

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Terrorism Prevention Grant Evaluation

Past local terrorism prevention programs did not undergo robust, independent evaluation. To redress this gap, at the request of the DHS Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (OTPP), the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) was looked upon to collaborate with subject matter experts in the field to study these programs' effectiveness in delivering information about what does and does not work in the prevention space.

DHS OTPP Grant Program Background

In 2015, Congress provided \$10 million to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program that OTPP administers. DHS received more than 200 applications from states and territories, nonprofits, local law enforcement, and universities. Grantees were selected for: (1) the potential to improve community security and enhance terrorism prevention through government and non-government partnerships, (2) a high potential for program success, and (3) a strong chance of program sustainability. These grants were meant to support community-led initiatives to counter violent extremism through five focus areas:

1. Developing resilience
2. Training and engagement
3. Managing interventions
4. Challenging the narrative
5. Building capacity

“It is imperative to evaluate these CVE grant recipients, as an *independent evaluation provides evidence-based research to improve the effectiveness of violence prevention and intervention efforts* implemented by federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and non-governmental stakeholders.” -- OTPP Director David Gersten

Progress to Date

In 2016, S&T kicked-off the CVE Pilot Cities Evaluation for Boston and Los Angeles. This effort connected experts in program evaluation and the prevention of violent extremism, generating substantive evaluation data that practitioners and policy makers can use to improve prevention approaches to violent extremism.

The CVE Pilot Cities Evaluation provided an independent assessment of terrorism prevention programs in Boston and Los Angeles. This assessment informed practitioners' and policy makers' prevention and intervention strategies, helping communities to build resilience and capacity to prevent individuals from engaging in violent extremism or recruitment by violent extremists.

Upon completion of the Pilot Cities Evaluation's, OTPP and S&T saw a need to further assess additional CVE grantees and their overall effectiveness:

1. For program implementation and goal achievement; and
2. To develop recommendations for DHS's ongoing development of terrorism prevention in the U.S.



Path Forward

Once selected for evaluation, data collection and evaluation of the CVE grantees will begin. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of terrorism prevention efforts to inform future DHS efforts and inform these programs of prior research on drivers to and away from violent extremism.

Upcoming Milestones

- Project kickoff.....Sept. 2018
- Protocol development and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvalNov. 2018
- Data collection from selected grantees July 2019

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To learn more about the Countering Violent Extremism and Preventing Terrorism portfolio, email STCVETeam@hq.dhs.gov.