

# Building Safer Communities Fund Expression of Interest

Public Safety Canada is working to build a safe and resilient Canada through the Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence (ITAAFFV) and the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), a targeted, time-limited contribution program that will provide $250 million to municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop community-based youth prevention and intervention strategies to tackle gun and gang activities.

BSCF is a pan-Canadian program, where communities demonstrating an acute history of gun and gang-related harm are identified to receive funding directly to develop custom community driven initiatives to address gun and gang activities.

Peel was allocated up to $7.3M in funding through the BSCF from 2023/24 to 2025/26 to use directly and/or distribute to local organizations to address the conditions that contribute to youth violence.

While there continues to be a need to strengthen local data collection around gang activity and youth involvement, there is consensus that the issue is escalating, and more supports are needed. An environmental scan was completed in Fall 2022, noting that there were many programs in Peel to support youth wellbeing and to provide youth with the opportunity to connect with their community. However, there were a limited number of programs working directly in crime prevention and intervention across Peel.

The following additional gaps and opportunities were noted:

* There is no comprehensive strategy to address youth involvement in gun and gang violence in Peel
* Programs use different definitions of ‘crime prevention’ and youth ‘at-risk’
* There are limited metrics and evaluation of existing programs
* Programs need to invest in building relationships with hard-to-reach youth
* Families need to be more engaged in the programing
* Prevention must start earlier and in some cases as early as grades 4-6
* There is a need to build and formalize relationships and protocols between partners (e.g. schools, community, police, justice)

BSCF provides Peel Region with an opportunity to develop a strategy to address these gaps, while investing in youth prevention and intervention services offered in the community. The funding will be used to augment existing work, expand or add services and support, and implement evidence-based strategies.

## Expression of Interest (EOI)

In anticipation of funding confirmation from Public Safety Canada, Peel Region is taking a 2-step process to allocate funding to the community:

## Step 1: Open Call - Expression of Interest

All eligible organizations will have the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to augment existing community programs and build out new initiatives including, but not limited to, peer mentoring, parenting, youth justice integration, mentoring, diversion, school watch and entrepreneurship programs. The EOI will be reviewed by Peel Region staff and BSCF Steering Committee members to determine which organizations will move to Step 2.

To determine organizational eligibility for funding, review requirements [HERE](https://www.peelregion.ca/community-investments/eligibility.asp). Prior to completing the EOI, carefully review the program guidelines to verify that your organization and proposed initiative(s) align to the fund criteria.

## Step 2: Targeted Call – Call for Proposals

Based on review of the EOI, successful organizations will be contacted and asked to submit a proposal for funding consideration.

Completing the EOI (step 1) is a requirement for proposal development (step 2) and funding consideration by Peel Region.



## BSCF Objectives

The BSCF has three principal objectives:

1. Develop community-based prevention and intervention strategies and initiatives to tackle gun and gang activities.
2. Increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges in Peel to tackle gun and gang activities.
3. Develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention activities beyond funding completion.

## Eligible Activities

Eligible activities must support the achievement of BSCF objectives and benefit the residents of Peel.  This includes:

1. Development and delivery of prevention and intervention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development and recreational opportunities;
2. Development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering/reporting on gun and gang crime or on results achieved;
3. Development of knowledge to fill gaps at the community/recipient level, including research, and sharing of information and/or best practices related to gun and gang violence;
4. Outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants;
5. Public awareness and education;
6. Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives related to gun and gang violence;
7. Development of a plan to sustain successful preventative initiatives or intervention activities beyond the end of the contribution agreement;
8. Any other prevention and intervention initiatives as developed in consultation with the program authority.

## Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures

A list of eligible and ineligible expenditures are available in the attached budget document.

Funds cannot replace or displace existing federal or provincial funding and cannot be used to fund ongoing core activities, which includes costs already supported through existing police service agreements (i.e. Police Advisor salaries, incremental and general policing services).

## Reporting Requirements

All approved funding recipients will be required to submit mid-term and final reports including both financial and non-financial indicators and narrative. Funding may be adjusted through Peel dissolution, although funding is anticipated from Public Safety Canada through to March 31, 2026.

As a recipient of the funding, you will also agree to participate in a common evaluation including the collection of common indicators, and to participate in the development of a region-wide Youth Gun and Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategy for Peel led by Peel Region staff. Further details regarding reporting requirements will be provided to organizations successful in the EOI process.

## Submission Deadline

Submit both the EOI and budget documents by November 10, 2023 at 5 p.m. to bscf@peelregion.ca using subject line *ORGANIZATIONAL NAME- BSCF EOI*

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to bscf@peelregion.ca for all inquiries.

## Additional Resources

[Overview of Direct Intervention Approaches to Address Youth Gangs and Youth Violence](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2018-ddrss-yth-gngs-vlnc/index-en.aspx#s3)

[Youth Gang Prevention Fund Projects : What Did We Learn About What Works in Preventing Gang Involvement?](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd/index-en.aspx)

[2018 National Summit on Gun and Gang Violence: Summary Report](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2018-smmt-gng-vlnce-smmry/index-en.aspx)

[Peel’s Community Safety and Well-being Plan (CSWB)](https://www.peelregion.ca/community-safety-wellbeing-plan/)

1. Applicant Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Organization  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organization Website | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Role of Primary Contact | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Title of Primary Contact  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Mailing Address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| City / Town | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Postal Code | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Phone | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| E-Mail Address  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

1. Initiative Information

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| 1. Initiative(s) Name:
 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Describe the proposed initiative(s). Provide evidence for the success of your initiative. If the initiative is new, provide evidence of its success in other jurisdictions or explain the reason for lack of evidence.
 |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Select the BSCF Program Objective(s) to be addressed through this initiative(s). Check all that apply.
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|[ ]  Develop community-based prevention and intervention strategies and initiatives to tackle gun and gang activities (e.g., implementation of the Spergel Model) |
|[ ]  Increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges in Peel to tackle gun and gang activities.  (e.g., working collaboratively across sectors to increase knowledge) |
|[ ]  Develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention activities beyond funding completion (e.g., sustainability plan) |

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| 1. Describe additional initiative objectives.
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Select the BSCF eligible activities that apply to your initiative. Check all that apply.
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|[ ]  Development and delivery of prevention and/or intervention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development and recreational opportunities  |
|[ ]  Development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering/reporting on gun and gang crime or on results achieved   |
|[ ]  Development of knowledge to fill gaps at the community/recipient level, including research, and sharing of information and/or best practices related to gun and gang violence   |
|[ ]  Outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants   |
|[ ]  Public awareness and education  |
|[ ]  Collaboration and integration of horizontal initiatives related to gun and gang violence  |
|[ ]  Development of a plan to sustain successful preventative initiatives or intervention activities beyond the end of the contribution agreement  |
|[ ]  Any other prevention and intervention initiatives as developed in consultation with the program authority  |

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| 1. Select the area of focus for your initiative(s). Check all that apply.
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|[ ]  Prevention |
|[ ]  Intervention |
|[ ]  Other |

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| 1. Describe your target population(s), including age, gender, race, etc., as well as the geography and/or community your initiative(s) will serve. Be as specific as possible.
 |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Describe how you are currently collaborating, or how you could collaborate with partners for your proposed initiative(s). Formal or informal agreements are not required to be in place at this stage, as the intent is to understand the current landscape and to support future strategic planning. Collaboration among partners is important to the success of the BSCF strategy.
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Describe your readiness and ability to implement the proposed initiative(s) and your experience with similar initiatives. Include any risks as well as mitigation strategies. Be as specific as possible.
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Describe how your initiative(s) aligns with the themes from the [2018 National Summit on Gun and Gang Violence](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2018-smmt-gng-vlnce-smmry/index-en.aspx) and Peel’s [Community Safety and Well-being Plan](https://www.peelregion.ca/community-safety-wellbeing-plan/)
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 1. Detail how you plan to sustain the initiative(s) beyond the allocated funding period.
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| Click or tap here to enter text. |

1. Budget Information

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| There is approximately $2 million in funding available to community providers per fiscal year in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Approximately $1 million in funding is available in 2025/26. Submissions are expected:  * To be up to a maximum of approximately $275,000 per fiscal year, and/or
* To not exceed approximately 20% of organizational revenue.

Indicate the total amount of funding you are requesting each year for one-time and/or multi-year funding. A detailed budget must be submitted in the template provided.You are encouraged to consider one-time funding opportunities for startup costs in 2023/24 such as minor renovations, office equipment, etc. Please refer to the budget document for the eligible expenditures list.You are also encouraged to consider the scalability of the initiative based on different funding amounts. There may be opportunity to adjust funding amounts in future fiscal years.  |
| Year | Amount Requested | Type of Funding |
| 2023-2024 | $Click or tap here to enter text. | One-time Funding |
| $Click or tap here to enter text. | Multi-year Funding |
| 2024-2025 | $Click or tap here to enter text. | One-time Funding |
| $Click or tap here to enter text. | Multi-year Funding |
| 2025-2026 | $Click or tap here to enter text. | One-time Funding |
| $Click or tap here to enter text. | Multi-year Funding |
| Comment on the scalability (both up and down) of your initiative based on potential funding availability. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

1. Proposed Performance and Evaluation

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| Describe your proposed outcomes, metrics, targets and the rationale. Note: As part of the Youth Gun and Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategy for Peel, an Evaluation Framework will be developed to support region-wide and initiative-focused evaluation.  |
| Outcome | Metric | Target | Rationale |
| *e.g., Increased employment for previously incarcerated individuals*  | *e.g., 6-month employment rate for program participants*  | *e.g., 75%* | *e.g., Employment is a key factor that helps reduce reoffending rates among individuals with criminal records.*  |
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