
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair

2017 - 2018 Regular

Bill No: AB 1262 **Hearing Date:** May 15, 2018
Author: Eduardo Garcia
Version: February 22, 2018
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: EC

Subject: *California Gang, Crime, and Violence Prevention Partnership Program*

HISTORY

Source: Author

Prior Legislation: AB 310 (Alejo), 2013, died in the Assembly Appropriation Committee
SB 1700 (Hayden) Chapter 842, Statutes of 1998
AB 963 (Keeley) Chapter 885, Statutes of 1997

Support: California Catholic Conference

Opposition: None known

Assembly Floor Vote: 75 - 0

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to extend the California Gang, Crime, and Violence Prevention Partnership Program to Bakersfield, Brawley, Calexico, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Indio, Richmond, Salinas, Soledad, and Stockton.

Existing law states that the California Gang, Crime, and Violence Prevention Partnership Program (CGCVPP) shall be administered by the Department of Justice for the purposes of reducing gang, criminal activity, and youth violence to the extent authorized in communities with high incidence of gang violence. (Pen. Code, § 13825.2, subd. (a).)

Existing law authorizes the CGCVPP to be administered in Fresno, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Monica, and Venice. (Pen. Code, § 13825.2, subd. (a).)

Existing law requires the community-based organization and nonprofit agencies that receive funds under this chapter utilize the funds to provide services and activities designed to prevent or deter at-risk youth from participating in gangs, criminal activity, or violent behavior. (Pen. Code, § 13825.4.)

Existing law states that communities that meet any one of the following criteria shall also be considered (Pen. Code, § 13825.2, subd. (a)(1)-(3)):

- An at-risk youth population that is significantly disproportionate to the general youth population of that community;
- A juvenile arrest rate that is significantly disproportionate to the general youth population of that community; and
- Significant juvenile gang problems or a high number of juvenile gang-affiliated acts of violence.

Existing law states that prevention and intervention efforts shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following (Pen. Code, § 13825.4, subd. (a)(1)-(4).):

- Services and activities designed to teach alternative methods for resolving conflicts, develop positive and life-affirming attitudes and behaviors, build self-esteem;
- Recreational, educational, or cultural activities;
- Counseling or mentoring services; and
- Economic development activities.

This bill extends the CGCVPP to Bakersfield, Brawley, Calexico, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Indio, Richmond, Salinas, Soledad, and Stockton.

COMMENTS

1. Need for this Bill

The author states:

The California, Gang, Crime, and Violence Prevention Partnership Program was established to reduce youth participation in gangs by providing funds to community-based organizations and nonprofit agencies that prevent or deter at-risk youth from joining gangs. The cities in this bill that will be added to the program have a high number of juvenile participation in gangs.

2. Prevalence of Gang Violence in Specified Jurisdictions

The author identified the cities and communities due to recent gang involvement in those specified areas. Gang recruitment often focuses on juveniles due to their ability to be easily influenced.

In December 2017, a law enforcement raid targeted the West Side Crips in Bakersfield and three dozen accused gang members were arrested. Bakersfield has had at least 10 gang-related homicides in 2017, 11 gang-related homicides in 2016, and 7 homicides in 2015.¹ Additionally, Cathedral City police lead an investigation into gang members and affiliates arresting seven adults and three juveniles and confiscated 12 guns.² In Coachella, a renowned gang has approximately 340 members. The gang is recruiting juveniles through offering protection; this

¹ KRISTIN PRICE, "New Details on Gang Violence in the City of Bakersfield," KERN GOLDEN EMPIRE, December 23, 2017, <http://www.kget.com/crime/new-details-on-gang-violence-in-the-city-of-bakersfield/886734762>.

² "Cathedral City Police Arrested 5 and Seized 13 Illegal Weapons during a Raid on a Street Gang," Desert Sun, accessed April 30, 2018, https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2017/10/19/cathedral-city-police-arrested-5-and-seized-13-illegal-weapons-during-raid-street-gang/780215001/.

gang's territory dominates Coachella, but it clashes with gangs in Indio.³ Furthermore, Calexico, due to its proximity to the Mexican border, has become a target location for drug-trafficking. The gangs that operate the trafficking operations require U.S. citizens to cooperate in order to run smuggling operations and this leads to significant gang recruitment efforts in Calexico.⁴

AB 1262 would add Bakersfield, Brawley, Calexico, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, El Centro, Indio, Richmond, Salinas, Soledad, and Stockton to the list of cities that are covered by the CGCVPP, which may provide useful services for addressing increased youth gang involvement.

3. CGCVPP

There are no studies on the CGCVPP's efficacy from internet research. Is the expansion of this program to include 12 cities in the program justified without this data? Moreover, the DOJ can implement the program in communities other than the ones explicitly listed if Penal Code section 13825.2, subd. (a)(1), (2), and (3) are met.

4. Argument in Support

According to the California Catholic Conference:

The last quarter of the 20th century witnessed a significant growth in youth gang problems across the United States. Criminal street gangs have become one of the most serious problems in California. Gang violence, particularly assaults, drive-by shootings, homicides, and brutal home-invasion robberies account for one of the largest single person threats to public safety in the states. The Department of Justice estimates that there are as many as 175,000 to 200,000 gang members in California.

The California Gang, Crime, and Violence Prevention Partnership Program specify that communities with a high incidence of gang violence shall be included in this program. The cities named above have significant juvenile gang problems and a high number of juvenile gang-affiliated acts of violence. Including the above cities to this partnership program will help to reduce gangs, criminal activity, and youth violence.

-- END --

³ "The Warlords of Coachella," accessed April 30, 2018, https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2016/03/02/coachella-gangs-brazen-violence/81219408/.

⁴ By Richard Marosi, "One Mexico Border City Is Quiet, Maybe Too Quiet," *latimes.com*, accessed April 30, 2018, <http://www.latimes.com/la-fg-mexicali16-2009sep16-story.html>.