



MASS VIOLENCE ADVISORY INITIATIVE

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative?**

Incidents of mass violence present a myriad of unique challenges to law enforcement leaders while under intense pressure. The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have partnered to launch the Mass Violence Advisory Initiative (MVAI). The initiative will help provide peer-to-peer assistance for law enforcement leaders at the onset of a mass violence event to maximize the safety and wellness of officers, other first responders, and the community. Under this initiative, the IACP will develop and share tools and resources that will help promote first responder, victim, and community wellbeing and healing in the aftermath of a mass violence incident.

2. **What is the Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team?**

The Mass Violence Peer-to-Peer Advisory Team is a group of subject matter experts (SMEs) who will provide immediate and ongoing assistance, information, and resources to help law enforcement leaders and their communities heal in the aftermath of a mass violence incident. This team will be composed of law enforcement professionals such as police chiefs, sheriffs, and public information officers with experience leading their agencies through a mass violence incident. IACP is building out a cadre of SMEs to include mental health and victim services professionals, educators, victim service personnel, and faith and community leaders.

3. **How is an incident of mass violence defined?**

For MVAI purposes, incidents of mass violence are defined as an extraordinary criminal act that results in mass casualties.

4. **What is the cost?**

Services provided under this initiative are at **no cost** to the agency or local community.

5. **What services does the Mass Violence Peer to Peer Advisory Team provide?**

The team will provide peer-to-peer assistance to law enforcement leaders. Services include assisting leaders with incident management, public information strategies, criminal investigation considerations, victim and witness health and wellness, first responder health and wellness, and long-term community wellness.

6. **How does peer-to-peer assistance work?**

Peer-to-peer assistance will include virtual and in-person assistance to law enforcement agencies based on their need at the onset of an incident of mass violence. Agencies will gain direct access to SMEs who will help guide them through any questions they may have, share experiences, and provide ongoing guidance after a mass violence event occurs.

7. Who can request services?

Any agency who has faced an act of mass violence or any agency looking for additional resources to help guide their community and officers through or following a mass violence incident can request assistance.

8. How do I access MVAI resources?

To access additional resources and for more information about this initiative, visit www.theIACP.org/MVAI or e-mail MVAI@theIACP.org

9. How do I submit a request for assistance?

To request assistance, email MVAI@theIACP.org or submit a request at www.theIACP.org/MVAI.

This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2020-DP-BX-K012 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. References to specific agencies, companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues.