

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

DHS – Terrorism Prevention Grant Evaluation

History of DHS/OTPP Grants Program

In December 2015, Congress provided \$10 million to DHS for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program that is administered by the Office for Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (OTPP). These grants support community-led initiatives across the country to counter all forms of violent extremism. DHS received over 200 applications from states and territories, nonprofit organizations, 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) demonstration of a high potential for program success, and 3) strong chance of sustainability of the program. These funds are to help local communities with their efforts to counter violent extremism through five focus areas:

1. Developing resilience
2. Training and engagement
3. Managing interventions
4. Challenging the narrative
5. Building capacity

In the past, most local terrorism prevention programs did not undergo robust, independent evaluation. To fill this gap, DHS S&T partnered with public health professionals and subject matter experts to study the effectiveness of these Grantee programs to deliver information about what works and what doesn't in terrorism prevention.

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.

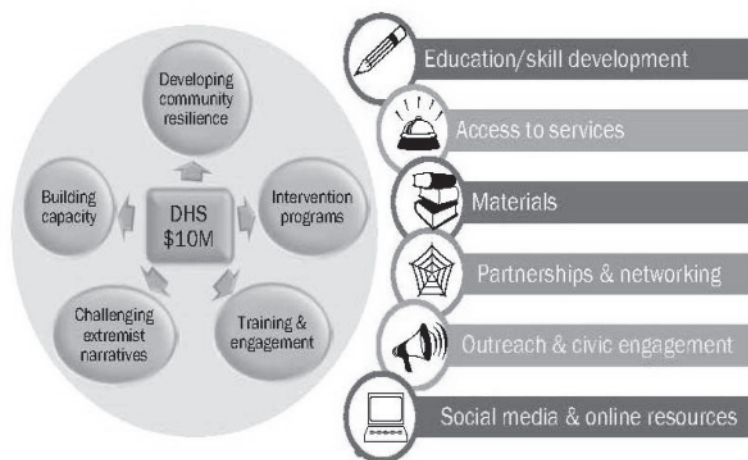
Progress to date

In 2016, DHS S&T kicked-off the Evaluation of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Pilot Cities Program for Boston, MA and Los Angeles, CA. This effort brought together experts in the areas of program evaluation and the prevention of violent extremism to generate substantive evaluation data that can be used by practitioners and policy makers to improve prevention approaches to violent extremism.

The CVE Pilot Cities Evaluation provided an independent, external assessment of Terrorism Prevention programs in Boston and Los Angeles, respectively. This assessment helped detail practitioners' and policy makers' frameworks for prevention and intervention strategies that assist communities (locally, nationally and internationally) to build resilience and capacity to prevent individuals from engaging in violence or recruitment by violent extremists.

Upon completion of the Pilot Cities Evaluations, DHS S&T saw a need to further examine additional CVE Grantees to:

1. Provide assessment of program implementation and goal achievement among grantees, and
2. Develop a set of recommendations for DHS's ongoing development of terrorism prevention in the U.S.



Path Forward

Once Grantee's are selected for evaluation, data collection and evaluation among the CVE grantees will commence. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the efforts in to inform future DHS efforts and inform these programs of prior research on drivers to and away from violence.

Upcoming Milestones

- Project Kickoff: Sept 2018
- Protocol Development and IRB Approval: Nov 2018
- Data Collection from selected Grantees: July 2019

Performers and Partners

- RTI International



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To learn more about the Terrorism Prevention Portfolio, contact (b)(6) 1-01721-002598

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DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Terrorism Prevention Grant Evaluation

Past local terrorism prevention programs did not undergo robust, independent evaluation. To redress this gap, at the request of DHS Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships (OTPP), Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) was looked upon to collaborate with subject matter experts in the field to study these programs' effectiveness in delivering information about what does and does not work in the prevention space.

DHS OTPP Grant Program Background

In 2015, Congress provided \$10 million to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program that the Office for Terrorism Prevention Partnerships administers. 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 five focus areas:

1. Developing resilience
2. Training and engagement
3. Managing interventions
4. Challenging the narrative
5. 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." OTTP Director, David Gersten

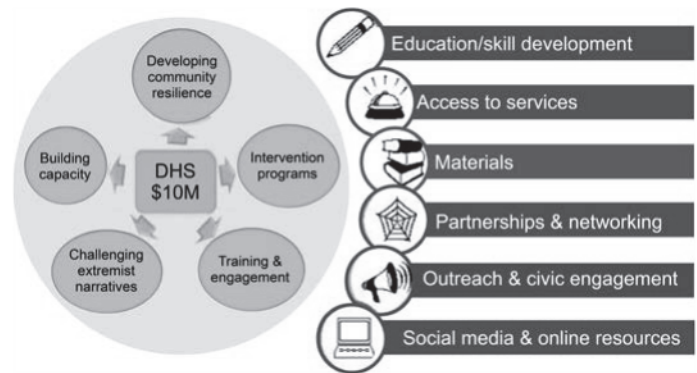
Progress to Date

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

The CVE Pilot Cities Evaluation provided an independent assessment of terrorism prevention programs in Boston and Los Angeles. This assessment informed practitioners' and policy makers' prevention and intervention strategies, helping communities to build resilience and capacity to prevent individuals from engaging in violent extremism or recruitment by violent extremists.

Upon completion of the Pilot Cities Evaluation's, OTTP and S&T saw a need to further assess additional CVE grantees and their overall effectiveness:

1. For program implementation and goal achievement; and
2. To develop recommendations for DHS's ongoing development of terrorism prevention in the U.S.



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



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To learn more about the Countering Violent Extremism and Preventing Terrorism portfolio, email (b)(6) [redacted]

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