

Office of Gun Violence Prevention

*The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence
New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence*

New Mexico lawmakers should authorize and fund the creation of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention to be housed within the New Mexico Department of Public Health. This Office should act as the state clearinghouse to address all forms of gun violence through evidence-informed policies and programs. The office should:

- 1) Maintain a resource bank for data, research, and statistical information regarding gun violence in New Mexico
 - a) Collaborate with research institutions, hospitals, public health departments and police departments to share and analyze timely fatal and nonfatal firearm injury and gun trafficking data. Publish public reports and summaries of this data online.
 - b) Partner with researchers and state agencies to share information about extreme risk protection orders, protective orders and other firearm prohibitions; analyze the data and identify common trends.
 - c) Establish a repository that outlines best practices and provides tools and resources for addressing the different types of gun violence within the state including, unintentional gun injury, mass shootings, domestic gun violence, gun suicide, gun homicide, and community gun violence.
 - d) Facilitate data sharing with the Office of the Chief Medical Investigator and support annual reporting on the number and circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicides committed with a firearm.

- 2) Facilitate coordination between state agencies, localities and NGO's to address gun violence comprehensively
 - a) Partner closely with the Human Services Department, Behavioral Health Services Department, Public Education Department, Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Veteran Services to enhance domestic violence and suicide prevention programs and ensure they include strategies, including but not limited to lethal means safety counseling and interventions, to address firearm access to those at elevated risk for harm to self or others.

- b) Convene city and county agencies charged with violence prevention and public safety to share best practices for addressing community gun violence, and foster collaboration between localities that share geographic boundaries.
- 3) Provide technical assistance to localities and community based organizations to support proper implementation of the state's gun laws and grant funded violence prevention programs
- a) Provide routine training to state and local law enforcement and the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General on firearm relinquishment processes for individuals prohibited from possessing a firearm; ensure equitable and effective implementation of the state's extreme risk protection order, and domestic violence protection orders.
 - b) Outline best practices for establishing community-based violence intervention programs; provide extensive assistance to small community-based organizations to help them build capacity, secure state funding, and collect data on outcomes;
 - c) Evaluate state funded violence prevention programs and policies
- 4) Conduct gun violence prevention awareness and outreach campaigns
- a) Educate the general public on the toll gun violence inflicts on communities across the state both in terms of lives lost and lost economic productivity.
 - b) Conduct awareness campaigns around New Mexico gun laws including extreme risk protection orders, domestic violence protection orders, lost and stolen reporting, and child access prevention laws and other policies aimed to reduce gun violence.
 - c) Conduct safe storage education campaigns, distribute gun locks; host meetings with gun owners and veteran groups to discuss ways to promote responsible gun ownership and prevent gun suicide.
 - d) Engage gun dealers, range owners and firearms instructors in a suicide prevention education campaigns modeled off of Gun Shop Project and [Means Matter](#).
- 5) Create a series of grant programs to address gun violence; leverage federal DOJ, DOE, HHS, HUD and other federal resources and expand capacity to submit competitive applications for federal violence prevention grant programs as they become available.
- a) *Violence intervention and prevention grant program:* Partner with the Department of Public Safety to leverage both federal and state funds for community violence intervention programs. Grants should be directed specifically to localities, hospitals, and community-based organizations that serve populations disproportionately impacted by community gun violence.

- i) Funded programs should be narrowly focused on small groups of individuals and locations closely linked to most of the violence within a locality.
 - ii) Funded programs should be evidence-informed, drawing off of program models that have shown promising results in other jurisdictions.
 - iii) Grant funds should not be made available for programs that rely primarily on law enforcement. However, law enforcement agencies should be eligible to receive a portion of these funds as long as the proposed program outlines a demonstrated commitment to work with community-based organizations to build trust and at least 50% of the program funds are used for non-law enforcement strategies.
 - iv) A portion of the grant program funds should be used to provide public education around upcoming funding opportunities, lend technical assistance to applicants, and ensure proper reporting and evaluation of programs.
- b) *Firearm suicide prevention grant program:* Partner with the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Department, the Human Services Department, and the Department of Veterans Services to expand the suicide prevention grant programs within New Mexico with a focus on lethal means safety.
- i) Provide grant funding to local health departments, law enforcement agencies and NGOs to increase awareness about youth firearm suicide, and safe firearm storage practices and the state's child access prevention laws.
 - ii) Provide grant funding to expand and increase collaboration between local behavioral health and law enforcement agencies.
- c) *Firearm removal enforcement units:* Provide grant funding for law enforcement agencies and the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General to establish dedicated units focusing on firearm removal from persons prohibited from possessing a firearm including: subjects of domestic violence protective orders; persons convicted of prohibitory domestic violence misdemeanors; felons; persons adjudicated mentally ill; and persons subject to extreme risk protection orders.
- i) Grant funds should be allocated to units that are multidisciplinary, including victim/survivor advocates and mental health professionals; units should be multijurisdictional when appropriate.
 - ii) Enforcement units should work on other firearms enforcement and violence prevention issues, such as conducting threat assessments, and deploying crisis intervention teams.

- iii) Units should consider the perspectives of diverse stakeholders and work to minimize the risk of disproportionately impacting people of color and other historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.