



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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September 20, 2024

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

As required by Ordinance 19712, Section 10, Proviso P8, this letter transmits a plan identifying revenue to replace approximately \$8,500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (ARPA/CLFR) funds that will expire December 31, 2024, currently supporting King County gun violence intervention and prevention programming and a proposed Motion acknowledging receipt of the plan.

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the federal government allowed CLFR funds to be used for gun violence prevention and King County allocated \$8,500,000 in CLFR dollars to gun violence prevention from 2023 through 2025. CLFR is a one-time source of federal funding that represents one third (35 percent) of the Regional Office's budget across three years.

The Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention (Regional Office), which is located in Public Health – Seattle and King County, coordinates multi-sector support, shared investments, and partnerships with community leadership to select and implement violence prevention solutions. The primary initiatives of the Regional Office are:

- Regional coordination, by Public Health staff;
- The Regional Peacekeepers Collective, community violence interventions implemented by six contracted community organizations;
- Hospital-based and community-linked violence interventions at Harborview Medical Center;
- Safe storage, a Public Health program;
- Training and professional development for the community violence intervention workforce, conducted by national experts, and

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- Quantitative and qualitative evaluation, carried out by Public Health staff.

No substantive program reductions are planned at the end of 2024. With the loss of CLFR moneys, the Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention (Regional Office) will have an estimated \$970,000 shortfall in 2025, which Public Health plans to fill from its one-time fund reserves. Public Health has proposed to maintain current Regional Office gun violence prevention programs in 2025 at the current 2024 spending level.

One-time funding such as CLFR and fund reserves are likely unavailable beyond 2025, so starting in 2026 significant future budget shortfalls are anticipated. Public Health will be exploring other funding opportunities in preparation for the 2026 budget development process. The enclosed lists existing local, state, federal revenue, and grant funds eligible to support gun violence prevention programming and includes an outline of potential revenue sources available to King County.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and young adults in King County, as it has been across the country since 2020. In the first half of 2024, 17 children under age 18 have been killed in gun homicides in King County – more than double the number of youth gun homicide victims in 2023.

The June 2024 US Surgeon General’s Advisory on firearm violence outlines an evidence-informed public health approach to addressing the crisis of firearm violence, which is aligned with the approach used by the Regional Office of Gun Violence Prevention in King County. The Advisory calls for strengthening data collection, increasing research on the consequences of gun violence, doing implementation research on prevention strategies, implementing community violence interventions, increasing the roles of emergency preparedness and the health care system in preventing gun violence, promoting safe storage of guns and ammunition, making several policy changes, and improving mental health supports.

We know that gun violence is not inevitable. It is preventable. Thank you for your consideration of the information in this report and the proposed Motion.

If your staff have questions, please contact Dr. Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County, at 206-477-6246.

Sincerely,



for

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King County Executive

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy County Executive, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Celia Jackson, Director of Criminal Legal System Transformation, Office of the Executive

Dr. Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County