

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2026

Honorable Russel T. Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Re: OMB-2026-0034, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance

Dear Director Vought,

As members of the Community Safety Caucus, we write in opposition to the proposal to revise several parts of the OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance located in title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), subtitle A (OMB-2026-0034, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance). The proposed changes pose a significant financial risk and could create instability for federal grantees, including nonprofits, making it more difficult for them to serve their communities. The changes would be particularly damaging for community violence intervention (CVI) programs that depend on stable funding, long-term planning, and cross-sector partnerships.

Last August, the FBI reported that in 2024, America's violent crime rate fell to its lowest level since 1969, led by a nearly 15 percent decrease in homicides.¹ The reduction in crime across the country is not an accident; instead, it is due to local governments and community leaders investing in and implementing strategies that work, such as CVI programs. Baltimore's implementation of the city's first-ever Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan led to a significant drop in crime and a historic low in homicides just this month.² Chicago also experienced a 21 percent drop in overall violent crime, a 32 percent drop in homicides, and a 37 percent drop in shootings in 2025 due in large part to their CVI programs.³

While federal funding is not the only source supporting CVI efforts, it often serves as a critical piece of a broader funding ecosystem that includes state and local government investments, hospital partnerships, philanthropy, and research support. We are concerned that the proposal

¹ *FBI Releases 2024 Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics*, FBI Criminal Justice Services Division (August 5, 2025) (online at <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2024-reported-crimes-in-the-nation-statistics>).

² *Baltimore Sees Fewest Homicide Total Through the First Six Months of the Year on Record*, City of Baltimore (July 1, 2026) (online at <https://www.baltimorecity.gov/mayor/news-media/press-releases/2026-07-01-mayor-brandon-m-scott-announces-continued-historic-crime-reductions-in-2026>).

³ *FACT SHEET: City of Chicago Continues to Record Historic Declines in Violent Crime Under Mayor Brandon Johnson*, City of Chicago Office of the Mayor (August 25, 2025) (online at https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/press_room/press_releases/2025/august/Fact-Sheet-2025-Crime-Decline.html).

would grant unprecedented discretion to this administration to withhold, suspend, or terminate grants, or change terms and conditions mid-implementation, forcing grantees to operate in a tumultuous environment. This administration has already made significant cuts to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative, which is the main source of federal funding for CVI programs. Since its launch, OJP has invested \$350 million in these programs.⁴ However, when approximately half of that funding has been cut in April 2025, including \$145 million for programs, training, and technical assistance plus an additional \$8.6 million for evaluations, research, and related efforts.⁵ These cuts have forced many organizations to cut staff, reduce services, or even close entirely.⁶

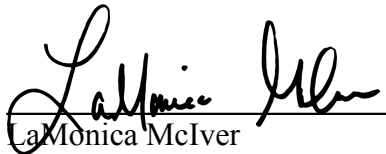
This funding instability creates a multitude of issues for CVI programs. For example, communities that have focused on recruiting outreach workers, violence interrupters, hospital responders, case managers, and other frontline professionals may have a difficult time sustaining these roles and growing the workforce that is essential to these programs. Furthermore, the proposed restrictions on publication, conference participation, travel, and related activities would be particularly challenging for a field that relies heavily on peer learning, research, and community-to-community shared learning.

This administration is attempting to score cheap political points at the expense of our communities. Federal grants already use objective criteria such as community needs or congressional intent to evaluate a program, but these proposed changes will allow fundings decisions to be made based off partisan ideology and political whims. Given these concerns, we opposed the proposed *Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance* rule, which attempts to completely undermine and encroach upon Congress's spending powers. We respectfully urge OMB to withdraw this rulemaking in full.

Sincerely,



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

⁴ *DOJ Funding Update: A Deeper Look at the Cuts*, Council on Criminal Justice (May 2025) (online at <https://counciloncj.org/doj-funding-update-a-deeper-look-at-the-cuts/>).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Without DOJ funding, community violence intervention programs face uncertainty*, Nonprofit Quarterly (April 25, 2025) (online at <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/without-doj-funding-community-violence-intervention-programs-face-uncertainty/>).