

## Enhancing Public Safety and Preventing Violent Crime

### Recommendation

Provides \$104.2 million to enhance public safety and prevent gun violence statewide. Funds will support programming and interventions to stop violent crime, expand re-entry services, and fund additional school safety measures.

**Table 1: Allocation of Funds for Enhancing Public Safety and Preventing Violent Crime**

	Agency	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
<b>Public Safety</b>			
Safety Grants	DPS	\$15,000,000 NR	
Re-entry Programming	DAC	\$4,725,000 R	\$8,475,000 R
Juvenile Crime Prevention	DPS	\$7,598,899 R	\$7,598,899R
Office of Violence Prevention	DPS	\$1,638,640 R	\$1,638,640 R
Court Reminder System	AOC	\$25,000 NR	
<b>School Safety</b>			
School Safety Grants	DPI	\$50,000,000 NR	
Anonymous Tip Line	DPI	\$850,000 R	\$850,000 R
School Safety Sustainment	DPS	\$2,877,951 R	\$2,877,951 R
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>R \$17,690,490</b>	<b>\$21,441,490</b>
		<b>NR \$65,025,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$82,715,490</b>	<b>\$21,441,490</b>

### Statement of Need

North Carolina needs to secure schools, successfully incorporate formerly incarcerated people into society, and reduce firearm misuse to prevent violence and make communities safer.

- During the 2021-22 school year, North Carolina’s Say Something Anonymous Reporting System received 431 anonymous tips for possible planned school attacks. Of those tips, 254 qualified as “Life Safety Tips,” indicating that they could confirm the person’s ability to carry out the threat.
- The North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) reported that the number of students in possession of a firearm or powerful explosive increased 26% from the 2017-18 to 2021-22 school years.<sup>1</sup>
- Firearm offenses made up 13% of juvenile offenses in 2021,<sup>2</sup> continuing an upward trend of offenses involving firearms. In 2020, firearm theft charges involving juveniles increased 200%.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2021, deaths involving firearms surpassed casualties from motor vehicle accidents for children.<sup>4</sup>
- The two-year recidivism rate in NC was 41% in FY 2018-19, meaning that almost half of people released from prison or entering probation during that year experienced a rearrest.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Consolidated Data Report, 2021-2022](#), North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction.

<sup>2</sup> [2021 Annual Report](#), North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

<sup>3</sup> [2020 Annual Report](#), North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

<sup>4</sup> [Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly](#), North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.

<sup>5</sup> [Correctional Program Evaluation: Offenders Placed on Probation or Released from Prison in Fiscal Year 2019](#), North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

- One in six North Carolina criminal court cases has a missed court appearance. These missed appearances strain the court system and lead to challenges for all involved parties.<sup>6</sup>

## Recommendation Detail

### Public Safety

- Invests \$15 million nonrecurring for grant programs through the Governor’s Crime Commission (GCC) within the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The GCC will distribute \$5 million to expand the use of evidence-based programming statewide for violence intervention and prevention, and \$10 million to establish a grant program to support the acquisition of body-worn cameras for law enforcement agencies in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.
- Provides \$13.2 million to the Department of Adult Correction (DAC) over the biennium to expand re-entry programming and Treatment for Effective Community Supervision services.
- Invests \$7.6 million recurring in juvenile crime prevention through the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) within DPS. This funding includes \$5M for local Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs) to implement evidence-based violence and gang prevention and firearm safety programming for at-risk and justice-involved youth in local communities and \$2.5 million for program evaluations and community needs assessments.
- Provides \$1.6 million recurring to the new Office of Violence Prevention within DPS to distribute firearm locking mechanisms and develop a statewide firearm safety awareness campaign. This funding also increases capacity for additional violence prevention programming.
- Provides \$25,000 to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to study and engage stakeholders to enhance AOC’s Automated Court Event Notification capabilities and reduce failure to appear rates.

### Safer Schools

- Provides \$50 million in FY 2023-24 for school safety grants. Local education agencies (LEAs) may use the grants to support students in crisis, provide school safety training, or develop and implement school safety plans.
- Invests \$850,000 in the NC Say Something Anonymous Reporting System through DPI. This initiative, developed with Sandy Hook Promise, will ensure consistency in tip reporting among public school units.
- Provides \$2.9 million to North Carolina Emergency Management to implement the School Safety Program, including the Panic Alarm Program, which brings mobile panic alarm capability to all public K-12 and charter schools. With these funds, the School Risk Management Plan tool will continue to facilitate the creation of individual school plans, and the State Emergency Response Program will connect that data to law enforcement officers and other first responders to inform response to hazards and threats at schools.

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<sup>6</sup> [North Carolina Court Appearance Project](#), UNC School of Government.

## Expected Impact

This proposal will improve public safety and prevent gun violence. Expected impacts include:

- Provide at least 50 grants to community and healthcare organizations to implement evidence-based violence intervention programming.
- Acquire up to 20,000 body cameras for law enforcement in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.
- Expand re-entry programming to all areas of the state to reduce recidivism.
- Increase the number of guns safely stored, reducing the rate of unintentional gun-related accidents and deaths.
- Provide grants to all 100 JCPCs to assist in juvenile gun safety programming in all counties to reduce youth gun violence and enhance firearm safety.
- Distribute school safety grants to all 115 North Carolina LEAs to provide resources for necessary school safety initiatives.