

Violence Interruption Program (VIP) Grant Opportunity FAQ

The Department of Health hosted a pre-bidders session on August 24. The following questions and responses are provided to assist in preparing your proposal.

Applicant eligibility

Q: Is the County seeking only one nonprofit organization to serve as the lead agency, or may organizations submit a collaborative application with one designated lead?

A: Yes, DOH is seeking applications from a single lead community based organization to anchor and coordinate the violence interruption program in Brooklyn Park. However, we welcome collaborative applications, the proposal must clearly outline the role each organization will play in implementing the VIP.

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

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

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.

Q: Must an applicant already have a physical location and established presence in Brooklyn Park, or may the organization establish a Brooklyn Park site after receiving the award?

A: A physical location and established presence is an important component of program operations, and having an established presence in Brooklyn Park is beneficial for accessibility, continuity, and community trust. At the same time DOH understands that not every organization may currently have a secured location within the Brooklyn Park area at the time of application submission. We cannot guarantee or secure a location; we can facilitate conversations and connections that may support organizations in identifying a satellite potential space if one doesn't already exist.

Q: Is an independent financial audit mandatory, or may another form of financial documentation be accepted?

A: As per the RFA, it asks for “A copy of the organization’s most recent independent financial audit and documentation of 501(c) status and Maryland tax-exempt status, if applicable”. If not applicable, I would recommend providing what you do have.

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. The training cost does not come out of the Grant budget .

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: Building relationships with external organizations is essential to providing wraparound services. While Cure Violence Global focuses on violence interruption, outreach workers will offer case management and connect residents with local mental health agencies. Staff will not provide or fund these services themselves, but they will be responsible for linking residents to them and following up to ensure access.

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 receive comprehensive training covering violence interruption and outreach work, program management, and database operation.

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 RFA 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.

Q: Can unspent funds be rolled over into the 2nd year of the grant period?

A: Yes, unspent funds could be rolled over with the appropriate approvals prior to the end of the fiscal year.

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 secure, confidential database accessible only via user login. Collected information remains strictly internal, accessible only to the selected organization, designated Department of Health staff, and Cure Violence personnel. Cure Violence will provide complete onboarding training for the system.

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 two?

A: Currently funding through this grant will go through October of 2028. Additional funding will depend on the success of the Brooklyn Park site and the availability of funding sources.

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

A: The goal would be to establish the current Brooklyn Park site, and expand if needed. This will be based on the availability of funding and community needs.

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: No organizations or locations have been pre-selected for future sites. Current efforts focus on establishing the success of existing violence interruption programs and the Brooklyn Park site to support long-term growth. The Department of Health is seeking highly qualified applicants who can meet implementation criteria and launch the program efficiently.