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OVC SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) joins the Bureau of Justice Assistance, National Institute of Justice, and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in a collaborative approach to help ensure jurisdictions have access to expertise and resources to address community violence.

Discretionary Grant Projects and Programs

Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative

bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171282

This initiative seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders. Through this initiative, OVC awarded more than \$11.7 million to the following programs:

- **The Black Mental Health Alliance** will use credible messengers to engage residents in Baltimore City's hotspots for violent crime to offer violence prevention messaging, violence intervention, mental health services, youth entrepreneurship training, and case management to decrease violence and crime and promote community healing.
- **BOSS (Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency)** plans to provide violence intervention and prevention services to the Bay Area of California, including gun, gang, and gender-based violence prevention and response; community healing and restorative justice programs; and cognitive behavioral interventions through the Center of Excellence: Trauma Informed Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative.
- **The Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance and the Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center**, working with the Criminology Research Center at Cleveland State University, will enhance community violence intervention service delivery capacity to meet increasing needs in the Ohio community due to rising gun violence. The project will develop and implement a needs assessment, a process evaluation, and an impact evaluation of the area's only hospital-linked community violence interruption and prevention effort to high-risk victims of gun violence—those hospitalized following a gunshot and their families.
- **Community of Change, Inc.**, will lead a regional gender-based violence intervention program with subrecipients across five neighboring localities that rank among the highest firearm-related mortality cities in Virginia. Credible messengers and partners will be used to identify high-risk individuals in three local trauma centers; share consistent information about participants experiencing firearm-related injuries, trauma, or familial death resulting from a violent incident; provide case management support services to better address social determinants of health; and provide a replicable model.
- **Council Against Youth Violence** plans to streamline services to victims through case management; coordinate services across multiple providers; enhance the safety of at-risk youth and youth victims; reduce their risk of (re)victimization; and increase understanding of community violence and its effects to promote trauma-informed responses and interventions among youth-serving professionals.
- **Emory University's Interrupting Violence in Youth and Young Adults** project is a hospital-based violence intervention program at Grady Health System in Atlanta, Georgia, designed to reduce violent crime in communities across the metropolitan area. IVYY will convene multi-sectoral stakeholders; create a Violence Reduction Strategic Plan for the research, collection, and analysis of community violence data; and reduce the risk of recurrent injury for patients aged 14–34 years who are treated for a firearm injury across multiple health care domains.
- **Greater Baybrook Alliance's (GBA) Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan Implementation & Expansion** intends to reduce violent crime in the Baybrook communities that straddle Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties. BVRP will strengthen comprehensive, place-based, and data-driven violence intervention and prevention strategies, driven by a collaborative working group with lived experience, subject matter expertise, program implementation, and assessment experience. GBA will provide wraparound support services to shooting victims and others injured through violence.



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- The **Harris County, Texas, Public Health Department's Community Health and Violence Prevention Services** will expand the ACCESS Harris initiative to allow for additional community and hospital program staff to be hired, and for targeted risk assessment-based, coordinated care plans. CHVPS outreach specialists are trained to detect and interrupt violent conflicts and intervene to stop cycles of violence by working with individuals at the highest risk.
- **Jersey Shore University Medical Center** at Hackensack Meridian Health seeks to expand and enhance the program offerings of its hospital-based violence intervention program (Project HEAL) and community-based violence intervention program (Elevate, established in 2022). JSUMC plans to collaborate with a research partner to design strategic enhancements to its programs; enhance partnerships; create a CVIPI-Team; expand targeted community outreach; and make the program self-sustainable.
- The **Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department's Aim4Peace Program** (A4P), modeled after the Cure Violence program, aims to remove barriers to access and opportunity for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities served. A4P will strengthen the existing multidisciplinary team, conduct a new needs assessment, create a new Violence Reduction Strategic Plan, develop a sustainability plan, and ultimately prevent and reduce violent crime.
- **Prisma Health-Midlands** will develop and implement a hospital-based violence intervention program at Prisma Health Richland Hospital Trauma Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The program will serve high-risk teens and young adults living in underserved, marginalized, and high-crime areas treated at the trauma center for a violence-related injury.
- The **Providence Holy Cross Medical Center PREVENT VIOLENCE and BUILD TRUST in LA Communities Project** seeks to reduce risk and increase protective factors for violence in the communities of focus by strengthening a community-based coalition, implementing a Violence Reduction Strategic Plan based on a community needs assessment, and providing violently injured patients that present to the PHCMC Emergency Department or Trauma Unit with post-injury intervention.
- **Roca**, a program that focuses on young people at the center of urban violence, will implement and expand planning, community partnership, and services to increase the number of people receiving violence intervention services in Baltimore and its surrounding communities, thereby creating sustainable behavior change in those served and reducing community violence. The project will restructure and expand its existing Baltimore Young Adult Violence Planning Committee and create a committee in each community served; its After Shooting Protocol, a data-driven outreach approach; and its intervention and response services for those at highest risk.

Advancing Hospital-Based Victim Services

[ovc.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ovc-2022-171238](https://www.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ovc-2022-171238)

This program ensures that trained victim service providers are on hand in hospital emergency rooms to connect victims of violence

in underserved communities with the services and support needed to aid in their healing. OVC is funding The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (thehavi.org) to support the violence intervention programs connected to this initiative and promote equity for victims of violence.

National Center for Culturally Responsive Victim Services

[ovc.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ovc-2021-32002](https://www.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-ovc-2021-32002)

The center, managed by Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community (ujimacommunity.org), in partnership with The National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (sisterslead.org), facilitates the delivery of high-quality training and technical assistance to increase access to victim services and victim compensation for victims of crime who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality. The center will also administer microgrants to victim-serving organizations run by and for the communities they serve to increase the number of victims accessing services in underserved communities.

RESOURCES

The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit

[ovc.ojp.gov/program/vtt/introduction](https://www.ojp.gov/program/vtt/introduction)

This toolkit includes resources tailored to victim services, emergency medical services, fire services, and law enforcement that provide the knowledge and skills necessary for organizations to address vicarious trauma. OVC also funds a training and technical assistance initiative with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to build a sustained response to vicarious trauma across the country.

Model Standards for Serving Victims and Survivors of Crime

[ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/6/index.html](https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/6/index.html)

This e-publication provides three sets of standards—Program Standards, Competency Standards, and Ethical Standards—and guidelines and suggestions to help victim service practitioners and program administrators improve the quality and consistency of their response to crime victims; and to strengthen organizational capacity by defining the types of policies and practices that victim-serving organizations should have in place.

VOCA Victim Assistance Funds May Support Community Violence Intervention Efforts

[ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/media/document/ovc-community-violence-intervention-bulletin-9.20.21_0.pdf](https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/media/document/ovc-community-violence-intervention-bulletin-9.20.21_0.pdf)

OVC issued this bulletin to clarify that Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance formula funding may be used to support community violence intervention efforts. The VOCA statute and the VOCA Victim Assistance Program Rule do not prohibit using VOCA Victim Assistance formula funding for community violence intervention programs.