
BUYING BACK GUNS
WILL SAVE LIVES AND HELP
BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
BETWEEN POLICE AND
PEOPLE IN COMMUNITIES
TO WORK TOGETHER TO
REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE.

ANDREW CUOMO, SECRETARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



For More Information

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing
Office of Public and Assisted Housing Delivery
Community Safety and Conservation Division

30,000 lethal shootings.
100,000 gunshot wounds.
Every year.



Stop the violence.
Turn in the guns.



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Price of Gun Violence

Choose any 2 years in the last decade: guns in the U.S. killed more people than in all the long years of the Vietnam War. Each week more than 600 people in the U.S. die in gun-related incidents. Many of them are children. Every 6 hours, a young person between 10 and 19 years old commits suicide with a gun.

Easy access to weapons is the single most important factor contributing to the high rate of gun deaths and injuries in this country.

GUNS IN OUR INNER CITIES ARE EXACTING AN AWFUL TOLL. FAMILIES ARE BEING TORN APART, YOUNG LIVES ARE BEING STOLEN, AND COMMUNITIES ARE LIVING IN A STATE OF CONSTANT FEAR. HUD'S GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM IS THE SORT OF AGGRESSIVE, INNOVATIVE PROGRAM THAT WE NEED TO HELP PUT A STOP TO GUN VIOLENCE.

SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY

Communities across the nation—including New York, Chicago, and Washington, DC—have conducted gun buybacks to curtail the hazards of accidental shootings, suicides, and domestic violence. Communities gain from gun reduction efforts when:

- Young people and adults feel safer going to school or work and then home again.
- Participation in community safety and crime control efforts grow.
- Police presence and trust in officers increases.

HUD's New Gun Buyback and Violence Reduction Initiative

When President Clinton announced the gun buyback program on September 9, 1999, he asked HUD to distribute \$15 million in funds for gun buyback and violence reduction efforts. "Every gun turned in through a buyback program means potentially one less tragedy," said President Clinton.

HUD is authorizing Public Housing Authorities, working with local police departments, to reprogram a portion of their FY 1999 Public and Indian Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) funding for use in the gun buyback and violence reduction initiative. HUD will provide an extra 43% of the reprogrammed amounts on a first-come, first-served basis, to provide additional funding for buybacks and related costs,

IN CONCERT WITH SIMILAR EFFORTS IN OTHER CITIES, GUN BUYBACK INITIATIVES GIVE STAFF AND RESIDENTS ADDED COURAGE AND SUPPORT TO GO OVER THE TOP IN CONTINUING TO ADDRESS THESE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

MICHAEL KELLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS

such as training, implementation, outreach, and monitoring/evaluation of this program. HUD encourages police departments and Public Housing Authorities to involve local government and/or private sector organizations in obtaining support from other sources.

Participation

Police departments and Public Housing Authorities must work together to be eligible for this program. Only Public Housing Authorities that received 1999

PHDEP funding and intend to devote a portion of their funding to gun reduction initiatives are eligible for participation. Gun buyback activities must be conducted by a local law enforcement agency. Public Housing Authorities must execute a Memorandum of Understanding with their local law enforcement agency for the additional law enforcement services before funds can be drawn.

Guidelines

Amount of value per gun: HUD suggests a value equivalent of \$50 for each gun exchanged.

THE MURDER, MAYHEM, THE SENSELESS DEATHS OF OUR CHILDREN AND THE RIDICULOUS PROLIFERATION OF FIREARMS ON THE STREETS OF AMERICAN CITIES NEEDS TO STOP. GUN BUYBACKS ARE AN IMPORTANT STEP, COMBINED WITH TOUGHER GUN LAWS, TO MAKE OUR CITIES SAFER.

WELLINGTON WEBB, MAYOR OF DENVER AND
PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Value equivalent: Gift certificates, food vouchers, or other incentives of value for those who turn in guns, in addition to, or in place of, cash payments.

Site of gun buyback activities: Gun buyback activities need not be conducted on Public Housing Authority premises, although it is anticipated that the gun reduction effort will have a noticeable impact on reducing the number of guns in public housing communities.

Disposal of guns: All purchased guns must be destroyed, unless police determine that a gun was stolen or is needed for an ongoing law enforcement investigation. Police must return stolen weapons to their lawful owners. Under no circumstance may a Public Housing Authority or police department resell or exchange guns for value.

