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Terrorism Prevention Grant Evaluation



Homeland
Security

Science and Technology

GRANT PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 2015, Congress provided \$10 million to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program. The Office for Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (OTPP), which administers the program, requested DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) collaborate with subject matter experts and provide robust, independent evaluation of terrorism prevention programs.

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 key focus areas:

- Developing resilience
- Training and engagement
- Managing interventions
- Challenging the narrative
- 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 data that



practitioners and policy makers can use to improve prevention approaches to violent extremism.

The CVE Pilot Cities Evaluation provided an independent assessment to inform prevention and intervention strategies, helping communities build resilience and capacity to prevent individuals from engaging in violent extremism or recruitment by violent extremists.

Upon completion, OTPP and S&T saw a need to assess additional CVE grantees and their overall effectiveness to develop recommendations for DHS's ongoing terrorism prevention efforts in the United States.

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

- Data collection from selected grantees.....July 2019
- Second site visits.....Dec 2019
- Finalize site profiles.....Mar 2020

PERFORMERS AND PARTNERS

RTI International

