



**ILLINOIS
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NEWS

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Illinois Targeted Violence Prevention Program to Receive \$187,000 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant

CHICAGO—June 29, 2017. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Executive Director John Maki today announced confirmation of a \$187,877 grant award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to support efforts of the Targeted Violence Prevention Program (TVPP).

Administered by ICJIA, TVPP offers a public health approach to engaging communities in the prevention of violence motivated or inspired by political, social, religious, or personal ideologies. This criminal justice challenge has created the need for new violence prevention strategies.

“By building resilient communities and inoculating them from violent ideologies and empowering individuals to intervene, Illinois can prevent ideologically inspired violence,” said Executive Director Maki.

TVPP was established to help people build and sustain community-led prevention and intervention programs that can:

1. Inoculate communities from violent ideologies by making them more resilient.
2. Empower individuals to intervene when someone close to them appears to be in crisis and when the probability of violence may be increased. With early intervention, the focus can be on diversion with services rather than on taking a punitive approach with law enforcement involvement.

ICJIA was notified of the award in January but experienced a delay in receiving the grant during government transition. Grant funding will support community training and engagement programs.

“This program leverages the knowledge and expertise of violence prevention experts with a commitment to evidence-based practices to prevent hate crimes, domestic terrorism, and homegrown violent extremism,” said TVPP Director Junaid Afeef.

TVPP will engage a wide range of partners in these efforts, including faith-based and community-based organizations, academia, social service providers, schools, and law enforcement. The program also will partner with communities to measure and evaluate innovative, community-led initiatives designed to improve outcomes.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requested proposals for \$10 million in grants to counter violent extremism. ICJIA awarded one of 26 counterterrorism grants. USDHS received 200 applications from entities in 40 states for the grants.

Visit the Illinois Targeted Violence Prevention Program: <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/tvpp>

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