



Progress and Recommendations: California's Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable

A report by State of Equity to the California Health in
All Policies Task Force

Date: November 1, 2025

State of Equity is a program of the Public Health Institute. The judgments and conclusions are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Health in All Policies Task Force, the Strategic Growth Council, or by the government employees who participate in the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable.

Acknowledgements

This report was written by Colin Gutierrez, Julia Caplan, and Elana Needle at the State of Equity program of the Public Health Institute, with input from Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), and the California Strategic Growth Council.

Conveners of the California Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable:

- **State of Equity:** Colin Gutierrez, MPH, Elana Needle, MA, PhD, Julia Caplan, MPH, MPP
- **CURYJ:** Frankie Ramos, Ray'Von Jones, Xochtil Larios, Alex Diaz
- **California Strategic Growth Council:** Michael Jimenez, Fabian Perez-Gove, Mahima Ali

Special thanks to the members and guests of the Roundtable, who have shared so much experience, insight, and feedback along the way. Your dedication to a safer California does not go unnoticed.

Thank you also to the Blue Shield of California Foundation, which funded initial work for the Roundtable including providing resources for community partnerships.

Executive Summary

California is home to a large and innovative ecosystem of violence prevention efforts at the neighborhood, city, regional, and state levels. State government programs and resources can support and shape these efforts. Unfortunately, significant structural barriers, such as lack of a shared vision across state government, no centralized state leadership, and haphazard program coordination lead to suboptimal utilization of state resources in an environment ripe for innovation.

This report details the work of the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable, an innovative project of the California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force, which formed to address these barriers within California state government. In 2021, State of Equity (a program of the Public Health Institute), Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), and the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) formed a partnership to launch and facilitate the Roundtable in response to growing calls for the State to adopt a holistic, public health approach to violence prevention.

From 2021-2025, the Roundtable convened state staff, community leaders, and academic experts in a series of informal conversations to explore the feasibility of increased coordination of state programming and community support. Highlights of accomplishments, challenges faced, and lessons learned from those convenings are listed in the report.

The Roundtable is now positioned to move from exploration to action. After engagement of more than 12 State departments, agencies, and offices, landscape analyses, thesis projects by two graduate researchers, and consultation from a range of community-based organizations, State of Equity recommends the following next steps to move from discussions to action:

- 1. Formalize a goal for a Master Plan for Violence Prevention.**
- 2. Replace the Roundtable with an action-oriented multi-agency workgroup.**
- 3. Deepen community partnerships.**
- 4. Align efforts with community and advocate organizations.**
- 5. Explore opportunities for parallel legislation.**

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Executive Summary	3
Abbreviations	5
Introduction	6
The Problem	6
Recommendations for the Future	7
Background	9
Early HiAP Priorities and Actions (2010-2021)	9
Influential Legislation and Policy	9
Roundtable Formation & Convenings	10
Roundtable Purpose and Approach	11
Outcomes	12
Challenges & Lessons Learned	14
Challenges	14
Lessons Learned	15
Conclusion	16
References	17
Appendices	19
Appendix A: Key Terms	19
Appendix B: State of California Organizational Chart	21
Appendix C: Relevant Legislation	22
Appendix D: Examples of Interagency Planning Documents	24

Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Experiences
ABMoC	Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
APHA	American Public Health Association
APTP	Anti Police-Terror Project
BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalHHS	California Health and Human Services Agency
CalOES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
CalVIP	California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program
CCORE	Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CHHSA	California Health and Human Services Agency
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CURYJ	Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCRD	California Civil Rights Department
DOJ	California Department of Justice
GARE	Government Alliance on Race and Equity
HiAP	Health in All Policies
LCI	Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
NICJR	National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
OGVP	Office of Gun Violence Prevention
OYCR	Office of Youth and Community Restoration
OCPSC	Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications
REC	Racial Equity Commission
SB	Senate Bill
SGC	California Strategic Growth Council
SOE	State of Equity
VNOO	Visualize–Normalize–Organize–Operationalize
YRG	Youth Reinvestment Grant Program

Introduction

From 2022 to 2025, [State of Equity](#) (SOE), the [California Strategic Growth Council](#) (SGC), and [Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice](#) (CURYJ) co-facilitated the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable (Roundtable) as a project of the [California Health in All Policies Task Force](#). With the purpose of developing a more holistic and coordinated approach to violence prevention, The Roundtable convened dozens of state government staff who work on violence prevention initiatives to identify common areas of work, support interagency work, and explore areas of innovative policy action.

*This report utilizes the term violence to encompass many forms of violence. See [Appendix A](#) for a glossary of terms.

The Problem

For decades, community groups have struggled to secure resources and political support for violence prevention programs that offer community-based alternatives to policing ("police-alternative violence prevention"). While these approaches have support from policy experts, academia, and across a wide range of community and government groups, a key problem facing this sector is the inability to organize across government entities, due to a lack of coordination, communication, and centralized leadership among state-level entities.

California has a highly decentralized bureaucratic and programmatic structure for violence prevention, with direct services, grant funding, and research programs spread across at least 15 different department-level entities¹ (see [Appendix B](#)). In contrast, other policy sectors such as transportation, health, and housing, have more streamlined bureaucratic structures and processes for coordinated decision making and guidance.

The underlying problem of decentralization makes it difficult for potential policy proposals to find a home in any single department or office. The plethora of related programs and offices communicate little with each other, rarely coordinate with each other, and in some cases, their staff are not aware of similar initiatives in other departments. With a gap in coordination, government leaders are also reluctant to engage in the business of other state entities because they do not want to overstep or infringe on others' turf or scarce resources.

Recommendations for the Future

California has a unique and timely opportunity to build on the existing momentum of the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable and engage community partners to move together toward action. Following are recommendations for next steps:

1. **Formalize a goal for a Master Plan for Violence Prevention.** The end goal for the Roundtable has always been collective and holistic action to prevent community violence. Interagency planning agreements (master plans, blueprints, action plans, etc.) have been used by the State to organize existing State efforts along a single goal, facilitate coordination, streamline resources, and clarify duties. Among planning agreements in California, master plans are the most comprehensive, and long-lasting. Violence prevention should be addressed in a similar manner, and the Roundtable is positioned to actively contribute to the creation of such a document. A list of interagency planning examples is available in [Appendix D](#).
2. **Replace the Roundtable with an action-oriented multi-agency workgroup.** The State of California should explore staffing to carry Roundtable work forward and should look to SGC's Health and Equity Program as a model. Priority activities should include:
 - 2a. **Formalize workgroup structure and membership.** This includes establishing membership across many State entities, particularly those indicated in [Appendix B](#). The new structure should include 1) formal onboarding and offboarding processes, 2) a requirement of at least two members from each organization (where possible), 3) relationship-building with entire groups of staff for key programs, and 4) participation or explicit support from executive leadership of participating organizations.
 - 2b. **Analyze violence prevention funding in state programs.** A critical next step in moving from discussion to action is conducting a landscape analysis of State violence programs. This may feature an in-depth analysis of funding into and out of the State. This activity was described to the Roundtable by former staff of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, who undertook the exercise on a federal level in 2024, leading to over 54 executive actions taken by the Biden administration to address gun violence². Suggested parties for the analysis include The California Research Bureau (an internal resource available to the Governor's Office and the State Legislature for

nonpartisan public policy research), CDPH (recently conducted a related landscape analysis), and the OGVP.

- 2c. **Collaborate with the CalVIP Program.** The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) administers the California Violence Intervention and Prevention grant program (CalVIP), supporting the state's field of violence intervention and prevention providers. The Roundtable could be adapted to support the BSCC's commitment to "coordinate with other state and local agencies on community gun violence reduction efforts" and "incorporate public health and community-based approaches," in alignment with implementation of [AB 762 \(Wicks, 2023\)](#)
- 2d. **Collaborate with the California Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP).** Per [AB 1252 \(Wicks\)](#), the OGVP is tasked with creating a report and recommendations on reducing gun violence to the legislature by July 1, 2026. The Roundtable could support this report to incorporate recommendations across multiple sectors of government such as housing and transportation, and including community input.
3. **Deepen community partnerships.** Integrating the expertise and perspectives from CURYJ and other community leaders and service providers has been a highlight of the Roundtable. Community involvement should be sustained and expanded to better reflect the innovative work occurring throughout the State. At the minimum, the close partnership with CURYJ should continue, and new community partners should be added to better represent the full geographic and cultural diversity of California. Community partners should be paid for their contributions.
4. **Align efforts with community and advocate organizations.** Many California-based organizations have similar goals as the Roundtable but lack access to state government. Working with these organizations would grant the Roundtable access to more resources, expertise, and personnel. Among the suggested organizations for deeper partnership are [GIFFORDS](#), the [CalVIP coalition](#), [National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform](#) (NICJR), the [Firsthand Framework](#) (Possibility Lab at UC Berkeley), and the [Violence Prevention Research Program](#) at UC Davis.
5. **Explore opportunities for parallel legislation.** With increased external partnerships, there are opportunities to engage with legislative advocacy for policies that will facilitate the goals of the Roundtable. This can include informing or advocating for legislation and preparing the roundtable to take action on new bills. Examples include the creation of a master plan on

violence prevention, establishing a State office of violence prevention, launching a State program to coordinate local offices of violence prevention, and funding grant programs that support Roundtable recommendations.

Background

Violence prevention has long been a priority topic for California communities, legislative advocates, politicians, and supporters of the California Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force. Over the past two decades, both State of Equity and the California Legislature have worked to move the policies on violence prevention away from corrections and policing, and into public health and community response.

Early HiAP Priorities and Actions (2010-2021)

Violence prevention was identified as a priority in community listening sessions held by the HiAP Task Force in its founding year and was included in the [initial list of recommendations to the SGC in 2010](#). From 2012-2019 HiAP staff convened multi-agency working groups that explored entry points for action on violence prevention and intervention, releasing two multi-agency action plans in [2012](#) and [2016](#); addressing crime prevention through environmental design and structural drivers of violence, respectively. Violence prevention was elevated again as a priority in the 2021 HiAP Task Force community input process.

Influential Legislation and Policy

Gubernatorial and legislative action have also helped this field progress over the last six years. For example, Governor Newsom established the Office of the Surgeon General and appointed Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris in 2019³. She shined a light on [adverse childhood experiences](#) (ACEs) and paved the way for cross-agency attention to trauma, violence, and healing. Several pieces of legislation created new violence prevention programs and structures, such as [AB 1603](#) which created the [California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program](#) (CalVIP) within the Bureau of State & Community Corrections, [SB 823](#) which established the [Office of Youth and Community Restoration](#) within the Health and Human Services Agency, and [AB 1252](#) established the [Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#) within the Department of Justice. Advocates also proposed a new Office of Community Safety, though it did not pass. These efforts and others are detailed in [Appendix C](#).

While these actions help move violence prevention efforts towards a coordinated, multi-sectoral, public health approach; they do not meet the need of truly coordinating and centralizing efforts. Individual grant programs have meaningful impact, but do not address the broader coordination and

alignment problems and can even exacerbate bureaucratic segmentation. Early actions by the HiAP Task Force and lessons from the California Surgeon General highlight the value of a shared vision for upstream prevention, as well as the need for a central convener to drive the process forward.

Roundtable Formation & Convenings

To respond to this unmet need, SOE teamed up with SGC and CURYJ to develop the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable as an informal space to coordinate across dozens of departments, with community voice at the center. CURYJ, a community-based organization (CBO) from Oakland, has deep experience in community violence interruption, legislative advocacy, youth organizing, and culturally responsive healing practices.

With funding from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, the Roundtable launched in 2022 as focus group of the HiAP Task Force, which is facilitated by SGC. Between October 2022 and July 2025, the Roundtable met on a quarterly basis. Around 50 staff from over a dozen state departments participated, while a smaller group of “Champions” met more frequently to advise and move the work forward. Participating departments include:

- Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
- Civil Right Department (CCRD)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Department of Forest and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
- Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)
- Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
- Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC)
- Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
- Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
- Racial Equity Commission (REC)
- Strategic Growth Council (SGC)

Guest presenters included community leaders, academic experts, legislative advocates, and government officials. Speakers included [Cat Brooks](#), [Everyday Peace Indicators](#), the [Anti Police-Terror Project](#) (ATP), the [City of Richmond, Office of Neighborhood Safety](#), the [Alliance for Boys and Men of Color](#) (ABMoC), [GIFFORDS Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#), and former staff from the [Whitehouse Office on Gun Violence Prevention](#). CURYJ played a key role in bringing in many guests, through their deep network of community leaders.

Roundtable Purpose and Approach

In 2022, through an interactive process with members and partners, the Roundtable developed a unified goal, vision, and objectives.

Goal of the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable:

Develop and deploy a set of strategic approaches to deepen California state government's commitment to community safety with a racial justice lens.

Vision of the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable:

California state government — in close partnership with people who have been most harmed by historic and current structural biases and injustices — creates the conditions for all people who reside in California to experience community safety and community wealth.

Objectives of the Safe & Equitable Communities Roundtable:

1. Develop a **narrative change strategy** that activates a shift within California state government leaders and workers to internalize a reality of shared fate, shared humanity, and abundance.
2. Design opportunities to collaborate with and support existing internal **champions within California state government** who can practice innovation-inside-of-government to advance the shared vision of this collaboration.
3. Identify and act on current opportunities to **shift policies and practices** that advance community safety and community justice priorities as already established by communities most directly impacted by the harms of current public safety practices.
4. Encourage and enable local governments to support **community-led** police-alternatives via guidelines, promising practices, etc.

Strategy: The Roundtable followed the strategic approach of [Government Alliance on Race and Equity](#) (GARE): Visualize-Normalize-Organize-Operationalize (VNOO). Roundtable activities support this strategy in a variety of ways:

Visualize • Develop a shared goal, vision, and objectives across participating departments and agencies.	Normalize • Continued dialogue of the nexus of health, safety, and equity. • Promote the benefits of community-led approaches to public safety.
Organize • Engage with government, community, and academic experts. • Develop a state Master Plan for Violence Prevention.	Operationalize • Implement Master Plan for Violence Prevention. • Provide public accountability on Master Plan.

Outcomes

Between 2022-2025, outcomes of the Roundtable include:

1. The Roundtable created the **first set of cross-agency goals, vision, and objectives** (shown above) for an all-of-government approach to safe and equitable communities. While the State of California does not have a broad strategic vision for holistic violence prevention and safe communities, the Roundtable's foundational materials set an important foundation that will help guide future work.
2. Roundtable members contributed to **two reports** that identify problems that impede collaboration and provide recommendations for State action. These reports were developed by public policy graduate students and drew on the wisdom and insights of State workers, community and advocacy leaders, and key experts in the field in California and beyond. See:
 - [Reimagining Community Safety \(2024\)](#)
 - [Beyond Violence Prevention \(2021\)](#)
3. The Roundtable **facilitated relationships** between State departments, as well as between State violence prevention workers and community-based organizations. While the Roundtable is pausing its efforts, these relationships are likely to continue and may ease future work in the area.

"At CURYJ, we believe those closest to the problem are also closest to the solutions. The Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable is a space where directly impacted people can engage in an exchange with government employees as we work to strengthen and shift narratives regarding community safety." – **Ray'Von Jones, CURYJ Dream Beyond Bars Program Manager**

4. The Roundtable **normalized ideas** about police-alternative and multi-sector approaches to violence prevention within California state government through presentations and discussion. For example:
 - a. The Roundtable hosted an initial presentation by the Oakland-based APTP on a wide variety of police-alternatives to violence prevention. SGC then hosted a presentation by APTP to a wide range of State staff, that expanded on one of the concepts discussed: [Decarcerating Transportation](#). The presentation included recommendations for state government to improve public safety and decrease police-community interactions through policy changes in the transportation sector.

- b. In 2025, several Roundtable participants were involved in development of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s [Roadmap for Gun Violence Prevention](#) (Roadmap). The Roadmap features several police-alternative solutions, such as community violence intervention, urban greening, and funding mechanisms⁴. SOE's California-based racial equity training program, the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity ([CCORE](#)), is also highlighted in the roadmap as an example of prevention through racial equity education.
- c. CURYJ received invitations to present to State employee audiences outside of the Roundtable, such as CDPH's Convening on Strategies for Firearm Violence Prevention.
- d. Urban tree canopy experts at CALFIRE regularly communicate about the violence-prevention effects of community greenery and sought to incorporate language introduced by the Roundtable.

"To meaningfully support safety and resilience for all our communities, we must ensure those who are most vulnerable are at the center of the effort to find solutions, we're proud to work with the Safe and Equitable Communities Roundtable to uplift and support community-driven strategies and initiatives across state government. By coming together, we're taking an important step toward justice, equity, and safety for all." -**Christina N. Teixeira, California Civil Rights Department**

- 5. The **Roundtable is seen as a useful consulting and policy space**. SOE's Roundtable staff have received several invitations to provide perspectives and insights from our coordinating role to a range of government, non-government, and community partners, including:
 - a. Presentations to the [American Public Health Association](#) (APHA), [California Alliance of Academics and Communities for Public Health Equity](#), and the [CalVIP Coalition](#).
 - b. Participation on the [Essential's for Childhood](#) Steering Committee, a joint project between CDPH and the Department of Social Services to foster policies and best practices for child wellbeing at the state, county, and local level.
 - c. Technical assistance on state legislative analysis by ABMoC and the CalVIP Coalition.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

The Roundtable has served as a "laboratory" for participants to learn about challenges and approaches to multi-sectoral action to promote safe communities. The following lessons have been identified by SOE staff, state government workers, and non-government and community partners.

Challenges

- **Need for executive leadership.** Most State staff at the Roundtable are at the program or manager level. They bring significant subject matter expertise and community relationships, but many are not authorized to speak on behalf of their department, nor do they have decision-making power or authority. This has limited some of the actions the Roundtable has pursued.
- **Insufficient resources.** The Roundtable is facilitated by nonprofit staffing with limited philanthropic dollars. There are no direct State funds to support government participation. Without more funding it is impossible to expand partnerships, work more closely with aligned organizations in the field, and do long-term planning.
- **Limited membership and staff turnover.** Roundtable participation is voluntary. While many participants are deeply committed to the work of achieving safe communities, maintaining the group requires consistent and persistent outreach and follow-up. There are organizations the roundtable has been unable to connect with. There is also turnover due to staffing changes in state government and top-down directives that pull staff away from this voluntary role. Finding replacements can be time-consuming and disrupt ongoing projects.
- **Fostering a virtual community.** The Roundtable launched as a virtual space during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is challenging to foster strong interpersonal connections through virtual convenings. Informal time during and adjacent to in-person meetings is critical for the trust and relationship building necessary for true collaborative action.
- **Convening across a wide geography.** The Roundtable held a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting in July 2025. The meeting was a success, yet some work-from-home employees were unable to attend in person because their work locations are far from Sacramento, and they did not have travel funds or time allocated.

Lessons Learned

- **Backbone staffing is necessary.** Coordinating among 18+ different departments in a bureaucracy as large as California is a full-time job. Backbone staff are necessary for effective cross-agency and community collaboration and taking an all-of-government approach while supporting the unique needs of individual organizations. Staff activities include agenda-setting, facilitation, research, engagement, and developing reports/presentations. Staff must be empowered to communicate across departments and set meeting agendas without bureaucratic barriers.
- **Community voices are critical.** Most innovations in violence prevention occur at the community-level, and those closest to the work have deep understanding and bring critical ideas and perspectives. State staff often are removed from the on-ground impact and therefore benefit greatly from working directly with community-based partners. In our Roundtable model, CURYJ was able to provide tangible examples of innovation in their organization and in partner organizations that quickly moved roundtable discussions from theory to action.
- **Expanding networks inside and beyond state government.** When the Roundtable launched, network building activities were largely confined to state government. As we expanded beyond state government, we found that community group participation deepened the work and community partners held relationships with staff at other State agencies that we had not been able to reach. We were surprised to learn that non-government groups were also able to bring in additional State staff that we had long sought to include.
- **Relationship building is key.** Relationship building is the key to all successful HiAP work and requires meeting 1-on-1 with members or prospective members outside of regular meetings. This is particularly important to do early on, as a part of recruitment, and any time new members join. The work also requires trust-building with and between individuals and engagement of leaders up and down chains of command.
- **State workers need more opportunities for convening and peer-exchange.** Roundtable members asked for more opportunities to meet between the quarterly meetings to begin to address actionable policy changes. One proposal was to create working groups that would meet between full meetings to drive the work forward.
- **This group is ready to move from education to action.** Early attempts to steer the Roundtable from education to action hit roadblocks such as a

lack of readiness, willingness, or inability to start discussing State actions. In response, SOE organized the initial Roundtable meetings around normalizing concepts through education about community priorities and community-driven programs. By 2024 Roundtable members appeared to be moving towards action, asking for “something to do” in addition to listening, learning, and discussing. This sentiment peaked during the 2025 hybrid meeting. The Roundtable appears ready to take more action.

Conclusion

California is at critical moment for violence prevention. On one hand, there is much interest and more resources to support community-led solutions than ever before, and on the other hand, long-standing structural barriers are preventing the state from optimally supporting its greatest resource: community-level innovation. A coordinated, all-of-government approach that breaks down structural barriers and centers community innovation is not only feasible, but necessary to unlock the potential of government to fully support the entire ecosystem of violence prevention. The recommendations listed here, developed over years of convening with expert practitioners, are a first step towards building a future in which community and government work together for safe and equitable communities.

References

1. California Department of Finance. (2025). *2025–26 Budget detail*. <https://ebudget.ca.gov/budget/e/2025-26/BudgetDetail>
2. The Trace (2025, January). *The White House taps gun violence expert Greg Jackson for new role*. The Trace. <https://www.thetrace.org/2025/01/white-house-gun-violence-greg-jackson/>
3. Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. (2019, January 21). *Governor Newsom announces two national experts in child development will be key leaders in administration's efforts to help the youngest Californians*. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2019/01/21/governor-newsom-announces-two-national-experts-in-child-development-will-be-key-leaders-in-administrations-efforts-to-help-the-youngest-californians/>
4. California Department of Public Health. (2025, August). *Violence prevention initiative: A roadmap for action*. https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDCPHP/DCDIC/SACB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Violence%20Prevention%20Initiative/VPI_Roadmap_Report_Aug2025.pdf
5. Bhushan, D., Kotz, K., McCall, J., et al. (2020). *The roadmap for resilience: The California Surgeon General's report on adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, and health*. Office of the California Surgeon General. <https://doi.org/10.48019/PEAM8812>
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, August 15). *About community violence*. Community Violence Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/community-violence/about/index.html>
7. YWCA Spokane. (n.d.). *What is intimate partner domestic violence?* <https://ywcaspokane.org/what-is-intimate-partner-domestic-violence/#:~:text=IPV%20can%20occur%20regardless%20of,residences%20with%20one%20single%20location.>
8. Race Forward. (n.d.). *What is racial equity?* <https://www.raceforward.org/resources/what-racial-equity-1>
9. Rudolph, L., Caplan, J., Ben-Moshe, K., & Dillon, L. (2013). *Health in All Policies: A Guide for State and Local Governments*. Washington, DC and Oakland, CA: American Public Health Association and Public Health Institute. <https://stateofequity.phi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HiAP-Guide-for-State-and-Local-Governments-2013.pdf>
10. World Health Organization. (2002). *World report on violence and health*. <https://www.who.int/groups/violence-prevention-alliance/approach>
11. Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety. (2018). *Principles and guidelines for restorative justice practice in criminal matters*. <https://scics.ca/en/product-produit/principles-and-guidelines-for-restorative-justice-practice-in-criminal-matters-2018/>

12. Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Zwi, A. B., & Lozano, R. (Eds.). (2002). *World report on violence and health*. World Health Organization.
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9241545615>
13. Giffords. (n.d.). *What is community violence intervention?*
<https://giffords.org/intervention/what-is-community-violence-intervention/>

Appendices

Appendix A: Key Terms

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): 10 specific categories of adversity in three domains experienced by age 18 years, studied in the 1998 Centers for Disease Control/Kaiser Permanente study of the same name. These include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; and growing up in a household with incarceration, mental illness, substance use, parental separation or divorce, or intimate partner violence⁵.

Community Safety: An end-state in which people, both individually and collectively, are free from real and perceived forms of violence.

Community-led: Methods of violence prevention created, developed, refined, or primarily used by individuals or non-government organizations most affected by violence.

Community Violence: A form of violence that generally takes place outside the home between people who may or may not know each other. Examples may include assaults, fights, or shootings in public places such as schools, parks, on the streets, and in businesses⁶.

Domestic Violence: A form of violence occurring between residences within a single location⁷.

Equity: A measure of justice that ensures resources and opportunities are allocated in a way that recognizes and accounts for a person's or community's different circumstances and allows them to reach equal outcomes⁸.

Gun/Firearm Violence: An encompassing term for all forms of violence resulting in either death or injury involving a firearm, whether intentional or unintentional⁴.

Health in All Policies: a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas⁹.

Interpersonal Violence: A form of violence occurring between people who may or may not know each other, including community violence, intimate partner violence, and mass shootings¹⁰.

Intimate partner violence: A form of violence, abuse, or aggression that occurs in a romantic relationship. It can include physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological aggression⁷.

Police-Alternatives: Methods of violence prevention that exclude involvement with police, law enforcement, corrections, or any other member of the criminal-justice system.

Police-involved violence: A form of violence inflicted by the police or other law enforcement agents acting in the line of duty⁴.

Restorative Justice: an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime¹¹.

Violence*: The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation¹².

**Violence takes many forms. Many are defined in this glossary. In this report, violence is used as an umbrella term, encompassing all forms of violence, unless otherwise stated.*

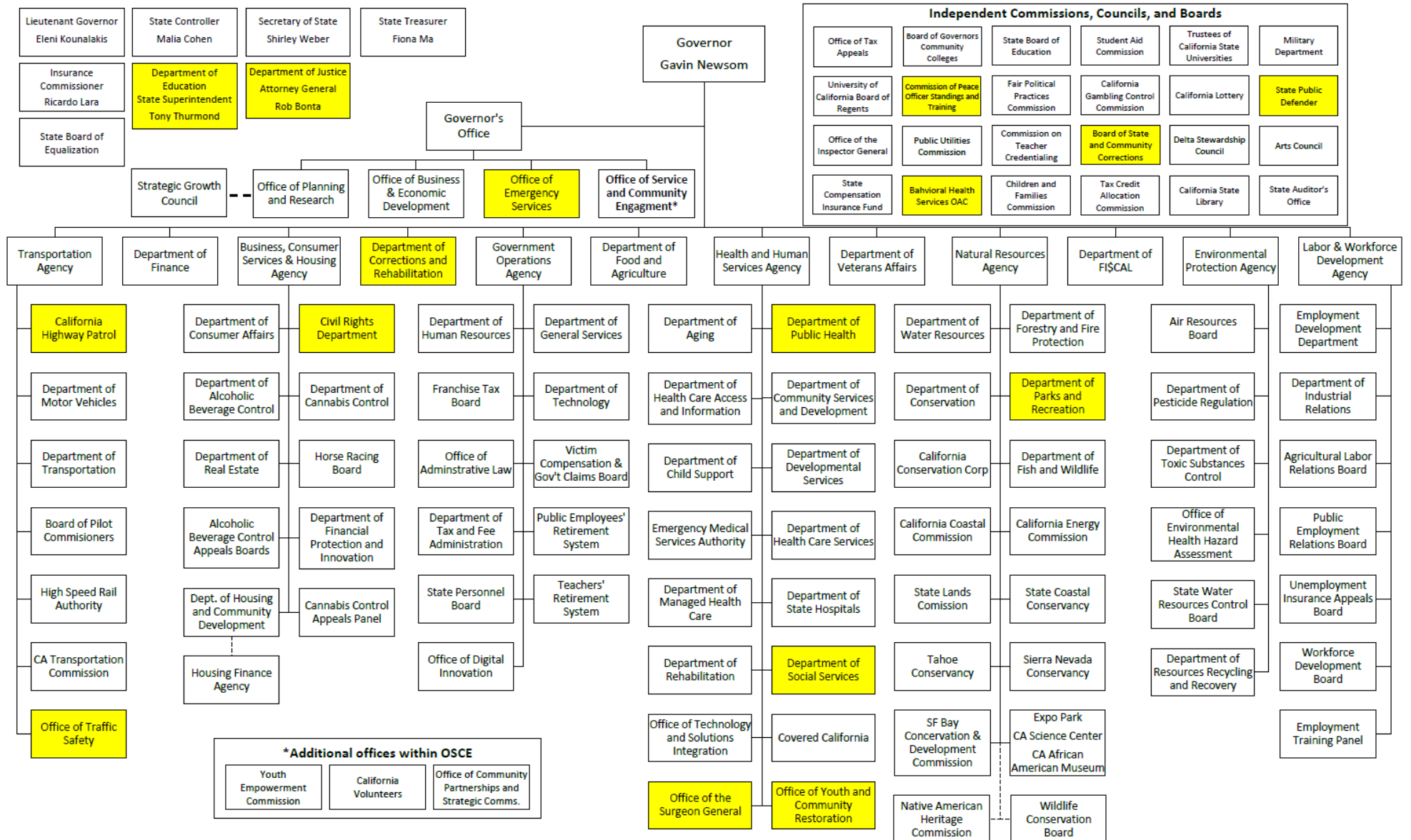
Violence Intervention: Programs that seek to reduce violence through a set of non-punitive, community led strategies that are designed to interrupt the transmission of violence by engaging those at highest risk through the provision of individually tailored support services¹³.

Violence Prevention: Intentional actions taken to stop acts of violence before they occur.

Appendix B: State of California Organizational Chart

Organizations with programming directly tied to community safety highlighted in yellow.

CA State Government Org Chart (FY 2025)



Appendix C: Relevant Legislation

- In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris, a leading expert in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), as California's first Surgeon General. This was the first time the State had a centralized leadership for work related to violence, trauma, prevention, and healing. This appointment marked a significant step towards addressing violence prevention through a public health lens. While this new office had limited staffing and scope, it was able to lay inroads for a holistic community safety approach through the development of the 2020 California Surgeon General's [Report on ACEs, Toxic Stress, and Health](#). The report development process brought coordination across many different agencies and introduced a sector-by-sector model of upstream prevention that can be replicated in other sectors.
- Also in 2019, [AB 1603 \(Wicks\)](#), created the [California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program](#) (CalVIP) within the Bureau of State & Community Corrections (BSCC) to promote local violence intervention efforts. In 2023, [AB 762 \(Wicks\)](#), provided further direction to the CalVIP program.
- In that same year [AB 1454 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) directed the [Youth Reinvestment Grant Program](#) (YRG) to support local diversion programs for at-risk youths.
- From 2019-2020, advocate groups pursued legislation to create a statewide Office of Community Safety via AB 656 (Garcia). The proposed office would provide a public health approach to violence prevention: coordinating programmatic activity across agencies, engaging with communities, and prioritizing prevention, intervention, and healing, rather than policing. Ultimately, the bill did not pass. A key contributing factor was that advocates and legislators could not agree on the placement of such a critical office. While suggestions included the Surgeon General's Office and Department of Public Health, there was no consensus on the right placement or structure.
- In 2020, [SB 823](#), with strong support from Governor Newsom, formally closed the Division of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The [Office of Youth and Community Restoration](#) (OYCR) was established within the Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA). OYCR guides the transition from state-run youth incarceration systems to county care by providing funding, technical assistance, and sharing best practices to promote rehabilitative and restorative youth justice.

- Also in 2021, [AB 118 \(Kamlager\)](#) established the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (C.R.I.S.E.S) Grant Pilot Program at the Department of Social Services to fund the development of community-based alternatives to law enforcement in response to crisis situations. Advocate efforts to establish the grant program as a regular, on-going program are currently underway.
- In 2023, [AB 28 \(Gabriel\)](#) established an excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales that created a dedicated funding source for the CalVIP grant program while also greatly increasing the amount available. The bill also directs tax revenue towards program school-shooting prevention and reduction efforts, gun violence victim services, research, and more.
- From 2023-2024, [AB 912 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) sought to move CalVIP and YRG grant programs from BSCC to OYCR as well as creating additional youth violence prevention and intervention grant programs. This bill passed both houses, but was vetoed by Governor Newsom, citing budget constraints.
- In 2024, [AB 1252 \(Wicks\)](#) established the [Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#) within the Department of Justice to advise the Attorney General on laws and programs for gun violence prevention, and report to the legislature recommendations for new legislation and improvements to statutory implementation.
- Most recently, in 2025, [AB 785 \(Sharp-Collins\)](#) was introduced to create the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program within CHHSA, which would provide funding to local community programs for community-led solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools. As of this writing, the bill was placed in suspense by the Senate Appropriations Committee, meaning it will be shelved until the 2026 legislation cycle begins.

Appendix D: Examples of Interagency Planning Documents

1. [1960 Master Plan for Higher Education](#)
2. [2008 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#)
3. [2013 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#)
4. [2015 Blueprint for Environmental Literacy](#)
5. [2015 Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint](#)
6. [2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#)
7. [2020 Master Plan for Early Learning and Care](#)
8. [2020 Surgeon General's Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Toxic Stress, and Health](#)
9. [2021 Master Plan for Aging](#)
10. [2021 Master Plan for Kids' Mental Health](#)
11. [2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality](#)
12. [2022 Statewide Housing Plan](#)
13. [2023 Water Plan Update](#)
14. [2024 Master Plan for Career Education](#)
15. [2024 Maternal Health Blueprint](#)
16. [2025 Blueprint for Rebuilding](#)
17. [2025 State Economic Blueprint](#)