

**SAFE COMMUNITIES SECRETARIAT**  
**Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF)**  
**Grant Criteria**

**Alberta Justice and Attorney General**

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# Safe Communities Innovation Fund

## What are the funds for?

Providing safe and secure communities is one of the Government of Alberta's priorities. The Safe Communities Innovation Fund ("SCIF") is part of the government's response to reducing and preventing crime in Alberta.

## The goals of SCIF are:

To reduce and prevent crime and social disorder through:

1. community and police partnerships;
2. innovative community-based initiatives; and
3. development of crime reduction and prevention plans for municipalities, regions or Aboriginal communities

## The objectives of SCIF are:

1. To increase community and police partnerships and enhance their joint capacity to reduce and prevent crime and social disorder.
2. To increase community capacity to implement effective crime reduction and prevention initiatives.
3. To implement targeted pilot projects using evidence-based approaches which focus on the needs of high risk groups and are designed to reduce or prevent their involvement in the criminal justice system.

## Requirement for Partnership

The fund supports community engagement and builds capacity in high crime communities by using a partnership approach to develop and implement community-based crime prevention and reduction **pilot projects** (see glossary for definition).

All projects must include **strategic partners** (see glossary for definition) who are prepared to support the delivery of the project. A **partnership agreement**, or letters of partnership from **strategic partners**, must be submitted outlining the term and purpose of the partnership, scope and activities of the agreement, the roles, contributions and budgetary requirements of the partners, and governance and dispute resolution processes. If applicable, a list of advisory members/organizations for the project can be attached as an appendix to the agreement.

## Three funding streams:

### A. Community-Police Partnership Projects

This stream supports pilot projects which involve police working directly with communities and strategic partners to implement proven and promising approaches that reduce or prevent crime and social disorder. This may include the hiring of community workers and officers in support of these pilot projects. Applications require a letter of endorsement and participation in the pilot project by a police agency as described in the proposal.

Some examples of specialized community-police partnerships include Police and Crisis Teams, Child at Risk Response Teams, spousal violence intervention teams, Neighbourhood

Empowerment Teams, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Teams, and School Resource Officers working as part of a team.

Additional examples can be found in the resources listed below under the evidence-based approaches section (p.3).

Any legal entity, except those with a commercial, for-profit purpose is eligible to apply on behalf of the partnership group.

#### B. Community-Based Projects

This stream supports pilot projects which involve community-based strategic partners working together to implement proven and promising approaches that reduce or prevent crime and social disorder.

Communities or non-government organizations in Alberta may apply for funding under this stream. Organizations must have a proven record of successful project management, including sound fiscal practices and achievement of outcomes.

Any legal entity, except those with a commercial, for-profit purpose is eligible to apply on behalf the partnership group.

#### C. Municipal, Regional or Aboriginal Community Crime Reduction and Prevention Plan

This stream supports the development of a crime reduction and prevention plan for a municipality, region or Aboriginal community. Local police agency(s), and relevant municipal or Aboriginal officials, must endorse and be involved with this project.

Any legal entity, except those with a commercial, for-profit purpose is eligible to apply on behalf the partnership group.

### **What are the expected outcomes of pilot projects funded through the SCIF?**

1. Increase access to proven and promising community-based crime prevention and rehabilitation services;
2. Reduce the number of people reoffending and their repeated contacts with the criminal justice system;
3. Reduce involvement of high risk groups in the criminal justice system;
4. Reduce victimization and re-victimization; and/or
5. Reduce risk factors while strengthening protective factors among target groups at-risk for criminal involvement, including their families and at the community level.

### **What are the SCIF funding priorities?**

**Targeted** and **indicated** prevention projects (see glossary for definitions) will be given priority over **universal** prevention approaches, as will evidence-based approaches to preventing and reducing crime. Emphasis will be given to projects that focus on the provision of direct services and interventions to an identified targeted group who come into **contact with the criminal justice system**, including Child Intervention Services, or those at-risk of criminal involvement.

Fostering effective crime prevention in Aboriginal communities is of particular importance for the Alberta and federal governments, as it is for Aboriginal communities themselves. Priority will be given to proposals from eligible organizations that address the specific needs of Aboriginal

people, use collaborative approaches between stakeholders and partners within surrounding communities, and meet the objectives of the fund.

Based on current priorities, SCIF grants are available to support pilot projects which:

- Focus on preventing the most prevalent or priority crime and disorder issues, including but not limited to:
  - Violent crime
  - Alcohol and drug-related crime
  - Auto theft
  - Social disorder (refer to glossary for examples)
- Address the following risk factors associated with criminal involvement:
  - Substance abuse and/or mental illness
  - Child abuse and family violence
  - Poor parental and family functioning
  - Poor school attachment
  - Community disorganization
- Target the needs of Aboriginal people and priority populations:
  - At-risk populations and their families
  - Offenders
- Support targeted and evidence-based services for individuals referred by police, Crown, probation, court, and/or Child Intervention Services. Projects should include intake and screening, assessment, triage, case management and supervision, transitional and after care support, and evaluation and feedback mechanisms.
- Create innovation in service delivery (e.g., multifaceted approaches that incorporate wrap around service delivery).
- Address one or more of Alberta's Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force recommendations (see [www.SafeCommunities.gov.ab.ca](http://www.SafeCommunities.gov.ab.ca)).
- Address one or more priority initiatives in a municipal or regional crime reduction and prevention strategy.
- Target hot spots (e.g., neighbourhoods, complexes, businesses, malls, vulnerable communities).

### **Amount of Funding**

The maximum grant amount available per pilot project in funding **streams A and B is \$500,000** annually for a maximum of three years. The maximum grant amount available under funding **stream C is \$75,000** on a one year, one-time only basis.

However, organizations or partnerships that have the capacity to replicate a project in multiple communities across the province, especially in high needs areas, can apply for up to \$500,000 per location/region. For example, an organization may wish to apply to run the same pilot project in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Edmonton, for a total of \$1.5 million annually.

It is required that organizations and community partners contribute to the cost of the project either financially or through in-kind donations of materials, supplies or through the provision of services. **SCIF does not fund 100% of project costs.**

## Term of Grant

Funding for projects under **streams A and B** is available through SCIF for a maximum term of three years. The fund is intended for pilot projects that can produce measurable results in reducing known risk factors of crime and disorder within the term of the grant. SCIF is not designed to be a source of ongoing funding and will not fund projects beyond three years.

Funding under **stream C** is available for a maximum term of one year, on a one-time only basis.

## Eligible Costs/Use of Funds

- Personnel
- Travel
- Materials and supplies
- Evaluation
- Equipment required to implement pilot project
- Rent and utilities\*
- Accounting and audit fees\*

\* **Administrative overhead costs** (see glossary for definition) are not to exceed 15% of the project budget.

## Ineligible projects

- Events or spending that occurs before the application is approved and the contract is signed (i.e., retroactive funding)
- Projects that plan to send grant monies to another organization for third party use (i.e., flow-through funding; setting up grants and loans)
- Capital projects and capital expenses in excess of \$5000
- Projects that are solely focused on large-scale marketing/communication campaigns
- Conferences and projects that are solely focused on training
- Projects that are solely focused on research

## Jointly Funded Projects

SCIF supports co-funding of pilot projects and will endeavour to coordinate with applicants the reporting requirements with other funders.

## Other Grant Funding

For a list of other provincial and federal grant programs please see the Government of Alberta's website at <http://alberta.ca/home/> .

Projects related to family violence, bullying, or elder abuse should apply directly to the Alberta **Community Incentive Fund**. More information is available at [family violence](#).

Projects with significant capital costs should apply directly to the [Community Facility Enhancement Program](#).

Smaller grants (up to \$75,000) for developing community capacity are available from the [Community Initiatives Program](#).

The [Alberta Community Crime Prevention Program](#) provides grants up to a maximum of \$50,000 to support communities in delivering Situational Crime Prevention or Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD) initiatives that address local crime concerns.

The **National Crime Prevention Centre** also funds projects in Alberta related to violence prevention with at-risk youth (6-24 yrs) and their families. For more information visit [NCPC](#). Projects may be considered for co-funding by both the federal and provincial governments.

Although First Nations community projects are eligible for SCIF funding, groups may find a greater level of funding for their project through the **Alberta First Nations Development Fund**, particularly for projects that involve capital costs. The fund is available exclusively to First Nations in Alberta, upon application, for social, economic and community development projects. More information can be obtained by calling 780-427-8407.

Projects for victims of crime should apply directly to [Victim Program Grants](#).

For more information on municipal grants refer to the [Municipal Financial Assistance Database](#).

### **Research Links that may be helpful in the development of your groups' proposal**

The Government of Alberta and communities across the province are adopting evidence-based approaches to preventing and reducing crime. Learning about what works is an important step in making communities safer.

For more information on evidence-based approaches and known risk and protective factors please see the attached appendix A and refer to:

- *What Works: Effective Recidivism Reduction and Risk-Focused Prevention Programs*, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (February, 2008)  
[http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/WW08\\_022808.pdf](http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/pdf/docs/WW08_022808.pdf)
- *The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime, Version 4.0*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy (May, 2001)  
<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/costbenefit.pdf>
- *Promising and Model Crime Prevention Programs*, National Crime Prevention Centre (August, 2008)  
<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cp/fl/promising-programs-eng.pdf>
- *Programs for Preventing and Reducing Juvenile Crime in a Family Environment*, National Crime Prevention Centre (September, 2008)  
<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/res/cp/res/fl/red-juv-cri-eng.pdf>
- *Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence*, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado at Boulder  
<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/index.html>

Social Return on Investment (SROI):

- *City of Calgary FCSS Social Return on Investment Website (April 2, 2009)*  
[www.calgary.ca/sroi](http://www.calgary.ca/sroi)
- *The SROI Primer*, London Business School  
<http://sroi.london.edu>

## Developing Municipal Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategies:

- *Federation of Canadian Municipalities (funded by the National Crime Prevention Center, May, 2000):*  
[http://www.sciencesociales.uottawa.ca/ipc/eng/documents/full\\_text\\_eng.pdf](http://www.sciencesociales.uottawa.ca/ipc/eng/documents/full_text_eng.pdf)
- *City of Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy:*  
<http://www.crimereduction.surrey.ca/default.htm>

## How to apply and what steps are involved?

- STEP 1. Review the SCIF Grant Criteria thoroughly to ensure your groups' pilot project meets the requirements set out in the criteria.
- STEP 2. Contact the Safe Communities Innovation Fund (SCIF), toll-free through Service Alberta – (780) 310-0000 at (780) 644-5719, to make an appointment for a pre-application interview, in order to determine if your project is eligible to be considered for a grant and provide you with feedback on the strength of your project idea.
- STEP 3. Following the instructions on the [application](#), develop and submit a full application (e.g., proposal) for consideration and submit all required attachments. Ensure partnership agreements or letters of partnership from strategic partners indicate their participation and contribution levels to delivering the pilot project. There is a separate application for funding stream C.
- STEP 4. To assist with the SCIF application you may wish to register for a SCIF application / proposal workshop by contacting the SCIF office toll-free through Service Alberta – (780) 310-0000 at (780) 644-5719.
- STEP 5. Applications (e.g., proposals) are evaluated by the SCIF Grant Review Committee using the [SCIF Reviewer Scoring Form](#) and who make recommendations for project funding and grant conditions.
- STEP 6. Organizations of approved applications are required to sign a conditional grant agreement before funds can be issued.
- STEP 7. Project implementation, evaluation and reporting must be completed as per the grant agreement.

## Deadline for applications

The next cut-off date for SCIF applications is **noon on Friday, November 6, 2009.**

## Correspondence

All correspondence respecting the Safe Communities Innovation Fund can be sent to:

Safe Communities Innovation Fund  
Safe Communities Secretariat  
400, University of Lethbridge Tower  
10707-100 Avenue, Edmonton AB T5J 3M1

Tel: (780) 644-5595 or (780) 310-0000 (toll free)  
E-mail: [safecommunities@gov.ab.ca](mailto:safecommunities@gov.ab.ca)

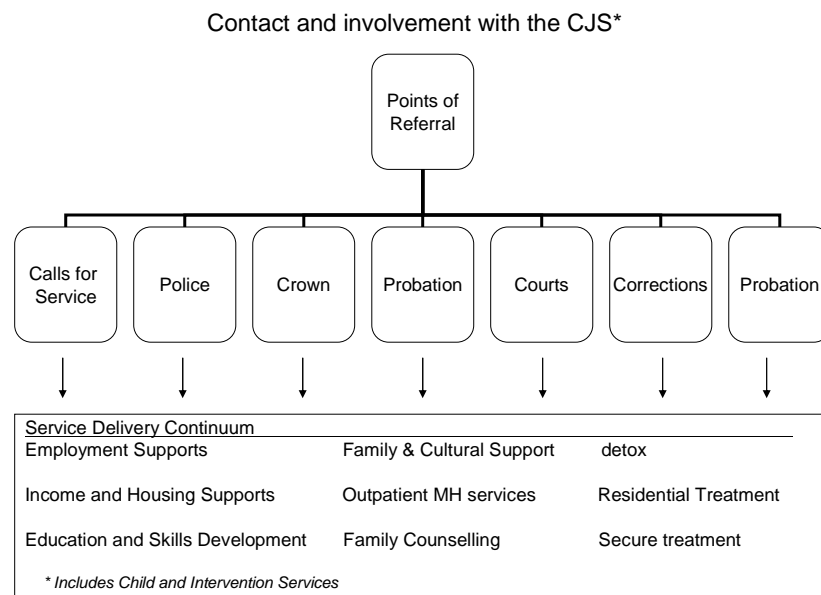
## Glossary

**Administrative overhead costs** are all those expenses on the income statement except for those **directly** related to the project delivery elements. Administrative overhead expenses include executive and corporate services staff time, accounting fees, agency advertising, depreciation, insurance, interest, legal fees, rent, repairs, supplies, taxes, telephone bills, travel and utilities costs.

**Business case** provides the necessary information to make a decision about whether a project should proceed and will normally include an analysis of the costs, benefits, risks, alternatives and a recommended solution. It is used in government to evaluate solutions to business problems and make funding decisions.

**Community safety** is a broader concept than “crime prevention”. It refers to the sense of well-being and quality of life of a community or neighbourhood. It also suggests the collective nature of creating a safe community. It includes a range of broader safety issues: workplace, road and off-road, drugs, fire, water, recreation, caregiver and babysitter, internet and bullying.

**Contact with the criminal justice system**, for the purposes of the administration of the SCIF, refers to contact with police, Child Intervention Services, probation, Crown, the courts or corrections. Pilot projects add capacity by acting as points of referral to needed interventions to addressing the risks and needs of the target group.



**Conditional grants** are financial support to organizations where the funds are to be applied to a defined project. The recipient (fiscal agent) is responsible for ensuring that the funds are applied to the project as outlined in their proposal. A written conditional grant agreement is used to define the conditions, scope of the project, expected outcomes and reporting requirements. The agreement is used to minimize potential disagreements.

**Crime prevention** includes strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.

**In-kind contribution** refers to a non-cash input which can be given a cash value. For the purposes of the SCIF application and budget, in-kind contributions can refer to any budget item related to the direct delivery of the project. Therefore, do not include community networking,

board meetings, advisory groups in the in-kind calculations. However, supervision of project staff, prorated FTEs and rent for project staff are valid in-kind contributions.

**Involvement with the criminal justice system**, for the purposes of the administration of the SCIF, refers to contact with police, Child Intervention Services, probation, Crown, the courts or corrections.

A **partnership agreement** must be signed by all strategic partners and outline the term and purpose of the partnership, scope and activities of the agreement, the roles, contributions and budgetary requirements of the partners, and governance and dispute resolution processes. If applicable, a list of advisory members/organizations for the project can be attached as an appendix to the agreement.

**Pilot project** refers to a testing phase to assess the impacts and benefits of a solution to a business problem. A pilot is targeting a limited scope of the intended final solution. The scope may be limited by the number of users who can access the system, the business processes affected, the business partners involved, or other restrictions as appropriate to the domain. The purpose of a pilot project is to test whether the solution is working as it was designed while limiting business exposure.

For the purposes of SCIF, all projects need to be pilot projects and represent the addition of new services to augment or fill a gap in existing services on a trial basis. Though SCIF is not meant to fund core programs, established programs may partner with other organizations to add innovative crime prevention or reduction pilot projects to complement and improve their existing program and services. SCIF funds must be applied to the new activities associated with the pilot project.

### **Prevention (types of):**

**Universal (primary) prevention** is defined as those interventions that are targeted at the general public or to a whole population group that has not been identified on the basis of increased risk.

Activities often associated with universal prevention include awareness campaigns, social marketing, school education programs, parenting programs, multi-component community initiatives, and various security measures.

Broad, universal efforts aimed at the general population can serve to "till the soil" by creating greater awareness of the issues and acceptance of the need for more targeted programs. Similarly, they can lead some individuals to contemplate changing risk behaviours and to present themselves for more intensive programming.

Selective or **targeted (secondary) prevention** engages individuals or subgroups of the population whose risk of criminal involvement is significantly higher than average, as evidenced by biological, psychological or social risk factors.

Some individuals and families experience particular challenges due to substance abuse and/or addiction, exposure to family violence, abuse and neglect, low attachment to school. Males and Aboriginal people are also at higher risk. It makes sense to "select" such persons or families for more intensive programming on the basis of these risk factors (for more on risk and protective factors please refer to Appendix A). Selective or targeted prevention aims to generally reduce the influence of these risks and to prevent or reduce criminal behaviour and social disorder by building on strengths such as coping strategies and other life skills (e.g. enhancing protective factors).

Examples of targeted prevention include providing mentors for Aboriginal children and youth, parenting supports to at-risk families, mental health and addiction services to at-risk

individuals and their families, and alternative school/vocational programs for youth at-risk of dropping out.

**Indicated (tertiary) prevention** targets high-risk people who are identified as having minimal but detectable criminal or antisocial behaviour. They may, or may not have come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

Examples of indicated prevention include gang prevention programs, impaired driving remediation programs, family violence treatment programs, victim-offender conferences, Circles of Support and Accountability, diversion programs, and specialized courts.

**Social disorder** includes graffiti, destruction of public property, public gathering of individuals seen as menacing, abusive or intimidating language, excessive noise, littering, drunken behaviour, panhandling, homelessness, drug dealing, prostitution and other behaviours perceived as having a negative influence on the quality of life and livelihood of certain areas.

**Social disorganization** impacts crime differently. Property crime is highest in areas with high mobility and high ethnic heterogeneity. Violent crime is highest in areas with high mobility, low socioeconomic status, high family disruption, and low crime rates in adjacent areas.

Other neighbourhood characteristics associated with high crime and low crime areas include:

#### **Neighborhood Characteristics<sup>1</sup>**

##### **Demographics**

- Higher density of population at risk
- Single people
- People living alone
- Young males 15 – 24
- Aboriginal people
- People who moved (1 year)
- Lone-parent families

##### **Socio-economic**

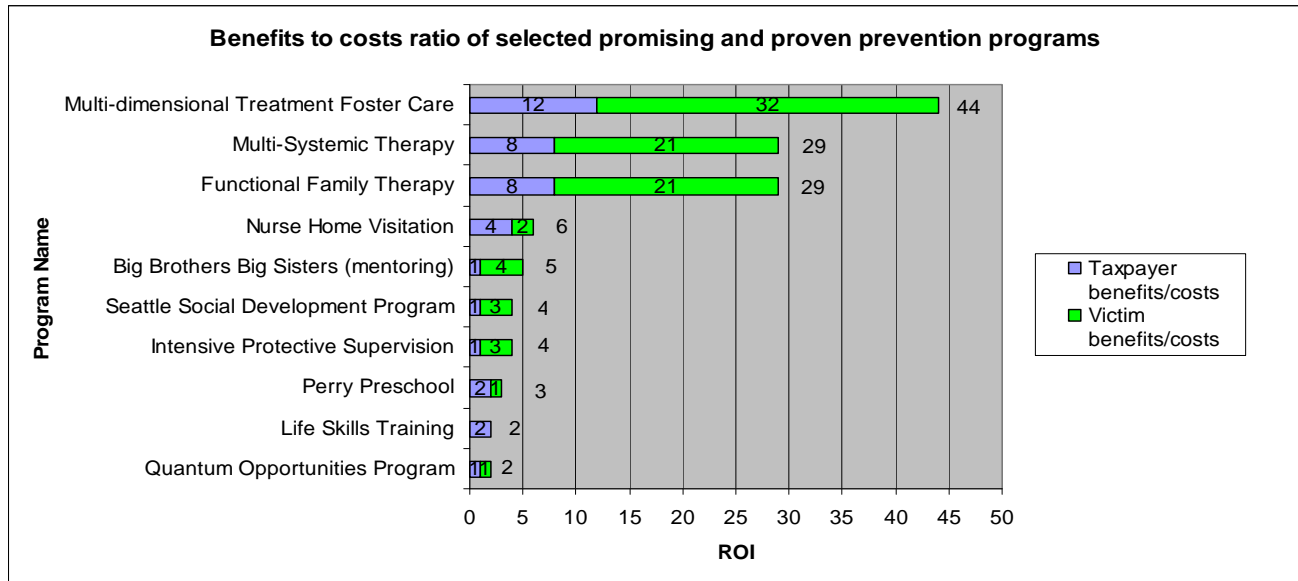
- Higher unemployment rate
- Government transfers
- Lower incomes
- Smaller proportion of highly educated people

##### **Property Characteristics**

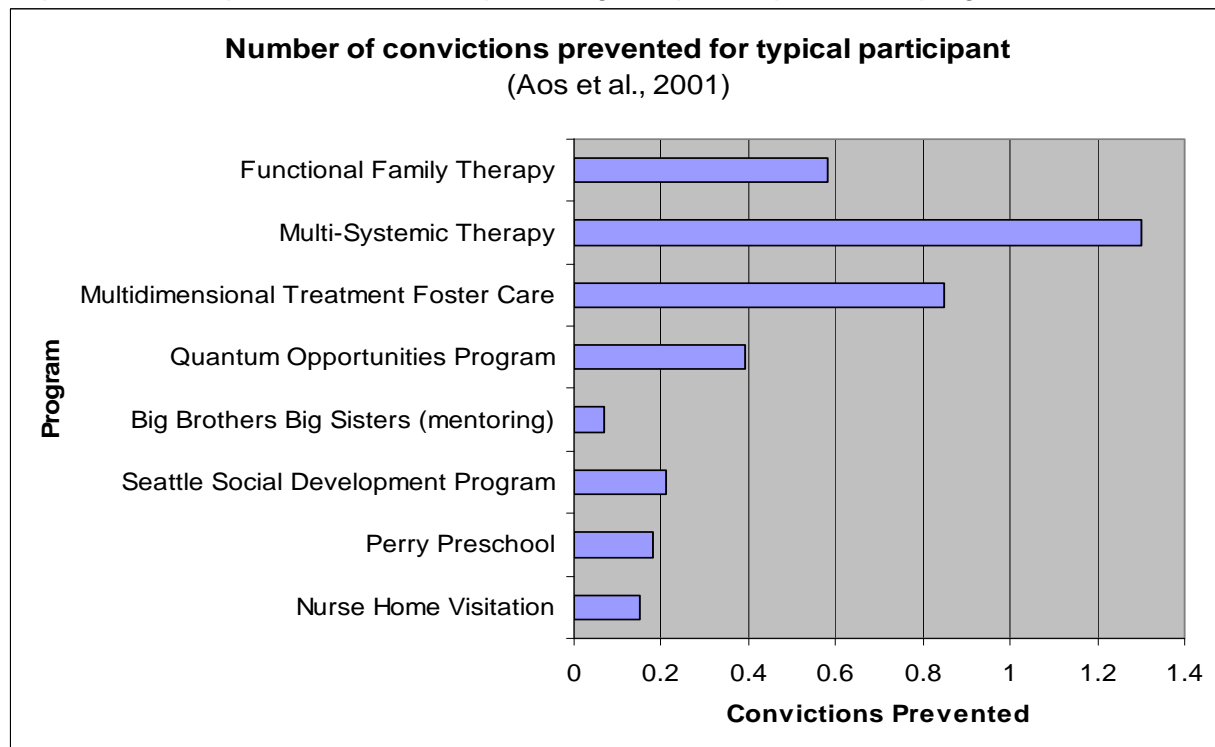
- Near shopping centers and city centers
- More rental properties
- Older dwellings
- Dwellings in need of repairs
- Bar density
- Commercial land use

**Social return on investment (SROI)** is a quantitative measurement of how effectively an organization uses its capital and other resources to generate value for society. For the purposes of SCIF consider using indicators that reflect impacts on the criminal justice system and harm reduction.

For example, many model and promising programs have been evaluated regarding their impact on crime prevention and reduction as well as their return on investment (ROI) for both tax payers and victims<sup>2</sup>:



Impact on crime prevention of some promising and proven prevention programs<sup>3</sup>:



For more examples refer to the research links section listed on page 5.

**Sponsoring organization** is the legal entity which assumes responsibility for the project and accountability for grant funds. The sponsoring organization acts as the fiscal agent for the

partnership group. The sponsoring organization must have a proven record of successful project management, including sound fiscal practices and achievement of outcomes.

**Strategic partners** are those organizations or groups that assist a defined project in reaching its objectives through contributing to the resources of the project either financially or through in-kind donations of materials, supplies or services. They differ from referral agents, community networks and stakeholder groups in their level of investment in the project. All pilot projects require strategic partners to contribute to the implementation of the project. Therefore, individual organizations without strategic partners are not eligible to apply.

## Appendix A

### Known risk and protective factors<sup>4</sup>

Known risk and protective factors are determined from the research on criminally involved populations, their issues, and the nature of particular types of crimes they have committed. Therefore within individuals there can be great variability into what contributes to risk and protective factors, making screening an important part of implementing any targeted prevention initiative. Generally, individuals with more risk factors, when compared to those that have fewer or none, are on average more likely to be involved in crime.

**Risk factors:** Several factors, when combined, can put an individual at risk of becoming criminally involved. Depending on the crime issue, projects will need to address a combination of risk factors leading to crimes including any of the following:

- Abuse and neglect
- Family violence
- Substance abuse and/or addiction
- Involvement in the drug trade
- Involvement in street gang activities
- Low attachment to school
- Inadequate parenting
- Presence of mental health disorder such as FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder), Conduct disorder, or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)
- Other risk factors supported by evidence<sup>5</sup>.

More globally, **risk factors** can be grouped into five categories:

*Individual factors* – including early involvement in minor crimes, substance abuse, being male, aggression, antisocial behaviour, restlessness, impulsiveness, difficulty concentrating and low IQ

*Family factors* – including antisocial parents, family management problems, poor parent-child relationships, broken homes or separation from parents, low supervision, physical abuse or neglect

*Peer group factors* – including gang affiliation and the influence of peers who engage in risky behaviour and think it's okay

*School factors* – including a low commitment to school, poor attitude and performance in school, early academic failure, engaging in and thinking antisocial behaviour is okay

*Community factors* – including neighbourhood disorganization, low socioeconomic status, availability of drugs and guns, high rates of mobility and low neighbourhood attachment

On the other hand, **protective factors** include:

*Individual factors* – including an intolerant attitude towards deviance; cognitive, social and emotional competence; social, problem-solving and coping skills

*Family factors* – including warm, supportive relationships and bonding with parents or other adults, good family communication, opportunity and recognition for pro-social involvement, parents' positive evaluation of peers and parental monitoring

*Peer group factors* – including interacting with individuals and social groups who have healthy beliefs and consistent standards for behaviour

*School factors* – including a high commitment and positive attitude toward school

*Community factors* – including living in a positive neighbourhood with low neighbourhood crime, access to support services and attachment to the community

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<sup>1</sup> Savoie, J., Bedard, F., Collins, K. (2006). Neighbourhood Characteristics and the Distribution of Crime on the Island of Montréal. Crime and Justice Research Paper Series. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-561-MIE – No.007. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Savoie, J., Ed. (2008). Neighbourhood Characteristics and the Distribution of Crime: Edmonton, Halifax and Thunder Bay. Crime and Justice Research Paper Series. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-561-M — No. 010. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

<sup>2</sup> Aos et al., 2001; Karoly et al., 1998 as referenced in Greenwood, P. (2006). *Changing Lives: Delinquency Prevention as Crime-Control Policy*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, p.80.

<sup>3</sup> Aos et al., 2001 as referenced in Greenwood, P. (2006). *Changing Lives: Delinquency Prevention as Crime-Control Policy*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, p.75.

<sup>4</sup> Keeping Communities Safe, 2007, Alberta's Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force, Government of Alberta, p.75

<sup>5</sup> For more research on this topic refer to Ellis, L., Beaver, K., Wright, J., (2009). *Handbook of Crime Correlates*, Academic Press, San Diego.