

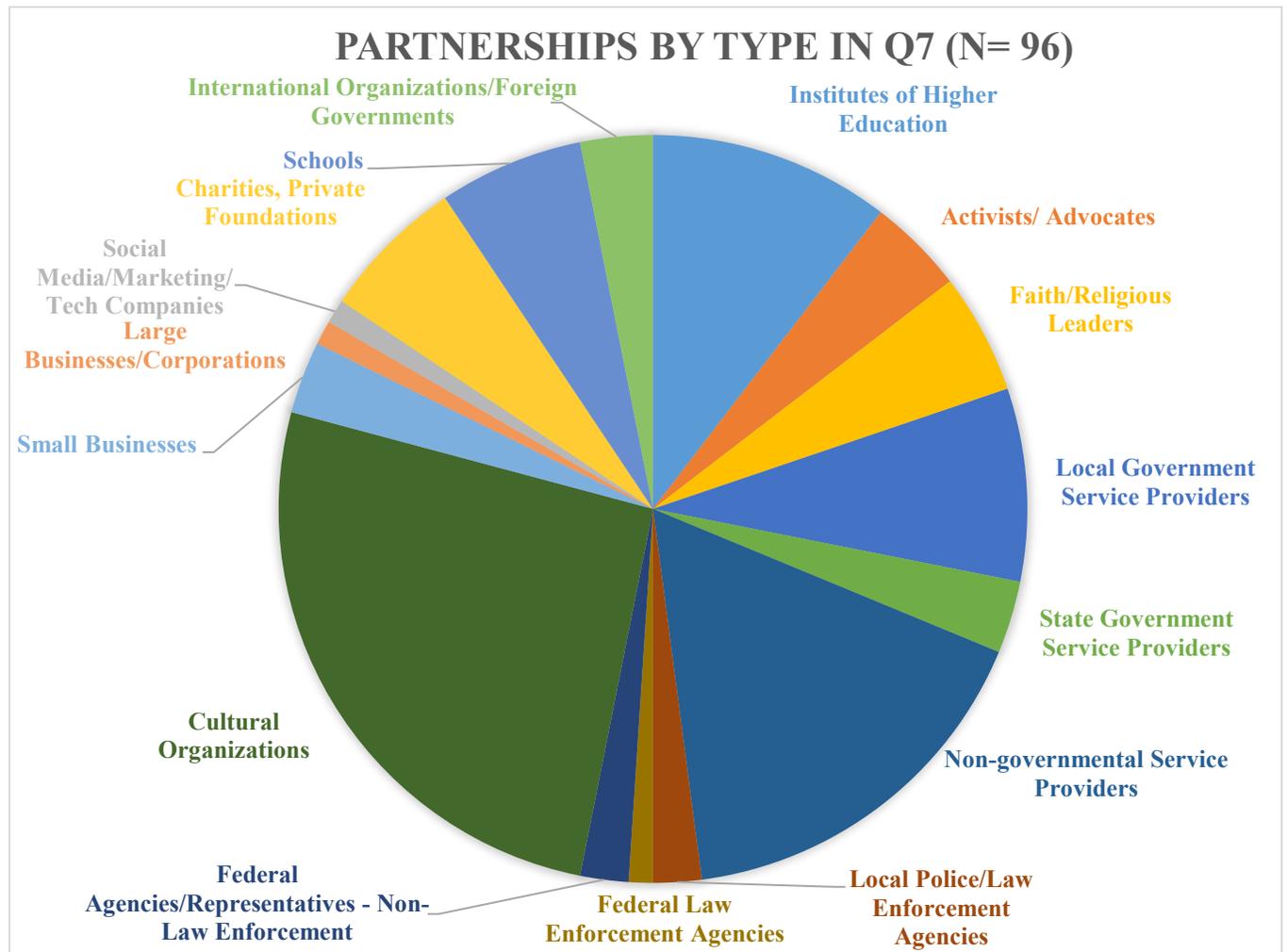


# Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention

Quarterly Update on Programmatic Performance  
FY16 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program  
Quarter 7: January 1 to March 31, 2019

## Performance Measurement

The seventh quarter (Q7) of the grant program ran from January 1 – March 31, 2019. Grantees reported a similar total number of activities from Q6 to Q7, and the distribution of types of events was similar between quarters. Grantees continued to form new partnerships with outside organizations. The breakdown of Q7 new partnerships by type is below.



Grantees reported activities with in-person reach of approximately 3,200 individuals. The total number of participants in the grantee activities through Q7 is approximately 42,400. Several

grantees are completing grant related activities this quarter or plan to complete activities in the next quarter, and as such have started compiling data and analysis for final reporting.

### **Highlights and Examples from Reported Activities**

- One organization will be presenting a panel discussion on the barriers to reporting signs of radicalization in rural areas by utilizing a public health approach. The presentation will be based on their successes and lessons learned from the grant program, and helps other rural-based organizations prepare or modify their own countering violent extremist programs.
- A police department built on their engagement activities to present the community with public safety information they wanted to include: fire safety and internet security. They also used their prior engagements and contacts to connect with five local mosques following the Mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand to hear their concerns and describe what additional security measures the police department had planned.

### **Digital Activity**

Counter Extremism Project's Subgrantee coordinated their social media activity to bring the message of International Women's Day 2019 (March 8) to their platform. The website and associated social media accounts for MuslimWorldToday.org focusses on civic engagement and integration of South Asian Muslims in North America. By promoting women's rights in the west and across the world, they engage their followers and promote the message of empowerment. The posts had approximately 240,000 impressions and were engaged with 9,000 times.

### **Lessons Learned/Promising Practices**

- One police department noted the critical importance of door-to-door contact with community members to inform them of community briefings. The door-to-door canvassing helped enhance credibility, trust, and accountability of the police department with the community. This also increased the police department's ability to create open engagement with community members and bring awareness of community briefings that provided additional insight to the police department on the needs and concerns of the community.
- A training and engagement organization credited the ability of receiving feedback as essential to strengthening the partnership between presenter and community recipients by tailoring future trainings to ensure the content remains engaging.

### **Individual Project Descriptions and Progress**

Below are brief project descriptions for all CVEGP awards, and updates based on the most recent quarterly performance progress reports.

#### **Focus Area 1: Developing Resilience**

##### **Police Foundation (Washington, D.C.) \$484,835**

**Description:** The recipient is creating mentoring programs between Boston Police Department (BPD) and Somali-American youth to enhance the resiliency of the Somali-American

community in Boston. The project, named Youth Police Initiative Plus (YPIP), is building off of previously conducted Youth Police Initiatives (YPI) conducted in over 25 jurisdictions, including Boston, since 2003 for the purposes of lowering general youth crime and violence by creating stronger connections between youth and police. Research has shown promising results in some aspects of the YPI, which YPIP is implementing. The project focuses on international terrorist organizations most often targeting Somali-American youth.

**Quarterly Update:** This quarter, Police Foundation observed several outreach partners conduct a Youth Police Initiative session, as well as a United Somali Youth-based leadership development program. The Police Foundation reported an increase in parental interest and participation in observing the youth program, and an increased interest to extend and expand the program.

#### **Tuesday's Children (New York, NY) \$386,670**

**Description:** The recipient is delivering culturally competent mental health and support services through an evidence-based Long-Term Healing Model for building resilience in communities impacted by terrorism and mass tragedies. The project supports an existing peace building and conflict resolution initiative titled Project Common Bond. The project's goal is to enhance critical thinking and civic engagement among communities at risk for, and recovering from, terrorism, war, and mass shootings. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Tuesday's Children continued with the launch process of their online toolkit for a Long-Term Healing Model. While the toolkit is finalized, Tuesday's Children has utilized the beta programming to provide content, resources, and training modules for customized guidance to communities impacted by targeted violence and terrorism. In Q7, Tuesday's Children continued their social media campaign with promotion of their Project Common Bond Winter Session, programmatic information about their Career Resource Center, and posted highlights from National Mentoring Month in January.

#### **Heartland Democracy Center (Minneapolis, MN) \$423,340**

**Description:** The recipient is expanding their existing civic engagement and empowerment programs working with youth and parents, including participants from immigrant and refugee communities in Minnesota. This project also has training and outreach activities planned which aim to expand dialogue around a broad range of topics relating to youth, education, violence prevention, community resilience and civic response.

**Quarterly Update:** Heartland Democracy Center conducted planning activities for their 4-week summer program, and worked with local networks and partnerships to develop new community and leadership partners in Minnesota. They continued to work with educators at three school sites that provide resources for youth in-school and after-school/out-of-school.

#### **Peace Catalyst International (Greenwood Village, CO) \$95,000**

**Description:** The recipient is building interfaith working groups in locations across the nation between Muslim and Christian groups to counter narratives propagated for radicalization to violence. The working groups will empower grassroots leaders to implement and evaluate countering violent extremism actions. The project focuses on preventing both violent Islamist extremism and domestic violent extremism against Muslims.

**Quarterly Update:** Peace Catalyst International continued planning and preparation for their Seek the Peace Consultation conference planned for Q8. Additionally, PCI began evaluation of two working group projects to identify lessons learned and promising practices.

**Seattle Police Department (Seattle, WA) \$409,390**

**Description:** The recipient employs a focused and localized community approach, on the micro-neighborhood level, to prevent recruitment and radicalization to violent extremism among refugee women, youth, and disenfranchised populations in ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhoods. The recipient builds off an existing program that engages with community representatives to guide police resource investments at the neighborhood level. The project has the capacity to address all forms of violent extremist threats identified in the community assessments.

**Quarterly Update:** Seattle Police Department completed their second Immigrant Family Institute (IFI), with 85 total adult and youth participants. SPD also conducted youth focus groups, integrating sports programming into youth outreach projects. Additionally, SPD held 6 youth workshops as part of The IF Project, which identifies youth in the criminal justice system and directs their energies away from criminal activity and toward positive outlets.

**Nashville International Center for Empowerment (Nashville, TN) \$445,110**

**Description:** The grant recipient uses youth engagement, inter-cultural/-faith exchange, and community outreach activities to increase the resilience of communities to domestic terrorism and new American youth who may be considered “at risk” for radicalization and violent extremism. The project’s goal is to build mutual respect and understanding among people of different faiths, cultures, and ethnicities. It focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE) continued to provide educational, health, and recreational services to their community throughout Q7. Six additional cohorts participated in the Youth Empowered to Achieve (Yea!), which covered topics of community service, emotional intelligence, and understanding of the community. Additionally, NICE hosted a large cultural awareness event and 11 leadership dialogues that helped promote connectivity within the community.

Focus Area 2: Training & Engagement

**City of Houston Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security (Houston, TX) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient works with the Houston Regional CVE Steering Committee to host scenario-based workshops for parents and youth, interfaith engagements, as well as a train-the-trainer program to ensure sustainability of the program. The project addresses all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** City of Houston Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security conducted two Steering Committee meetings, four training curriculum review meetings, and two meetings with key community service providers. Additionally, City of Houston staff continued research activities and administrative programmatic work for the Training and Engagement Initiative,

research on domestic and international CVE programs, interviews with CVE experts, practitioners, and academic experts.

### **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago, IL) \$187,877**

**Description:** The recipient develops and delivers a bystander/gatekeeper training program to educate a broad cross-section of communities on how to intervene with individuals who exhibit warning signs of either radicalization to violence or planning an act of ideologically inspired violence. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism and includes at least one site focused specifically on domestic terrorism.

**Quarterly Update:** Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority continued to analyze data from the focus group conducted in prior quarters, and is working on producing a paper based on their previous quarter's surveys analyzing the attitudes and knowledge of mental health providers toward working with individuals with risk factors for targeted violence.

### **Global Peace Foundation (Lanham, MD) \$453,497**

**Description:** The recipient is providing training and fostering community engagement in New Jersey to counter violent extremist recruitment by 1) raising awareness of the frontline law enforcement workers and community leaders on indicators connected to violent extremism, including active shooters, through train-the-trainer programs; and 2) strengthening community and law enforcement partnerships to counter violent extremism through community engagement events. The recipient addresses all forms of violent extremism. The recipient secured a commitment from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and other law enforcement entities to bring this training to all law enforcement officers in the state by 2020.

**Quarterly Update:** Global Peace Foundation conducted two CVE Train-the-Trainer sessions to community leaders in Q7. The program also completed two law enforcement trainings and a large community engagement event consisting of over 300 youth, educators, and social service providers. A total of 103 youth participated in Global Peace Foundation law enforcement partner workshops.

### **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (Lincoln, NE) \$300,000**

**Description:** The recipient conducts community engagement that identifies and addresses barriers to reporting in rural and small/mid-sized communities, facilitates the reporting of concerns, enhances the resilience of local communities to violent extremism, and increases awareness of observable behaviors associated with the process of radicalization. The recipient addresses all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued to conduct outreach to community threat assessment teams and provide train-the-trainers toolkit programs to public health participants. State-level threat assessment and CVE awareness activities did not progress this quarter due to massive flooding across the state, however they continue to intend to complete their project on time.

### **City of Dearborn Police Department (Dearborn, MI) \$51,521**

**Description:** This project provides a means for the Dearborn Police Department to offer training open to all city residents – as well as neighboring community members. The training and

awareness briefings are held at various venues spread geographically across the city throughout the two years of the grant. The recipient will address all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** The Dearborn Police Department continued to perform community training and awareness briefings, and have conducted post-briefing surveys to measure effectiveness of the training. DPD increased public awareness of trainings and briefings by creating flyers and canvassing door-to-door.

#### **National Consortium for Advanced Policing (Los Angeles, CA) \$200,000**

**Description:** The recipient is delivering a community resiliency training program across the 66 largest metro areas in the country that will provide an understanding of all forms of violent extremism, how they manifest themselves in local communities, how community policing strategies can be used to develop a safety net of relationships that can lead to early detection and prevention, and how each municipality plays a role. The recipient is now teamed with the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and targets police executives, some of which have been involved in MCCA's committee on Preventing Terrorism and Targeted Violence which is reviewing promising practices already in place in MCCA member cities.

**Quarterly Update:** National Consortium for Advanced Policing completed the draft outline for the Preventing Terrorism and Targeted Violence Implementation Guide for Law Enforcement. Additionally, NCAP also established a working group with fellow grantees, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the Major County Sheriffs of America to discuss best practices and recommendations to be included in the Guide.

#### **Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (Minneapolis, MN) \$347,600**

**Description:** The recipient is implementing several two-day community engagement workshops and expanding their Community Engagement Team to engage new residents, learn from cultural communities, and meet the demand for prevention and education initiatives among new Americans. The project focuses on international terrorist organizations most often targeting Somali youth.

**Quarterly Update:** Grantee reported no activities this quarter.

#### **City of Arlington Police Department (Arlington, TX) \$47,497**

**Description:** The recipient is developing and delivering an engagement program to strengthen partnerships between the recipient and the Muslim community in Arlington. The recipient has previously created and sustained an engagement program that is responsive to the city's residents, and this effort will extend those efforts based on recommendations of a Duke University study on the role of community policing in CVE.

**Quarterly Update:** The Arlington Police Department continued to conduct presentations at local Mosques and charter schools, fielding requests and concerns in addition to presenting the engagement resources and awareness information. APD is also planning additional trainings catered to the needs of the community, as voiced from the community members during the prior briefings.

#### **National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices (Washington, D.C.) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient has launched a “State Approaches to Violent Extremism (S.A.V.E.) Policy Academy” program through governors’ offices across the U.S. The NGA Center will provide state sub-grants to five competitively selected states and assist them with adopting and implementing a sustainable, flexible “Roadmap” to support statewide CVE efforts. This project will focus on all forms of violent extremism, including the drivers of extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** National Governors Association continued to conduct webinars with federal, nonprofit, and academic subject matter experts for state and local practitioners and policymakers. Additionally, NGA hosted an in-state workshop in Michigan where state, local, nonprofit, and community practitioners started the development of a Preventing Targeted Violence program in the state.

### **Denver Police Department (DPD) \$481,313**

**Description:** The recipient is focused on all forms of violent extremism, with a particular focus on domestic violent extremism (white supremacist VE, animal rights/eco-terrorism VE, sovereign citizen VE, etc.). DPD is working on officer training, civilian training, school-based mentoring, and outreach efforts to all of Denver’s residents to share information and open connections.

**Quarterly Update:** The Denver Police Department continued to conduct law enforcement awareness briefings and train-the-trainer refreshers for Community Resource Officers to perform additional community awareness briefings. DPD’s Goodwill Industries Youth Mentoring Program successfully concluded this quarter with 115 students completing the program and meeting performance goals.

### Focus Area 3: Interventions

### **Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (MA EOPSS) (Boston, MA) \$500,000**

**Description:** The Massachusetts EOPSS is building resilience and preventing the escalation of violence and violent extremism among high-risk individuals. The MA EOPSS and its project partner, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, will target 139 men being released from maximum security prison over two years with a high risk for violent extremism. The EOPSS proposal focuses on promoting resilience by strengthening protective factors including social and problem-solving skills, self-esteem, cultural identity, good communication skills, pro-social connections/social support/family ties, commitment to education and employment goals, and positive community engagement. The project focuses on addressing the drivers of violent extremism and is able to address all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** The Massachusetts EOPSS continued to utilize its client-centered treatment tools to assess participant sessions and improve or modify treatment, as necessary. Additionally, in Quarter 7, a higher percentage of participants voluntarily engaged with the program after their release than in prior quarters. Clinicians associated with the program continue to pursue community resources for clients.

### **Crisis Intervention of Houston, Inc. (Houston, TX) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient is training counselors in violent extremism risk factors and in protocols to steer callers to the appropriate resources for help, as well as marketing services

through online public awareness campaigns, social media, community centers, and other means to reach young at-risk populations targeted by violent extremists. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Crisis Intervention continued marketing their active hotline through events, flyers, advertisements, training, and workshops with parents, faith leaders, law enforcement, and youth. The organization has committed to continuing the hotline after the grant expires, and has been working with the Harris County Constables to conduct training related to the hotline.

#### **Alameda County Sheriff's Office (Oakland, CA) \$499,125**

**Description:** Through a number of integrated efforts, this project supports the successful reentry of Alameda County residents into the community following release by working with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Program, the Probation Department, and case managers to identify individuals. They will also develop a referral network to work with individuals who may be susceptible to violent extremism as well as a trauma-informed, evidence-based curriculum for system-involved adults. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Alameda County Sheriff's Office worked closely with their local nonprofit behavioral health provider partner that is offering mindfulness and emotional resilience workshops and one on one coaching to program participants. They also hosted their first site visit with the project evaluator. During this quarter they conducted the pilot cohort for the workshops with 36 participants and recruiting for the second and third cohorts was underway.

#### **Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Las Vegas, NV) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient is creating a community-led and interdisciplinary coalition to develop and administer an intervention program for community members at risk of recruitment to violent extremism. The recipient builds on existing terrorism prevention programs that have been in place since 2009, as well as a robust set of engagement activities that address the drivers of violent extremism and support the development of an intervention program. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department community coalition met during Q7 and conducted outreach and recruitment events with the community and coalition members. The LVMPD received technical assistance from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The results of PERF's technical assistance indicated that a different contractor on the grant was not performing as required. Following the close of this quarter LVMPD indicated to DHS that they could not remedy the performance issues. LVMPD severed ties with the contractor prior to paying out grant funds to the contractor. LVMPD decided to terminate their award citing the difficulties with the contractor and insufficient remaining time on the award to replace the contractor. They opted not to seek an extension to the period of performance.

#### Focus Area 4: Challenging the Narrative

#### **America Abroad Media (Washington, D.C.) \$647,546**

**Description:** The recipient is hosting hackathons that bring together diverse groups of Muslim and non-Muslim creative artists to develop communications campaigns and content that not only counter the influence of ISIL but also encourage and enable community members to develop and promote their own CVE content. The project will focus on countering ISIS propaganda.

**Quarterly Update:** In Q7, a winning team of the Los Angeles hackathon continued post-production of a film that wrapped last quarter. The New York hackathon participants continued promotion of their campaign and expanded event tie-ins.

**Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY) \$149,955**

**Description:** The recipient is developing an app that will put links to open source, high-quality video editing tools, basic media content creation tools, tips on social media marketing, and pithy, relevant research findings on radicalization and recruitment in the hands of thousands. This will help make the creation of counter messages a viral practice. The project will focus on countering all forms of violent extremist propaganda.

**Quarterly Update:** During Q7, RIT continued progressing on the Brand development, Mobile application, Media Kit website, and Media Kit visual asset development. They were building a library of visual assets to accompany the lessons that can also double as free-to-use resources in delivering messages to others, as well as promote Ex-Out as a visual utility using the free-to-use tool and platform. RIT has started building the codebase for the website using an open-source framework; it will behave similarly to a blog. They continued to develop content and visual assets for the mobile app (much of which will also reside on the website) and sent them off to the technology vendor.

**Masjid Muhammad, Inc. (Washington, D.C.) \$531,195**

**Description:** The recipient is creating a robust, online multimedia platform that challenges online radicalization narratives with positive, inclusive narratives across a variety of digital media. The project will work with local law enforcement and introduce Muslim groups to them through dialogue and engagement. The project will focus on international terrorist organizations most often targeting American Muslims.

**Quarterly Update:** Masjid Muhamad has completed their planned work.

Focus Area 5: Building Capacity

**University of San Diego (San Diego, CA) \$634,769**

**Description:** The recipient will increase community resilience to violent extremism by implementing an initiative that will build the capacity of CBOs to constructively engage Somali and Iraqi youth in refugee communities in San Diego and El Cajon. The project will increase a sense of community and reduce social isolation among the youth, while building trust between the youth and other sectors of society including law enforcement, school officials, and the business community.

**Quarterly Update:** The University of San Diego Connected Youth-Resilient Communities Initiative finalized two research briefs that outline the experience of implementing CVE capacity building projects. Additionally, USD designed and planned two capacity trainings for partners to address needs for sustaining the project.

**Green Light Project Inc. DBA, The Counter Extremism Project (New York, NY) \$298,760**

**Description:** Counter Extremism Project (CEP) is enhancing the capacity of its sub-recipient to better engage in challenging violent extremist narratives through a positive narrative-based website called MuslimWorldToday.org to provide social resources and to allow Southern/Central

Asian persons a safe space online to discuss subjects relating to religion and integrating into the US. The project will focus on international terrorist organizations most often targeting American Muslim youth.

**Quarterly Update:** The Counter Extremism Project has completed most of the programs goals, and continued to build strong social media following based on the dissemination of articles and podcasts. Public engagement activity increased in Q7 with additional civil society partnerships and outreach programs.