

Community-Law Enforcement Partnership Program



Preliminary report per [RCW 43.330.545\(6\)](#)

OFFICE OF FIREARM SAFETY
AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION /
PUBLIC SAFETY UNIT

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Report to the Legislature

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Executive summary

Overview

The Legislature created the Community-Law Enforcement Partnership (CLEP) program in 2021 to facilitate community-law enforcement partnerships and improve police-community relations in Washington communities. The Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for the CLEP program to be spent before June 30, 2023. [RCW 43.330.545](#) details the scope of the CLEP program and directs funds to be used for neighborhood organizing, law enforcement and community partnerships, youth mobilization, and/or business engagement. This report is submitted to satisfy the reporting requirements in subsection 6 of the authorizing statute in section 6:

The department shall, in consultation with the Washington state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for the grant recipient in order to measure whether the safe streets pilot project [sic] had an impact on crime rates and community engagement with, and perceptions of, law enforcement. The department shall submit a preliminary report to the legislature with details on the selected grant recipients and the reporting guidelines by January 1, 2022. The department shall submit a final report on the safe streets pilot project, including an analysis of the reported data required under this subsection, by December 1, 2023.

Progress

- Commerce convened an advisory group of subject matter experts to help inform the design of the CLEP program and the distribution of funds. The advisory group met twice in September 2021 to discuss the grant process and reporting guidelines.
- The first round of contracting for the CLEP program – developed in consultation with the advisory group and the Washington State Institute of Public Policy – resulted in a commitment of \$1.5 million in grant funding to support eight projects in Washington communities. The second round of contracts will be initiated in early 2022.

Table 1: CLEP program implementation schedule

Actual or planned date	Action
May 18, 2021	SSB 5353 creating the CLEP program signed by Gov. Jay Inslee
July 25, 2021	Effective date of RCW 43.330.545
Sept. 9, 2021	Community-Law Enforcement Partnership Advisory Group convened
Oct. 1, 2021	Request for proposals issued
Oct. 29, 2021	Proposals due from bidders
Dec. 15, 2021	First round of contracts signed
Jan. 1, 2022	Preliminary report to Legislature
February 2022 (tentative)	Second round of competitive bidding for uncommitted funds launched
May 2022 (tentative)	Second round of contracts signed
June 30, 2023	Expiration of contracts and current funding for CLEP projects
Dec. 1, 2023	Final report to Legislature
Jan. 1, 2024	Expiration date for CLEP program in the absence of further legislative action

Advisory group

To help inform the design of the CLEP grant program and the distribution of funds, Commerce convened an advisory group of subject matter experts. The group included representatives from:

- Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council
- Northwest High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program
- Safe Streets, Tacoma
- Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WaCops)
- Washington Association of Sheriff and Police Chiefs (WASPC)
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)

At two meetings in September 2021, the advisory group members considered and made recommendations in response to the following questions:

- **Funding options:** What is the best way to distribute the available funding?
- **Selection criteria:** What factors should Commerce consider in evaluating the proposals?
- **Engagement:** How can we ensure genuine grassroots involvement in this process?
- **Law enforcement grantees:** If a law enforcement agency is eligible for a grant, how do we ensure that the funds do not subsidize their gang unit or ongoing programs?
- **Reporting:** What should we require grantees report?

Combined with existing legal requirements and procedures, this discussion helped inform the policies and procedures adopted to administer the CLEP program, including the grant application process, the disbursement of the grant awards to selected applicants, tracking compliance and proper use of funds, and measuring outcomes.

Selected grant recipients

The competitive grant process

Commerce is careful to ensure that the competitive processes for our grant programs comply with state rules and policies, are fair and open, and administer state funds in a fiscally responsible manner. Commerce must establish and maintain a level playing field for potential grantees and follow existing processes and parameters. This creates integrity and evenhandedness in the process.

Grantee eligibility

Subsection 3 of [RCW 43.330.545](#) establishes grantee eligibility requirements for the CLEP program:

- Be a public agency or nongovernmental organization
- Have demonstrated experience with community engagement initiatives that impact public safety
- Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement and organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion of community members, including organizations whose leadership specifically reflects the communities most impacted by racism; and
- Have established priorities, policies, and measurable goals in compliance with the requirements of the project as provided in RCW [43.330.545\(5\)](#), including:
 - Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives, including:
 - Empowering community members with tools, skills, confidence, and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent illegal activity;
 - Making neighborhood improvements to deter future criminal activity; and
 - Educating community members regarding how to connect with city, county, and law enforcement resources.
 - Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships, including:
 - Building trust between community members and law enforcement by facilitating purposeful antiracist practices and the development of policies that lead to equal treatment under the law;
 - Establishing clear expectations for law enforcement to be competent to practice fair and equitable treatment, including facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and community members to increase understanding of the impact of historical racist practices and current conflicts;
 - Community members regularly informing law enforcement, through presentations, workshops, or forums, on community perceptions of law enforcement and public safety issues;
 - Educating community members on the role and function of law enforcement in the community;
 - Clarifying expectations of law enforcement and of the role of the community in crime prevention;
 - Educating community members on the best practices for reporting emergency and nonemergency activities;
 - Recognizing community members for effective engagement and community leadership; and

- Recognizing law enforcement officials for efforts to engage underrepresented communities, improve community engagement and empowerment, and reform law enforcement practices;
- Mobilize youth to partner with neighborhood groups and law enforcement to prevent violence by:
 - Helping them develop knowledge and skills to serve as leaders in their communities;
 - Focusing on prevention of violence and substance abuse; and
 - Empowering youth to bring their voice to community issues that impact healthy police-community relations;
- Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention initiatives;
- Provide training and technical assistance on how to implement community engagement, improving law enforcement and community partnership, youth engagement, and business engagement;
- Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who acts as an available point of contact with the department; and
- Collect and report data and information required by the department.

A law enforcement agency may be considered an eligible applicant only if there are no other eligible applicants from the community or county in which the law enforcement agency serves.

Budget

The Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for the CLEP program for the biennium ending June 30, 2023. The first round of contracting resulted in a commitment of approximately \$1.5 million to eight projects. Commerce will implement a second round of contracting to commit the remaining funds.

Selected grant recipients

Building on successful ongoing efforts, the CLEP program is designed to support 12 to 15 projects across the state, including in Spokane, Pierce, King, Okanogan, Yakima, Cowlitz, Clark, Chelan-Douglas, Walla-Walla, Benton-Franklin, Grant and Snohomish counties. This way, projects will be implemented in urban, rural and suburban areas to facilitate community-law enforcement partnerships and improve police-community relations.

The first round of contracting for this program resulted in a commitment of grant funding to support eight projects in:

- Omak, Okanogan, Pateros and Tonasket
- Cowlitz County and South Kelso
- South King County
- Snohomish County
- Spokane County (two projects)
- Tacoma and unincorporated Pierce County
- Cities in the Yakima Valley region

Measuring program outcomes and reporting

The statute creating the CLEP program directs Commerce to have a process to measure outcomes and to require grantees collect and report data according to guidelines developed by Commerce in consultation with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP).

The information requested is intended to provide a foundation for assessing whether the program and projects affect crime rates, community engagement with law enforcement, and perceptions of law enforcement within the public. See RCW [43.330.545\(2\)\(d\), \(5\)\(g\) and \(6\)](#).

A senior research associate from WSIPP's Criminal Justice Research section participated in the CLEP program advisory group discussions and separately consulted with Commerce staff as the CLEP grant program and contracts were assembled.

In addition to reporting on outcomes and measures specific to each grant, organizations receiving funding from the CLEP program will report quarterly on:

- The number of community members directly engaged through conducted activities, including an aggregated description of the race, ethnicity, gender, and other characteristics of those individuals as available.
- The number of crimes reported to law enforcement and the number of persons arrested (defined as a physical arrest, citation, or served summons). To the extent available, this data will be reported in subcategories broken down by types of offense (for example, property crimes or violent crimes) and demographically (for example, by race or ethnicity).
- Trends in perceptions of law enforcement based on surveys, evaluations, anecdotal information or other measures.

"When police gain community trust and residents see police as partners to improve neighborhood conditions, preventive crime reporting to police can increase and neighborhood crime rates can fall."

Campie, P., Petrosino, A., Fronius, T. & Read, N. (2017). Community-Based Violence Prevention Study of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative: An Intervention to Prevent Urban Gun Violence. American Institutes for Research. Washington, D.C.

The information above will be gathered regularly across CLEP-funded efforts.

Commerce will submit a second report on the CLEP program, including an analysis of the funded organizations' data, by Dec. 1, 2023. Conclusions about the effectiveness of those efforts are expected to be determined in consultation with researchers at WSIPP.