

# 2021 CHARLES E. SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE FITCHBURG/GARDNER

Funded Partners: City of Fitchburg Police Department, City of Gardner Police Department, Making Opportunity Count, Mount Wachusett Community College, Shining Light Ministries Inc., Spanish American Center

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

## Strategies, Outcomes, and Funding Allocation\*

Total Funding: \$361,400

Including \$25,000 in COVID-19 relief funding

Strategies	Outcomes		Funding Allocation
<b>Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention</b>	<b>83</b> Received Case Management Services	<b>5</b> Received Street Outreach Services	<b>\$46,433</b>
<b>Education &amp; Employment</b>	<b>32</b> Participated in Employment Programs	<b>89</b> Participated in Education Programs	<b>\$82,558</b>
<b>Positive Youth Development &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>105</b> Participated in Recreation Programs	<b>15</b> Participated in Youth Development Programs	<b>\$111,609</b>
<b>Suppression</b>	<b>105</b> Hot Spot Patrols Completed	<b>15</b> Gang Members Arraigned/High Impact Players Arraigned	<b>\$120,800</b>

\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon CSI programs may have adjusted programming options (e.g., reduced numbers served to meet restrictions, remote programming) and/or shifted funding allocations.

## Youth Risk Assessments

78%  
LOW-RISK\* Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity.

16%  
MODERATE-RISK\* Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as truancy.

6%  
HIGH-RISK\* Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for risk; responses in risk assessment may have been impacted by changes in context due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Success Highlight

*"One youth completed his GED early during COVID-19 pandemic as well as accomplished his personal goals. This youth faced multiple challenges on top of going to school through a pandemic while facing homelessness as well. The program continued to be a support for the individual with resources, information, referral services and employment. This youth will be joining the Marines. He was sworn in this winter and will start his new career as a Marine in this upcoming Summer. We are very proud of his accomplishments despite the odds he faced."*

*~Making Opportunity Count*

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Terrence Reidy, Secretary

To learn more visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/shannon-community-safety-initiative-csi>

# Community Risk Factors

Massachusetts

Fitchburg

Gardner

Total Population (2021/2020 Estimate)	6,984,723	41,946	21,287
Population Lives in Poverty	9.4%	15.7%	13.9%
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	8.1%	7.1%
Total School Population (2020-21)	970,443	6,552	2,801
Economically Disadvantaged	43.8%	75.2%	66.9%
High School Dropout Rate	1.6%	3.7%	3.6%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

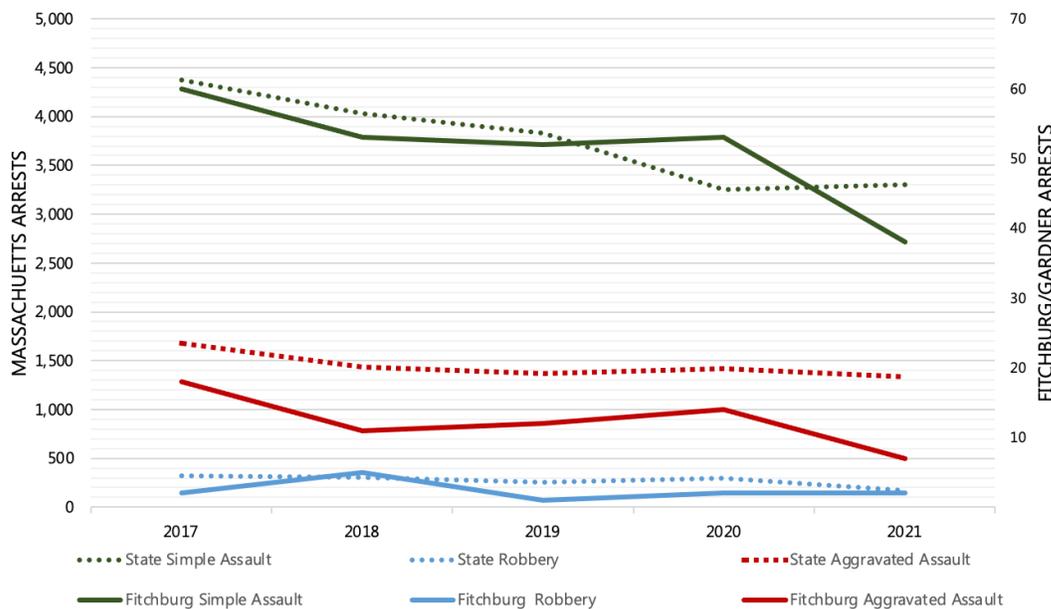
## Gang Activity in Fitchburg/Gardner

4  
Street Gangs

25  
Gang Members  
Under 25

Historically, gangs have centered on hot-spot areas with recruitment taking place in schools and high-crime neighborhoods, placing truant and unemployed youth at a higher risk. Recently, gangs have been tied to drug trafficking/sales, underscoring the need to continue to partner with schools, actively engage truant students and their families, provide additional support services to hot spot areas, offer youth employment opportunities, and reduce drug abuse in the region.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021



### Changes in Crime for Young People Ages 10-24, 2017-2021

- Simple assaults in...
- Massachusetts decreased 25%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 37%
- Robberies in...
- Massachusetts decreased 47%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 0%
- Aggravated assaults in...
- Massachusetts decreased 20%
  - Fitchburg/Gardner decreased 61%

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, reports supplied by the site, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Office of Grants and Research / Research Policy and Analysis Division. Special thanks to the Statewide Research Partner, Northeastern University and the Crime and Justice Policy Lab of the University of Pennsylvania, for preparing this brief.