The Minnesota Department of Public Safety ("State") requests $15 million to address immediate needs for community violence intervention, as well as to fund Survivor Support and Prevention grants and Innovation in Community Safety grants. An additional $1.8 million is requested for administration of these funds by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), including community engagement, technical assistance, grant administration, and reporting. This funding will fill critical gaps in Minnesota's public safety response as the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, including higher levels of unemployment, positive case rates, and deaths. The multi-layered stress of the pandemic is directly impacting the rise in crime, and the COVID-19 relief bills Congress passed have identified public safety as an important issue in the response to the pandemic.

The Survivor Support and Prevention grant program will award grants to organizations serving victims of crime to provide direct financial assistance to victims to mitigate the impacts of crime, and programs aimed at stopping the cycles of violence. This program will prioritize applicants seeking to establish, maintain, or expand services to underserved populations.

The Innovation in Community Safety grant program will award grants to organizations in targeted areas for programming that could include, but are not limited to, youth, young adult, and family antiviolence outreach programs. This grant program will prioritize areas with the highest rates of violent crime and encourages collaboration with law enforcement, state and local public agencies, interfaith organizations, nonprofit organizations, and African immigrant and African American community organizations and stakeholders.

A smaller competitive RFP is anticipated to be issued specifically for violence prevention programs operating summer 2021, with any remaining funds being released later in the year for preparation for summer 2022. In addition, a dedicated amount will be appropriated to the YMCA as the fiscal agent for the Social Compact in collaboration with Summit Academy OIC and partners.

The Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs anticipates releasing multiple competitive requests for proposals (RFPs) for these specific grant areas over the next year in conjunction with similar state funded competitive grant programs. The Office of Justice Programs will work with community stakeholders in establishing the RFPs and implementing the grant program areas.