

# MAPC Partner Application Form

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Start of Block: Q1

Q1 Please provide your Full Name, Email Address, and Partner Organization.

Sgt. Dan Rego, \_\_\_\_\_

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Somerville Police Department \_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Q1

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Start of Block: Default Question Block

Q2 Describe the current nature and extent of the gang violence problem within your community. The gang violence problem should be reflective of the gang definition and the Shannon youth definition below.

**Metro Mayors Gang Definition:** A group or association of three or more persons with a common identifying sign, symbol, or name who individually or collectively engage in criminal activity that creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

**Shannon-Eligible Youth Definition:** (1) between 10-24 years of age; (2) living in a high-risk area within the community; (3) at-risk or high-risk of becoming involved, or currently involved, in gang activity.

The gang violence in Somerville is largely propelled by a feud between Somerville's MP45 / Eastville / 480 gang and Cambridge's Port44 gang. This feud has resulted in numerous assaults, gun violence, as well as other crime against persons and property. However, gang members commit violence against other groups and individuals as well.

In the past 12 months, there have been 19 confirmed shots fired incidents, ten of which are known to be gang-related. Five victims have sustained gunshot wounds – one fatal and four non-fatal. Notably, four of the five were between the ages of 16 and 24 years (including the fatality).

Narcotics distribution, primarily cocaine and marijuana, is a common among Somerville gang associates.

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Q3 How has the gang violence problem changed within your community over the past year?  
Detail any emerging trends, if applicable (such as spikes and decreases in crime rates).

- a. Elevated gun violence continues in 2021, particularly in the vicinity of the Mystic Housing Development, as does the increased victimization and community fear. As mentioned there have been 19 confirmed shots fired / shootings in the past 12 months resulting in five gunshot victims, one of whom did not survive his injuries. Mystic Housing Development residents have begun to request help and voice their fear due to gang violence and intimidation.
- b. Recent information suggests that a younger off-shoot of a rival gang has developed and is involved in recent violent incidents.
- c. SPD expects a change in gang member dynamics due to the arrest and release of high impact players.

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Q4 Are you representing a Police Department or have access to gang data within your community?

- Yes (1) XXX
- No (2)

*Display This Question:*

*If Are you a representing a Police Department or have access to gang data within your community? = Yes*

Q5 To further describe the gang violence problem in your community, please complete the chart below:

# of Active Gangs (1) \_\_5

# of Active Gang Members (2) \_\_67

# of gang members under 25 years old (3) \_\_51

Names of most prevalent gangs (4)  
Eastville/MP45/480, Port44, Maplewood

List the most pressing problems gangs and gang members are causing in your community. Examples: homicides, assaults, multi-person shootings, types of weapons used, specific types of robberies, specific types of drug activity. (5)

Escalating gun violence resulting injuries (including civilians and juveniles), assaults, robberies ("drug rips"), threats and intimidation, large disorderly gatherings, narcotics distribution (cocaine and marijuana primarily).

List the most significant factors that contribute to the worsening of the gang problem. Please provide an informative but brief description. (6)

It is presumed that the COVID 19 pandemic has attributed to the increased lawlessness of Somerville gangs. However, as the pandemic improves, the violence remains elevated.

Another significant factor is budgetary constraints which have affected police deployment used to identify impact players and deter gang activity in high risk areas of Somerville.

Explain how gangs in your community recruit new members. (7)

Gangs use rap videos, social media, and neighborhood prestige to recruit new members (youth) in the community.

*Display This Question:*

*If Are you a representing a Police Department or have access to gang data within your community? = Yes*

Q6 In 2020, how many incidents were known to the police involving youth age 10 to 24?

612 incidents in Fiscal Year 2021; 628 in Calendar Year 2020

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*Display This Question:*

*If Are you a representing a Police Department or have access to gang data within your community? =  
Yes*

Q7 In 2020, how many arrests were made for youth ages 10 to 24? What were the most common arrests for?

In calendar year 2020, there were 37 arrests of individuals aged 10 to 24 years. Approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were warrant arrests, both external agency warrants and SPD. Most commonly, SPD arrests related to illegal firearm possession; assault; robbery; and narcotics distribution.

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Q8 How does your community define a “high-risk area” (e.g.: law enforcement crime analysis, research literature, community risk assessment)?

SPD identifies “high-risk areas” based on crime analysis. The Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) analyzes calls for service, crime (violent crime, firearm violence, narcotics distribution, etc.), and other data sources to identify areas most affected by gang activity.

The Mystic Housing Development, the adjacent St. Polycarp Village, and the nearby surrounding community are high risk areas experiencing increases in gang activity and firearm violence.

Q9 What methods have been used to identify strategies or gaps in services needed to address the specific gang violence problem in your community as illustrated in your answer to Question 1 (e.g. working with local stakeholders, recommendations from SROs/program directors, schools, community risk assessments, recommendations from steering committee members)?

As of 2021, Somerville Police no longer provide SROs in schools which has hampered our ability to build relationships and interact with at risk youth. However, CID continues to communicate and collaborate with Somerville Housing Authority regarding service needs in high-risk areas. Mystic Housing Development community members have also had the opportunity to voice concerns via community meetings.

Due to increased gun violence over the last year, SPD has dedicated additional resources to the Mystic Housing Development in order to provide high visibility police presence.

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Q10 Explain and describe the identified strategy (or strategies) and its outcomes to be funded with Shannon CSI grant funds, as they relate to your answer to Question 1. NOTE: Applicants must demonstrate a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach based on the OJJDP’s Comprehensive Gang Model and, where possible, reflect evidence-based practices and best practices.

SPD is utilizing grant funding to increased patrols in high-risk areas. We also deploy plain clothes units which regularly patrol the Mystic Housing Development and surrounding community to collect intelligence on potential hot spots and gang activity. These units are also tasked with trying to identify any new or developing gang members/associates, potential conflict with adversaries, new recruitment strategies, and other intelligence.

Q11 List and briefly describe any site challenges from prior Shannon funding cycles and how the usage of identified strategies or modified strategies addressed these challenges (or why

they have not). How will the proposed program address challenges created by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

Due to COVID-19, physical interactions were avoided, limiting intelligence gathering, specific enforcement methods, and collaboration with various stakeholders was kept to a minimum due to COVID restrictions. Going forward, with easing of COVID restrictions, we hope to have more face-to-face meetings to enhance communication and information sharing with community stakeholders.

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Q12 Communities often use multiple funding streams to combat gang violence. Please identify other funding streams (such as SSYI), currently being used and how these funding streams will enhance or complement programming delivered through the Shannon CSI.

None

End of Block: Default Question Block

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Start of Block: Block 1

Q13 In addition to completing the Excel Budget Form provided separately, please provide a budget narrative to demonstrate how the costs in the proposed Excel Budget Form specifically link to your proposed strategy to combat gang violence. NOTE: Also remember to include if you will be increasing your request up to 8% of your award amount for FY21 from the Metro Mayors Shannon CSI. (See PDF attached to original email for allowable and non-allowable costs.)

Somerville plans to use the Shannon Grant funding to conduct hot-spot patrolling. In addition, the Shannon grant has enabled the Somerville police department to work in collaboration with outside local and federal agencies to develop a multi-pronged approach to address the gang violence issue in Somerville.

End of Block: Block 1

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