



# Texas State Crisis Intervention Program Plan

Fiscal Years 2023 - 2026

Submitted by:  
State of Texas  
Office of the Governor, Greg Abbott  
Public Safety Office

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## A. Purpose of the Program

In accordance with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act established by S. 2938, the Public Safety Office (PSO) of the Office of the Governor will utilize Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) funds to further its mission of administering needed resources to those who are committed to the prevention, intervention, and reduction of crime and violence in Texas and to those who provide essential crisis and support services to at-risk populations within our communities. Through this mission, PSO will bolster programs that utilize evidence-based approaches to solve criminal justice problems, reduce violence, and address behavioral health system and service gaps, especially within the most rural communities, to help make the state a safer place for all Texans.

## B. Texas State Crisis Intervention Program Committee (TSCIP)

Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) requirements for utilizing Byrne SCIP funds, PSO has established the Texas State Crisis Intervention Program Committee (TSCIP) which will be chaired by the Federal Justice Programs Administrator within PSO as a representative of the State Administering Agency (SAA) for Byrne SCIP.

### TSCIP Membership

The TSCIP is composed of ten accomplished members and stakeholders from the following public safety disciplines: law enforcement, courts, prosecution, behavioral health, victim services, legal counsel, and the community, which is consistent with the guidance laid out by DOJ. PSO selected a balanced number of state and local entities with known contributions made

to the State in the respective disciplines previously mentioned and invited each entity to select a representative who would be a contributing member to the TSCIP. Each member signed a committee charter reflecting their understanding of the mission, purpose, governance, roles, and responsibilities of the advisory committee. There will be no limit to the number of years a member may serve on the advisory board as ongoing membership is at the discretion of PSO and is contingent upon each members' attendance and participation in the duties established by BJA and PSO. Membership on the TSCIP is as reflected below.

Alyssa Smith  
*TSCIP Chair*  
*Federal Justice Programs Administrator, Office of the Governor (OOG)*

#### **Law Enforcement**

Dr. Danuta Godlewski  
*Staff Psychologist, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)*

Major Sharon Jones  
*Major, Criminal Investigations Division, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)*

#### **Courts**

Louis Tomasetti  
*Director of Government Relations, Office of Court Administration (OCA)*

#### **Prosecution**

Staley Heatly  
*District Attorney, 46th Judicial District*  
*Sexual Assault Survivor's Task Force (SASTF) Prosecutor Working Group Member*  
*Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) Board Member*

#### **Behavioral Health**

Reilly Webb  
*Associate Commissioner, Mental Health and Substance Use Programs, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)*

## **Victim Services**

Gloria Terry

*Chief Executive Officer, Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)*

Hillary England

*Deputy Director, Victim Services and Prevention Programs, Office of the Governor (OOG)*

## **Legal Counsel**

Alisha Jackson

*Division Chief (Attorney), Grants Administration Division, Office of the Attorney General (OAG)*

## **Community**

Ginny Lewis Ford

*Executive Director, Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)*

Marisa Quintanilla

*Reginal Services Director, Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG)*

*Criminal Justice Planners' Association (CJPA) Member*

## **Governance Structure**

The TSCIP's mission includes the following:

- Aid in the prevention and reduction of crime, with a particular focus on violent offenders including programs and initiatives that target risk factors leading to violent crime;
- Develop, implement, and support strategies that assist and better prepare courts, behavioral health, victim services, and law enforcement with helping individuals in crisis; and
- Advise the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office (PSO) on how available Byrne SCIP funding may be utilized to implement crisis intervention programs and initiatives that effectively support a whole community approach to violence reduction.

All members are expected to maintain an active status through meeting attendance and participation, work to fulfill the mission as mentioned previously, and designate an alternate or replacement representative when necessary. It is also the responsibility of the TSCIP to determine funding priority areas and/or resources to support areas of need that are identified, review annual federal reporting of SCIP project funding allocated and spent during the preceding grant year, and provide recommendations and input to PSO regarding current and future investments for consideration by the State. As the designated SAA, PSO will ensure the TSCIP convenes as necessary to effectively carry out the TSCIP duties and responsibilities as set forth by BJA and PSO, document all programmatic and funding recommendations made by the TSCIP, retain all final financial and funding decisions, and will hold the responsibility for ensuring compliance with BJA administrative requirements.

## B. SCIP Program Plan and Implementation

In 2023, PSO requested technical assistance from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) regarding stakeholder engagement to inform the TSCIP Committee. Through this committee, NCJA helped create and distribute a 12-question survey to a broad spectrum of criminal justice system partners to help determine statewide criminal justice priorities. The survey sought input from stakeholders on:

1. Criminal justice challenges,
2. Priority purpose areas for funding, and
3. Priority project types and initiatives.

The 12-question survey was distributed to partners and stakeholders via individual email messages beginning on September 28, 2023. The survey closed on October 6, 2023, with 95 responses across the state’s criminal justice system, including law enforcement; courts; victims’ services and assistance; social services, behavioral health; education and youth programs; juvenile justice; and more.

Analysis focused on determining the areas in greatest need of funding, determining which areas were viewed as most critical to Texas’s state and local criminal justice systems, and prioritizing initiatives within these areas. The following funding priorities were informed by the survey results and will be used as the architecture in which local agencies will submit projects under Texas’ SCIP grant program:

## Funding Priorities

### 1. Interpersonal violence prevention and intervention programs.

State Priority Areas include:

- a. Domestic violence courts that hold individuals accountable (pre- and/or post-adjudication) and domestic violence high-risk teams.
- b. Training for investigators, prosecutors, and judges on the dynamics of interpersonal violence.
- c. The enhancement of current domestic violence protection order infrastructure.

### 2. Crisis intervention programs including crisis screening.

State Priority Areas include:

- a. Crisis screening response services for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis or psychiatric episode.
- b. Community-based crisis facilities that offer assessment, support, and services to individuals with behavioral health needs to reduce emergency room or jail utilization.

- c. Specialized services for youth with trauma and serious mental illness and their families.
  - d. Expansion of mental health services to include mobile crisis outreach teams, crisis facilities, specialized counseling approaches, and peer support specialists.
3. Violent crime prevention and intervention programs including those with a focus on youth and gang-related violence.

State Priority Areas include:

- a. Community-based treatment, resources, and violence intervention programs involving a multidisciplinary approach to provide a person-centered, coordinated care response.
- b. Specialized training for law enforcement and other professionals that respond to high-risk situations.
- c. Violence prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth.

Each application presented to the TSCIP will implement or expand programs that are deemed eligible by PSO according to the requirements laid out under Byrne SCIP.

### Process for Awarding Subawards

PSO will solicit applications by posting Texas' SCIP funding announcement online via eGrants, PSO's online grants management system. Applications may be submitted by state agencies, public and private institutions of higher education, independent school districts, Native American tribes, councils of government, nonprofit corporations (including hospitals and faith-based organizations), local mental health authorities as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Sec. 533.035, and units of local government. PSO will review all applications submitted to determine the eligibility of projects based on the Byrne SCIP allowable funding areas and the priority areas approved by the TSCIP. Each eligible application will be assigned a Grant Manager and Program



Manager who will both oversee the project throughout the application review process and the life of the grant, if awarded. Once the eligible applications are identified, PSO will review the projects to understand the overall demand for the program, identify any significant variations in costs per item, and then determine if all eligible applications can be funded based on funds available, if there are cost-effectiveness benefits to normalizing or setting limits on the range of costs, and if other fair-share cuts may allow for broader distribution and a higher number of projects while still remaining effective. PSO will then convene the TSCIP to review and approve all applications and budget plans. Once the TSCIP has approved the funding recommendations, PSO will submit all required documentation and subaward information via Grant Award Modification (GAM) in JustGrants to receive BJA approval prior to making awards to any subrecipients.

### Timeline

Timeline	Date
Funding Announcement Release	January 15, 2024
Online System Opening Date	January 15, 2024
Final Date to Submit an Application	March 14, 2024
Earliest Start Date	October 1, 2024