



DHS Countering Violent Extremism Programs and Initiatives

January 9, 2018

Fiscal Year 2017 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

Office for Community Partnerships

Message from the Acting Director

January 9, 2018

I am pleased to present the following report, “DHS Countering Violent Extremism Programs and Initiatives,” which has been prepared by the Office for Community Partnerships. The Office for Community Partnerships leads countering violent extremism initiatives for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

This document has been compiled pursuant to a requirement in House Report 114-668 and Senate Report 114-264, which accompany the Fiscal Year 2017 DHS Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31).

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable John R. Carter
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable John Boozman
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 344-1009 or the Department’s Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Stacy Marcott, at (202) 447-5751.

Sincerely,



David Gersten
Acting Director
Office for Community Partnerships





DHS Countering Violent Extremism Programs and Initiatives

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I. Legislative Language

This document has been compiled pursuant to a requirement in House Report 114-668 and Senate Report 114-264, which accompany the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31).

House Report 114-668 states:

The Office is directed to provide a detailed report on department-wide CVE programs and initiatives, including personnel and funding levels, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Senate Report 114-264 states:

DHS shall keep the Committee apprised of its CVE efforts.

II. Background

In June 2017, then-Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly said, “We are witnessing a global surge in terrorist activity, and in many ways our own backyard has become the battleground. That is why DHS is focused on stepping up efforts to counter terrorist recruitment and radicalization, including through close collaboration with state and local partners.”¹

The Department remains focused on terrorism prevention, and DHS historically has engaged in an array of countering violent extremism (CVE) activities. DHS CVE work has included empowering communities to challenge terrorists and their efforts to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize individuals and groups to violence. DHS has done this by partnering with key stakeholders, including state and local law enforcement, on activities related to community awareness, counterrecruitment, early warning, and more. The Department also has partnered with the private sector to find innovative, community-based approaches to preventing radicalization both online and offline.

This report identifies the activities that support CVE full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel, FTE salaries and benefits, and corresponding programs and initiatives funding organized by component. For an update on the status of the DHS CVE Grants Program, refer to <https://www.dhs.gov/cvegrants>.

¹ Kelly, John F (2017, June 23). DHS Awards Grants to Counter Terrorist Recruitment and Radicalization in U.S. Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/06/23/dhs-awards-grants-counter-terrorist-recruitment-and-radicalization-us>.

III. CVE Programs and Initiatives

Given the severity of the terror threat, the Department is reviewing its CVE and terrorism prevention efforts to ensure that they are aligned to deal effectively with the danger facing the United States—both within and from outside our borders. The Department expects to provide new strategic direction for programs and initiatives in this space to guide the prioritization of DHS resources. DHS will continue to promote community-based solutions to terrorism by working with partners to ensure that they are equipped with the information and resources to fight back against terrorists trying to recruit in our country, while respecting civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy. Our aim is to better support successful community-led terrorism prevention approaches.

The United States faces an evolving and determined enemy. As such, the Federal Government is dedicated to supporting and empowering American communities to prevent terror and, in the course of all interactions, to build trust and sustain unifying themes with our partners that will span across improved foundations of success for this mission and that is essential to the broader homeland security missions.

DHS CVE Programs

The following are CVE-related activities undertaken by the Department prior to its CVE and terrorism prevention review:

- **Training and Awareness Raising:** The Office for Community Partnerships (OCP) and its interagency partners expanded delivery of the Community Awareness Brief (CAB) in FY 2017. The CAB bolsters the knowledge of local partners on radicalization and recruitment to violence and catalyzes prevention efforts. OCP is working with the DHS Office of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties (CRCL) and interagency partners to develop a law enforcement-oriented version called the Law Enforcement Awareness Briefing and with the CVE Task Force to develop the new Social Media CAB. Both new CABs will be complete and ready for delivery in the first quarter of FY 2018.
- **Engagement:** OCP builds on community awareness efforts, supporting community engagement efforts aimed at building policies and programs that bring law enforcement, civil government, and civic organizations together. In FY 2017, OCP launched engagement with the private sector to rally external resources to support terrorism prevention programs in communities. OCP staff also coordinate engagement with the law enforcement community across the United States on terrorism prevention.
- **Field Engagement:** Since its establishment, OCP has worked directly with communities through a field staff presence in two cities—Los Angeles and Denver—each staffed throughout the past year by one full-time position (two total). In FY 2017, the field staff delivered CABs and met other stakeholder requests for greater awareness of violent extremism, conducted numerous engagements with local stakeholders—including but not limited to law enforcement, state and local government agencies, civil society groups, and the private sector—and helped to construct intervention models for their respective jurisdictions.

- Grants: Congress initially appropriated funding for the CVE grant program in FY 2016, and made the funding available to cover 2 budget years. With the transition to a new Administration, DHS leadership and OCP needed to review this new program fully to ensure that it was on a sustainable path and geared toward efforts that would be best suited to further the DHS terrorism prevention mission. After successful completion of the review, DHS made 26 grant awards totaling \$10 million to local law enforcement and community organizations. The grants empower law enforcement and communities on the front lines, supporting their efforts to prevent violent extremism by raising awareness, engaging community partners, constructing intervention efforts, and countering extremist narratives. The organizations selected for these awards span communities across the United States and focus on all forms of violent extremism. The awards commenced on August 1, 2017. OCP, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), will monitor the progress of these awards closely and provide updates on their progress in the future.

IV. Funding Level by Component

In FY 2017 to date, CVE activities were conducted by the below-mentioned components; Department-wide CVE programs and initiatives, including personnel and funding levels are reflected in the “CVE Program & Initiatives Funding Levels by Component” chart below:

CVE Programs and Initiatives - Funding Levels by Component				
Components/Offices	Total # of FTE	Total FTE \$	Total Program \$	Total FTE & Program \$
Analysis & Operations	5.40	\$625,193	-	\$625,193
FEMA*	0.50	\$56,878	-	\$56,878
Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers	0.03	\$2,715	\$47,548	\$50,263
CRCL	1.20	\$219,000	-	\$219,000
Office of Legislative Affairs	0.50	\$72,926	-	\$72,926
Office of Partnerships and Engagement	0.05	\$6,456	\$75,446	\$81,901
OCP	16.00	\$2,416,376	\$1,097,624	\$3,514,000
S&T	1.00	\$118,231	\$900,716	\$1,018,947
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	0.75	\$88,690	-	\$88,690
Totals	25.43	\$3,606,465	\$2,121,334	\$5,727,799
<p><i>* Of special note, there have been significant changes between the FY 2016 and FY 2017 funding reports. The FY 2016 Enacted Budget included \$10 million (2-year funding) for CVE Grants and the obligation occurred in FY 2017.</i></p>				

Differences of \$1 or less are because of rounding.