

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is requesting \$9,762,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$9,145,000 ongoing to combat the rising level of violent crime in Minnesota. The request will support the creation of a Violent Crime Reduction Support Initiative within the BCA with additional personnel placed in the BCA's Forensic Science Services (FSS) Division and Investigations Division to develop and deliver further investigative, analytical and forensic support to the Minnesota criminal justice community. The request will also increase current capacity for forensic DNA testing to address the recent significant increase in evidence being submitted from violent crimes, including gun crimes, committed across the state.

This approach will have three main components to assist Minnesota law enforcement in combatting violent crime in partnership with education and prevention efforts:

1. A Violent Crime Support Unit within the BCA Forensic Science Services.
2. Analytical and operational support within the Criminal Information and Operations Section.
3. A violent crime investigative partnership to provide support to local agencies across the state investigating violent crimes, violent criminal organizations, and disrupting plots of mass violence before they occur.

The BCA provides specialized resources, analysis, and technical capabilities that are not available to all agencies across the state.

Forensic Science Services

The Violent Crime Support Unit within the BCA FSS will be developed and operated under the F.I.R.S.T approach, which will leverage the investigative power of Forensic Intelligence, Response, Support, and Testing aimed at addressing the increased demand for expedited release of investigative leads. This Unit will also expand the BCA's current capacity for front-end forensic testing such as Rapid DNA and the entry of firearms evidence into the National Integrated Ballistics Index Network (NIBIN). The increased demand for crime scene response will also be addressed and forensic intelligence capabilities will be expanded to facilitate complex violent crime case consultation and coordination.

Additional DNA scientists are also needed to increase the capacity of the DNA Section to the size necessary to effectively provide quality forensic testing on violent crime cases to the state of Minnesota, with an emphasis on gun crimes. Funding to enhance the capacity of the DNA Section of the laboratory would enable the BCA to address the growing backlog and reach a 30-day turnaround time for violent crimes.



The funding request is \$2,023,158 in FY23 and \$1,396,158 in FY24 and for all future fiscal years. This is a General Fund request and the ongoing cost per year represents 1.8% of the BCA's General Fund budget.

PERSONNEL

- 1) 2 Forensic Scientists to conduct DNA testing = \$250,000 annually
- 2) 1 Forensic Science Supervisor = \$150,000 annually
- 3) 3 Forensic Scientists for VCSU = \$375,000 annually
- 4) 3 Forensic Technicians to support NIBIN effort = \$270,000 annually
- 5) 2 Criminal Intelligence Analysts for VCSU = \$213,158 annually
- 6) Training and continuing education for additional staff = \$13,000 annually

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT – ONE TIME FUNDING

- 1) IBIS Trax HD3D BrassTrax Equipment for NIBIN = \$300,000 in the first year
- 2) Renovation to support additional staff and capacity = \$200,000 in the first year
- 3) Equipment for additional DNA staff = \$26,000 in the first year
- 4) Equipment for additional NIBIN staff = \$69,000 in the first year
- 5) Equipment for VCSU staff = \$32,000 in the first year

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

- 1) DNA supplies for additional caseload = \$75,000 annually
- 2) NIBIN maintenance = \$50,000 annually

Criminal Information and Operations

The Criminal Information and Operations Section within the BCA Investigations Division provides specialized support to all violent crimes (homicides, human trafficking, criminal sexual conduct, etc.) and financial crimes investigations. Additionally, the CIOS also provides analytical support for threats against public officials, faith-based institutions, schools, and other public safety related concerns. Analysts and other CIOS personnel are called back on to duty, on average, 12 times per month, delaying response times for analytical and operational support. An expansion of staffing and technology is needed to meet the current demands.

In order to address the increased demands for services, provide proper analytical support on a 24/7 basis to support agencies in identifying trends, disrupting threats, and supporting active criminal investigations, the BCA requires an investment of the following:

PERSONNEL

- 1) 14 Criminal Intelligence Analysts to provide 24/7 analysis, coverage and support = \$1,492,106 annually
- 2) 4 Special Agents to be assigned to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force = \$643,993 annually

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

- 1) Phone, computers, vehicles and maintenance, radios, software, and training = \$246,200 annually

The funding request is \$2,382,299.04 in FY 23 and \$2, 382,299.04 in FY 24 and for all future fiscal years. This is a General Fund request and the ongoing cost per year represents 3.1% of the BCA's budget.

Partnerships

The Violent Crime Reduction Partnership would be a new statewide initiative to utilize partnerships with BCA leadership to address violent crime as it ebbs and flows across the state of Minnesota. With the current challenges with police staffing in many agencies this initiative would combine full-time BCA agents, analysts, and other personnel to provide assistance to communities combatting violent crime through an information driven approach to precisely target only those who are committing violent acts in those communities. In addition, due to challenges with staffing additional funding would be provided to partner agencies funding support for personnel to be assigned to this initiative. In order to achieve this an investment of the following is necessary:

PERSONNEL

- 1) 1 Special Agent in Charge = \$194,315.55 annually
- 2) 1 Assistant Special Agent in Charge = \$177,300.27 annually
- 3) 8 Special Agents = \$1,287,986.08 annually
- 4) 2 Civilian Criminal Intelligence Analysts = \$213,158 annually
- 5) 3 Victim, Family and Community Services Coordinator = \$390,000 annually

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

- 1) Funding for personnel for participating agencies = \$1,800,000 annually
 - a. Funding for up to 10 peace officers and 4 civilian analysts from local partner agencies
- 2) Funding for an Assistant Attorney General and expenses = \$200,000 annually
- 3) Overtime = \$380,000 annually
- 4) Evidence purchase funds = \$100,000 annually
- 5) Vehicles and maintenance, phones, radios, computer equipment, supplies, and training = \$378,800 annually
- 6) Space rental to house up to 28 personnel to co-locate the partnership = \$250,000 annually

The funding request is \$5,371,559.90 in FY 23 and \$5,371,559.90 in FY 24 and for all future fiscal years. This is a General Fund request and the ongoing cost per year represents 6.8% of the BCA's budget.

This proposal will enable the BCA and all partner agencies to deliver a precision response to violent crimes incidents, addressing specific concerns instead of a generalized response.