



Lowell youth organization starting statewide training center to prevent gun violence

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A Lowell youth organization has received a \$700,000 state grant to establish a training center to prevent gun violence.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is giving UTEC a two-year grant to establish the Gun Violence Prevention Training Center for Excellence.

The training center will work with 10 neighborhood organizations in areas with high rates of gun violence to create prevention pilot programs. UTEC, which offers coaching and education to at-risk young adults, will train these organizations on topics like street outreach, mentoring, behavioral health services and workforce development.

“Massachusetts’ approach to addressing gun violence is a model for the nation, and our administration is proud to support innovative efforts to address gun violence in our most at-risk neighborhoods,” Gov. Charlie Baker said in a statement. “This new center will help us expand our support for the vital community organizations who are working every day to reduce gun violence among youth and young adults.”

The 10 organizations recently received their own grants to address gun violence. They include New North Citizens Council in Springfield, Roca in Springfield, and Worcester Youth Center, each of which got \$800,000.