



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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Date: June 24, 2024
From: **Doris Smith, Administrator**
RE: Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP)

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was signed into law in June of 2022 with the goal of reducing firearm-related violence. As authorized by the BSCA, the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides formula funds to implement state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, extreme risk protection order (ERPO) programs that work to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts. Administered by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), funding can be used to implement and support a broad range of activities, including, but not limited to:

- Support for states implementing ERPO programs; training for those implementing ERPO programs; communication, education and public awareness campaigns/initiatives.
- Support for problem solving court programs such as treatment, mental health and veterans treatment courts to expand programming to specifically accept clients with firearm violations.
- Support for court-based programs that identify and provide support to people in crisis, including those at risk of harm to themselves or others, assessing their circumstances and needs, and connecting them with programs and services that can provide them with needed help and support.
- Support for deflection and diversion to behavioral health treatment and support services for those at risk to themselves or others.
- Funding for law enforcement agencies to safely secure, store, track and return firearm

Funds may not be obligated, expended, or drawn down until the applicant has established the required Crisis Intervention Advisory Board and submitted the related required documentation. Current status: DFA-IGS is coordinating with Administrative Offices of the Courts and Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council to determine a recommended approach for Arkansas and to establish the required advisory board.

The grant award is \$3.2M. **Arkansas will focus on the initiatives other than ERPO.** I will provide updates as this process moves forward. Let me know if you require more information.