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MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Guns -  
2001 Budget

## ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE AND HOUSING SAFETY INITIATIVE FOR FY2001

HUD has a dual statutory mission: to provide "decent, safe and sanitary" housing to the millions of families and thousands of communities in need of assistance in America, and to assure that community and economic development helps to support the general health of those communities. But gun violence is a major threat to both of these missions—and to the families and communities themselves. More than 30,000 people are killed and 100,000 are injured by guns each year.

Public housing residents suffer from some of the most concentrated gun violence in the Nation. HUD estimates that there are over 10,000 gun crimes committed every year in the housing units managed by our Nation's 100 largest public housing agencies and that, on average, someone is being murdered with a gun every day in those developments. Often, these crimes are committed by outsiders preying upon public housing residents.

Tragically, the violence affects our young children worst of all. The rate of firearm death of children aged 0 to 14 in the U.S. is higher than in any other industrialized country and almost *12 times higher* than the average rate in the other 25 industrialized countries. The suffering and the fear is very real and must be addressed so that all of us, regardless of where we live, can be safe and feel safe in our own homes.

The Department has used available agency resources creatively to respond to the broad epidemic of gun violence. In doing so, HUD has addressed its efforts to both public and assisted housing communities and to the larger community as well because both types of HUD's investments are threatened by gun violence. For example, HUD has initiated a pilot gun buyback program and is in the process of developing a youth conflict resolution program called the Peacemaker Corps. More, however, can and must be done about gun violence in and around the communities that HUD serves.

***For the FY 2001 budget, HUD proposes a \$50 million Gun Violence Reduction Initiative that will target the problem of gun-related violence, both criminal and accidental, in America's communities.*** This initiative will include three (3) program elements, plus an evaluation:

- **EDUCATION.** Public education programs for residents of public and assisted housing, including curriculum kits suitable for use with school-aged children, and broader public campaigns to help other recipients of HUD assistance address the misuse of firearms as they manage their programs.
- **ACTION.** Technical assistance and seed money to local governments, public housing agencies, and nonprofits for implementing gun violence reduction programs in and around public or assisted housing, in neighborhoods with large numbers of Section 8 recipients, and in areas receiving HUD-funded community development or economic revitalization, including Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities and Section 108/EDI. Activities could include gun buy-back programs and funding to police departments to encourage them to destroy guns that have been seized and

decommission guns no longer in use by police officers. Community involvement of government, residents, businesses, and others will be an essential element. Communities will be asked to address gun violence reduction not just in the context of existing community safety programs, but also in relation to HUD's broader investments in the community, and to build on such programs. They will also make available model rules and regulations for reducing gun violence, as well as other "best practices" in the form of training and resource materials.

- **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT. Gun violence tracking to close the knowledge gap in many communities.** Of the \$50 million, HUD would make \$5 million available for state-of-the-art computer crime tracking and mapping partnerships to build databases on gun-related crimes. These much-needed databases, which would be expandable to include a wide array of other crimes, would help communities, researchers, and policymakers target, monitor, and adjust their interventions over time. HUD has funded major advances in place-based crime mapping using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the past few years, but no long-run surveillance of gun-related crimes by details of the crime and place has yet been launched. Such surveillance would arm law enforcement and communities with the information they need to fight back smart.

In addition, HUD proposes to set aside \$500,000 of the \$50 million to evaluate the initiative and report on which elements, or combinations of elements, are effective at reducing the plague of gun violence in various community contexts.

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**January 17, 2000 DRAFT**

**President Clinton's Commitment to Supporting Young People and Preventing Youth Violence**

President Clinton's FY 2001 budget includes a major investment in priorities and programs that support positive youth development and work to prevent youth violence.

**The FY 2001 budget:**

- **Includes an across the board increase in programs throughout the government that address the issue of youth violence:**

The FY 2001 budget includes \$8.8 billion, \$862 million above FY 2000, for programs throughout the government that work to specifically target youth violence and programs that support the healthy development of young people.

- **Renews President Clinton's Commitment to the Prevention of Youth Violence through Supporting Healthy Youth Development by:**
  - **More than doubling the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative by investing \$247 million.** To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, last year at the White House Conference on School Safety, the President launched a Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative designed to help communities develop and implement community-wide responses to school and youth violence. It empowers parents, principals, police, and others to collaborate on local solutions to the problem of youth violence. In September 1999, the President announced over \$100 million in Safe Schools/Healthy Student grants for 54 school districts. With the expansion of this initiative, approximately 40 additional communities will be awarded grants in FY 2001.
  - **Providing \$1 billion to ensure that more than 2.5 million children have the opportunity to attend safe and enriching after-school and summer school programs.** The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is already supporting thousands of school-based after-school programs in rural and urban schools across the country, including weekend and summer programs. In FY 2001, the President will provide \$1 billion in after-school and summer school funds to ensure that all children in low-performing schools have the opportunity to gain academic enrichment and be in a safe place during the after school and summertime hours. This year, the Education Department released a report, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic

performance.

- **Including a new \$120 million initiative to create Small, Safe, and Successful High Schools.** In order to provide safe learning environments where students are connected to adults in the school and are being pushed to learn to high standards, the President has provided \$120 million to help school districts support comprehensive, research-based reform in high schools by creating smaller learning environments.
- **Encouraging youth-driven solutions to community problems, such as youth violence, by including \$8 million in two new National Service initiatives.** The President's Corporation for National Service budget includes \$5 million for a Community Coaches initiative that will support AmeriCorps members as community coaches in schools helping students to develop and implement their own community service projects. It also includes \$3 million to support Youth Empowerment Grants that will provide fellowships to reward and support the creativity of youth who have developed innovative youth-driven strategies for addressing youth related concerns in their own communities.
- **Supporting community, parent, and school efforts to help youth incorporate good citizenship in their learning experiences through a \$2 million increase in Character Education.** The President's budget includes over \$9 million for the U.S. Department of Education's Character Education grants to school/community partnerships that develop curriculum materials, provide teacher training, gauge and build community consensus on common values, involve parents in character education and integrate character education into the school curriculum.
- **Renewing commitment to youth violence prevention efforts in the areas of Health and Labor.** The President's budget recommits \$80 million for Youth Violence Prevention Activities under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and promotes positive youth development opportunities by providing \$250 million for the U.S. Department of Labor's **Youth Opportunity Grants**, which address the special problems of out-of-school youth, especially in inner-cities and other areas.
- **Expands President Clinton's commitment to directly targeting the issue of youth violence by:**
  - **Providing \$19.1 million in new funding for a 12-city expansion of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII),** to help trace guns retrieved in crimes and to provide additional ATF agents in YCGII cities to crack down on illegal gun traffickers who supply guns to youth and criminals.
  - **Investing \$10 million for the development of smart gun technology.** The \$10 million in new funds through the National Institute of Justice will promote the

expansion and replication of "smart gun" technologies that limit a gun's use to the proper owner – preventing accidental deaths and injuries of children who might have access to a firearm, gun theft, and other unauthorized use.

- **Including \$75 million for a new Department of Labor initiative to reintegrate youthful and first-time offenders into society.**
- **Increasing the investment in the COPS school safety program from \$15 million to \$55 million.** This increase (which includes \$20 million for Safe Schools/Healthy Students) would enhance community programs to combat violence in schools, including the funding of school resource officers.