

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3579

To increase community capacity and commitment to promote and support local comprehensive strategies and traceable actions to prevent and reduce crime, violence, and substance abuse through prevention, education, treatment, law enforcement, and continuing care activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To increase community capacity and commitment to promote and support local comprehensive strategies and traceable actions to prevent and reduce crime, violence, and substance abuse through prevention, education, treatment, law enforcement, and continuing care activities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Comprehen-
5 sive Crime-Free Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to encourage strategic data-driven planning
2 that is collaborative, involving multiple local organi-
3 zations, and to develop comprehensive, involving
4 crosscutting crime, violence and substance abuse
5 prevention strategies;

6 (2) to encourage the establishment of perform-
7 ance standards and goals for crime prevention and
8 crime reduction;

9 (3) to establish program elements that are an-
10 chored in the fundamental belief that crime preven-
11 tion is everybody's business;

12 (4) to promote strategies that involve—

13 (A) grassroots communities in problem
14 identification and problem-solving;

15 (B) policymakers in order to provide lead-
16 ership in creating systemic or environmental
17 change that will promote community well being;

18 (C) State agencies in providing coordi-
19 nated, comprehensive, and innovative ap-
20 proaches to preventing crime, violence, and
21 drug abuse; and

22 (D) local leaders, experts, and representa-
23 tives of organizations in providing consultation
24 on planning and program outcomes;

1 (5) to improve on previous initiatives that have
2 focused efforts on geographically defined areas in
3 communities or States (e.g., Weed and Seed and
4 High Intensity Drug-Trafficking Areas) and have
5 been limited to a small number of enforcement or
6 intervention strategies by encouraging communities
7 to focus on prevention strategies that are jurisdic-
8 tion-wide;

9 (6) to promote efforts and programs that utilize
10 nontraditional and innovative crime prevention strat-
11 egies that address the causes of crimes as well as re-
12 ducing the opportunities for crime; and

13 (7) to encourage the use of the best in com-
14 prehensive prevention practice, policy, and strate-
15 gies.

16 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) ATTORNEY GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—In
18 carrying out this Act, the Attorney General shall—

19 (1) make and monitor grants to grant recipi-
20 ents;

21 (2) provide through the offices of the National
22 Crime Prevention Council technical assistance and
23 training, data collection, and dissemination of infor-
24 mation on state-of-the-art research-grounded prac-
25 tices that the Attorney General determines to be ef-

1 fective in preventing and reducing crime, violence,
2 and drug abuse;

3 (3) provide for the general administration of
4 programs authorized by this Act;

5 (4) provide for the evaluation of this Act and
6 assess the effectiveness of comprehensive planning in
7 the prevention of crime, violence, and drug abuse;

8 (5) provide for a comprehensive communica-
9 tions strategy to inform the public as well as State
10 and local governments of programs authorized by
11 this Act and their purpose and intent;

12 (6) coordinate with other Federal agencies in-
13 volved in crime and drug prevention programming
14 and utilize research or effective programs, principles,
15 and prevention practices;

16 (7) establish a National Crime-Free Commu-
17 nities Commission to advise, consult with, and make
18 recommendations to the Attorney General con-
19 cerning activities carried out under this Act;

20 (8) establish the National Center for Justice
21 Planning in a national organization representing
22 state criminal justice executives that will:

23 (A) provide technical assistance and train-
24 ing to state criminal justice agencies in imple-

1 menting policies and programs to facilitate com-
2 munity-based strategic planning processes;

3 (B) establish a resource collection of best
4 practices for state-wide community-based crimi-
5 nal justice planning; and

6 (C) consult with the National Crime Pre-
7 vention Council in providing states training in
8 comprehensive strategic planning.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the At-
11 torney General for the fiscal years 2002 through 2006 as
12 follows:

13 (1) \$4,500,000 will be for the National Crime
14 Prevention Council to assist states and communities
15 in providing training, technical assistance, and set-
16 ting benchmarks; and

17 (2) \$500,000 will be for the establishment and
18 operation of the National Center for Justice Plan-
19 ning.

20 (c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Up to three per-
21 cent of program funds appropriated for Community
22 Grants in section (6) and State Capacity Building grants
23 in section (7) may be used by the Attorney General to
24 administer this program.

1 **SEC. 4. FOCUS.**

2 Programs carried out by States and local commu-
3 nities under this Act shall include a specialized focus on
4 neighborhoods and schools disproportionately affected by
5 crime, violence, and drug abuse.

6 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **COLLABORATION.**—The term “collabora-
9 tion” is the joint planning of policies by organiza-
10 tions inclusive of multiple sectors, in the develop-
11 ment and implementation of comprehensive solutions
12 to crime, violence, and substance abuse.

13 (2) **COMMUNITY.**—The term “community”
14 means any urban or rural area that possesses 1 or
15 more governmental jurisdictions that can develop
16 collaborations for the purposes of preventing and re-
17 ducing crime, violence, and substance abuse.

18 (3) **COMPREHENSIVE.**—The term “comprehen-
19 sive” means a continuum of policies and strategies
20 that are crosscutting and shall include the activities
21 of prevention, education, treatment, law enforce-
22 ment, and after-care.

23 (4) **CRIME PREVENTION PLAN.**—The term
24 “crime prevention plan” means a strategy that has
25 measurable long-term goals and short-term objec-
26 tives that—

1 (A) addresses the problems of crime, vio-
2 lence, and substance abuse for a jurisdiction,
3 which may include the problems of terrorism,
4 developed through an interactive and collabo-
5 rative process that includes senior representa-
6 tives of law enforcement and the local chief ex-
7 ecutive's office as well as representatives of
8 such groups as other agencies of local govern-
9 ment (including physical and social service pro-
10 viders), nonprofit organizations, business lead-
11 ers, religious leaders, citizens leaders, and rep-
12 resentatives of community and neighborhood
13 groups,

14 (B) establishes interim and final bench-
15 mark measures for each prevention objective
16 and strategy, and

17 (C) includes a monitoring and assessment
18 mechanism for implementation of the plan.

19 (5) PREVENTION.—The term “prevention”
20 means programs, practices, and strategies affecting
21 attitudes and behaviors and directed at reducing
22 crime and enhancing the sense of safety and secu-
23 rity, to positively influence the quality of life in our
24 society, and to help develop environments where
25 crime cannot flourish.

1 (6) TERRORISM.—The term “terrorism” in the
2 context of a Crime Prevention Plan refers to plan-
3 ning for the prevention of, protection from, and re-
4 sponse to a terrorist attack.

5 (7) SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—The term “special
6 populations” refers to representatives of any group
7 or groups of minority or Native American popu-
8 lations.

9 (8) STATE.—For purposes of this Act, state is
10 defined to include each of the fifty states and the
11 District of Columbia.

12 **SEC. 6. COMMUNITY GRANTS.**

13 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
15 award grants to at least 100 communities or the
16 designee of a community [a 501(c)(3) organization]
17 in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 per year for
18 the planning, evaluation, and implementation of a
19 program designed to prevent and reduce crime, vio-
20 lence, and substance abuse.

21 (2) LIMITATION.—Of the amount of a grant
22 awarded under this section in any given year—

23 (A) not more than \$125,000 may be used
24 for the planning or evaluation component of the
25 program; and

1 (B) the balance of the funds shall be
2 awarded as the program implementation compo-
3 nent required under subsection (b) upon dem-
4 onstration by the applicant that the planning
5 has been accomplished by the applicant prior to
6 the submission by that applicant of an applica-
7 tion for a grant under this section.

8 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 (1) PLANNING COMPONENT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A community grant
11 awarded under this section may be used by a
12 community to develop comprehensive planning
13 processes.

14 (B) AVAILABILITY.—A grant may be
15 awarded under this paragraph to a community
16 during the first 2 years of the funding of that
17 community.

18 (C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Fed-
19 eral share of a grant under this paragraph shall
20 not exceed—

21 (i) 0 percent in the first year; and

22 (ii) 80 percent in the second year.

23 (2) EVALUATION COMPONENT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—A community grant
25 awarded under this section may be used by a

community to support on-going evaluation of
program planning and implementation.

(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of a grant under this paragraph shall not exceed 80 percent during each funding year.

(3) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION COMPONENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A community grant under this section may be used by a community to support specific programs or projects that are consistent with the local Crime Prevention Plan.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A grant shall be awarded under this paragraph to a community that has developed a specific Crime Prevention Plan and program outline.

(C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The federal share of a grant under this paragraph shall not exceed—

- (i) 80 percent in the first year;
- (ii) 60 percent in the second year;
- (iii) 40 percent in the third year;
- (iv) 20 percent in the fourth year; and
- (v) 20 percent in the fifth year.

1 (D) DATA SET-ASIDE.—A community may
2 use up to 5 percent of the grant to assist it in
3 collecting local data related to the costs of
4 crime, violence, and substance abuse for pur-
5 poses of supporting its Crime Prevention Plan.

6 (c) APPLICATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—An applicant for a commu-
8 nity grant under this section shall—

9 (A) submit to the Attorney General, a list
10 of collaborating agencies and organizations that
11 demonstrate the comprehensive and inclusive
12 nature of the application of the applicant;

13 (B) demonstrate how the planning and
14 funding collaboration systems of the applicant
15 will prevent crime, violence, and substance
16 abuse;

17 (C) submit a program sustainability plan
18 at the end of the first year of the program of
19 the applicant that describes how the applicant
20 will achieve program sustainability following the
21 fifth year of the program;

22 (D) certify for the program implementa-
23 tion component required under subsection (b),
24 that the programs of the applicant are based on

1 nationally recognized research standards that
2 have been tested in local communities; and

3 (E) collaborate and obtain the approval
4 and support of the State agency designated by
5 the Governor of that State in the development
6 of the comprehensive prevention plan of the ap-
7 plicant.

8 (2) CONSIDERATION.—The Attorney General
9 may give additional consideration in the grant review
10 process to an applicant with an officially designated
11 Weed and Seed site seeking to expand from a neigh-
12 borhood to community-wide strategies.

13 (3) RURAL COMMUNITIES.—The Attorney Gen-
14 eral shall give additional consideration in the grant
15 review process to an applicant from a rural or fron-
16 tier area.

17 (d) RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS.—A recipient of a
18 grant under this section shall demonstrate the ability of
19 that recipient to—

20 (1) develop a local Crime-Free Communities
21 Commission, a broad-based, comprehensive collabo-
22 ration of stakeholders, such as local, State, and Fed-
23 eral criminal justice personnel, law enforcement,
24 schools, youth organizations, religious and other
25 community organizations, business and health care

1 professionals, parents, State, local, or tribal govern-
2 mental agencies, and other organizations;

3 (2) collect and disseminate research and find-
4 ings;

5 (3) collect and report community demographic
6 information related to crime rates, violent crime, and
7 substance abuse patterns;

8 (4) sustain program elements after 5 years of
9 Federal funding; and

10 (5) include special populations.

11 (e) WAIVERS FOR MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—A
12 community with an officially designated Weed and Seed
13 site may be provided a waiver by the Attorney General
14 for all matching requirements under this section based on
15 demonstrated financial hardship.

16 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 to carry
18 out this section for the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

19 **SEC. 7. STATE CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.**

20 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
22 award grants to each State criminal justice agency,
23 Byrne agency, or other agency as designated by the
24 Governor of that State and approved by the Attor-
25 ney General of the United States, in an amount not

1 to exceed \$400,000 per year to develop State capac-
2 ity to assist local communities in the prevention and
3 reduction of crime, violence, and substance abuse.

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (1) A state capacity building grant shall be
6 used to develop a statewide strategic plan as defined
7 in section (c) below to prevent and reduce crime, vio-
8 lence, and substance abuse;

9 (2) A State may also use grants to modify or
10 remove regulatory or other barriers to integrate
11 service delivery; provide training and technical as-
12 sistance to communities; and promote innovation in
13 the development of policies, technologies, and pro-
14 grams to prevent and reduce crime; and

15 (3) A State may use up to 5 percent of the
16 grant to assist grant recipients in collecting state-
17 wide data related to the costs of crime, violence, and
18 substance abuse for purposes of supporting the
19 statewide strategic plan.

20 (c) STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PREVENTION PLAN.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A statewide strategic pre-
22 vention plan shall be used by the state to assist local
23 communities, both directly and through existing
24 state programs and services, in building comprehen-
25 sive, strategic and innovative approaches to reducing

1 crime, violence, and substance abuse based on local
2 conditions and needs.

3 (2) GOALS.—The plan must contain statewide
4 long-term goals and measurable annual objectives
5 for reducing crime, violence, and substance abuse.

6 (3) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The state shall be re-
7 quired to develop and report in its plan relevant per-
8 formance targets and measures for the goals and ob-
9 jectives to track changes in crime, violence, and sub-
10 stance abuse.

11 (4) CONSULTATION.—States shall constitute a
12 state crime free communities commission comprised
13 of state and local government, and community lead-
14 ers who will provide advice and recommendations on
15 relevant community goals and objectives, and per-
16 formance targets and measures.

17 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
19 The state shall provide training and technical assist-
20 ance, including such assistance offered by the Attor-
21 ney General of the United States through the Na-
22 tional Crime Prevention Council, to assist local com-
23 munities in developing Crime Prevention Plans that
24 reflect statewide strategic goals and objectives, and
25 performance targets and measures.

1 (2) REPORTS.—The state shall be required to
2 report its statewide strategic plan to the Attorney
3 General that includes evidence of—

4 (A) involvement of relevant state-level
5 agencies to assist communities in the develop-
6 ment and implementation of their Crime Pre-
7 vention Plans;

8 (B) support for local applications for Com-
9 munity Grants; and

10 (C) community progress toward reducing
11 crime, violence, and substance abuse.

12 (3) CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the third
13 year of the program, states must certify that the
14 local grantee’s project funded under the community
15 grant is generally consistent with statewide strategic
16 goals and objectives, and performance targets and
17 measures.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000 to carry
20 out this section for the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

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