

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 785

Introduced by Assembly Member Sharp-Collins

**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Bryan, Elhawary,
Gipson, Jackson, McKinnor, Ransom, and Wilson)**

**(Principal coauthors: Senators Richardson, Smallwood-Cuevas, and
Weber Pierson)**

February 18, 2025

An act to add Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 8270) to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 785, as introduced, Sharp-Collins. Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program.

Existing law establishes the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program, administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections, to award competitive grants for the purpose of violence intervention and prevention. Existing law establishes the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program within the Board of State and Community Corrections to grant funds, upon appropriation, to local jurisdictions and Indian tribes for the purpose of implementing trauma-informed diversion programs for minors, as specified.

Existing law requires the governing board of a school district to give diligent care to the health and physical development of pupils and authorizes the governing board of a school district to employ properly certified persons for the work. Existing law requires a school of a school district or county office of education and a charter school to notify pupils and parents or guardians of pupils no less than twice during the school year on how to initiate access to available pupil mental health

services on campus or in the community, or both, as provided. Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Support Program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to assist school health centers, which are defined as centers or programs, located at or near local educational agencies, that provide age-appropriate health care services at the program site or through referrals, as specified.

This bill would create the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to be administered by the California Health and Human Services Agency to provide funding to local community programs for community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools. The bill would specify the types of programs the grant funds may be used for, including, but not limited to, programs that create and enhance recreation- and health-based interventions for youth during peak times of violence and the creation and operation of school-based health centers. The bill would require the agency to develop an application process and criteria for funding and would require the agency to administer the grant program, as specified. The bill would require, beginning July 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office to calculate the savings to the state from the closure of state prisons, as specified, and would require the Director of Finance to certify the results of the calculation to the Controller no later than August 1 of each fiscal year. The bill would create the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Fund and would require moneys in the fund to be made available, only upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the agency for the purposes of the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program. The bill would require that the Controller, before August 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, upon appropriation by the Legislature, transfer from the General Fund to the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Fund the total amount of savings from the closure of state prisons so calculated.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 8270) is
- 2 added to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

1 CHAPTER 9. COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERDICTION GRANT
2 PROGRAM
3

4 8270. (a) The California Health and Human Services Agency
5 shall administer the Community Violence Interdiction Grant
6 Program to provide funding to local community programs for
7 community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods
8 and schools.

9 (b) Eligible programs shall include, but are not limited to, all
10 of the following:

11 (1) Evidence-based, focused-deterrence collaborative programs
12 that conduct outreach to targeted gangs and offer supportive
13 services to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang
14 involvement.

15 (2) Programs that create and enhance recreation- and
16 health-based interventions for youth during peak times of violence.

17 (3) Programs that implement evidence-based interventions for
18 pupils impacted by trauma for the improvement in the health and
19 well-being of the youth and school and community stability.

20 (4) Youth diversion programs that promote positive youth
21 development by relying on responses that prevent a youth's
22 involvement or further involvement in the justice system.

23 (5) The creation and operation of school-based health centers.

24 8271. (a) The agency shall develop an application process and
25 criteria for funding.

26 (b) Grants pursuant to this chapter shall be made on a
27 competitive basis with preference to cities and local jurisdictions
28 that are disproportionately impacted by violence and gang
29 involvement and with preference to community-based organizations
30 that serve the residents of those cities and local jurisdictions.

31 (c) In implementing the grant program, the agency shall work
32 with relevant stakeholders to promote and implement the grant
33 program in a manner that effectively reaches a wide geography
34 throughout the state and ensures that regions most impacted by
35 violence and gang involvement are adequately considered with an
36 emphasis on addressing the violence prevention and gang
37 deterrence needs within these regions.

38 (d) Applicants seeking grant funding to implement
39 evidenced-based interventions for pupils impacted by trauma shall
40 demonstrate how they will prioritize interventions for pupils most

1 impacted by trauma and typically unable to access traditional
2 services, including, but not limited to, pupils who are low income
3 or homeless, display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder
4 or severe trauma-related symptoms, members of immigrant and
5 refugee groups, pupils with exceptional needs, and pupils who
6 interact with child protective systems or who have had contact
7 with the juvenile justice system.

8 8272. (a) The Community Violence Interdiction Grant Fund
9 is hereby created within the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund
10 shall be made available, only upon appropriation by the Legislature,
11 to the agency for the purposes of this chapter.

12 (b) On or before July 31, 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter,
13 the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office shall
14 calculate the savings that accrued to the state from the closure of
15 state prisons during the preceding fiscal year. In making the
16 calculation required by this subdivision, the Director of Finance
17 and the Legislative Analyst's Office shall use actual data or best
18 available estimates where actual data is not available.

19 (c) The Director of Finance shall calculate the average of the
20 two calculations made pursuant to subdivision (b). The calculation
21 shall be final and shall not be adjusted for subsequent changes in
22 the underlying data. The Director of Finance shall certify the results
23 of the calculation to the Controller no later than August 1 of each
24 fiscal year.

25 (d) Before August 15, 2025, and before August 15 of each fiscal
26 year thereafter, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the
27 Controller shall transfer from the General Fund to the Community
28 Violence Interdiction Grant Fund the total amount calculated
29 pursuant to subdivision (c).