

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2503

To provide definitions of terms and services related to community-based gang intervention to ensure that funding for such intervention is utilized in a cost-effective manner and that community-based agencies are held accountable for providing holistic, integrated intervention services, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To provide definitions of terms and services related to community-based gang intervention to ensure that funding for such intervention is utilized in a cost-effective manner and that community-based agencies are held accountable for providing holistic, integrated intervention services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community-Based  
5 Gang Intervention Act”.

1       **TITLE I—COMMUNITY-BASED**  
2       **GANG INTERVENTION AGENCIES**

3       **SEC. 101. COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION AGEN-**  
4                       **CIES.**

5           The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act  
6 of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) is amended—

7           (1) by redesignating title VI (34 U.S.C. 11321  
8 et seq.) as title VII;

9           (2) by redesignating sections 601 and 602 (34  
10 U.S.C. 11321, 11322) as sections 701 and 702, re-  
11 spectively; and

12           (3) by inserting after title V the following:

13       **“TITLE VI—COMMUNITY-BASED**  
14       **GANG INTERVENTION GRANTS**

15       **“SEC. 601. PURPOSE.**

16           “The purpose of this title is to offer holistic and com-  
17 prehensive support for community-based gang intervention  
18 activities that focus on and engage active and former gang  
19 members, their close associates, and gang members in and  
20 returning from confinement. Gang-involved youth and  
21 their families require specialized intensive and comprehen-  
22 sive services that address the unique issues encountered  
23 by youth when they become involved with gangs. Commu-  
24 nity-based gang intervention involves proactive and reac-

1 tive responses to gang activities on several levels, includ-  
 2 ing—

3           “(1) the regional level, to promote and coordi-  
 4 nate peace truces and cease-fires between groups;

5           “(2) the State and local level, including commu-  
 6 nity and the juvenile halls, camps, Division of Juve-  
 7 nile Justice facilities, county jails, and State prisons;  
 8 and

9           “(3) the neighborhood level, including with ac-  
 10 tive gang members individually.

11 **“SEC. 602. SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTER-**  
 12 **VENTION AGENCIES.**

13           “(a) SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTER-  
 14 VENTION AGENCIES.—Subject to the availability of appro-  
 15 priations, the Administrator shall award grants to eligible  
 16 entities to carry out the activities described in subsection  
 17 (c).

18           “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For the purposes of this  
 19 section, an ‘eligible entity’ means a community-based gang  
 20 intervention agency that is a nonprofit organization with  
 21 a history of and expertise in providing community-based  
 22 gang intervention activities through a community-based  
 23 gang intervention model.

24           “(c) GRANT ACTIVITIES.—Each entity awarded a  
 25 grant under this section shall carry out activities that pro-

1 mote public safety, with the specific objective of reducing  
2 and stopping gang-related and gang-motivated violence  
3 and crime, including the following activities:

4           “(1) Conduct street mediation by working with  
5 gang members and persons with influence over such  
6 member to defuse and de-escalate potential and ac-  
7 tual violence between gang members and between  
8 rival gangs.

9           “(2) Develop local and regional truces by nego-  
10 tiating cease-fires or nonaggression agreements be-  
11 tween rival gangs and neighborhoods.

12           “(3) Serve as conduits who facilitate dialogue  
13 and relationship between gangs and neighborhoods.

14           “(4) Provide services that respond to the high  
15 levels of anxiety and stress experienced by gang  
16 members due to traumatic events.

17           “(5) Provide 24-hour, 7-day-a-week crisis inter-  
18 vention services by responding to requests for vio-  
19 lence prevention services made by gang members,  
20 the families of gang members, school officials, inter-  
21 vention workers, social service agencies, or law en-  
22 forcement.

23           “(6) Provide targeted training and technical as-  
24 sistance to violence-plagued communities after a  
25 major gang-related incident.

1           “(7) Facilitate the development of a community  
2 response plan to gang-related activities, including  
3 training protocols, situational scene scenarios, and  
4 emergency response.

5           “(8) Establish relationships with community  
6 stakeholders to inform and engage them in quality-  
7 of-life activities that enhance intervention activities.

8           “(9) Serve as intervention representatives in  
9 communities by attending local meetings involving  
10 nonprofit organizations, schools, faith-based organi-  
11 zations, and other entities.

12           “(10) Develop conflict resolution skills and  
13 techniques to address and resolve community con-  
14 cerns related to gang activity in order to improve the  
15 quality of life within neighborhoods.

16           “(11) Work with schools to respond to gang-re-  
17 lated issues and crises both in and outside of school.

18           “(12) Provide support services for youth and  
19 families affected by gang violence and other victims  
20 of gang violence (including any individual who is  
21 physically, emotionally, financially, or otherwise  
22 harmed by criminal activity, and those affected by  
23 harm done to or by a family member), which may  
24 include—

1           “(A) advocating for public sector and pri-  
2           vate sector assistance and services;

3           “(B) grief counseling; and

4           “(C) referrals to treatment and rehabilita-  
5           tion for cognitive, mental, emotional, physical,  
6           or financial injury, loss, or suffering.

7           “(13) Provide comprehensive mental health  
8           services to youth and families affected by gang vio-  
9           lence or involvement, including—

10           “(A) integrated services comprised of indi-  
11           vidual, family, and group therapy modalities,  
12           and psychological education provided through  
13           youth and parent training programs; or

14           “(B) gang-responsive services including  
15           skills training, assessing and servicing youth  
16           with developmental disabilities, behavioral modi-  
17           fication, and services to address substance use  
18           and abuse, anger management, emotional regu-  
19           lation, traumatic stress, family violence, depres-  
20           sion, suicide, anxiety, and educational problems.

21           “(14) Provide public and private sector career  
22           job training, development, and placement, includ-  
23           ing—

24           “(A) job-finding and job-maintaining skills,  
25           including skills related to resume writing, inter-

1 viewing, workplace decorum, interpersonal com-  
 2 munication, and problem-solving;

3 “(B) information about legal rights in the  
 4 workplace; or

5 “(C) financial literacy.

6 “(15) Assist with substance use and abuse  
 7 treatment, domestic violence victims, and voluntary  
 8 tattoo removal of markings on the body related to  
 9 gang involvement.

10 “(d) AVAILABILITY OF VICTIMS ASSISTANCE.—An  
 11 entity awarded a grant under this section that provides  
 12 victim assistance under paragraph (13) of subsection (c)  
 13 shall not discriminate in the provision of such assistance  
 14 to an individual based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual  
 15 orientation, socioeconomic level, or criminal history.

16 **“SEC. 603. DEFINITIONS.**

17 “In this title:

18 “(1) COMMUNITY.—Notwithstanding the defini-  
 19 tion of ‘community based’ in section 103, the term  
 20 ‘community’ means a unit of local government or an  
 21 Indian Tribe.

22 “(2) COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION  
 23 AGENCY.—The term ‘community-based gang inter-  
 24 vention agency’ means a community-based organiza-  
 25 tion, association, or other entity that—

1           “(A) promotes public safety, with the spe-  
2           cific objective of reducing and stopping gang-re-  
3           lated and gang-motivated violence and crime;  
4           and

5           “(B) has a history of, or training in, effec-  
6           tively working with gang-involved youth and  
7           their families.

8           “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION  
9           MODEL.—The term ‘community-based gang inter-  
10          vention model’ means a holistic and comprehensive  
11          approach to reducing gang violence that uses the 2-  
12          prong approach of community-based intervention as  
13          defined in section 103 and an integrated approach  
14          of providing rehabilitative service delivery to gang-  
15          involved youth through trained specialists in commu-  
16          nity-gang intervention.

17          “(4) GANG.—The term ‘gang’ means a group of  
18          individuals—

19                 “(A) organized by geography, culture, or  
20                 activity;

21                 “(B) that have a group name, and may  
22                 have other identifying characteristics of the  
23                 group such as colors and nicknames; and

24                 “(C) who engage in the use of violence to  
25                 defend the members or territory of the group.



1 “(5) YOUTH.—The term ‘youth’ means—

2 “(A) an individual who is 18 years of age  
3 or younger; or

4 “(B) in any State in which the maximum  
5 age at which the juvenile justice system of such  
6 State has jurisdiction over individuals exceeds  
7 18 years of age, an individual who is such max-  
8 imum age or younger.”.

9 **TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE**  
10 **OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUS-**  
11 **TICE AND DELINQUENCY**  
12 **PREVENTION**

13 **SEC. 201. DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTER-**  
14 **VENTION.**

15 Section 103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
16 Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “except as  
18 provided in title VI,” before “the term”;

19 (2) in paragraph (44)(C), by striking “and”  
20 after the semicolon;

21 (3) in paragraph (45), by striking the period at  
22 the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (4) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(46) except when used as part of the term  
25 ‘community-based gang intervention agency’ or

1 ‘community-based gang intervention model’, the  
 2 term ‘community-based gang intervention’ means a  
 3 2-prong approach to reducing gang violence that—

4 “(A) provides specialized, gang-specific me-  
 5 diation and mitigation to stop or prevent vio-  
 6 lence by, within, and between gangs; and

7 “(B) provides the redirection of individual  
 8 gang members and their families through  
 9 proactive efforts that increase peace and safety  
 10 for gang members, their families, and their  
 11 communities.”.

12 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION REP-**  
 13 **RESENTATIVE TO STATE ADVISORY BOARDS.**

14 Section 223(a)(3)(ii) of the Juvenile Justice and De-  
 15 linquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C.  
 16 11133(a)(3)(ii)) is amended—

17 (1) in subclause (III), by inserting “, or com-  
 18 munity-based gang intervention” after “delinquency  
 19 prevention or treatment”; and

20 (2) in subclause (IV), by inserting “community-  
 21 based gang intervention,” after “prevention and  
 22 treatment,”.

1 **SEC. 203. GRANTS FOR DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS.**

3 Section 504 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
4 Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11313) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting after “pro-  
6 grams” the following: “, including community-based  
7 gang intervention and gang prevention activities,”;  
8 and

9 (2) in subsection (e)(1)(B)(ii), by striking “ac-  
10 tivities” and inserting “programs and community-  
11 based gang intervention”.

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