

2025 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE MASSACHUSETTS

Funded Communities: Boston, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg/Gardner, Haverhill/Methuen, Holyoke/Chicopee, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Metro Mayors Coalition (Braintree, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop), New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, Taunton, Worcester

Funded by the Office of Grants and Research, a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years. In 2025, Shannon awarded \$11.2 million to 15 sites that provide services across 26 Massachusetts communities. Funding supported positive youth development, recreation, case management, street outreach, education, employment, targeted suppression, and community mobilization programs. Additionally, Shannon funded the equivalent of approximately 137 full-time positions to strategically address youth gang violence within these communities.

Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation

Total Funding: \$11,179,673.21*

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention	3,786 youth received case management services	3,915 youth had their case management goals achieved	\$2,179,071.51
Community Mobilization	46,134 community members attended events, meetings and presentations	1,656 community events, meetings, and presentations held	\$860,073.57
Education & Employment	10,239 youth participated in an education program	3,245 youth participated in an employment program	\$2,005,135.20
Positive Youth Development & Recreation	20,064 youth participated in a recreation program	14,374 youth participated in youth development programs	\$3,347,481.80
Suppression	2,736 hotspot patrols completed	408 arrests of gang members/high impact players during hot spot patrols, warrant sweeps, or home visit	\$1,994,515.57

*Statewide, \$793,395.57 was allocated to administrative/other costs in 2025 across the Shannon sites.

Youth Risk Assessments

- 41% **LOW-RISK*** Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.
- 44% **MODERATE-RISK*** Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.
- 15% **HIGH-RISK*** Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

* % of youth assessed for risk

Success Highlight

“Youth and families have a different image of law enforcement because they have the opportunity to see police in a different capacity, and they can see that the officers genuinely care about the youth.”

~ Shoot Hoops C3, Shannon Springfield Site

Shannon Community Risk Factors 2025

Location	Total Population	Lives in Poverty	Unemployment Rate	Total School Population	Low-Income	Dropout Rate
Massachusetts	7,154,084	9.7%	4.8%	948,709	41.1%	2.0%
Boston	673,458	16.6%	4.7%	62,844	68.3%	4.5%
Braintree	39,134	5.9%	4.0%	5,718	27.5%	0.6%
Brockton	105,788	13.5%	5.9%	18,507	72.3%	5.6%
Cambridge	121,186	12.8%	3.8%	8,199	35.0%	0.8%
Chelsea	40,245	20.7%	5.3%	7,222	76.4%	6.9%
Chicopee	55,381	17.3%	5.7%	7,587	64.2%	2.1%
Everett	51,825	14.7%	4.2%	8,051	68.9%	5.2%
Fall River	94,689	19.6%	6.8%	14,858	77.7%	5.0%
Fitchburg	42,145	15.6%	6.2%	6,601	69.7%	2.1%
Gardner	21,381	13.7%	6.0%	2,470*	60.6%	2.9%
Haverhill	68,291	11.3%	5.1%	9,554	60.8%	3.0%
Holyoke	37,838	27.0%	6.3%	5,273	84.2%	4.9%
Lawrence	89,332	17.6%	6.8%	16,827	82.8%	7.8%
Lowell	120,418	16.9%	5.4%	17,888	69.4%	3.3%
Lynn	103,489	13.8%	5.3%	17,193	73.6%	5.9%
Malden	66,693	11.4%	4.3%	7,382	59.1%	3.3%
Methuen	54,272	7.9%	5.1%	7,966	53.0%	3.0%
New Bedford	101,318	20.6%	6.8%	15,623	77.3%	3.0%
Pittsfield	43,121	14.9%	4.7%	5,601	62.9%	4.8%
Quincy	103,434	10.6%	4.5%	9,898	46.5%	0.7%
Revere	60,702	11.5%	5.0%	8,700	63.6%	4.1%
Somerville	82,149	9.8%	3.7%	5,541	43.7%	1.5%
Springfield	154,888	25.8%	7.3%	25,880	82.9%	3.9%
Taunton	61,936	13.0%	5.6%	10,227	56.4%	2.2%
Winthrop	18,739	7.2%	4.5%	2,100	36.4%	1.7%
Worcester	211,286	19.6%	5.0%	25,414	69.8%	2.1%

*2026 Data obtained from <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=01030000&orgtypecode=5>

Gang Activity in Massachusetts

345+
Street Gangs

Data on gang members under the age of 25 was not available from all police departments. For police departments that had available data, approximately 3,800 gang members between the ages of 10 and 24 were identified.

9,000+
Active Gang
Members

Across the state, gangs and crews were primarily involved in drug trafficking, related violence, weapon possession, and property damage. Social media was commonly used to display affiliation and recruit younger members. At-risk youth were often targeted to carry out operations due to the perceived advantages of their juvenile status.

Information contained in this report is drawn from funding applications; reports supplied by the site; the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, including the 2026 School and District Profile for Gardner (pending release of the full 2025–2026 School Attending Children Report); the U.S. Census Bureau; the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS); and the Office of Grants and Research, Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, Northeastern University, and the Crime and Justice Policy Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.

Putting Shannon Dollars to Work to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence

\$11.2 Million Investment

146 Partners
at 15 Sites



24,303 total youth served,
averaging \$460.01 invested per
youth across all services

\$390.37 invested per youth in
Case Management, Street
Outreach, or Intervention Efforts



\$148.70 invested per youth in
Education or Employment Efforts

Overview of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) is a multi-sector, data-driven approach modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. After completing a community needs assessment, Shannon funded communities, in collaboration with steering committees, develop strategies in the following five areas:

Positive Youth Development & Recreation*



Positive Youth Development and Recreation Programs provide a prosocial outlet for youth to expand and enhance their interests, skills, and abilities. These programs are safe havens for recreational, enrichment, educational and prevention activities outside school hours (i.e., athletics and physical fitness, school achievement initiatives).

Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention



Case Management Street Outreach or Intervention programs for gang involved and proven risk youth reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high-risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.

Education & Employment



Education and Employment Programs provide education, training, and employment opportunities to youth at high-risk for youth violence and gang involvement.

Suppression



Suppression programs include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law-enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.

Community Mobilization



Community Mobilization Programs educate community members about local gang and youth violence trends, as well as involving community members in strategies to confront the problem.

Two additional funded components of Shannon CSI include the Local Action Research Partners (LARPs), and the Statewide Youth Violence Research Partner (SRP). LARPs assist funded sites by providing strategic, analytic, technical, and research support. The SRP assists all funded Shannon CSI communities, LARPs and the Office of Grants and Research by providing strategic, analytic, and research support. Together the LARPs and SRP inform funded communities about best practices to maximize the effectiveness of the Shannon CSI.