. Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

- Appropriates \$250 million over four years for SAMHSA's Community Mental Health Block Grant program that provides states, DC, and territories with flexible funding to provide comprehensive community mental health services. Information on the
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Information on the FY 2022-2023 Block Grant Application and Plan is published [HERE](#).

2. Suicide Prevention (9-8-8)

- Appropriates \$150 million in one-time funding to support the implementation of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

3. Mental Health Awareness Training Grant Program

- Appropriates \$120 million over four years in SAMHSA to prepare and train community members and first responders on how to appropriately and safely respond to individuals with mental disorders.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Grant opportunity expected post date is 12/30/22 for \$1,111,462 of eight awards to: (1) train individuals (2) establish linkages with school- and/or community-based mental health agencies to refer individuals with the signs or symptoms of mental illness to appropriate services; (3) train emergency services personnel, law enforcement, fire department personnel, veterans, and others to identify persons with a mental disorder and employ crisis de-escalation techniques; and (4) educate individuals about resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental disorder. It is expected that this program will prepare and train others on how to appropriately and safely respond to individuals with mental disorders, particularly individuals with SMI and/or SED.

4. Project AWARE

- Appropriates \$240 million over four years for SAMHSA's Project AWARE that increases awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, provides training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues, and connects school-aged youth who may have behavioral health issues and their families to needed services, \$28 million of this set aside for grants to support trauma care in school settings.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Grant opportunity expected post date is 12/30/22 for \$18,155,663 for 10 awards to develop a sustainable infrastructure for school-based mental health programs and services. It is expected that the recipient will build a collaborative partnership that includes the State Education Agency (SEA), the Local Education Agency (LEA), the State Mental Health Agency (SMHA), community-based providers of behavioral health care services, school personnel, community organizations, families, and school-aged youth.

5. National Child Traumatic Stress Network

- Appropriates \$40 million over four years to this SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network grant program that improves treatment and services for children, adolescents, and families who have experienced traumatic events.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** Grant opportunity expected post date is 12/30/22 for \$3,966,940 for 10 awards to provide and increase access to effective trauma-focused treatment and services systems in communities for children and adolescents, and their families who experience traumatic events throughout the nation.

6. Mental Health Training for Primary Care Providers

- Appropriates \$60 million over five years for training in mental health for primary care clinicians who treat children and youth through HRSA's Primary Care Training and Enhancement Program.

7. Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Grant Program

- Provides \$80 million over four years in HRSA to support pediatric primary care providers to rapidly access mental health specialists' expertise in guiding the treatment of their patients.

Department of Education

1. Elementary and Secondary Education

- Provides \$1 billion in new funding through Title IV-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to lift up activities for student learning conditions, such as evidence based-practices that foster positive school climates.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [A letter from the Secretary to Chief State School Officers](#) and [State Allocations](#) were published 09/15/22; [Frequently Asked Questions](#) were posted 11/17/22. The Department announced a four-part “Building Stronger Connections” webinar series, with the first one planned for Wednesday, 11/30/22 @ 2 PM ET -- “Building Stronger Connections: Engaging Families and Communities.” Information and registration are [HERE](#). The second one will be on 12/14/22 and be on “Building Stronger Connections: Selecting High-Quality Evidence-based Strategies for Safe, Healthy, and Supportive Schools Part I.” Dates for the second webinar, “Building Stronger Connections: Selecting High-Quality Evidenced-based Strategies for Safe, Healthy, and Supportive Schools Part II,” third webinar, “Building Stronger Connections: Professional Development and Training for All School Staff on Strategies for Safe, Supportive and Healthy Schools,” have not yet been announced.

2. School Based Mental Health Service Grant Program

- Appropriates \$500 million for the School Based Mental Health Service Grant Program to increase the number of mental health service providers.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [Applicant Information](#) and [Federal Register Notice](#) were published 10/04/22; applications were due 11/04/22

3. School Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant Program

- Allocates \$500 million for the School Based Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Grant program to train and diversify the pipeline of counselors, social workers and psychologists in schools.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [Federal Register Notice](#) was published 10/04/22; applications were due 11/04/22

4. 21st Century Community Learning Centers

- Provides \$50 million for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which invests in extracurricular, after-school and summer programs.
- **IMPLEMENTATION:** [Memo to States](#) and [State Allocations](#) were published 10/27/22.