
SENATE BILL 5273

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Orwall

1 AN ACT Relating to the availability of community violence
2 prevention and intervention services; adding a new section to chapter
3 74.09 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,
8 the authority shall administer funding for programs that offer
9 community violence prevention and intervention services provided by
10 community violence professionals to youth and adults who have been
11 violently injured, are at risk of experiencing violent injury, or
12 have experienced chronic exposure to community violence. The programs
13 may be based at a hospital or at a community organization to which
14 clients are referred by a licensed health care provider. Programs
15 that serve youth must demonstrate the ability to coordinate with the
16 school districts in the area served by the program. Beginning January
17 1, 2027, all community violence professionals must complete training
18 in accordance with the curriculum standards established in section 2
19 of this act prior to providing services.

20 (b) The authority shall provide funds to a minimum of four
21 programs, including at least one program located east of the crest of

1 the Cascade mountains and at least one program located west of the
2 crest of the Cascade mountains. The authority shall prioritize
3 funding to programs serving communities with high rates of firearm
4 violence.

5 (c) The funding shall be used by programs to:

6 (i) Establish and support program operations necessary to offer
7 community violence prevention and intervention services;

8 (ii) Beginning July 1, 2026, coordinate with the department of
9 health to ensure community violence professionals employed by the
10 program receive training in accordance with the curricula standards
11 established in section 2 of this act;

12 (iii) Offer community violence prevention and intervention
13 services, upon referral from a licensed health care provider, to
14 youth and adults who have been violently injured, are at risk of
15 experiencing violent injury, or have experienced chronic exposure to
16 community violence; and

17 (iv) Upon receipt of the approval in subsection (2) of this
18 section, prepare the program to transition to billing medical
19 assistance for community violence prevention and intervention
20 services.

21 (d) Upon receipt of the approval in subsection (2) of this
22 section, the authority may establish time limits for the receipt of
23 funds under this subsection to allow for the establishment of new
24 programs.

25 (2)(a) By July 1, 2026, the authority shall seek approval from
26 the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services to secure
27 federal financial participation in the costs of providing community
28 violence prevention and intervention services through community
29 violence professionals who provide timely interventions for youth and
30 adults enrolled in a medical assistance program under this chapter
31 upon referral by a licensed health care provider if the health care
32 provider determines that the enrollee has been violently injured, is
33 at risk of experiencing violent injury, or has experienced chronic
34 exposure to community violence.

35 (b) Community violence prevention and intervention services under
36 (a) of this subsection must be provided by a community violence
37 professional. Effective January 1, 2027, the community violence
38 professional must have completed training in accordance with the
39 curricula standards established in section 2 of this act.

40 (3) For the purposes of this section:

1 (a) "Community violence" means an intentional act of
2 interpersonal violence committed by someone who is not intimately
3 related to the victim.

4 (b) "Community violence prevention and intervention services"
5 means evidence-informed, trauma-informed, culturally responsive,
6 supportive and nonpsychotherapeutic services provided by a community
7 violence professional, within or outside of a clinical setting.
8 "Community violence prevention and intervention services" includes
9 the following activities within the scope of practice of the
10 community violence professional for the purposes of promoting
11 improved health outcomes and positive behavioral change, preventing
12 injury recidivism, and reducing the likelihood that victims of acts
13 of community violence may commit or promote violence themselves:
14 Facilitating behavior change, providing social-emotional support,
15 peer support and peer counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation and
16 crisis intervention, care coordination, targeted case management,
17 referrals to credentialed health care providers or social services
18 providers, community and school support services, patient education
19 and screening services, group and individual health education and
20 health coaching, health navigation, transitions of care support, and
21 screening and assessment for nonclinical and social needs.

22 (c) "Community violence professional" means an individual
23 identified as a mentor, violence interrupter, community member,
24 credible messenger, advocate, peer, activist, community health
25 worker, or health professional licensed or certified by the
26 department of health who has behavioral health in their scope of
27 practice, who has completed the training in section 2 of this act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 By January 1, 2026, the department, after consulting with
31 Harborview medical center, shall establish standards for curricula
32 for education programs that train persons to serve as community
33 violence professionals, and provide community violence prevention and
34 intervention services identified under section 1 of this act. The
35 curricula must, at a minimum, include instruction in basic trauma-
36 informed care, community-based prevention and intervention
37 strategies, case management, referral practices, advocacy practices,
38 and state and federal privacy requirements. Education programs may be
39 private or public entities that operate on a local, state, or

1 national basis, including programs that offer community violence
2 prevention and intervention services under section 1 of this act. The
3 department may adopt rules to establish the curricula standards.

--- **END** ---