



# The Council on the Status of Men and Boys

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## LCSO Receives \$1.4 Million Dollar Grant Award to Help Support Council on the Status of Men and Boys

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Program (OJP) announced last week that it has awarded a \$1,495,663 grant to the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) as part of a national effort to reduce gun violence and other serious violence. LCISO is one of 52 organizations, nationwide, to receive funding under OJP's Community Intervention and Prevention Initiative.

The Justice Department awards, funded in part through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, mark a historic investment in community violence intervention programs from the Department of Justice. The awards total \$100 million.

The resources made available under the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) will develop and expand the Council on the Status of Men and Boys' infrastructure, needed to enhance community safety, and strengthen neighborhoods. The funding will allow the Council to hire three (3) Navigator positions. These positions will be a Community-based Navigator, School-based Navigator, and Life Coach Navigator. The positions will provide direct support and subject matter expertise for the Council, its Governing Body, and Advisory Council. They will also recruit and onboard community-based providers and individuals to Council subcommittees, and oversee/coordinate the referral, assessment, intake, case management, and service provider network for the Council's participants admitted to the CVIPI program. The grant will also fund research, analytics and program evaluation conducted by the Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The Council has been working closely with Leon County Schools over the last two months to provide needed resources to the youth identified in the Leon County Sheriff's Office's Anatomy of a Homicide report. According to the report, 85% of homicide offenders had been suspended or expelled from school and 52% had attended an alternative school of some sort.

LCISO pursued the federal grant to help ensure the Council has the resources needed to effectively implement partnerships with local agencies and community-based programs for a coordinated, holistic response to improve community health and welfare and reduce violence.

"We are truly grateful to the Justice Department for the funding to help us reduce gun violence in Leon County," said the Council on the Status of Men and Boys Executive Director Royle King. "This grant will help ensure that, for the next three years, the Council has the staffing and research needed to better understand what works to reduce violence. However, this is only a small part of what it takes to support our efforts. We will continue to need the community's support and additional funding to ensure we have the proper community-based programs and resources to be successful."

The Council on the Status of Men and Boys was launched in August as a joint effort between the Leon County Sheriff's Office, City of Tallahassee, Leon County Government and Leon County Schools. The mission of the Council on the Status of Men and Boys is to unify existing agencies, organizations, and individuals to coordinate resources, funding, and services under a multi-disciplinary plan for reducing homicides and non-fatal shootings in Leon County. To learn more about the Council and its mission visit [www.tallahasseeleonccsmb.com](http://www.tallahasseeleonccsmb.com)