A Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) is an interagency collaboration focused on the timely collection, management, and analysis of crime gun evidence, such as shell casings and semiautomatic handguns, using NIBIN and eTrace. The CGIC process occurs in real time to identify serial shooters, disrupt criminal activity, and prevent future gun violence. The primary goal of these Centers is the timely identification, arrest, and prosecution of armed violent offenders. Other outcomes include: the identification of crime gun sources, efficient resource allocation, providing decision makers with the most accurate gun crime data available, and increased public safety.

Coupled with effective evidenced-based interventions such as Focused Deterrence and Hot Spot Policing, CGIC efforts decrease the number of shootings in a given community, improve the quality of gun crime investigations, increase clearance rates, and impactful prosecutorial outcomes; and increase public trust and confidence in law enforcement through meaningful community engagement. CGICs use forensic evidence—not race, socioeconomic status or other factors—to drive investigations and identify offenders.

These Centers are an intensive, ongoing, collaborative partnership between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), local police, crime/forensic laboratories, probation and parole, police gang units, prosecutors, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, crime analysts, community groups, and academics. The role of each partner is equally important as the next. To maintain effectiveness and sustainability, each partner must dedicate sufficient resources and personnel to the CGIC effort.

The National Crime Gun Intelligence Center Initiative (crimegunintelcenters.org), funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, supports local multidisciplinary teams in their efforts to prevent and reduce violent crime by identifying perpetrators, linking criminal activities, and identifying sources of crime guns for immediate disruption, investigation, and prosecution. These efforts and others are all components of CGICs, an innovative and collaborative concept developed by the Denver Police Department and the ATF. To request technical assistance, training, or other resources through this initiative, agency POCs should fill out a request form here.

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