



Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships

Quarterly Update on Programmatic Performance

FY16 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program

Quarter 3: January 1 to March 31, 2018

Introduction

The third quarter of the CVE Grant Program period of performance saw a substantial increase in activities by grant recipients on their core project elements, primarily driven by high turnout at numerous outreach and engagement events. Recipients deepened their engagement with diverse audiences, including youth, parents and professional groups such as law enforcement, educators and social service providers.

Performance Measurement

The third quarter (Q3) of the grant program ran from January 1 – March 31, 2018. Recipients each submitted performance progress reports. This document summarizes the performance during this period. The reports indicate that the vast majority of projects have made substantial progress on their core activities - intervention capabilities are operational; training products are being delivered; engagement activities are underway; at risk individuals are enrolled in activities to enhance their resilience; and digital messages challenging terrorist recruitment and radicalization narratives are reaching wide audiences. Several projects ran into administrative, technical, logistical, or other challenges in the prior reporting periods, and all but three of those have been overcome to date.

According to Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (OTPP) guidance, grantees reported their project activities in eight broad activity types:

1. Education/Training/Skill Development/Workshop
2. Train-the-trainer
3. Mentoring Session
4. Symposium/Conference
5. Community Outreach or Engagement
6. Recreation/Sports/Cultural Event
7. Convening of Advisory Group/Community Coalition/Subject Matter Experts
8. Other Event

Q3 project activities increased substantially from earlier reporting periods, primarily driven by Community Outreach or Engagement type events. These types of events were prominent even outside of Focus Area 2 (Training and Engagement), as recipients attempted to meet with

stakeholders and community members to build trust and develop awareness of the projects' capabilities or opportunities for participation.

Participants to date as reported by recipients:

Participant Type	Number of Participants	
	Q3	CVEGP To Date
General Community Audience	6,121	7,076
Parent of Youth or Young Adult (Ages 12-26)	2,443	2,540
Young Adult/Student	1,905	2,420
Community Organization Representative	736	744
Activists/Advocates	604	618
Police/Law Enforcement	239	744
Other Participants	207	273
Government Representatives (Local, State, Federal, Tribal)	176	259
Teachers/ School Staff / Educators	161	223
Mental/Behavioral Health Providers	88	180
Faith Leaders/ Religious leaders	82	122
Social Service Providers	70	274
Other Front Line Workers (government)	59	68
Youth Workers	56	88
Other Service providers	28	72
Public Health Professionals	28	90
Business Owners/Entrepreneurs	24	82
Individuals Impacted by Terrorism	24	191
Volunteers	24	55
Other Front Line Workers (non-government)	4	22
Total Participants	13,079	16,141

Highlights and Examples from Reported Activities

- Over 9,000 of the participants were involved in outreach or engagement activities.
 - One outreach activity in a rural Midwest community reached 3,800 individuals in the desired audience and provided them with materials on services available.
 - A police department attracted approximately 2,100 attendees to an event to provide them with information about their department and to recruit participants to the mentoring program portion of their grant project.
- Over 1,000 participants were involved in education, skill development, or training activities.
 - One project trained 77 school staff to participate in a threat assessment team.
 - One project trained 75 general community members on the threat of recruitment and radicalization to violence and provided information about the grant recipient's capability to intervene.

- Overall, CVE Grant recipients have worked to reach younger audiences, who may be more vulnerable to terrorist recruitment.
 - Over 1,900 young adults/students participated in events.
 - Over 2,400 parents of children 12-26 participated in events.
- The grant recipients continue to have strong participation in their events with the professional communities (e.g. Mental/Behavior Health Providers and Social Service Providers) that form the backbone of the multidisciplinary work of preventing terrorism.

Digital Activity

In addition to in person activities, grant recipients, particularly in the Challenging the Narrative Focus Area, have been active online in Q3. Recipients have conducted messaging campaigns, launched message creation competitions, and hosted resources on their websites. During Q3, content from recipients has been displayed (impressions) approximately 1.9 million times and engaged with approximately 70,000 times.¹

Partnerships

Grantees have continued to make new partners during Q3 at a similar pace as they added partners during combined reporting for Q1 and Q2. New partners include: non-governmental service providers, cultural organizations, faith/religious leaders, small businesses, institutes of higher education, local government service providers, and schools.

In Q3, nearly half of the grantees report that new partnerships have assisted them with developing their projects, delivering services, or integrating their work into existing institutional or civic structures, which may be useful in sustaining the projects at the conclusion of the CVEGP. During Q3, eleven grantees reporting adding over 235 partners, bringing the total number of partners up to 992.²

Lessons Learned/Promising Practices

- While several grantees work with non-English speaking communities, they typically rely on interns, volunteers, community members, and other non-professional translation services. One grantee highlighted their use of *professional* translation services for the development of high-quality informational materials and reported that this investment improved the quality of their interactions in the communities.
- Grantees reported that major events impacting the country, unrelated to extremism created obstacles or opportunities for their programs. In particular grantees had to carefully navigate their activities surrounding several high profile mass shootings. One grantee indicated that it had challenges engaging participants in a counter messaging competition following a major school shooting, with participants wanting to address that issue with their energies instead. Another grantee indicated increased interest in their

¹ Engagement figures here include: social media likes, comments, and shares; marketing click throughs; and standalone website views.

² Figure does not precisely align with previous report due to updated or revised numbers as reported by grantees for earlier reporting periods.

work because several of the behavioral indicators of violent extremists they assess in their work may be present in potential other instances of violence. One grantee was the lead response agency in a mass shooting and its resources were stretched thin.

- Grantees reported high demand for existing terrorism prevention materials, such as reference aids, informational packets, or training programs. OTPP staff are working closely with grantees to identify what federal resources and informational materials may meet their needs, including by sharing a newly-released FEMA training on Integrating Mental Health and Education Approaches into CVE.³ Use of off the shelf training continues to be a promising practice. Most grantees with resource needs are identifying suitable existing products that need zero or only minor modification. Additionally, for projects supplementing the work of existing fields for the purpose of preventing terrorism or enhancing resiliency, they have been identifying existing training to add to or emphasize rather than creating new materials.

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: Police Foundation recruited its first YPIP Cohort and planned to hold orientation meetings with the beginning of Q4. The Grantee, their sub-awardee, and BPD spent a significant amount of time building trust in the community in order to successfully launch their 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

³ <http://www.start.umd.edu/training/integrating-mental-health-and-education-approaches-cve>

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 to reach out to nine communities with a potential need for their services and began testing an online knowledge sharing platform to make their curriculum more widely available to practitioners.

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 held workshops with 45 parents at three different sites aimed at identifying concerns and developing empowerment strategies.

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 wrapped up planning for their first Faith Leaders' Network Conference that was held in April at Duke University, which will spearhead the development of community resilience plans in numerous communities.

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 of 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 conducted massive outreach and engagement activities with approximately 3000 individuals, and recruited and began providing services to a cohort of families through its Immigrant Families Institute (IFI). The IFI brings police officers and immigrant families, particularly those with young adult children who have or may be close to encountering the juvenile justice system in order to build knowledge and skills necessary for successful family integration as well as police understanding of the communities they serve.

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 both Islamist terrorism and domestic terrorism.

Quarterly Update: Nashville International Center for Empowerment continued to actively provide educational and recreational services to their community throughout Q3. Approximately 50 youth participated across four cohorts in social emotional training sessions. NICE also had three recurring recreational activities for community members ranging from middle school age to adults.

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 encountered delays because of the impact of hurricane Harvey in the Houston area, but in Q3 continued work on procurement of its vendors, initial outreach with its steering committee, and networked with other grantees to identify potential training best practices that they could utilize to make up time lost during the recovery.

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 held nine focus groups that have supported the training programs for young adults, educators, public health professionals, faith leaders, and local government staff.

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 has conducted extensive work to develop their training and prepare to deliver the training to the desired audiences.

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 has trained their partner agencies on the threat assessment tools it has developed, conducted outreach on its capabilities, and conducted a baseline survey with some of its desired audiences. Furthermore, the project team continues to share its efforts with the broader health professional community nationwide that may be interested in implementing similar efforts by participating in conferences and authoring articles in practitioner newsletters.

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/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: City of Dearborn Police Department developed a survey instrument to measure its effectiveness when delivering the trainings and has delivered two briefings to the community, each of which has been coupled with outreach activities to increase participation.

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 and 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** continued its methodical and collaborative process in developing its curriculum by hosting multiple meetings with members of the Major City Police Departments.

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: Hennepin County Sheriff's Office selected and trained members of their existing staff to serve as community liaison officers (as an auxiliary duty) and developed a system for dispatching the officers to meet community engagement needs. They also conducted planning activities for their workshops with community members that are taking place in Q4.

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. The project will focus on international terrorist organizations most often targeting American Muslim youth.

Quarterly Update: City of Arlington Police Department continued organizational work for the engagement activities it has planned for Q4.

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 work on its roadmap and developed and released a solicitation for states to apply to participate in the Policy Academy. In April they announced that Virginia, Michigan, Illinois, and Colorado had been selected as participants.

Denver Police Department \$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: Denver Police Department has continued its train-the-trainer efforts for its cohort of officers that will train the entire force of approximately 1500 officers and additionally has trained officers on the mentoring protocol for the project.

Focus Area 3: Interventions

City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Public Safety (Los Angeles, CA) \$425,000

Description: The recipient is expanding the reach and accessibility of CVE programming across the approximately 10 million people in the LA region. It will complement other CVE prevention, resilience, and mental health services ongoing in the LA Area. The recipient will deploy a comprehensive training program to elevate knowledge and access to resources for interventions in coordination with CVE professionals and Community Based Organizations (CBO).

Quarterly Update: City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Public Safety continued to seek formal approval of the project and has been staying engaged with their advisory board and OTPP's field coordinator in Los Angeles.

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, and cultural identity, good communication skills, pro-social connections/social support/family ties, success and 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 sourced five new community service providers to enhance the resiliency of the cohort and continued to have strong participation in the program including with those released from custody.

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

Description: The recipient 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 of Houston continued marketing their active hotline through events, flyers, ads, training and workshops with parents, faith leaders, law enforcement and youth. They reported a 60% increase in calls in Q3 over Q2. 89% of calls in Q3 were individuals calling with potential risk factors.

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 in the criminal justice system who may be susceptible to radicalization and violent extremism. The recipient works with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Program, Probation Department, and case managers to identify individuals susceptible to radicalization and violent extremism. 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 continues to work to finalize its procurement actions in order to proceed with their project activities with their contracted partner.

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 community coalition Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department met several times, reviewed one referral from law enforcement personnel, and took appropriate action.

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: America Abroad Media has already held one of three hackathons which developed significant content for their website. During Q3, the recipient continued planning for an in person Hackathon in Q4 and launched an online competition to supplement its content creation through a national meme competition. Thus far, four film ideas were supported and three are in production following the script pitches at the Hackathon.

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: Rochester Institute of Technology completed work on a detailed project plan based on the revised project scope described above that was previously approved. Initially the project planned to focus on challenging ISIS propaganda, but the project decided to expand its focus to counter all forms of violent extremism.

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 Muhammad continued its #enoughisenough campaign and launched #UnitedAsOne. They also worked on their video production with anticipated release of videos in Q4.

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: University of San Diego finalized its evaluation tools and the sub-recipients began providing skill development services to three cohorts of youth in programs that will complete in Q4.

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

Description: Counter Extremism Project 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 sub-recipient continued to engage its audience with fresh content through its website MuslimWorldToday.org and social media, resulting in thousands of impressions each day. The sub-recipient presented at a panel event with Alliance of Inclusive Muslims (AIM) in Los Angeles, CA with an audience of approximately 90 young Muslim Americans from diaspora communities to enhance their online work.