

**NATIONAL**

**COLLABORATIVE ON**

**GUN VIOLENCE**

**RESEARCH**

# The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research

## Strategic Plan

July 2019

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**B**ecause nearly 40,000 people are killed and more than 115,000 are injured by firearms each year in the United States, the public and policymakers need basic information on the causes of gun violence and how to prevent it.

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR) has received recommendations from a wide range of organizations and individuals on where new and better information on gun policy and violence prevention is needed. These diverse stakeholders consistently described wide knowledge gaps that thwart effective prevention programming and policymaking—gaps that are the result of years of underinvestment on these topics by federal and state governments and philanthropies. As a result, disagreements about basic facts, such as whether gun-free zones make the public more or less safe, have continued unresolved for decades.

In the absence of reliable information, the public and policymakers rely on their own intuitions and those of the opinion leaders they trust. The result has been a profound divide in the United States concerning factual matters. In many cases, though, objective, scientific research could resolve factual questions and close divides. Important contributions to understanding how to prevent gun violence while protecting the constitutional rights of gun owners remain to be discovered.

To begin addressing this backlog in needed research, Arnold Ventures provided \$20 million in seed funding for NCGVR in 2018. NCGVR plans to issue between \$20 million and \$50 million in research grant funding over a five-year period (July 2018 to June 2023). This strategic plan describes how the collaborative will achieve its mission and evaluate its success.

## Mission of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research

The collaborative's mission is to:

Fund and disseminate non-partisan scientific research that offers the public and policymakers a factual basis for developing fair and effective gun policies.

More specifically, the collaborative seeks to produce and disseminate focused research that will support the development of *fair and effective* gun policies in the United States. Fair and effective gun policies are those that will *save lives and reduce injuries while preserving gun owners' constitutional rights*. In addition, NCGVR-funded research is intended for use by *the public and policymakers*; therefore, the collaborative must ensure that meaningful research findings are translated for the appropriate audiences and broadly disseminated.

The collaborative will fund only *scientific research* of the highest quality and only research that addresses real and important gaps in the scientific literature. To ensure this, we have established a set of standards for research and a scientific merit review process, which are detailed later in this document.<sup>1</sup> To ensure the most effective use of its limited funds, the collaborative will primarily fund the types and areas of research that have not been undertaken in recent decades.

Finally, NCGVR will fund only *non-partisan* research—that is, research that is impartial and without advocacy biases. Funded researchers may have taken advocacy positions on any side of gun policy

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<sup>1</sup> In this document, *we* refers to NCGVR management and staff responsible for implementing the strategic plan and other elements of the collaborative's mission.

debates in the past, but the research they conduct with the collaborative’s funds must be rigorously objective, as determined through the scientific merit review process. Furthermore, researchers must commit to a fair and neutral examination of their results, and this commitment is reinforced by the researchers publicly announcing exactly how they plan to analyze their data in advance of collecting it (via registration with the Center for Open Science’s OSF, formerly the Open Science Framework).

The collaborative is uniquely positioned to reset the environment in which gun-related policies are proposed and implemented. It offers something that no one else does but that all want: an impartial evidence base that can change the dynamic of the current debate. NCGVR’s work will reinvigorate and grow the gun violence research enterprise, establishing the collaborative as the premier resource for impartial, rigorous gun policy research.

## The Collaborative’s Strategic Model

This section outlines the strategic model for achieving NCGVR’s mission. The collaborative has identified the following elements, which are listed and described in the order in which they flow from the mission statement—that is, from the highest level to the more granular:

- strategic goals that will directly serve NCGVR’s mission
- intermediate goals that will contribute to achieving the strategic goals

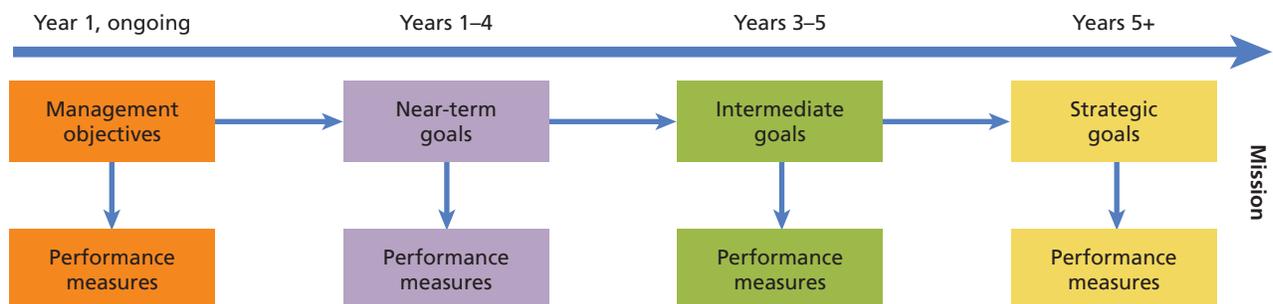
- near-term goals that are prerequisites for meeting the intermediate goals
- management objectives designed to guide decision-making as the tiered goals are pursued.

The strategic goals and the management objectives are accompanied by key performance indicators that will be used to evaluate the collaborative’s success. Figure 1 provides a schematic of this strategic model. Next, we describe the goals and performance measures for each component of the model.

### Strategic Goals

**Goals.** The *strategic goals* for the collaborative are built on its mission—to provide information that will support development of fair and effective policies to reduce gun violence while preserving gun owners’ rights. To achieve this mission, the collaborative aims to produce objective research that will influence policymaking, influence public opinion and behavior, and reduce violence. Specifically, objective evidence from collaborative-funded research will provide an empirical foundation for gun policies and programs. The research will also shed light on the implementation process for policies and programs. Currently, the public must make decisions about supporting (or not) proposed laws and policies without trustworthy facts to guide those decisions. The collaborative’s research will better equip the public with objective information to evaluate policies and make personal and family decisions about guns and their use. Finally, these changes in policy, attitudes, and behaviors should ultimately lead to reductions in violence. These strategic goals of policy improvement, behavior change, and violence

FIGURE 1  
Elements of the Strategic Plan



reduction are not directly under the control of the collaborative but represent the goals that its activities are designed to achieve.

**Measurement.** To establish whether the collaborative has met its strategic goals, we will seek evidence that local, state, or federal policymakers implement policies that are consistent with findings from collaborative-sponsored work, especially when such research has been cited by policymakers during debate on the new programs or policies. Similarly, we will look for evidence that the research is incorporated into best practice guidelines for relevant professional institutions, such as police agencies, schools, hospitals, and community violence prevention organizations.

The collaborative’s strategic goals are highlighted on the right side of Figure 2, which also focuses on the intermediate goals, discussed next.

## Intermediate Goals

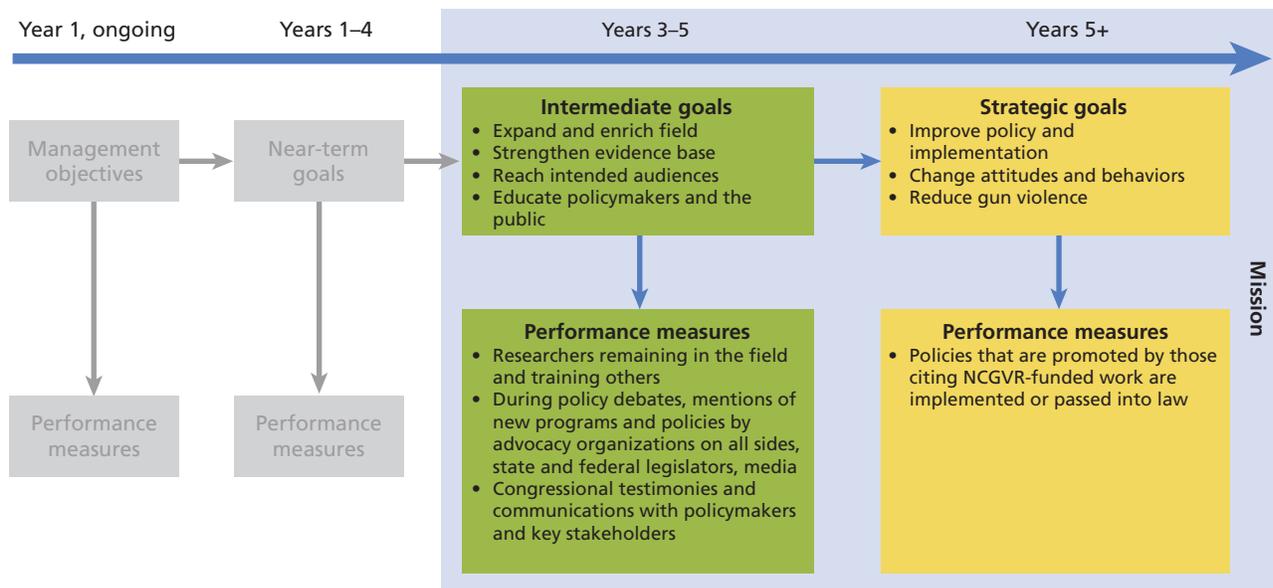
**Goals.** For the collaborative to meet its strategic goals, it must ensure that it funds research that strengthens the evidence base, reaches intended audiences, and is understood by them. These are the collaborative’s primary *intermediate goals*. NCGVR can support its

strategic goals by expanding the field of researchers and the tools and information available to them, which will enable new research beyond what the collaborative funds.

**Measurement.** Because we want to ensure that the research NCGVR funds has reached the public and policymakers who can use it, we will seek key performance indicators of this goal in mentions of the research findings during legislative debates, public hearings, and congressional testimony. In addition, we will seek evidence that public officials are referencing research findings from collaborative-funded research, that these findings are being reported in social and traditional media channels, and that advocacy organizations representing any viewpoint are properly citing the work.

To assess whether we are broadening the field, its tools, and its resources, we will track whether researchers funded by the collaborative who are new to gun policy research go on to conduct additional research in the area without NCGVR support. Similarly, we will track other researchers’ use of the data sets, programs, and other resources published by projects funded by the collaborative.

FIGURE 2  
Strategic Goals, Intermediate Goals, and Performance Measures



## Near-Term Goals

*Goals.* To achieve its intermediate goals, the collaborative must first achieve several near-term goals in its early years of operation. The collaborative will need to inspire high-quality, original research covering a wide range of topics and stakeholder interests. To do so, the collaborative's requests for proposals (RFPs) must be broadly disseminated and reach diverse communities of researchers.

To continue to help shape the next wave of gun policy and gun violence research beyond its initial five-year funding period, the collaborative must attract new funding. This requires demonstrating to candidate donors that the collaborative is the principal source of funding for objective, unbiased, and high-quality research on gun policy. We at NCGVR will approach this by producing and broadly disseminating information about research funding and products supported by the collaborative. In addition, we will pursue a strategic communications plan, described later in this document.

*Measurement.* The collaborative will track whether it is contributing high-quality and original research to the gun policy research field by tracking the number and quality of publications from its supported projects that are placed in top journals, as well as the number of citations those publications receive. Because citations are likely to lag behind publications, the number of citations will be a more viable performance measure in later years.

As part of the collaborative's merit review process, experienced reviewers assign standardized scores for

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the significance, methodological rigor, and innovation of each submitted proposal. These scores can be used as measures of the quality of proposals funded by the collaborative. When funded researchers receive awards or other types of peer recognition, we will view this as evidence that NCGVR has funded high-quality research. Moreover, when new data sets are created by collaborative-funded researchers and made public, we will track how many times these are accessed and used by other researchers, which will provide an additional index of the quality of research produced with the collaborative's funding.

The performance of NCGVR's dissemination and communication activities will be measured by the quantity of blog posts; briefs given to legislators at the federal, state, and local levels; and outreach to other stakeholders who can use the research findings. Finally, new donors and contributions to the collaborative will be an important measure of our success in building a reputation for identifying and funding rigorous, objective research on gun policy that can make difference.

The collaborative's management objectives and near-term goals are highlighted on the left side of Figure 3.

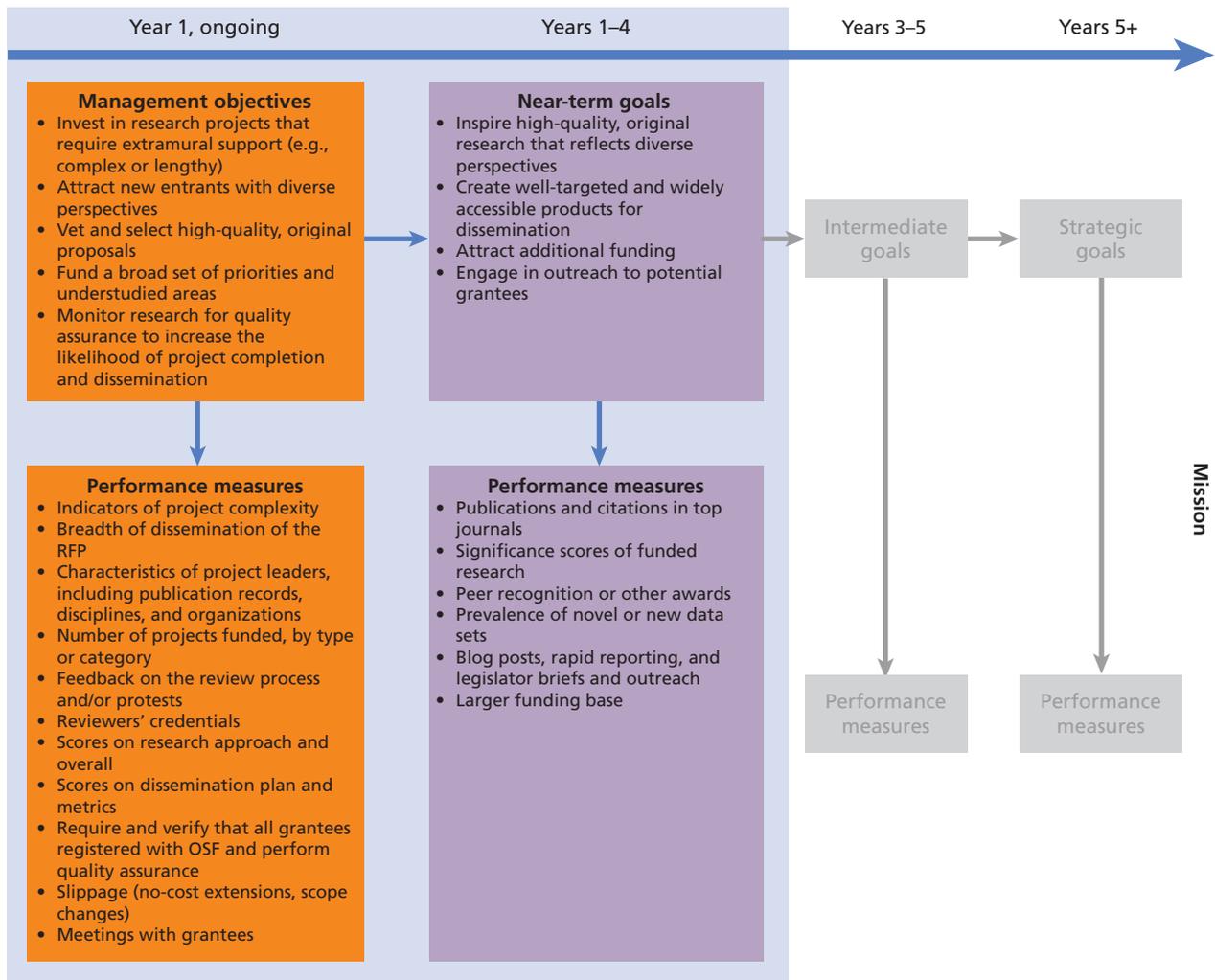
## Management Objectives

*Objectives.* To achieve its goals, the management of the collaborative must be intentional and guided by a clear set of objectives. One such objective is to identify research projects that could not be conducted without the collaborative's funding. Such projects are often ones that are too complex, lengthy, or costly for academics to do on their salaried time or that are too focused on controversial questions of gun policy to receive federal funding.

To attract new entrants to this field of research and to enable NCGVR to select the highest-quality proposals from the largest field of qualified applicants, the collaborative will need to engage in broad outreach, not just to current researchers in the field but also to researchers in other fields with relevant expertise. Close monitoring of all collaborative-funded projects will increase the likelihood that projects will be completed as expected and will result in findings of use to a wide audience.

FIGURE 3

Near-Term Goals, Management Objectives, and Performance Measures



*NCGVR research priorities.* Because all types of gun policy research have been underfunded over recent decades, there may be transformative research opportunities in many areas; thus, the collaborative will initially solicit applications on a wide set of topics rather than focusing on a specific high-priority problem. While keeping the scope of solicitations wide ensures the greatest participation by applicants who may have unique and important ideas on a variety of topics, the collaborative also recognizes the need to give potential grantees guidance about research topics of greatest interest to the collaborative.

NCGVR's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has sought advice and recommendations from a diverse set of organizations and individuals who met

with the committee and provided written opinions on where new and better information on gun policy and violence prevention is needed. Input from these stakeholders, along with RAC members' own views on priority research areas, helped inform and shape the initial set of research priorities set by the committee. These priorities are likely to evolve as NCGVR continues its work.

The RAC identified seven priority topics or approaches, organized into three groups:

- **Characteristics of firearm use and violence.** This priority topic area concerns basic and descriptive research in three primary areas:
  - *Characterizing firearm use, violence, and crime.* This area concerns, for instance, gun ownership

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The collaborative will initially solicit applications on a wide set of topics rather than focusing on a specific high-priority problem.

trends and gun use in the United States, the prevalence of nonfatal firearm injuries, how different classes of high-risk individuals acquire their firearms, and the harms or benefits associated with carrying a firearm.

- *Characterizing firearm suicide.* This area includes research on risk factors for firearm suicide to better inform targets, approaches, and implementation of public policies and prevention programming.
- *Characterizing officer-involved shootings.* This area includes both officer-involved shootings of civilians and firearm injuries sustained by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.
- **Interventions and strategies for firearm violence reduction.** Topics in this priority area involve applied research on existing and emerging policies, programs, or interventions to reduce gun suicide and violence:
  - *Community, law enforcement, and service system interventions to reduce gun violence.* This area includes evaluations of the costs and benefits of interventions designed to disrupt firearm violence, prevent firearm suicides, or safely minimize officer-involved shootings. NCGVR is particularly interested in research into coordinated efforts of multiple community or service systems, such as interventions that encourage

information-sharing and joint response by police and health care providers.

- *Effects of gun regulations within and across states.* This area includes research on the effects of federal, state, and local gun laws and policies on a range of outcomes, such as violence, suicide, crime, self-defense, gun availability, and criminal prosecutions.
- **New data collection.** This priority topic seeks to assemble fundamental information about gun use, gun injuries, defensive gun use, gun crime, gun markets, prosecution of gun crime, and other data that are not currently available for most states but that could contribute to new and better understanding of the causes and prevention of gun violence:
  - *Collection of data needed for understanding gun violence and evaluating programs and policies.* Research in this area includes improving the usability of data from the National Violent Death Reporting System for research purposes and working with government providers of data to supplement or revise existing data systems to better capture information about gun use, risk factors for violence, attitudes and beliefs, and other basic information.
  - *Collection of state-level prosecution and enforcement data.* Research in this area includes collection of data on state and regional differences in the enforcement and prosecution of gun laws. Such information might help explain differences in the effectiveness of laws across states.

*Measurement.* To measure performance on its management objectives, the collaborative will rate all full applications on a five-point complexity scale, ranging from work that could likely be done without extramural support to highly complex work that would be difficult to fund through federal grant programs. This scale will be used to assess the mix of projects attracted and funded by the collaborative.

Whether the collaborative is reaching a wide audience of potential grantees will be measured by how well disseminated each RFP is (both by the collaborative itself and by other sources or outlets, such as relevant listservs, media, or websites), the number of RFP views and downloads, and the number of proposals received

each year. We will assess the quality and diversity of those submitting proposals based on their publication records, main research disciplines, and the organizations they represent.

To assess the quality of our scientific merit review process, we will collect feedback from collaborative staff, reviewers, and applicants. The collaborative’s ability to vet and select high-quality research for funding relies on its ability to recruit experienced, knowledgeable reviewers to conduct the merit reviews. Reviewers’ credentials will be rated by collaborative staff—based on their current organization, their publications in the area for which they are conducting reviews, and the quality of their written reviews—and used to assess and report reviewer quality.

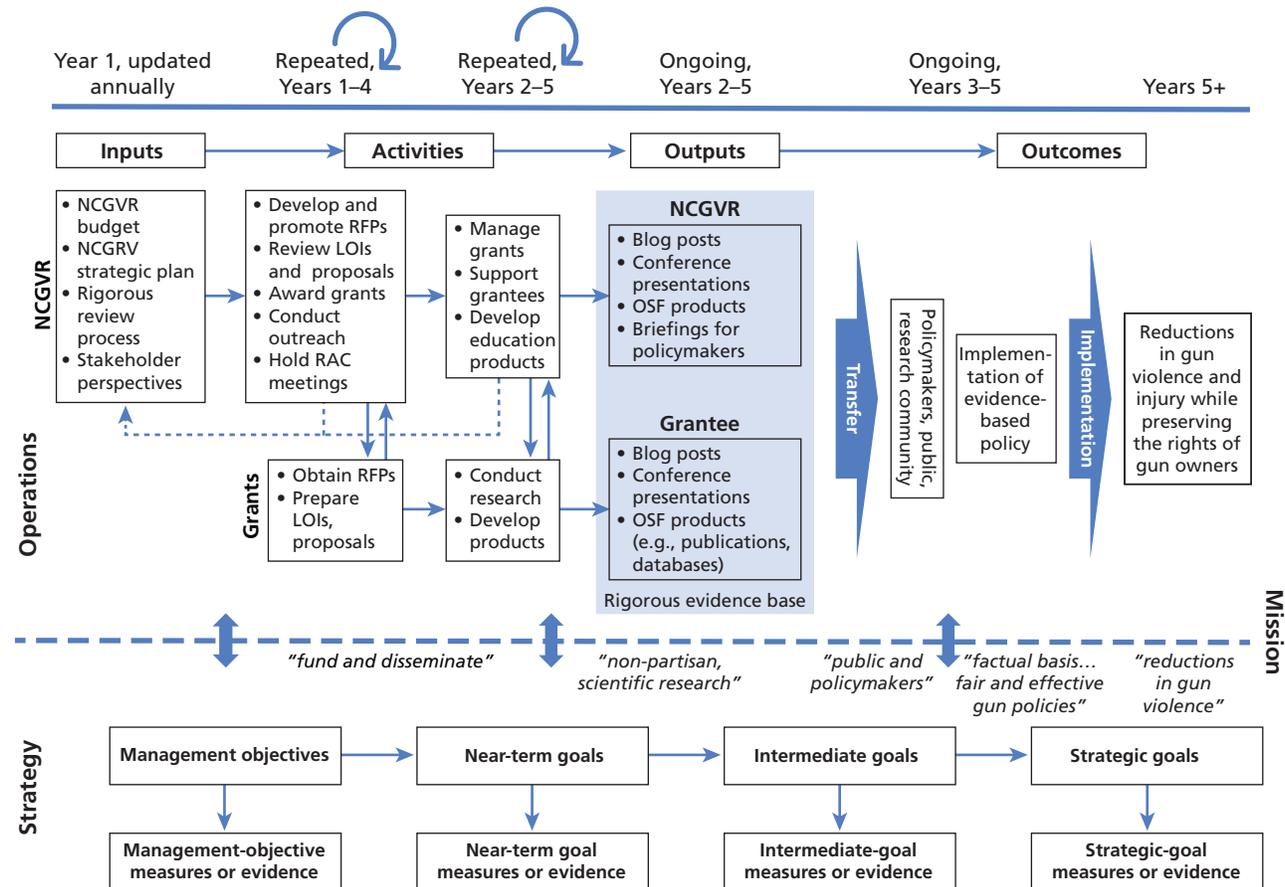
Proposal scores on significance, innovation, and research approach, as well as the overall scores, will indicate the quality of submitted proposals. Close monitoring of grantees will be assessed by the number

of meetings held with each principal investigator, the number of projects that are hitting deadline targets, the number of requested extensions or scope changes, and investigator compliance with reporting and OSF registration.

## Operational Plan

The operational plan is aligned with the strategic plan, as illustrated in Figure 4. The operational plan describes how the collaborative’s *inputs* (such as budget, strategic plan, and stakeholder perspectives) are used to perform specific *activities* (such as issuing RFPs and supporting grantees) that are designed to yield *outputs* (such as research products and briefings for policymakers) that contribute to the *outcomes* (such as the implementation of evidence-based policies) that will achieve the collaborative’s strategic goals.

FIGURE 4  
Operational Logic Model and Its Links to the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan



The collaborative uses its budget and other inputs to develop RFPs and ensure that there is broad awareness of the opportunity across diverse scientific communities. It supports conducting rigorous scientific merit reviews from highly qualified and independent research scientists, as well as holding meetings of the RAC to select awardees and to specify the scope and parameters of future RFPs.

NCGVR will be responsible for managing grants, supporting grantees by communicating and disseminating results, and developing products that support the collaborative's mission. Grantees will submit proposals and, if selected for funding, conduct high-quality research. Grantees will also participate in communicating their findings to a broad audience. These activities constitute the *fund and disseminate* component of the mission statement.

As noted, these activities are expected to produce a set of outputs—some created by the collaborative, others by its grantees—that contribute to an evidence base of *non-partisan, scientific research*. We expect that some of this evidence base will be produced as blog posts about research findings, conference presentations to a variety of audiences (e.g., academic, practitioner), research products posted on the OSF website (required of all grantees), and briefings for policymakers. Whereas all products will be based on traditional scientific reports, derivative products will be designed to reach and be understood by audiences that can use the information in their work or personal lives. These activities are a part of the collaborative's broader communications strategy.

The rigorous evidence base developed by NCGVR-funded research alone will not achieve the collaborative's intended outcomes, and this is the component of the operational plan where the collaborative starts to have diminishing control and influence. The collaborative will contribute evidence to gun policy discussions by disseminating research to *the public and policymakers* for them to use as *a factual basis* for establishing *fair and effective gun policies*, whether those policies concern, for example, a family's household decisions, a police agency's policies, or state or federal law.

The collaborative, however, will not advocate the implementation of any specific policy. Instead, it will provide objective information to those in a position

to implement or advocate policies in order to better inform their decisions and to improve the chances that the policies they advance will lead to reductions in gun violence while preserving gun owners' rights.

## Communications Plan

The collaborative's communications plan supports its mission and is threaded throughout its work and strategies. The plan focuses on six key audiences:

- *researchers and the academic community*—individuals who will propose, conduct, review, and use collaborative-funded research
- *policymakers* at the federal, state, and local levels
- *stakeholders and influencer organizations*, for which the collaborative can be a bias-free source of information and that can amplify the collaborative's messaging
- *media organizations*, which can disseminate news about the collaborative and its funded research
- *current and potential funders*, who will assess the collaborative's credibility and likelihood of success in making decisions about whether and how much to contribute to the collaborative
- *members of the public*, who will use information generated through NCGVR funding to inform their own views and actions.

The collaborative's communications will serve four primary goals:

- Translate, promote, and disseminate information in a neutral, accessible way to begin to depolarize discussions of gun policy. Coupled with unbiased data, this activity can help change the rhetoric and tone of gun policy debates.
- Shape and grow the gun policy research enterprise.
- Build the collaborative's brand and voice for evidence-based gun policy research.
- Educate stakeholders, including the public, and build relationships to generate demand and additional funding for gun policy research.

*Translate, promote, and disseminate.* It will be critical to translate the research—on paper and in person—in a way that is understandable and actionable for policymakers. All of the collaborative's communications—fact sheets, commentary, and other

dissemination of research results—will be relevant and useful. Our efforts in this area will ensure that messages are consistent and that NCGVR staff, the RAC, and grantees are prepared to answer tough questions about the work. The plan also includes a variety of products for disseminating information about the collaborative itself.

*Shape and grow gun policy research.* New and mid-career investigators across a range of disciplines are entering the field of gun policy research, and the collaborative is in a unique position to guide this development. This goal will be achieved by helping translate and disseminate information about grantees' funded projects and findings, connecting grantees to policymakers who can benefit from understanding their work, and communicating regularly with grantees to ensure a consistent message about NCGVR, its mission, and the work it funds. Communications efforts with a larger public will include widely disseminating RFPs and communicating about the collaborative's work across broad types of media and other outlets.

*Build a brand and voice.* A strong brand is critical to creating partnerships, attracting funders, and connecting with others in the gun policy space. It also establishes credibility and trust and helps maintain consistency and quality across all communications. In 2019, we will work to further define the collaborative's brand and establish the brand with key audiences. As part of this effort, we will redevelop the collaborative's website, focusing on information that will reach and attract a variety of audiences.

*Educate stakeholders and build relationships.* To build the collaborative's credibility, we must reach out to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels; prominent journalists; and a variety of stakeholder and influencer groups. To build trust and engagement with these groups, we will focus on relationship-building and direct, ongoing communication. This will include providing testimony on gun policy research to legislators, presenting to various organizations and conferences about the collaborative, and cultivating a relationship with media outlets that will enable the collaborative to reach a diverse and wide audience. These efforts are designed to build NCGVR's reputation as an impartial resource.

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The collaborative will succeed in its mission only if the research it sponsors is rigorous, trusted, and relevant to important gun policy discussions.

The success of this communications approach and strategy will be assessed by collecting data on print and social media mentions, meetings with legislators, meetings with reporters, the growth of email subscribers, and website metrics (e.g., visitors, clicks).

## Research Standards

The collaborative will succeed in its mission only if the research it sponsors is rigorous, trusted, and relevant to important gun policy discussions. To guide grant applicants, scientific merit reviewers, the RAC in its selection decisions, and grantees in the conduct of their research, we have identified the following standards for collaborative-funded research.

*Significance.* Research funded by the collaborative should be relevant to the decisionmaking of administrators, legislators, or other policymakers, as well as the general public. This does not mean that the collaborative will fund only policy analysis research or the most rigorous randomized controlled trials. In many cases, basic descriptive research or program evaluation research is needed before experiments or policy analysis would be appropriate. Using input from multiple stakeholder groups and the assessment of scientific merit reviewers, the RAC will select for funding those projects that appear most likely to advance knowledge where such advances are most needed.

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The collaborative is uniquely positioned to help shape the new wave of violence prevention and gun policy research and to help ensure that it is useful and influential.

**Rigor and innovation.** The research protocol for funded projects must be scientifically rigorous and likely to produce interpretable results. The collaborative funds such studies only when they are innovative—that is, they approach a question in a new or creative way that is likely to yield important or transformational insights.

**Neutrality.** The collaborative is not an advocacy organization and does not fund research that is likely to be biased by advocacy objectives. We evaluate each submitted proposal on its scientific merits, regardless of whether any applicant has a history of advocacy activities. If, in the judgment of the scientific merit reviewers and the RAC, a research plan is neutral and unbiased by advocacy interests and is likely to produce objective information, it is eligible for funding. However, the collaborative's funds may never be used to engage in advocacy activities, and scientific research reports funded by the collaborative should avoid drawing policy recommendations that are not comprehensively evaluated in the report.

**Balance.** Gun use is associated with a range of costs and benefits that are distributed unevenly across stakeholders. Research that will be persuasive to policymakers cannot focus just on the harms or just on the benefits of an intervention. Policymakers need to understand the costs and benefits, and to whom they accrue. The collaborative will strive to maintain a portfolio of funded research that examines the costs and benefits of gun policies. Although NCGVR has no control over grantees' scientific or other communications, it encourages grantees whose work is similarly temperate in tone, language, and approach.

**Transparency.** Information is trustworthy only if it is collected and analyzed dispassionately and with an open mind to the possibility that closely held

assumptions and beliefs could be wrong. Even then, in a scientific field as contentious as gun policy, researchers are routinely accused of cherry-picking their results to advance an advocacy agenda. To address these concerns, the collaborative requires its grantees to engage in multiple open science practices, including publicly recording their detailed analytic plans prior to undertaking their research. This allows readers to compare what is done and reported in the final research products with what the investigators said in advance that they planned to do. Similarly, grantees are required to publish interim work products, such as the data and statistical code used to perform their analyses, so that others can replicate or investigate the published findings.

**Quality assurance.** Research findings on gun policy are often sensationalized in the press. Not infrequently, the most sensational findings are ones that have not been carefully reviewed for comprehensiveness, research quality, tone, and balance. Collaborative grantees must agree to a quality assurance plan that guarantees that their results will not be released in public forums before an independent quality assurance review has been completed.

## Governance Plan

The collaborative's [governance plan](#) is detailed in a separate document. It describes the roles and responsibilities of the RAC, the Administrative Entity (RAND Corporation), and the collaborative's funders. The plan is designed to ensure that the collaborative pursues a portfolio of research that meets the research standards concerning significance, rigor and innovation, neutrality, balance, transparency, and quality assurance.

The plan creates a 12-member RAC with sole discretion for scoping and issuing requests for proposals and awarding grants. The committee comprises distinguished leaders drawn from diverse communities and regions of the country, whose experience in business, education, law enforcement, medicine, government, and other disciplines ensures that multiple perspectives are represented as the committee selects projects to fund. Committee members receive no remuneration for their service, although they are offered an honorarium for attending two meetings per year and travel expenses; some RAC members decline the honorarium.

The committee is supported by the Administrative Entity, which is responsible for staffing the committee, managing the scientific merit review process, issuing approved grant awards, and providing oversight of grant management.

Funders make contributions to a donor-advised fund managed by a reputable financial institution. The chairman and the secretary of the RAC have joint authority to approve distributions from the fund. To preserve the independence of the committee's decision-making, the funders do not see proposals reviewed by the committee before award decisions are made.

Although Arnold Ventures has initially provided NCGVR with startup funds for a five-year period, the collaborative has the potential to influence gun policy

for many years to come and can do so with contributions from new philanthropic sources. Our hope is that potential donors with diverse interests and ideological perspectives will recognize the importance and promise of the collaborative's mission and join in supporting the rigorous research it funds.

## Conclusion

After years of inattention, gun policy research in recent years has shown sudden signs of reinvigoration, through some state grants and an explosion of interest among new and mid-career investigators across a range of disciplines—economics, criminology, sociology, statistics, medicine, law and epidemiology, to name a few.

The collaborative is uniquely positioned to help shape the new wave of violence prevention and gun policy research and to help ensure that it is useful and influential. This strategic plan describes how we propose to capitalize on this opportunity.

Individuals or organizations interested in supporting our efforts are encouraged to make a gift to the collaborative. Please contact Olivia Cao ([cao@rand.org](mailto:cao@rand.org)), collaborative grants manager, to assist you with the gift process.

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## **About the Collaborative**

Because nearly 40,000 people are killed and more than 115,000 are injured by firearms each year in the United States, the public and policymakers need basic information on the causes of gun violence and how to prevent it.

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research seeks to produce and disseminate focused research that will support the development of fair and effective gun policies in the United States. Fair and effective gun policies are those that will save lives and reduce injuries while preserving gun owners' constitutional rights.

Research priorities are selected by the Research Advisory Committee, based on a review of existing science and the recommendation of gun policy researchers and stakeholders. Broadly, the collaborative funds projects that focus on understanding the patterns of gun ownership and use, understanding the benefits and harms of firearms in the United States, and evaluating policy interventions and technologies designed to reduce the harms or increase the benefits of firearm use in the United States.

The collaborative is not an advocacy organization. Despite often contentious and partisan disagreement over gun policies, most people agree that the United States needs policies that will reduce gun violence, and many are interested in trustworthy information about how that could be accomplished while protecting individual rights. The collaborative aims to support research that will broaden agreement on the facts and provide policymakers with the data-driven solutions and tools they need to make changes that will have a real and lasting effect on reducing gun violence.