



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1011 Plum Street SE • PO Box 42525 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 • 360-725-4000

[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)

November 1, 2019

Mr. Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate  
Legislative Building 312  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Mr. Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives  
Legislative Building 338B  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Re: El Nuevo Camino Legislative Report

Dear Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. Dean:

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) respectfully submits the attached El Nuevo Camino report, regarding a program to address gang problems in midsize counties in Eastern Washington, as required pursuant to Substitute Senate Bill 5883 Section 128(33), the 2017 supplemental operating budget.

Commerce conducted a competitive bid process and awarded funds to Building the Bridges East (BTBE), a nonprofit operating in Eastern Washington. Commerce created the attached report, which cites outcomes and information from BTBE.

The report is now available on the Department of Commerce Legislative Reports webpage at <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/reports-publications/>.

Mr. Brad Hendrickson and Mr. Bernard Dean

November 1, 2019

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Please contact me by phone at (360)-725-2905 or email [richard.torrance@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:richard.torrance@commerce.wa.gov) if you have questions about the program or this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Torrance", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Torrance  
Managing Director  
Office of Crime Victims Advocacy  
Community Services and Housing Division



# El Nuevo Camino Report



Department of Commerce

Pursuant to SSB 5883 Section 128(33)

October 2019

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

**Lisa Brown, Director**

# Acknowledgements

## Washington State Department of Commerce

### Agency contact

Rick Torrance  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

### Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

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For people with disabilities, this report is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 360.725.4000 (TTY 360.586.0772)

# Introduction

Section 128(33) of the 2017 supplemental operating budget (SSB 5883) directed Commerce to contract with an entity to pilot an anti-gang program in Eastern Washington, "El Nuevo Camino." Commerce ran a competitive process and awarded \$160,000 in biennial funding to Building the Bridges East (BTBE), a nonprofit specializing in reducing youth gang involvement, crime and violence.

Table 1 below summarizes program outcomes as required in subsections A-G of Section 128(33)(c)(v). Page 2 includes "other information required by the department or otherwise pertinent to the project" in response to subsection H.

**Table 1: Program Outcomes**

Subsection	Performance Measure	BTBE Outcomes
A	The number of youth and adults served through the project and the types of services accessed and received	43 enrolled; 0 completed the program (see services under "Program Description")
B	The number of youth satisfactorily completing chemical dependency treatment in the county	n/a
C	The estimated change in domestic violence rates	n/a
D	The estimated changes in gang participation and gang violence	n/a
E	The estimated changes in dropout and graduation rates	n/a
F	The estimated changes in overall crime rates and crimes typical of gang activity	n/a
G	The estimated change in recidivism for youth offenders in the county	n/a;  <i>Note:</i> BTBE reports that none of the 22 enrollees with prior offenses re-offended during the program.

## Other Information

Section 128(33)(c)(v)(H) directs Commerce to provide "other information required by the department or otherwise pertinent to the project."

### Program Description

The El Nuevo Camino program used mentors/case managers who have previously been gang members to provide services to enrolled at-risk youth or young adults. The mentors/case managers provided:

- Mentoring and case management services
- Referrals and monitoring for mental health needs, substance abuse problems, vocational education, foster-care-related services and health care services
- Services to keep youth in school or to re-enroll youth who had dropped out of school
- Services for families
- Services to divert youth from gangs and assist them in leaving gangs

### BTBE Program Chronology

BTBE operated the El Nuevo Camino program from Jan. 1, 2018, through April 30, 2018, in Mattawa and Moses Lake. Program services to enrollees stopped in May 2018 when BTBE did not receive additional funding in the 2018 legislative session. Operations restarted in July 2018 when BTBE received its fiscal year 2019 allocation from Commerce. However since the original staff did not return, BTBE had to hire and train new staff, further delaying relaunching the program. In February 2019, the program restarted services to enrollees. The program ended in May 2019 when BTBE no longer had funds to operate the program.

### Funding

BTBE cited funding and staffing issues as reasons why El Nuevo Camino terminated before enrollees could complete the program. In particular, BTBE reports that the previously expected level of funding in the operating budget was \$500,000, and the final appropriated amount was \$166,000.

Two companion bills (HB 1895 and SB 5945) addressed the El Nuevo Camino Program in the 2019 session, but neither passed. Both bills called for funding the program at approximately \$2.8 million for the biennium.