What is Byrne SCIP?

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was signed into law in June of 2022 with the goal of reducing firearm-related violence. As authorized by the BSCA, the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides formula funds to implement state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, extreme risk protection order (ERPO) programs that work to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts. Administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), funding can be used to implement and support a broad range of activities, including, but not limited to:

- Support for states implementing ERPO programs; training for those implementing ERPO programs; communication, education and public awareness campaigns/initiatives.
- Support for problem solving court programs such as treatment, mental health and veterans treatment courts to expand programming to specifically accept clients with firearm violations.
- Support for court-based programs that identify and provide support to people in crisis, including those at risk of harm to themselves or others, assessing their circumstances and needs, and connecting them with programs and services that can provide them with needed help and support.
- Support for deflection and diversion to behavioral health treatment and support services for those at risk to themselves or others.
- Funding for law enforcement agencies to safely secure, store, track and return firearms.

BJA selected three distinct training and technical assistance (TTA) providers to help Byrne SCIP recipients and their subrecipients meet the goals and objectives of their grant funded initiatives. The following section highlights these three TTA providers, and the services and support provided.

Request TTA from any of the three Byrne SCIP TTA providers.

Byrne SCIP Training & Technical Assistance Providers

Our Services

- Direct assistance in helping Byrne SCIP recipients and subrecipients build capacity to collect and report data as it relates to implementing crisis intervention programming.
- Preparing SAAs receiving Byrne SCIP funds for potential participation in an evaluation on the effectiveness of state crisis intervention programs in preventing gun violence and firearm-related suicide.
- Assisting Byrne SCIP SAAs in the planning and creation of their state Byrne SCIP advisory boards.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), through its Center for Justice Planning, is the TTA provider for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant and serves as a TTA provider for Byrne SCIP.

NCJA provides guidance, primarily to State Administering Agencies (SAAs) and local Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils (CJCCs), on strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, effective use of data and promising practices, through direct assistance, webinars, workshops, toolkits, resources and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is the nation’s oldest judicial membership organization. A trusted source on issues of juvenile justice, family law and domestic violence, the NCJFCJ has a reputation for being at the forefront of systems’ change and improvement. Working in collaboration with BJA and the other TTA providers, NCJFCJ will build and offer support through the Safer Communities Court Resource Center to assist state, local and tribal courts in assessing and responding to court-involved individuals who may pose a risk to themselves or others with a firearm.

Our Services

- Identifying needs and opportunities to improve court systems’ response to people in crisis.
- Developing and providing customized and responsive training and technical assistance for court staff and judicial officers regarding firearms laws and best-practice, especially as they apply to court-involved individuals in crisis.
- Providing short on-demand topical court training modules.
- Facilitating peer-to-peer information exchange and interdisciplinary meetings to develop strategies, overcome challenges and build relationships with community partners.
- Creating and piloting a court self-assessment protocol to deepen courts’ capacities to identify, assess and respond to court-involved individuals in crisis.
- Developing a judicial toolkit on firearms and crisis intervention.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, in partnership with the BJA, established the National ERPO Resource Center (ERC) in 2023. The ERC is a training and technical assistance hub designed to support states and localities in their efforts to implement ERPO programs to fit local needs.

The ERC will also support states and local jurisdictions to ensure that funding received through the BSCA is effectively utilized and will share resources and best practices. In collaboration with BJA, the ERC will support ERPO implementers throughout the country. This includes law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, judicial officers, clinicians, educators, veterans organizations, victim service providers, community organizations, and behavioral health and social service providers.

Our Services

- Developing and disseminating stakeholder trainings.
- Providing implementation support.
- Supporting peer-to-peer engagements with model learning sites.
- Developing presentations and webinars that will advance states’ and localities’ knowledge on key ERPO topics.

To request TTA from any of the previously discussed TTA providers, complete the TTA Request Form.

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