

Violence Intervention and Prevention Program FY 2025 Report

Public Safety Article, Section 4-906(c)(2)

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

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Introduction

In accordance with § 4-906(c)(2) of the Public Safety Article, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) must post a report on its website each year as it relates to information reported by subrecipients of the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund. Specifically, the report must include:

- Data collected during the duration of the award;
- A discussion of any collaborative efforts between the local government or nonprofit organization, a community-based organization, and any other entity in furtherance of the objectives of the award; and
- An analysis of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the award.

Pursuant to its charge, this *Violence Intervention and Prevention Program FY 2025 Report* includes information pertaining to data reported by subrecipients of the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and efforts to achieve its objectives. It also provides information related to several reports mandated by §§ 4-907 and 4-1009(c) of the Public Safety Article. To view these reports, please visit the Office's website at:

<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/reports-and-publications/>.

Background

Sections 4-902 and 4-903 of the Public Safety Article, which were established by Chapter 148 of 2018 (House Bill 432), created the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and a Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Advisory Council (Council) within the Office; and required the Executive Director of the Office to administer the Fund in consultation with the Council. Sections 4-906(c)(2), 4-907, and 4-1009(c) of the Public Safety Article also require the Office to create and post an annual report of the program on its website, order an ongoing evaluation of the program in consultation with the Council, and create a filterable display of outcome-based performance measures to display on its website, respectively.

Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund

Pursuant to § 4-902(b)(1) of the Public Safety Article, the primary purpose of the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund is to support effective violence reduction strategies, specifically gun violence, by providing competitive grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to fund evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs. Through this program, the Office awarded \$3,943,347 to the following subrecipients in State FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) to prevent and reduce gun violence in Maryland

(as illustrated below). Although the annual State budget appropriates \$3,000,000 for the program, the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center received a special appropriation of \$1,000,000, resulting in an award for \$943,347, as requested by the hospital.

Grant No.	Implementing Agency	Award Amount	Project Title	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
VIPP-2025-0001	Justice Innovation Inc. d/b/a Center for Justice Innovation	\$300,000	Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Evaluation	Statewide	The evaluation examined the implementation and outcome of programs, and provided feedback to help inform future funding decisions. It also identified areas that need improvement, and efforts to implement future programs with greater fidelity. Program funds provided personnel, operating expenses, travel, and other expenses.
VIPP-2025-0002	St. Mary's County Health Department	\$200,000	St. Mary's County Group Violence Intervention Program	St. Mary's	The program helped to reduce homicide and gun violence, minimize harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they served. It also connected affected family members and people exposed to gun violence to trauma-informed services, and reduced retaliation by those affected by gun violence. Program funds provided personnel, equipment, and training.
VIPP-2025-0003	Anne Arundel County Health Department	\$200,000	Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT)	Anne Arundel	Through a multi-agency team, the program helped to prevent and reduce gun violence in the county using a data-driven and evidence-based public health approach that included engagement with the community. The team's priorities were informed by a strategic plan to target the communities and populations most impacted. Program funds provided personnel, training, and equipment.
VIPP-2025-0004	Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE)	\$175,000	Supporting a Comprehensive CVI Ecosystem for Baltimore City	Baltimore City	The program worked to build a Community Violence Intervention (CVI) ecosystem to connect an existing network of disparate, one-off efforts, across the city. It also allowed partners to work with individuals of any age who were at the highest risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of gun violence in Baltimore City. Program funds provided operating expenses.
VIPP-2025-0005	University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center	\$943,347	Capital Region Violence Intervention Program "CAP-VIP" 2024	Prince George's	The program engaged injured patients to assess medical and social needs, and provided intensive case management on discharge. Program funds provided support for maintenance and program expansion, personnel, contractual services, equipment, and travel.

Grant No.	Implementing Agency	Award Amount	Project Title	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
VIPP-2025-0006	University of Maryland, Baltimore	\$200,000	Collaborative Violence Intervention and Prevention Program	Baltimore City	The program helped to reduce gun violence and recidivism, and improve safety. It also strengthened violence intervention and prevention resources, provided direct mental health services, and bolstered an existing coalition of community, public, and private stakeholders who worked to reduce gun violence in the Upton/Druid Heights neighborhood in Baltimore City. Program funds provided personnel, operating expenses, contractual, and other.
VIPP-2025-0007	Roca, Inc,	\$192,168	Baltimore County Expansion Project (BCEP)	Baltimore City	The program provided behavior change and evidence-based intervention services to young people aged 16 to 24. The program provided outreach to help young people achieve stage-based programming, transitional employment, and transformational relationships that focus to address trauma through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Program funds provided personnel, third party evaluation services, and program supplies.
VIPP-2025-0008	The Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County MD Inc.	\$200,000	Enhancing Evidence-Based Mental Health Services	Montgomery	The program provided evidence-based mental health services to reduce developmental risk factors for violence, including gun violence. Program recipients reported a decrease in mental health symptoms, and the community experienced increased public safety. Program funds provided personnel, and direct and indirect costs.
VIPP-2025-0009	Medstar Health Research Institute Inc.	\$200,000	MedStar Washington Hospital Center-Community Violence Intervention Program	Prince George's	The program worked with hospitalized survivors of community violence to provide direct victim services, identify and strengthen individual protective factors, and decrease risk factors for future violence. It employed well-trained managers, social workers, and treatment navigators in evidence-based best practices over the course of six months surrounding the injury. Program funds provided personnel, equipment, training, and other expenses.
VIPP-2025-0010	KEYS Empowers, Inc.	\$150,000	R.I.D.E. (Readying Individuals for Diverse Experiences)	Baltimore County	The program addressed generational trauma to support the development of adolescent and opportunity-aged youth in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The program provided services to address the basic, educational, financial, emotional, and trauma-healing needs of communities most impacted by gun violence and juvenile crime. Program funds supported consultants, operating expenses, contractual services, and indirect costs.

Grant No.	Implementing Agency	Award Amount	Project Title	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
VIPP-2025-0011	The Association for the Public Defender of Maryland LTD	\$150,000	Children's Defense Intervention Project	Baltimore City	The program provided secondary and tertiary gun violence prevention efforts for youth charged with gun possession in Baltimore County, to include screening, assessment, planning, advocacy, referrals, mentorship, and support through social work and peer support. Program funds provided personnel, in-State travel, training and professional development, and transportation and other essential necessities for clients.
VIPP-2025-0012	Racial Justice NOW!	\$100,000	Violence Prevention and Support for Black Youth in Montgomery County	Montgomery County	The program helped to provide evidence-based, culturally relevant support for Black youth, particularly Black boys, in Montgomery County. The program provided direct peer support, created new partnerships with local, county, and State agencies, and worked to eliminate violence and punishment disparately affecting Black youth in schools and beyond. Program funds provided personnel to support this crucial work.
VIPP-2025-0013	DC National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens (NAARC)	\$100,000	NAARC Restore the Streets (RTS) program	Prince George's	The program used the Cure Violence and Health Global Model to reduce gun violence, increase community safety, and provide stability in Prince George's County. It engaged Maryland returning citizens and their families to change harmful behaviors and develop and strengthen relationships with community partners through a focus on wellness. Program funds provided personnel, operating and program expenses, contractual services for counseling, and training.
VIPP-2025-0014	Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc.	\$225,000	Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan (BVRP) Implementation & Expansion	Baltimore City	The program provided Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) activities and school-based violence prevention programming in Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Brooklyn Park. The program served 478 elementary and middle-school-aged youth, and engaged 1,578 residents in CPTED activation events. It also leveraged Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc.'s Community Violence Intervention (CVI) work, evaluated by Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center (MCRIC) research. Program funds provided personnel, contractual services, and other.

Grant No.	Implementing Agency	Award Amount	Project Title	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
VIPP-2025-0015	Kingdom Kare, Inc.	\$175,000	Man Up Anne Arundel 2024	Anne Arundel	The program helped to reduce violence by working in partnership with communities using evidence-based strategies, as well as methods and strategies associated with disease control. The evidence-based Cure Violence framework was used to change the normalcy of gun violence within assigned focus areas, and stop the spread of community violence. Program funds provided personnel, operating expenses, and contractual services.
VIPP-2025-0016	One Love Life Center, Inc.	\$100,000	OLLC's Safe Streets: A Hospital-Based Approach to Ending Gun Violence	Prince George's	The program offered evidence-based services to gunshot survivors, to include: crisis intervention, art therapy, and wraparound services that address social determinants of health. It also engaged community organizations in violence prevention efforts through seminars, focus groups, and outreach initiatives. Safe Streets addressed the complex impacts of gun violence and promoted healing and resilience among survivors and their communities. Program funds provided personnel, travel, and contractual expenses.
VIPP-2025-0017	Let's Thrive Baltimore Inc.	\$100,000	LTB Community Violence Interrupters	Baltimore County	The program utilized evidence-based strategies such as community violence interrupters and partnerships with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE). Program funds provided personnel and resources to support program implementation.
VIPP-2025-0018	Lead4Life, Inc.	\$175,000	A Better Way Gun Violence Prevention Program (Eastern Shore)	Montgomery	The program utilized evidence-based strategies to deter gun violence in the Eastern Shore. Specifically, the program helped justice-involved young adults and youth with past or pending gun charges or at high-risk of a gun charge to complete court and/or probation requirements. Participants were screened and received peer-to-peer support and wraparound services. Program funds provided personnel, contractual services, equipment, and training.
VIPP-2025-0019	My Communities Keeper Prince George's County Network Inc	\$100,000	Suitland Violence Interruption Program	Prince George's	The program provided crisis intervention, a call center and community advocates, training in trauma-informed care, and workforce development to empower residents to foster safer environments. It also offered resources for career advancement, financial literacy, and education. Program funds provided personnel, consulting, and operations.

Grant No.	Implementing Agency	Award Amount	Project Title	Jurisdiction	Project Summary
VIPP-2025-0020	Center for Hope, Inc.	\$29,870	Advancing CVI Impact in Baltimore	Baltimore City	The program sustained critical violence intervention services and enabled Center for Hope to launch a new outcome evaluation process. It served high-risk youth and adults affected by community violence through trauma-informed intervention, community engagement, and digital threat detection to reduce violence and strengthen outreach efforts. Program funds provided personnel.
VIPP-2025-0021	Living Classrooms Foundation	\$21,272	Operation Respond	Baltimore City	The program changed attitudes related to violence and improved community safety and well-being in Belair-Edison and McElderry Park. The program served victims and perpetrators of gun violence, and empowered individuals at highest risk of gun violence, helped them heal unresolved trauma, and provided resources to remove barriers. It also conducted public education and community events promoting social unity and anti-violence. Program funds supported personnel and other expenses.

Subrecipient Reported Information

Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, subrecipients submitted quarterly programmatic reports to the Office's Grants Management System (GMS), as required by the *Grants Management System (GMS) Application Instructions*,¹ to include:

- Performance Measures: Includes quantitative measures that identify the immediate services, substantive changes, and long-term outcomes of the program.
- Progress Reports: Provides detailed information regarding the progress and effectiveness of the program.
- Financial Reports: Captures subrecipients grant financial reimbursement requests.

As required by § 4-906(c) of the Public Safety Article, 18 of 19 funded subrecipients submitted a report at the end of the grant cycle, to include the items below.² To view the individual reports, please refer to the [Appendices](#).

- Data collected during the duration of the award;

¹ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Grants Management System (GMS) Application Instructions*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/gms-application-instructions.pdf>

² Due to an unforeseen circumstance, One Love Life Center, Inc. was unable to submit a report at the end of the grant cycle.

- A discussion of any collaborative efforts between the grantee and any other entities in furtherance of the objectives of the award; and
- An analysis of the progress made in achieving the objectives.

Data Collection

Based on the quarterly submission of performance measure data, awarded subrecipients reported the following outcomes:

- 16,946 prevention and education activity attendees
- 11,754 attendees understood the topic better
- 9,442 individuals served
- 9,078 prevention and education activities
- 1,470 virtual meetings occurred when face-to-face interactions were not feasible
- 1,387 individuals received social referrals to the program
- 1,000 individuals successfully completed the program
- 532 active partnerships
- 303 staff attended training
- 101 individuals failed to complete the program

To view a filterable data display of all performance measures, please visit the Office's website at: <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/data-dashboards/vipp-program-dashboard/>. For more information regarding data collected by each subrecipient, please refer to the individual reports in the [Appendices](#).

Collaborative Efforts

Extensive collaboration among grantees under the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) grant program continues to occur. In State FY 2025, subrecipients reported a total of 532 active partnerships between various agencies, such as law enforcement, nonprofit entities, and/or government agencies affiliated with the program. These partnerships continue to facilitate efforts, to include:

- Multi-disciplinary collaboration and coordination among agencies.
- Community engagement initiatives that target at-risk populations.
- Partnerships with local schools, mental health providers, and other service organizations.
- Joint activities that address violence reduction, mentorship, career development, and poverty alleviation.
- Meetings and communication between entities to share resources and align objectives.

These collaborative efforts enhanced the implementation of evidence-based and community-centered approaches to violence prevention, fostering a robust network of support for

achieving program goals. For more information regarding collaborative efforts, please refer to the individual reports in the [Appendices](#).

Progress Achieving the Objectives

Through the VIPP grant program, awarded funds were used to support effective violence reduction strategies, specifically gun violence, through evidence-based health programs, evidence-informed health programs, and/or hospital-based violence intervention programs. During the reporting period, several subrecipients reported the following successes:

- Increase in community awareness and engagement with high-risk individuals in the community.
- Conflict resolution and mediation services delivered to empower community members to resolve disputes without external intervention.
- Greater community commitment to the program which increased the number of program participants and clients served.
- Decrease in violent crimes, violent gun crimes, and/or firearm-related crimes.

Please refer to the individual reports in the [Appendices](#) for more information.

Conclusion

Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, subrecipients submitted quarterly programmatic reports that identified the successful implementation and progress of each program funded through VIPP. Subrecipients also submitted a report at the end of the grant cycle, as required by § 4-906(c) of the Public Safety Article, to include information pertaining to each program (*as listed in the [Appendices](#)*). The Office, in consultation with the Council, will continue to support effective violence reduction strategies by providing competitive grants to local government and nonprofit organizations to fund evidence-based health programs or evidence-informed health programs.

Appendices

The following subrecipient reports include data collected during the duration of the award; collaborative efforts between the grantee and any other entities in furtherance of the objectives of the award; and an analysis of the progress made in achieving the objectives. For the purpose of this *Appendices* section, the following pages include narrative and visuals that were created by subrecipients and submitted to the Office in accordance with § 4-906(c) of the Public Safety Article. Although the Office formatted the narrative and visuals to follow the layout of this *Violence Intervention and Prevention Program FY 2025 Report*, the content accounts for information written by subrecipients only. For this reason, the information on the following pages do not reflect the Office's input.

St. Mary's County Health Department (VIPP-2025-0002)

The St. Mary's County Health Department Violence, Injury, and Trauma Unit, in collaboration with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) and various community partners, continued implementation of the St. Mary's County Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Program in FY25. Now in its third year, the program has continued to broaden its reach and strengthen connections with community members. Through direct client engagement via Custom Notifications, media campaigns, participation in community events, and hosting town halls, the program has increased its visibility and contributed to a reduction in group-violence-related crimes in St. Mary's County.

As FY25 concluded, the GVI team conducted 24 Custom Notifications with individuals identified as high-risk for either perpetrating or being victims of gun violence. These interactions delivered a strong anti-violence message, provided information about available community resources, and offered spiritual and mentorship support to empower individuals to change their lifestyles.

Goal Achieved

- The GVI team presented at the 2024 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Conference, showcasing the success of implementing the GVI strategy in a rural setting. Our session, titled "*A Community Approach to End Gun Violence – The Group Violence Intervention Program for St. Mary's County*," highlighted evidence-based strategies, program outcomes, and key lessons learned. We emphasized the importance of collaborative partnerships and sustainable funding to ensure program longevity.

- In partnership with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, we developed a GVI Juvenile Consent Form to enhance communication and service delivery to juveniles involved in group violence.
- Collaborated with the Center for Justice Innovation (CJI) to evaluate and refine the GVI program. CJI supported the creation of a post-evaluation survey for clients who successfully complete the program, helping to assess impact and identify areas for improvement.
- Expanded partnerships with 30+ local agencies and organizations, participating in conferences, trainings, town halls, and community events to promote violence prevention strategies and share resources.
- Successfully launched an in-school program at Great Mills High School, providing a space to connect with students and gain deeper insights into their perspectives, behaviors, and emotional well-being.
- Presented at the "Fact-Based Insights on Gun Violence in St. Mary's County" town hall hosted by SMCSO on January 27, 2025. The event brought together over 100 residents and law enforcement officials to foster dialogue, raise awareness, and explore solutions to gun violence.
- Attended 37 community outreach events throughout FY25.
- Engaged with over 6,000 community members at outreach events.
- Collaborated with 30+ community agencies across FY25 to enhance service delivery and collective impact.

Notable Highlights & News Coverage

- Sheriff's Office To Host Town Hall: Fact-Based Insights On Gun Violence In St. Mary's County:
<https://thebaynet.com/sheriffs-office-to-host-town-hall-fact-based-insights-on-gun-violence-in-st-marys-county/>
- St. Mary's County Unites For Community Violence Prevention Day In Lexington Park:
<https://thebaynet.com/st-marys-county-unites-for-community-violence-prevention-day-in-lexington-park/>
- St. Mary's County Health Department To Host Community Violence Prevention Day June 28:
<https://smchd.org/2025/06/health-department-and-sheriffs-office-host-community-violence-prevention-day/>
- St. Mary's County Health Department To Host Community Violence Prevention Day June 28:
<https://thebaynet.com/st-marys-county-health-department-to-host-community-violence-prevention-day-june-28/>

- A day of peace:
https://www.somdnews.com/multimedia/a-day-of-peace/video_883f3d37-d8e1-53a5-921e-c07a8b305f48.html
- The 2025 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo accepted the GVI film titled “Ripple Effect: Addressing the Lasting Impact of Gun Violence Through Community Action.” The film showcases the long-term consequences of gun violence and the role of community-led interventions. It will be featured at the APHA Public Health Film Festival, held November 2–5, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

Community Education & Outreach

- Marketing Campaign: A targeted digital campaign promoting the GVI program and Community Violence Prevention Day ran from June 2 to June 28, 2025. Metrics included:
 - Reach: 21,605
 - Impressions: 139,957
 - Post Engagements: 1,455
- Community Violence Prevention Day: Hosted on June 28, 2025, in observance of National Gun Violence Awareness Month, the event attracted approximately 500 attendees from Great Mills, Lexington Park, and California, Maryland. The strong turnout demonstrated growing community engagement and reinforced the impact of our educational and prevention efforts.

Firearm Safety Devices Distributed FY25

- 650 Gun Locks
- 50 Gun Safes
- 50 Portable Firearm Cases
- 50 Trigger Locks
- 3,000 Educational Brochures and Resources (covering safe firearm storage, responsible ownership, GVI program details, and local firearm statistics)

Professional Development & Learning Opportunities

- 10th National Gun Violence Prevention Summit (Washington, D.C., Sept 23–24, 2024): Staff engaged with advocates, survivors, policymakers, and social justice stakeholders to explore challenges and opportunities in the national gun violence prevention landscape.
- 15th Annual National Mentoring Summit (Washington, D.C., Jan 29–31, 2025): A platform for sharing best practices in youth mentoring and strengthening national mentoring networks.

- 2025 National Youth Advocacy & Resilience Conference (March 2–5, 2025): This conference offered training on trauma-informed care, youth well-being, and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The GVI team expanded its professional network and learned new strategies to enhance program impact.
- Congressional Briefing on Preventing Gun Violence (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.): Presentations by the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy shared the latest research and strategies to address gun violence as a public health crisis.
- Johns Hopkins “Break the Cycle” Violence Intervention Program Summit: This in-person/virtual event brought together leaders, lawmakers, and advocates from across Maryland to advance trauma recovery, violence prevention, and collaborative solutions.

Anne Arundel County Health Department (VIPP-2025-0003)

The final report outlines the activities, collaborations, data, and progress made under the Violence and Injury Prevention (VIPP) grant award period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The Anne Arundel County Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT) successfully implemented key initiatives in gun violence prevention, community engagement, training, and environmental design with continued support from VIPP funds and key partners.

Data Collected

GVIT collected and tracked data across core program areas, including gun lock distribution, training efforts, and community engagement:

- Gun lock Distribution: Nearly 10,000 gun locks have been distributed since the start of the program in April 2023. Distribution is tracked through a form and spreadsheet that includes residents zip code, race/ethnicity, quantity of locks requested/received, and referral source.
- Community Engagement: Three public meetings/events were held with increasing attendance—30 in October, 42 in February, and 65 in June—reflecting stronger community interest and outreach.
- Training Participation: A total of 217 individuals attended post-traumatic growth and healing centered training across nine sessions, with one session specifically focused on youth. All of the training sessions received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Collaboration Efforts

The GVIT maintains robust partnerships with a vast network of city and county agencies, all of which actively participate in coalition activities. These agencies contribute by regularly attending monthly meetings, participating in community events, and engaging in workgroup initiatives.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health continues to lead the GVIT. It facilitates collaboration across a broad multi-sector coalition, which includes representatives from the county and city Police Departments, Fire Departments, Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, Department of Aging, Mental Health Agency, Public Schools, Public Library, Johns Hopkins University, Health and Human Services, Anne Arundel Community College, city and county Housing Authorities, Social Services, Department of Transportation, and the state and county Attorney's Office. These partnerships reflect the GVIT's commitment to a comprehensive and collaborative approach to preventing gun violence and promoting community safety.

GVIT also worked with MESE Training and Consulting LLC to offer post-traumatic growth and healing-centered training, and partnered with a local artist and community stakeholders to develop a mural project focused on healing and community pride.

Analysis of Progress Made

The program achieved significant progress in advancing gun violence prevention and community safety:

- Distributed nearly 10,000 gun locks through a wide partner network.
- Hosted three community meetings, promoting education, safe storage tools and resident involvement.
- Delivered nine trauma-informed training sessions—four Post-Traumatic Growth and five Healing-Centered sessions—in collaboration with MESE Training and Consulting LLC. These trainings reached 217 participants, including community members, youth, and organizational staff, and focused on resilience-building and trauma response strategies.
- Initiated community revitalization work based on the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) model. This included a two-day CPTED training and the development of a community mural in northern Anne Arundel County to promote healing, belonging, and neighborhood pride.
- Selected to present a lightning talk at the 2025 Safe States Conference, highlighting its work on enhancing public safety through community engagement, data utilization, and effective communication strategies. Additionally, the program has been invited to deliver a poster presentation at PrevCon 2025 in October. If the program participates in both events, it will mark GVIT's fifth conference presentation, increasing its growing recognition in gun violence prevention—all supported through current and previous GOCCP funding.
- Drawn interest from neighboring jurisdictions. Howard and Baltimore counties launched similar initiatives after consulting with GVIT staff, and Prince George's County met with the GVIT program manager to explore best practices and adopt key elements.

These accomplishments were made possible due to the continuation of VIPP grant funds and the dedicated support of our partners, who have been essential in helping implement, expand, and sustain these initiatives.

In summary, the GVIT has been able to advance gun violence prevention through data-driven programming, strong partnerships, and targeted community outreach, GVIT has made meaningful strides in preventing gun violence and promoting safety across Anne Arundel County. With continued support and funding, the program is well-positioned to expand its reach, strengthen local capacity, and serve as a model for gun violence prevention statewide and beyond.

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (VIPP-2025-0004)

During the award period, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) continued to build Baltimore's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) ecosystem. This ecosystem connects and fortifies a network of disparate, one-off efforts, thereby covering more ground across the city. Baltimore's CVI landscape through FY25 was comprised of the City's flagship community violence intervention program Safe Streets Baltimore (SSB); Hospital-Based Violence Interruption Programs (HVIPs); school-based violence intervention, and trauma-informed community engagement strategies like Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Response (CNSR).

Our comprehensive violence prevention approach recognizes that Baltimore's vicious cycle of violence is a public health epidemic. Each of the dual, integrated approaches to preventing gun violence – Community Violence Intervention (CVI) and the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) -- leverage resources to stop acts of violence before they take place. The two strategies share important elements, such as relying on credible community voices to spread an anti-violence message and connecting at-risk individuals with services to step away from the path of violence.

CNSR is a trauma-informed approach to violence prevention led by MONSE that mobilizes City agencies and community-based partners to embed critical, readily accessible resources in a community over a 45-day period. MONSE coordinates with partners to ensure that efforts are specifically tailored to the response area. Baltimore's Peace Mobile and the role of the Peace Mobile Driver and Outreach Liaison funded by this grant are critical elements of its implementation in community.

Data Collected During Duration of Award

MONSE collected the following data related to the FY25 VIPP grant during the duration of the award:

- Percentage change in violent crime within areas where Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Responses (CNSRs) were completed
- Percentage change in shootings within areas where Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Responses (CNSRs) were completed
- Number of network VIPP collaborations when Peace Mobile/ resource fair was active and external partners were present
- Number of individuals who were referred to an outside agency for services and then accepted those services
- Number of individuals who are in intensive case management who were referred from a CNSR event (both CNSR and community response)
- Number of prevention and education activities conducted
- Number of attendees/ participants of the prevention and education activities
- Number of staff who received/attended violence prevention and intervention training programs and conferences

Collaborative Efforts Between MONSE and CBOs in Furtherance of Building a Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Ecosystem

During the award period MONSE continued to support ground-level community-based organizations (CBOs) working to improve safety in neighborhoods across Baltimore, leveraging VIPP grant dollars, City General Fund dollars, and ARPA violence prevention dollars. During the award period, MONSE prioritized strengthening relationships and ensuring strategic alignment across funding recipients – specifically augmenting our ability to coordinate in real-time around violence incidents in Baltimore City.

In FY25 MONSE continued to collaborate closely with the two CBOs that administer Baltimore's 10 Safe Streets sites: Associated Catholic Charities and LifeBridge Health's Center for Hope. Funding agreements with both organizations are executed as contracts. MONSE CVI staff, which includes a Deputy Director and two Outreach Liaisons, provided oversight and support for Safe Streets sites. MONSE provided regular technical assistance to Safe Streets site staff and leadership with the goal of ensuring that the program operates with high fidelity to the Cure Violence model. Our oversight priorities included workforce safety, program accountability, overall program efficacy, staff training and development, and workforce morale.

Through the position of the Peace Mobile Driver and Outreach Liaison funded by this grant, MONSE increased its capacity to respond to traumatic incidents on the ground using our Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Response (CNSR) protocol, another facet of Baltimore's CVI ecosystem. In FY25, MONSE activated 18 CNSRs, with the Peace Mobile Liaison playing a key role of ground level outreach and community engagement. These engagements included responses to:

- Nine (9) youth-involved homicides and/or shootings spanning East Belvedere Avenue, Dunbar High School, Kenwood and Glover, Mondawmin, Brehms Lane, Wilkens Avenue, Cedgate, Allendale, and East Baltimore.
- Two (2) police-involved shootings, including a homicide on Stricker Street in West Baltimore and a shooting on York Road.
- A mass shooting in the Oliver neighborhood.

As a result of these community-based stabilization responses, MONSE achieved the following outcomes:

- Addressed environmental issues in communities contributing to public safety challenges, including the maintenance of vacant lots, cleaning of illegal dumping and trash, clearing blocked and dirty alleyways, improved lighting,
- Partnered with the Baltimore Police Department to increase presence where requested by the community.
- Engaged youth in partnership with Roca, the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement, the PEACE Team, I AM MENTality, and Baltimore City Public Schools, as well as connected them with employment opportunities, case management services, and training/certification opportunities.
- Worked with Department of Housing and Community Development's Code Enforcement team to shut down a property that was being illegally used as an Airbnb.
- Built relationships with community leaders, faith leaders, local schools, and other community stakeholders.
- Added sharps containers to Carroll Park in response to a large volume of improperly disposed needles.

Progress Toward Achieving the Award Objectives

During the first half of FY25 MONSE made significant progress in reducing violent crime and violent gun crimes in the areas of operation (-33% and -75% declines, respectively, in Q2), but saw an increase on both of these indicators in Q4 (82% and 400%, respectively). There was a total of 9 network VIPP collaborations with external partners involving deployment of the Peace

Mobile and/or a resource fair. In addition, MONSE conducted 43 prevention and education activities in FY25 with 1,174 attendees/participants.

Metric	FY Q1	FY Q2	FY Q3	FY Q4
% change in violent crime in area of operation	-27%	-33%	N/A	82%
% change in # of violent gun crimes in area of operation	0%	-75%	N/A	400%
# of network VIPP collaborations	4	0	2	3
# of individuals receiving social referrals to the program	1	0	0	1
# of individuals served	0	0	3	1
# of prevention and education activities conducted	32	8	2	1
# of attendees/participants at prevention and education activities	517	158	480	19
# of staff received/attended training programs and conferences	0	0	5	2

University of Maryland, Capital Region Medical Center (VIPP-2025-0005)

Throughout Fiscal Year 2025, the CAP-VIP Program significantly expanded its reach and services to participants. The program provided intensive case management, resources, and support to up to 70 new participants and families.

Services included:

- Post-discharge clinic visits and discharge medications for uninsured participants
- Transitional or safe housing assistance
- Clothing support for post-discharge needs or job interviews
- Mental health resources (e.g., workbooks, journals) for the men's weekly group
- Transportation for clinic appointments and job interviews
- Access to community health events and wellness initiatives

To strengthen community engagement, CAP-VIP hosted its third annual Health and Wellness Fair, featuring local partner organizations and personal testimonials from five active participants. The program also launched its first gun violence summit spreading awareness of Violence Intervention Programs and the need to reduce violent recidivism. The program also hosted its first Survivors Empowerment Summit showcasing the survivors and preparing them for professional job interviews also equipping them with skills and dress to look the part.

Additionally, the program enhanced its weekly men's group sessions with diverse topics and continued our men's basketball group to promote physical health, mental well-being, and coping strategies.

Program Strengths

CAP-VIP's success is rooted in team cohesion and community partnerships. Recognizing the need for broader outreach, the program expanded its team from nine to eleven members in FY25, including a Three Case Workers and five Violence Intervention Specialists.

Key partnerships include:

- Community Advocates Family and Youth Services (CAFY)
- Maryland Family Resource Center and Transitional Youth Program (TAY)
- Hope in Action (HIA)
- Metle Works

These collaborations have expanded access to housing, employment, and mental health resources for participants.

Program Barriers

Despite its achievements, CAP-VIP encountered several challenges in FY25:

- Hiring Delays: Organizational process changes delayed new staff onboarding by six months within the grant cycle.
- Financial System Transition: A system upgrade in April 2024 temporarily disrupted vendor invoicing, new vendor setup, and payment processing, also delaying the use of granted funds.

These barriers slowed program expansion efforts and strained operational workflows and fund spending.

Data Collection & Participant Profile

To meet grant requirements and improve services, CAP-VIP conducts bedside assessments and maintains a centralized data system for all participants.

Key FY25 findings:

- Age Groups: Majority ages 18–24, followed by 25–30 and 31–34
- Injury Mechanisms: Predominantly gunshot wounds and stabbings
- Gender: 92% male
- Ethnicity: Primarily African American, followed by Hispanic/Latino
- Top Referrals: Safe housing (highest) Mental health counseling (second highest),
- Recidivism & Criminal Involvement:
 - 1 participant recidivated and were incarcerated

- 1 participant that was murdered while in the program.

University of Maryland, Baltimore (VIPP-2025-0006)

The work UMB EMBRACE Initiative conducts on Pennsylvania Ave has been pivotal to reducing the violent crime rate in Baltimore City. Our strategy is to utilize credible messengers to conduct street outreach along specific corridors where violent crime is prevalent. These credible messengers are people who have lived experience behind the wall (in jail), with the criminal justice system, and who have dedicated their lives as returning citizens to serve as peer mentors and support for individuals who are currently on the street.

Within the grant year we contracted with PEACE Team's credible messengers to conduct a total of 5,043 violence prevention and education activities in the Penn/Dolphin neighborhood. These activities primarily included violence prevention messaging which entails: 1) Identifying warning gangs in the service-delivery footprint 2) convening groups for mediation 3) holding multiple sessions to arrive at mutually agreed upon contract which ends in the peace treaty between groups to and conflict mediation between community members which entails 1) community members identifying Peace Team and asking for assistance 2) Peace Team meeting with individuals and setting up 1:1 mediation sessions 3) Conflicted resolved and possible violence deterred.

These coordinated efforts contributed to a 31% reduction in violent crime and violent gun crime in the Upton neighborhood, as compared to the previous year (Source: Baltimore Public Safety Accountability Dashboard). Secondly, multiple individuals received social service referrals to the Embrace Resource Center for housing, employment, and legal resources, and staff members received frequent training related to violence prevention and de-escalation.

Due to constantly changing territorial disputes between rival gangs, we have had to become more flexible in terms of where we assign our credible messengers. Our ability to reassign messengers as needed has increased our responsiveness and has allowed us to adapt to the turbulent and transient nature of these conflicts.

Our efforts on Pennsylvania Ave have brought continued hope to the community as they are noticing the effects of the changes that are occurring. With the reduction of violent crime individuals feel safer and businesses thrive. The presence of the PEACE Team's credible messengers has made significant impacts on the community and the established partnership that the UMB EMBRACE Initiative has with state and local officials has them utilizing our team for significant, unexpected challenges that marginalized, underserved communities face.

During the program year, we have seen unanticipated detrimental situations in which our team was brought in to manage and provide support to state and local officials. One such incident

occurred on Thursday, July 10, 2025 A mass overdose incident involving 28 individuals occurred in the Penn North neighborhood of Baltimore City. First responders quickly mobilized alongside public health officials and community partners, including EMBRACE and the PEACE Team. GOCCP funding allowed the PEACE Team to effectively engage and build rapport with many of the community members who assisted with the mobilization effort during this incident. The relationships that the PEACE Team's credible messengers have forged undoubtedly contributed to the swift response and prevention of fatalities.

The partner agencies involved (PEACE Team and UMB Embrace Initiative) continue to work together to ensure implementation can continue in the face of the gang war challenges, while improvements to data collection/tracking and project implementation protocols are also ongoing. Our team has conducted a SWOT analysis to continue our work for the upcoming year, which has helped us to identify how we can continue to partner together to be effective in our work. We know that as a team, as we work together to become more efficient and effective in our service delivery process, we can serve to continue to do the work of reducing crime in Baltimore City.

Roca, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0007)

The VIPP-2005-2007 award supported youth work and programming for high risk young people in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County. In Fiscal Year 2025, Roca Maryland served 354 young people, combining rigorous outreach with trauma-informed behavioral health interventions. This report outlines key outcomes, strategic developments, and challenges during a year of national political shifts and evolving violence prevention priorities.

Despite these broader changes, Roca remained unwavering in its mission to engage high-risk young men, support communities, and collaborate with public and private partners. Central to our approach is Rewire CBT, Roca's evidence-based behavioral health model, which continues to anchor our interventions.

FY25 marked a year of growth and resilience, both for our participants and our team. Roca's impact is increasingly recognized in Baltimore's violence prevention landscape. Our staff continue to provide consistent, relationship-based intervention to young people at the center of urban violence—offering stability, skills, and support in moments of high risk and change.

Programmatic Highlights:

- 354 young people served
- 204 new referrals
- 51 referrals from the Mayor's Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRs)
- 83 non-fatal shooting victims (NFSVs)
- 23,690 outreach efforts made to contact young people

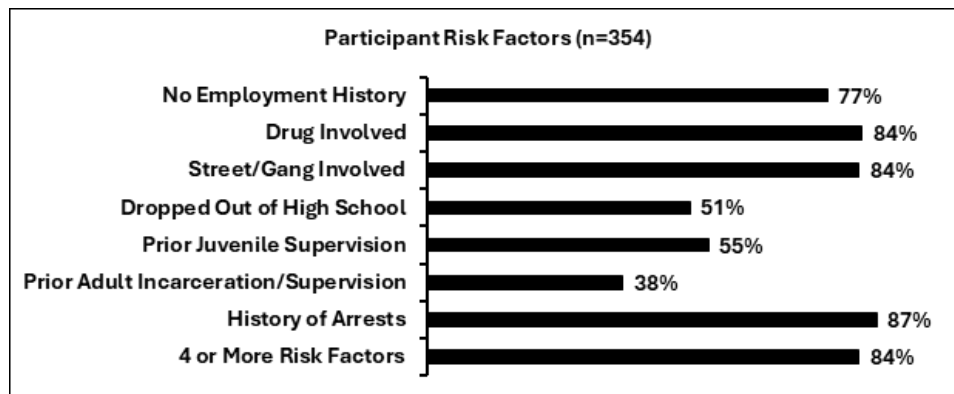
- 14,891 resulted in successful contact with young people (63%)
- 80% of participants engaged in Rewire CBT
- 91 young people participated in our Transitional Employment Program (TEP)

These numbers reflect Roca’s relentless approach to engaging young people at the center of urban violence.

Participant Characteristics

Roca serves young people most impacted by urban violence—often both victims and perpetrators. Many are involved with the criminal justice system, gangs, guns, or drugs and have experienced significant trauma. They often face barriers such as dropping out of school, lack of stable employment, or unsuccessful prior program participation.

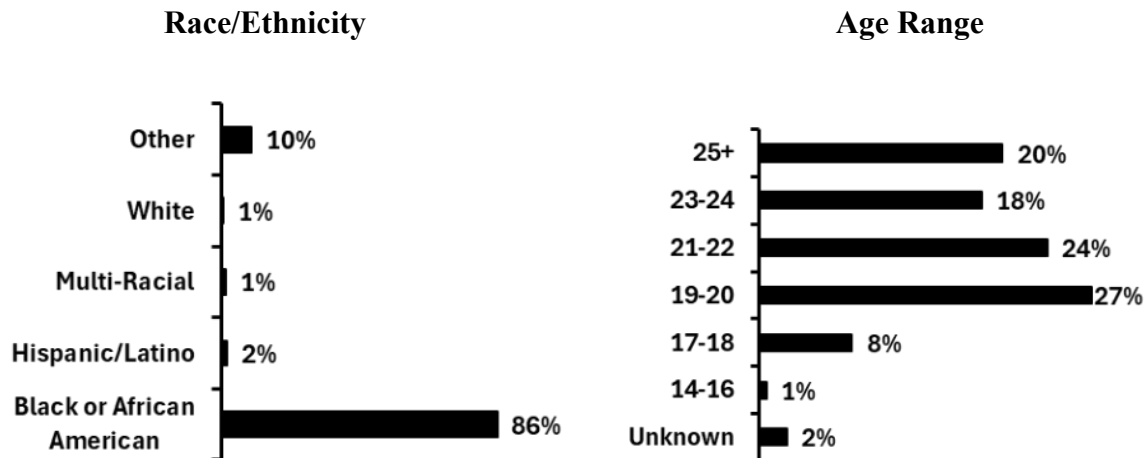
The tables below summarize the demographics and key risk factors identified at intake for the 354 participants we served this year.



Basic Demographics (n = 354)

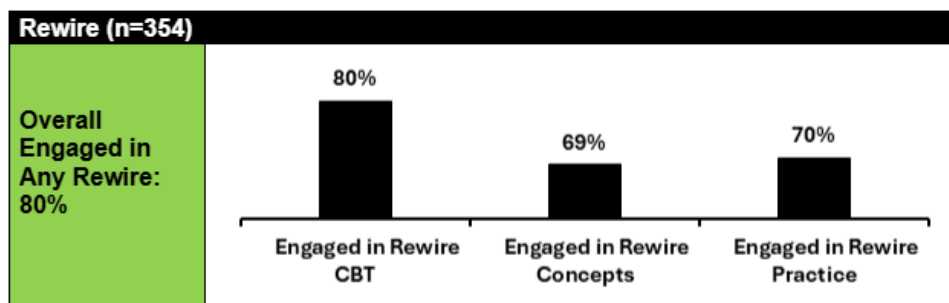
As seen in the graph below (left), most of Roca’s participants identify as Black/African American (86%), while the remaining 14% identify as Hispanic/Latino, Bi/Multi-Racial, White, or other.

In addition, Roca Baltimore focuses on serving young adults; the chart below (right) illustrates the current ages of our participants.



Rewire

Roca's Rewire CBT approach is grounded in the understanding that behavior change is a process, not a one-time event, and requires time, practice, and persistence. Young people at the highest risk of violence often struggle with deeply ingrained thought patterns and behaviors shaped by trauma, instability, and survival. By treating relapses as an opportunity for growth, Transformational Relationships and Rewire CBT build resilience, reinforce accountability, strengthen long-term behavior change, and supports staff in guiding youth through challenges without judgment.



Group Violence Reduction Strategy

Baltimore's GVRs targets the small group most likely to be involved in shootings due to their involvement with a group or proximity to an incident. Roca serves as the designated provider for GVRs referrals, working with the Baltimore Police Department, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), and Youth Advocate Programs to deliver intensive support to young people ages 16–24.

FY25 Highlights:

- 51 GVRs referrals received

- 11 participants enrolled in Roca’s intervention model
- 22 referrals pending eligibility review
- 3 young people relocated due to imminent safety threats
- 32 GVRS participants served (including referrals prior to July 2024)

To better serve this population, Roca secured additional city funding to hire two dedicated Youth Workers for GVRS referrals.

Programming and Employment

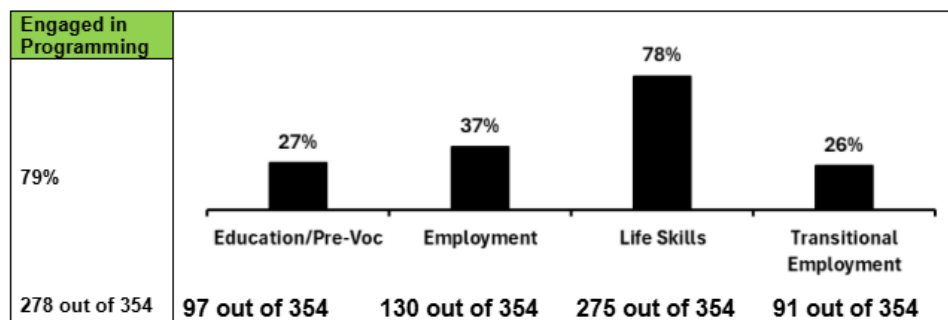
Early in the year, funding difficulties slowed the progress of our education programming. After filling the Education Instructor role and gaining momentum, a loss of federal funding forced staffing reductions, ultimately eliminating this position. This led to decreased engagement in GED and formal education programming.

To fill this gap, Roca partnered with Goodwill Industries, South Baltimore Learning Center, and Baltimore City Community College to ensure young people continued to access essential educational opportunities.

Despite these challenges, other programming areas grew stronger:

- Healing & Community Support: Monthly healing circles for non-fatal shooting victims, with participation from hospital partners, and weekly youth work circles.
- Life Skills & CBT Expansion: Increased group sessions, and one-on-one CBT classes, focusing on consistent, in-person engagement.

79% of young people actively participated in at least one program, demonstrating both strong demand and the resilience of Roca’s model despite funding changes.



Transitional Employment Program (TEP)

Over the past year, Roca's Transitional Employment Program (TEP) operated across Baltimore City and Baltimore County, with worksites at Mount Vernon, Clifton Park, Patterson Park, the Southeast Baltimore business corridor, and multiple municipal sites.

FY25 Highlights:

- 91 young people participated in TEP
- 20–25 participants reported to work daily on average

To strengthen TEP's impact, we redesigned Development Day to focus on individualized growth. Participants are now assigned to programs that match their needs, including Rewire CBT, Healthy Habits, Fatherhood, Harm Reduction, and Workforce Readiness.

Additional enhancements specific to TEP included:

- Financial literacy training through a partnership with M&T Bank
- Weekly healing circles every Wednesday to provide emotional support and build community
- A new workforce readiness requirement for participants before they begin work at any jobsite

Employment Partnerships

Due to the loss in federal funding the Employment Specialist was also eliminated. With that role gone it has been the work of multiple staff to absorb the duties that are necessary for not only getting young people employment ready but also connecting them with employers.

Roca continues to grow relationships with employers who hire successful TEP graduates, including:

- Midtown Community Benefits District
- Waterfront Partnership
- L&J Waste Recycling Company
- Vocational training partners like Vehicles for Change, Jane Adams Resource Center, and the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives

Looking forward, we are building new partnerships with employers such as Falls Road Mushroom Company, TopGolf, Baltimore Recreation and Parks, and The 6th Branch to expand sustainable employment opportunities for young people beyond Roca.

Interim Outcomes

FY25 results show steady progress in three key areas for participants:

- Behavioral health and improved emotional regulation
- Economic stability
- Reduced involvement in the criminal justice system

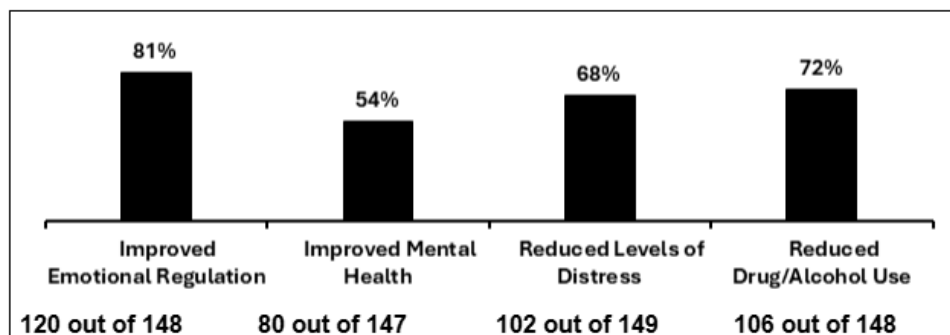
FY25's outcomes reflect continued improvement in Roca's participants cognitive health, economic stability, and overall involvement in the criminal justice system.

Cognitive and Behavioral Health

At intake and every six months thereafter, our participants complete a self-reported questionnaire designed to assess multiple aspects of cognitive and behavioral health.

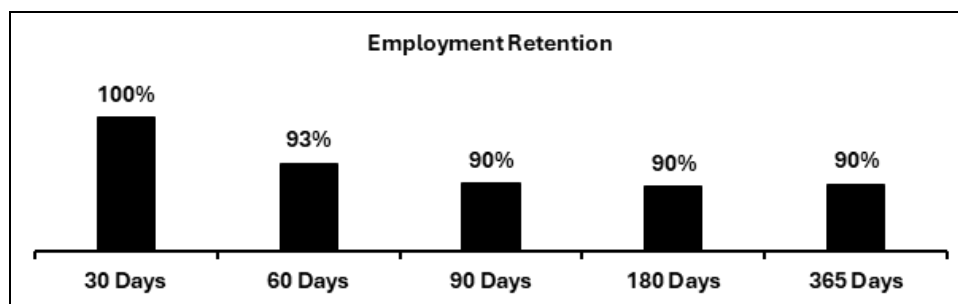
Out of the 150 participants who have been actively enrolled for at least 18 months and have completed a baseline and follow up assessment, we look at any improvements in their emotional regulation, mental health, levels of distress, and drug and/or alcohol use. The chart below documents our preliminary findings in these categories.

We have found that 147, or 98%, of these participants made at least one cognitive behavioral gain.



Employment

Of the 133 participants who have been enrolled for 21 months or longer, 23 (17%) secured unsubsidized employment this year. Overall, 100% of our young people who obtained an unsubsidized job were able to retain their employment for 30 days or longer. See the chart below for a greater breakdown of retention.



Criminal Justice

At the end of the fiscal year, 108 participants were actively enrolled in the Roca program for 24 months or longer. Of these young men 91 (84%) were not arrested after meeting the 24-month enrollment mark, and only eight (7%) of the 108 young men were incarcerated.



Participant Profile

Steph Jordan, a proud Roca graduate, completed the program in September 2024. He earned his HVAC certification in May 2022, which helped him secure work as a maintenance technician at his housing complex.

Driven to grow further, Steph obtained his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and was honored with Roca's 2024 Vinchey Phoung Peace Award for his dedication and perseverance.

In February 2025, Steph launched his own home improvement LLC, quickly building a successful business. Despite this achievement, his passion for giving back led him to join Roca as a Transitional Employment Supervisor in August 2025.

Steph's journey reflects resilience, growth, and service, inspiring the young people he now mentors and demonstrating the lasting impact of Roca's mission.

The Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0008)

During the period of support from this grant, the Tree House Child Advocacy Center (CAC) was able to continue its Problematic Sexual Behavior Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (PSB-CBT) group program. This program provides services to children between the ages of 7 and 12 years old in conjunction with their non-offending caregivers to prevent future problematic sexual behaviors and other abusive or anti-social behaviors. Between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, the Tree House CAC received 75 referrals for our PSB-CBT program. Of these 75, 8 children were ineligible for the group program but participated in a consultation appointment allowing Tree House clinicians to meet with the child and caregiver and provide some of the psychoeducation around PSBs, guidelines for supervision, and other resources to assist caregivers in addressing these behaviors at home. Four children weren't appropriate for Tree House services either due to residential placement or other diagnoses requiring a different specialization. Ten children didn't actually need PSB treatment and were referred for other trauma therapy instead. 25 caregivers opted not to participate in treatment. 28 children participated in the PSB group program during this period of support. Additionally, there is currently a waitlist for children ready to join the group suggesting this program's sustainability.

The Tree House CAC is working with community and MDT partners to increase awareness of the PSB-CBT program while also providing prevention education that all community members and caregivers can use. The Tree House has facilitated multiple presentations providing psychoeducation on Problematic Sexual Behavior in children and the PSB-CBT program at the Tree House with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The Tree House has also met with the Juvenile Division of the State's Attorney's Office to discuss the program and how the two agencies can partner to better serve the children of our community. The Tree House is one of very few sites nationwide providing PSB-CBT in both English and Spanish and presented on this topic at the National Symposium on the Sexual Behavior of Youth in February 2025.

During this period of support, the Clinical Director of the Tree House completed Within Agency Trainer training. Upon completion of this training, the Clinical Director was deemed eligible to train new Tree House clinicians to provide PSB-CBT which will expedite the training process considerably. The Clinical Director has begun the training process with five clinicians/students. The Clinical Director was also able to be trained in the adolescent adjunctive PSB-CBT model which will allow the Tree House to expand its services to include children up to the age of 14.

Medstar Health Research Institute, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0009)

MedStar Washington Hospital Center- Community Violence Intervention Program (CVIP), and other similar hospital-based violence intervention programs, provide a unique interaction when individuals are often in a position to be open to positive lifestyle factors. Engaging individuals at bedside is a key component to our program. Meeting individuals at bedside is a critical part of our program, as it offers survivors an "aha" moment where CVIP provides trauma-informed support. It also helps survivors realize that positive lifestyle changes are possible. CVIP's ability to promote positive lifestyle changes at bedside and beyond through our program specific interventions helps empower survivors to be the best they can be, and hopefully mitigate the possibility of violent injury recidivism.

Individuals who actively consent to participating in CVIP enables our team to provide immediate risk/needs assessment and case management using a culturally competent and trauma informed approach, where survivors gain access and resources and support to promote progression and positive sense of self. CVIP also provides no cost transportation to medical appointments to further reduce barriers to accessing medical care. Taken together, these interventions are designed to decrease the risks presented with violent injury recidivism.

MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC) treats the highest volume of violent injuries of any Level 1 Trauma Center in the District of Columbia. Since the inception of a mayor-funded initiative, MWHC continues to receive funding from the DC Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants to expand our hospital-based violence intervention program for individuals who were injured or reside within the DC borders.

Since receiving additional VIPP funding this year, we have been able to hire a new treatment navigator. We also continued to provide survivors with no cost ride share transportation for medical appointments.

CVIP Strategy

Medstar Washington Hospital Center- Community Violence Intervention Program (MWHC-CVIP) is a hospital- based violence intervention program within MWHC Trauma Department. MWHC-CVIP is a multidisciplinary team spanning from medicine, social work, data analytics, and injury prevention within the community. Participation by survivors in our program is voluntary and open to any individual treated at MedStar Washington Hospital Center as a result of a violent injury e.g. gunshot wound, stabbing, and/or assault. MWHC-CVIP primary source of funding is through the DC Office of Victims Services Justice and Grants, thus our initial focus on DC survivors, however there is a growing need to extend more into Maryland.

The mission of MWHC-CVIP is to reduce and prevent new injuries and retaliatory violence, and to promote an improved sense of self. Our goal is to guide and support survivors during their recovery by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors through engagement, empowerment, support, and advocacy. Making first contact with these individuals in the hospital setting offers a unique opportunity for approach. While in the hospital, survivors are removed from their normal environment and influencers and are coming to term with physical consequences of violence. This can provide a setting for an “aha! moment,” in which interventions are more likely to promote success, safety, and personal growth.

Members of the CVIP team are trained in a variety of interventions including trauma informed advocacy and care, crisis intervention, community resources, and case management skills. Additional support services that are typically provided by a licensed social worker: therapeutic supports e.g. Motivational Interview, Family Systems, Solution Focused, and Trauma- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Our clinicians work closely with community agencies to provide referrals for the following: financial assistance, victim’s assistance programs, safety planning, housing, job training, educational resources, legal services, and medical and behavioral support providers. Prior to COVID restrictions we were providing monthly support group meetings for any survivors of violent injury regardless of time since injury or geographic location during injury. The idea is to create additional networks and peer support for our survivors. This past fiscal year we attempted to initiate a virtual option, however there was little participant interest at that time.

One of the most important interventions and clinical approaches that ALL CVIP staff are trained in is trauma-informed care. Trauma informed care is grounded in and driven by the understanding of how trauma can affect an individual neurologically, biologically, psychologically, and socially. It encourages us as allied health providers to assume that every patient has experienced trauma in some way, and requests we tailor our care to best meet their needs. Every type of service delivery including medicine, education, juvenile justice, and mental health can be impacted when an individual is a survivor of a violent injury and it is important that symptoms are not seen as pathology, but as means to cope and survive. The basic principles of Trauma-Informed Approach include:

- Safety
- Trustworthiness and Transparency
- Peer support
- Collaboration and mutuality
- Empowerment, voice and choice
- Cultural, Historical and Gender issues

This allows us to have an enhanced awareness of the ways in which trauma might impact the individuals we are encountering and facilitate recovery and empowerment.³ Funding awarded from VIPP permitted our team to complete a Trauma-Informed Care for Organizations certificate program in fall of 2019. This continued education has grown our base knowledge of Trauma-Informed Care in a way that will allow us to promote the basic principles institution wide.

CVIP staff is available in-house Monday- Friday, 8:30am to 5pm. Referrals to our program are welcomed from hospital staff, survivors directly, or family of survivors. Members of our team carry cell phones that alert us when traumas are arriving to the MWHC receiving unit, which allows us to make immediate contact with survivors and/or loved ones during business hours. Individuals are first treated and stabilized medically for their violent injury.

CVIP team supported by VIPP funding:

- Program Manager: .1 FTE
- Clinical Social Worker (Vacant) : 3FTE
- Maryland Violence Intervention Navigator: 2.0 FTE

Additional CVIP team not funded by VIPP:

- Medical Director
- Program Coordinator
- District of Columbia Violence Intervention Navigators (3)
- Clinical Social Worker

As mentioned previously, the additional program funding supported a full-time Violence Intervention Program and Treatment Navigator. We previously were able to designate 30% of our Clinical Social Workers time to Maryland survivors. This allowed us to successfully expand our program to provide more specific care coordination for Maryland survivors both during admission and post discharge to ensure participants are successful in obtaining their self-identified goals. However, our vacancy for this role is still unfilled despite a consistent search and interview process. Additionally, the candidates we did identify as great candidates ended up taking other opportunities instead.

We help with transportation to and from appointments, including appointments relating to job training, education, and other community resources. We continue to see access to transportation as a notable barrier and interference with progression. We are active within Uber Health, which provides safe, HIPAA secure, ride transactions for individuals who meet income requirements. Fortunately, this service does not require individuals to have their own Uber

³ <https://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>

account; they are just required to have access to a cellular telephone. VIPP funding has continued to enable us to provide transportation support for Maryland survivors.

CVIP Program Manager facilitates weekly meetings to discuss active participants needs/goals. The purpose of these meetings is to assess the service dosage of each participant and ensure each team member can adequately manage their assigned caseload. Once active, participants are classified as high, moderate, and low service dosage depending on several factors including survivor's participation and overall needs. At minimum, our team will follow up with a survivor post-discharge at minimum twice a month. Individual needs can change on a weekly basis, thus resulting in changes of service dosage and duration. Usually, as a survivor progresses through the program, their service dosage decreases over time. We are structured in such a way that additional support is ideally not necessary after 6 months. However, we are aware of the potential for some individuals to require additional time and will continue to provide support as necessary.

Our weekly case conferences also serve to evaluate and improve our own process measures including percentage of contact with eligible patients, uptake by eligible patients, and follow-up among our participants on a weekly basis. With support from this project funding contact attempts, service dosage requirements, and participation were recorded in our customized database developed through CRM Salesforce Health Cloud. This allows us to have consistent, real time, data reports that are easily accessible.

Program Goals Analysis

The overall programmatic goals were to promote survivors overall during their recovery by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors through a multipronged approach consisting of: engagement, empowerment, support, resource connections, and advocacy. By focusing on promoting an improved sense of self, creating positive connections, and addressing barriers to a survivor's progression our hope is to be able to reduce and prevent recidivism among these individuals.

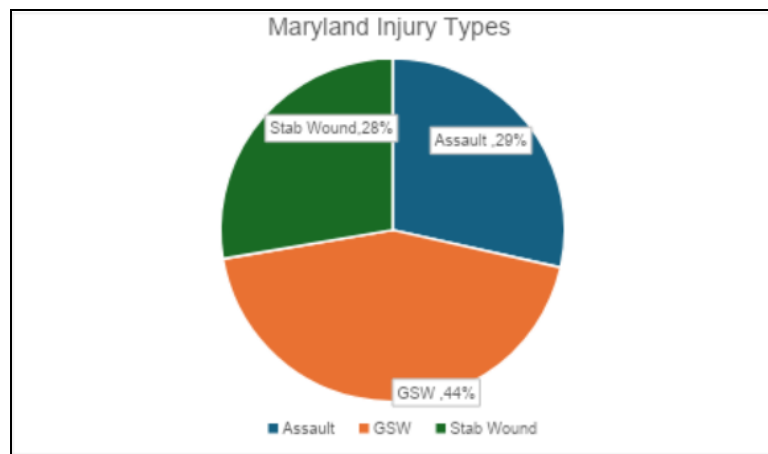
- Strengthen individual and institutional capacity to provide trauma informed recovery interventions for victims of violence. We were able to successfully board the following positions: Treatment Navigator I and Treatment Navigator III. We are still searching to identify a skilled, qualified, and empathetic social worker to fill our vacancy. We are determined and dedicated to attracting our ideal candidate by collaborating with HR to revamp role description, pay, and qualifications. We continue to promote the vacancy at Howard School of Social Work, Project Change monthly meetings, within the Medstar Health System, and within the violence intervention community. Not having a social worker on staff has hindered our goal of being able to provide no barrier mental health services, however we have been actively referring individuals in need of mental health

services to organizations that are fully equipped to support survivors of community violence.

- Increase Collaboration with additional Maryland Organizations to Promote Community Violence Reduction. We continued to collaborate with the Center for Justice and Innovation for evaluation of our program. This consisted of CVIP distributing surveys to active participants and hosting the center for justice and innovation for a day of interviews and learning more about who we are and what we do. One of our continued focus points for award year 2025 was to be able to create and maintain more substantive collaborations and networking with additional VIPP recipients.
- Promote positive development and quality of life for individuals and families affected by community violence in Maryland. VIPP funding allowed us to increase our staff to further provide enhanced case management, advocacy, emotional support, and community resource access. We also continued to assess the on-going needs of each individual and were able to provide support based on individual goals tailored to each survivor.

This past quarter CVIP hosted the first Trauma Survivors Day at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. Trauma Survivors Day consisted of CVIP staff speaking, program participants sharing their stories, hospital and community partners present, and light refreshments. This event was able to celebrate, highlight, and empower our participants, as well as to highlight the impacts of community-based violence within our community. We will continue to grow and expand this event to include more HVIP programs and additional community partners.

Data Collection

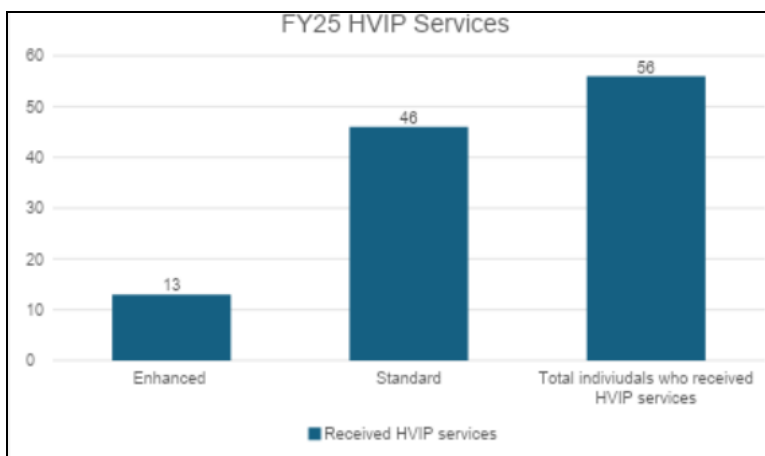


During award year 2025 Medstar Washington Hospital Center (“MWHC”) CVIP treated 224 Maryland Residents who sustained a violent injury. Injuries sustained from a firearm were the

most prominent injury type, with a total of 106 injuries or ~44%. Additionally, there were approximately 67 (~28%) assaults, and 51 (~28%) stab wound related injuries.

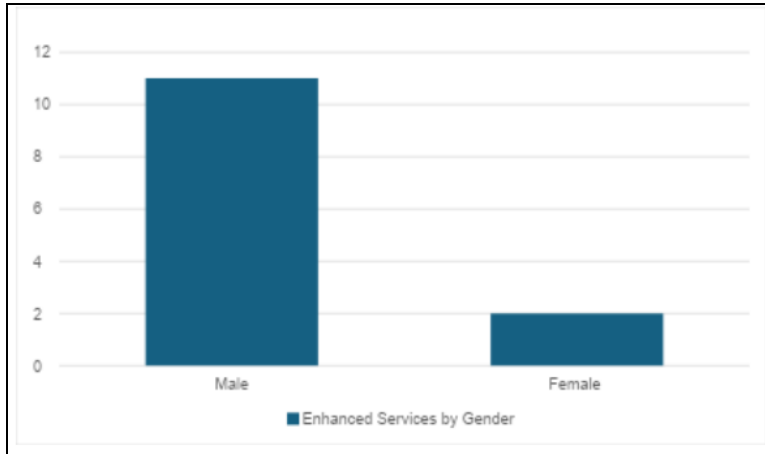
Of the 244 injuries treated at Medstar Washington Hospital Center, 138 were eligible for our program. We were able to successfully engage with 124 individuals, and 100 at bedside. This reflects an 80% success besides engagement rate.

This bedside presence allows CVIP to provide immediate support, share program information, and encourage survivors to consider positive lifestyle changes. Even if a survivor does not want to participate in the program, CVIP still provides survivors with “a seed of change” that may be impactful for the survivor post discharge. For some individuals, a simple show of emotional support may be all they need at the moment, giving them time to process and consider the program at their own pace. Subsequently, there were five new individuals who consented to CVIP services this past quarter, all of whom were initially engaged at bedside.



A total of 56 Maryland survivors were able to receive based services during the 2025 award year. We had 13 individuals consent to our enhanced services, which include ongoing additional support post discharge from the hospital. CVIP provided standard HVIP services to 46 individuals at bedside, regardless of interest in receiving additional support post discharge. Our standard services consist of daily emotional support, CVIP information folder with a CVC application enclosed, information/referrals to additional community resources (if not eligible for our program), and advocacy.

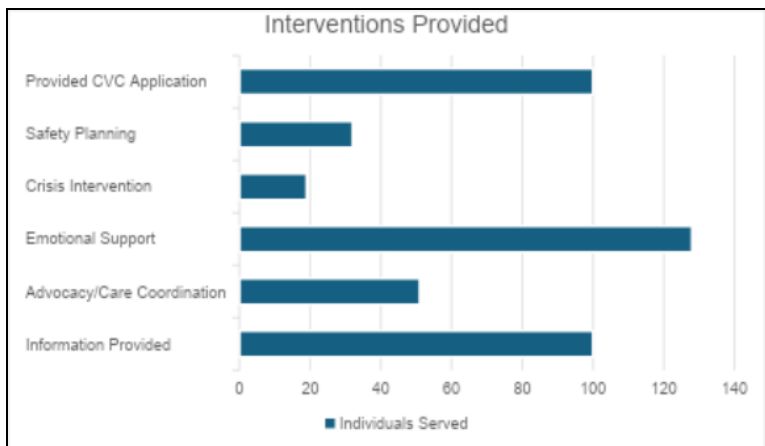
At the date of this report, CVIP is still actively working with six individuals who are Prince Georges County residents, and seven were able to successfully complete the program.



CVIP was able to provide the following trauma informed interventions for Maryland survivors:

- Emotional support: (128)
- Provided Crime Victims Compensation Application: (100)
- Information Provided (70)
- Advocacy & Care Coordination (51)
- Safety Planning (32)
- Crisis Intervention (19)

Each survivor had an average of 3 successful encounters regardless of enrollment status.



KEYS Empowers, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0010)

For FY25 (July 1 2024 to June 30, 2025), KEYS Empowers served over 1,000 Baltimore youth and families through integrated violence intervention, education support, and community strengthening programs. Despite returning \$100,000 in funding to The Maryland Department of

Health due to administrative challenges, we maintained service delivery through innovative partnerships and volunteer engagement.

Key Achievements:

- 40% reduction in violent crimes within service areas
- 92% attendance rate for justice-involved youth in YouthWorks
- 100% of 12th graders on track for graduation
- 547 students connected to college opportunities
- 209 families served through Culinary Therapy

Violence Intervention: The R.I.D.E Program

The R.I.D.E. (Readying Individuals for Diverse Experiences) program achieved remarkable violence reduction outcomes through evidence-based interventions and community partnerships.

Results:

- Violent crimes decreased from 10 (Q1) to 6 (Q2)
- Only 1 recidivism case among 33 participants (3% rate)
- Secured Multi-Systemic Therapy provider status for Baltimore City

Youth Development: Game of Life

Our flagship program served 47 youth across two sessions, focusing on non-traditional life skills development and career readiness.

Program Outcomes:

- 92.6% of participants made new friends
- 81.5% want to return next year
- 55.6% expressed college aspirations
- Skills developed: Financial literacy, CPR certification, sewing, music therapy

“I never thought I could manage a budget, but now I feel I can handle my money and plan for my future.” - Scholar Participant

Family Strengthening: Culinary Therapy

Expanded from 32 families (Q4 2024) to 56 households (Q1 2025), delivering 500+ grocery bags and virtual cooking sessions with integrated mental health support.

“Cooking together has brought us closer and helped my children understand the importance of nutrition and mental health.” - Parent Participant

Community Engagement

- HBCU College Fair: 547 participants, 79 acceptances, \$34,000 in scholarships
- Additional Events: Sneaker Ball (212), School Board Tour (58), Stamped from the Beginning (36 families)

Adaptive Resilience & Future Direction

- Challenges Transformed:
 - \$100K funding gap → Diversified sources
 - Staff medical leave → Volunteer recruitment
 - MDH termination → Hybrid service model
- Best Practices: Ecosystems Theory application, Data-driven programming, Youth leadership pipeline
- Doral Scholars 2.0 (FY26): Laser-focused violence reduction for males of color with full MST implementation, enhanced data systems, and expanded DJS partnerships.

Partnership Network

- Funding: GOCPP, Abell, Annie E. Casey, BCYF, T. Rowe Price, Weinberg, Bloomberg
- Program: DJS, YouthWorks, Family League, MTM Foundation, Tri Hearts LLC
- Community: 12+ small businesses providing hands-on training

In 2025, we didn't just survive—we evolved. Every statistic represents a life touched, a family strengthened, a future secured.

The Association for the Public Defender of Maryland LTD **(VIPP-2025-0011)**

The Association of the Public Defender of Maryland (APDM), in partnership with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender (MOPD) is pleased to submit this FY25 final report for the Children's Defense Intervention Project. This innovative program provides secondary and tertiary prevention and intervention to youth involved in the criminal or juvenile legal system due to a gun possession related charge. With the expertise of a licensed social worker and certified peer recovery specialist, project participants receive an assessment, service plan, advocacy, and support to address trauma and violence exposure, reduce recidivism, and foster positive life outcomes.

This program is continuing through a FY26 VIPP grant. This report documents progress during the initial FY25 grant period to plan and launch the program, and deliver services at the intersection of legal advocacy and public health.

Data Collected

The first half of the project period focused on project planning and recruitment. APDM and MOU executed a memorandum of understanding to formalize their project collaboration, developed a data collection tool, jointly recruited for two project staff positions, and held meetings with the juvenile defender supervisor in Baltimore County to prepare for services.

The social worker provided pilot services as a contractor during the fall, with the project formally launching in January 2025, once she and the reentry specialist were hired full-time. In total, 19 young clients were enrolled in the program. The social worker conducted nine full clinical assessments and prepared written reports for seven clients' transfer hearings. Few clients' cases were fully resolved in court during the project period, but two were transferred from adult to juvenile court, and three received suspended prison sentences with community-based treatment. Together, the social worker and youth reentry specialist referred 14 clients to community-based services. Twelve clients made improvements to their health, well-being, family, or education.

Collaborative Efforts

This project relied on collaboration at every level. It was conceptualized and implemented through the public-private partnership of APDM and OPD. As the state agency charged with representing indigent children charged with a crime, OPD is uniquely able to identify and engage project participants and, by retaining the project staff as part of the legal team, allow for the heightened level of confidentiality and candor within the attorney-client relationship. The administration and management through the non-profit APDM allows for increased opportunities to leverage resources and engage others about the issues of children charged with gun related crimes.

The project's client activities also relied on a collaborative team model, bringing together legal representation, social work, and peer support to provide clients with the multidisciplinary expertise needed to successfully address their legal issues and put them on the path toward success.

Finally, a key component to this project is connecting OPD clients with community-based programs, which requires collaboration with area service providers. The project team maintains relationships with programs' staff to facilitate successful referrals and problem solve issues that arise for overlapping clients. The reentry specialist further participated in tours of eight programs throughout the state to gain a greater awareness of their culture and services.

Progress in Achieving the Award Objectives

The Children's Defense Intervention Project made tremendous progress this year in furthering the project objectives:

Objective #1: Identify the evidence-based or evidence-informed health program that is evaluated through scientific research and data collection.

We applied the evidence-based Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) framework to the legal setting by providing trauma-informed social work and reentry support services to high risk youth charged with a gun possession related crime. The first half of the project period focused on planning – when we finalized protocols for referrals and services, and hired a licensed (LMSW) social worker and a youth reentry specialist who had lived experience in the juvenile legal system. The second half of the project period focused on implementation, when as discussed above, we served 19 children who were charged with a gun possession-related crime.

Objective #2: Invest in violence intervention and prevention resources.

Nineteen children charged with a gun-related offense in Baltimore County received social work and/or peer support services to identify and address the root causes of their interaction with gun charges and the legal system. The social worker conducted clinical assessments, developed service plans, prepared psychosocial reports, and assisted with education access. The reentry specialist provided mentorship, nonclinical referrals, and advocacy and support. Twelve clients reported improvements in their health, well-being, family, or education. The project team assisted clients in obtaining employment; completing a GED; entering training for a professional license; securing in-person education; and arranging placement in residential treatment programs.

Objective #3: Adopt a clearly articulated logic model that incorporates robust guidelines of systematic and iterative processes to ensure an evident plan for the development and evaluation (internal and external) of VIPP programs.

The logic model (submitted with the proposal) served as a guide throughout the project's development and implementation. While many of the required data points were not applicable to this project, our quarterly reports provided an opportunity for quality assurance and reflection. We tracked benchmarks indicative of the impact of our project. In addition to the number of children assessed, served and provided with one or more referrals by the project team, we also measured the number of reports submitted or testimony provided in court, the result of transfer hearings for participants charged as adults, and the number of children released from detention to receive services in the community.

Objective #4: Establish community partnerships and relationships with collaborators.

The project team engaged community partners to refer 14 clients for a variety of services, including residential treatment, education, vocational training, and family support. The reentry specialist participated in site visits of seven programs.

Objective #5: The integration of technology to offer digital support for the program.

The social worker and reentry specialist met with their clients in person, with virtual visits not available for those who remained incarcerated. While they advocated clients to receive in-person education, where possible, the project team facilitated virtual school when that was the best or only available learning option. The social worker facilitated one client receiving a Chromebook from the school district so that he could attend virtual school. She also provided the court with information about virtual school to support home detention for a client who had been incarcerated. The full project team – including the grant social worker, youth reentry specialist, their supervisors, OPD’s juvenile supervisor for Baltimore County, and the grant specialist – met quarterly virtually, to discuss progress and challenges. The social worker and reentry specialist also received weekly supervision online from the social work supervisor and peer unit manager, respectively.

Racial Justice NOW! (VIPP-2025-0012)

Racial Justice NOW! (RJN!) worked diligently in partnership with the Maryland GOCCP Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) over the last year. The impact we have on families within our community is holistic and deeply personal, which influences how we write our goals and measure progress. We use a variety of tools to track our performance measures, including digital calendars, attendance logs, meeting notes, and qualitative feedback from participants and community members.

During the grant period, our small, grassroots team completed:

- 97 Brotherly Love Meetings Held
- 11 Youth and 2 Adult Participants in the Black August Summer Institute
- 13 MCPS School Board Meetings Attended
- 34 Meetings with Parent Advocates
- 7 Meetings with Local Elected Officials

We supported more than 160 individuals, with 12 students successfully completing our Brotherly Love or Black August Summer Institute programs (several returned as leaders/mentors after graduation!). Notably, we have seen incredible growth from the boys and young men participating in our Brotherly Love program. All participants have made progress towards their educational and career goals. The youth who have had justice system involvement in the past

have completed all requirements and have not reoffended. We have retained more than 80% of members, recruited new participants, and 100% of participants have shown personal growth in qualitative assessments conducted by RJN! staff, program partners, families, and participants themselves.

Collaboration

Discussion of any collaborative efforts between the local government or nonprofit organization, a community-based organization, and any other entity in furtherance of the objectives of the award

Partnership is key to our operations at every level. We have continued to work closely with core partners including the Dignity in Schools Campaign, Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, ACLU of Maryland, Baltimore Brothers, and Jews United for Justice.

When the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Commission was created in Montgomery County—the result of years of reparations demands and will help direct tax revenue from legalized cannabis back into the communities who were hardest hit by the War on Drugs—RJN! fought hard to ensure that the local commission was established in the spirit of the legislation and not merely to check a box. We are proud to have RJN! Co-Executive Director Zakiya Sankara-Jabar will be representing our community on the commission, with the power to vet and make recommendations of who will receive funding. This is one facet of our ongoing broadening scope addressing other arms of mass incarceration beyond upstream prevention of the Preschool-to-prison pipeline.

During the grant period, we also entered into an exciting collaboration with Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services Innovation Team. Our shared goals were to lead and manage the overall transformation work, provide expertise, develop and inform strategies, push for radical innovation at all times, develop and oversee the overall work plan, and participate in smaller facility-based working groups. Our partnership with then-Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services Vincent Schiraldi and his team has been respectful and productive. We are honored to represent the voices of our community members who have been most impacted by involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Finally, throughout the grant period, RJN! Staff members met regularly with coalitions and committees (local, county, and statewide) including the monthly Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee (R.E.D. Committee) housed at the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families, which works to address disparities in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Analysis of Progress towards Objectives

In our initial proposal, we identified the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1: Provide evidence-based violence intervention and prevention to develop positive identity and leadership skills for Black youth through peer support programming.

- Objective 1.1: We will expand our successful Brotherly Love peer group program for Black male students, increasing the age range to include middle school students as well as high school students. We expect to see a 50% decrease in disciplinary actions taken against Black boys over a 4 year period ending in 2025 within schools that have engaged with RJN!. We are also working towards a 50% decrease in incarcerations for the same population during the same time frame through self-development, healing, mentorship, and advocacy. We also hope to achieve a 50% increase in Black boys and young men directly involved in RJN! programming pursuing higher education, entrepreneurship, or apprenticeship after high school.
- Objective 1.2: We will create a parallel program to support Black female students. As programming for girls and young women is incorporated, we will develop and track similar outcomes.
- Objective 1.3: We will bring the Building Leaders & Activists with Collective Knowledge (BLACK) Program to Montgomery County. The BLACK Program is a social, historical and cultural program that is uniquely tailored to fit specific wants, needs and challenges of your learning community. Black Boy Poems and the Black Boy Poems Curriculum are the foundation of the curriculum.

Analysis of Progress Towards Goal 1 Objectives: We invested deeply in our Brotherly Love cohort over the last year, and they met or exceeded all goals. All participants are currently attending public school, employed, and/or engaged in postsecondary education. During the reporting period, we continued to hold twice weekly meetings for our flagship Brotherly Love youth peer support group for Black male students. Each meeting is facilitated by RJN! team members, with regular guest presentations from partners like Baltimore Brothers—a local non-profit organization with a mission to end the violence and exploitation facing our most vulnerable communities. Brotherly love classes focus on five areas: Character Development, Safety and Situational Awareness, Physical Fitness/Development, Problem Solving/Critical Thinking Skills, and Leadership (through study of historical examples). Brotherly love students participated in a series of brainteasers, image analysis, scenarios, and physical activities to test their ability to work together, be consistent, assess situations, and safely avoid conflict and mental or physical harm.

In addition, we brought four Montgomery County youth participants to our annual Black August Institute, which was held in Primo Tapia, Mexico. Each day of the week-long retreat included

both classroom sessions, physical training, and hands-on experiential learning. The institute included 11 youth in total, with participants from the DC-Maryland-Virginia metropolitan area, the San Francisco Bay area, and Mexico. This is our third year hosting the institute, a program created by Racial Justice NOW! in collaboration with artist and educator Tyson Amir and Freedom Soul Media Education Initiatives. In the past, the institute included travel to Oakland, California—a crucial component that helped our youth gain a new perspective in a new place. This year, we found that holding the institute in an international location for the first time created an even richer experience for all of the participants. Sessions included yoga, horse riding, archery, martial arts, urban agriculture, hiking, and more. Three of the four youth attendees from Maryland chose to become leaders and mentors in the program after they completed the institute. All in all, our youth came away empowered by new ideas, new experiences, and a greater sense of their own strength.

Due to staff capacity and partial funding, we were not able to launch a second youth program. We did grow Brotherly Love to include several new members over the last year.

While we did not bring the specific BLACK program to Montgomery County, we did host an emergency convening that incorporated academic and creative lenses into a discussion of the crisis facing Black men and boys, featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Tommy J. Curry, Ph. D, MPH, Professor of Philosophy, Personal Chair of Africana Philosophy and Black Male Studies and the University of Edinburgh. We also continued to push for Culturally Relevant Curriculum as a cornerstone of support for Black students in Maryland schools.

Goal 2: Secure resources and partnerships from local, county, and state partners to invest in the wellness of Black youth in Montgomery County, Maryland.

- Objective 2.1: Over the next year, we will work to establish two new key supports for Black youth to help prevent violence and substance use and alleviate mental health crises. We will work with the Montgomery County Public Schools to create an Office of Black Male Achievement, which will provide targeted resources for this underserved student population to bolster what are consistently the lowest academic outcomes across gender and racial breakdowns (Black male students have the lowest graduation rates and the highest rates of suspension and expulsion according to the Maryland State School Board).
- Objective 2.2: We will work with the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department to help design and implement programming targeted towards Black boys in areas of the county identified as “hot spots” for youth activity.

Analysis of Progress Towards Goal 2 Objectives: Our team met several times with elected officials and decision makers in Montgomery County Public Schools to present the evidence and case studies supporting the creation of an Office of Black Male Achievement.

In addition, Zakiya Sankara-Jabar and Hashim Jabar worked to develop targeted youth programming to support violence prevention for Black youth (particularly Black boys and young men) and presented our plans to the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department with parents of students in attendance.

Ultimately, we do not have the power to implement these programs ourselves, only to educate and advocate on behalf of our young people. In 2025, the political will to enact these changes was not there. In addition, our team was pulled away from long-term efforts several times throughout the reporting period to attend to urgent concerns, including the illegal failure to deliver Special Education services required by students' individual education plan (IEPs), resulting in disproportionate harm and discipline of Black boys by MCPS administrators.

Goal 3: Promote the abolition of violence and punishment that disparately impact Black children (including removing law enforcement from our schools). Eliminate social, physical, psychological, and emotional school disciplinary actions that target Black children.

- Objective 3.1: Advocate for alternative approaches aligned with pan-African cultural values, with a focus on healing. Over a 5 year period ending in 2025, we are working towards a 75% decrease in disciplinary actions taken disparately against black students at schools that have engaged with RJN!.
- Objective 3.2: We are building a coalition of parents and educators with shared intention from 20 local schools ranging from primary through secondary school and train 50 parents and 50 educators in advocacy to achieve this outcome.

Analysis of Progress Towards Goal 3 Objectives: We are still compiling this data as part of our upcoming School Discipline Report Card. In the early days of our organization's history, RJN! pioneered the report card methodology to assess and assign a grade to the disciplinary practices of over 1,000 school entities across Ohio. This practice of 'grading' schools has now been adopted by many educational justice organizations, and we support our partners in using this incredibly effective tool to shine a light on the racist disciplinary practices unfairly targeting Black youth—particularly Black boys—across the country. While we have seen progress towards our goal of decreasing disparate disciplinary actions taken against Black students, we have also been met with pushback against several interventions (including the removal of law enforcement from classrooms).

We are excited about the strength of the coalition we have built in Maryland! Perhaps the greatest display of this power and unity was the incredible support for our emergency convening last fall, titled Beyond the Pale: The Systematic Vilification of Black Boys and Men. This two-day conference featured a comprehensive exploration of the historical and political factors

contributing to this crisis as well as an analysis of existing models that have shown a positive impact on improving the conditions of Black boys and men.

Presenters included:

- Keynote Speaker Dr. Tommy J. Curry, Ph. D, MPH, Professor of Philosophy, Personal Chair of Africana Philosophy and Black Male Studies and the University of Edinburgh
- Dr. Evan Auguste, Licensed Psychologist and Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston - The Criminalization of Black Consciousness
- Dr. William Smith, Distinguished Professor and Jon M. Huntsman Presidential Chair at the University of Utah - Racial Battle Fatigue and the Invisible Toll on Black Boys: A Crisis in Mental and Physical Health
- Youth Panel featuring Brotherly Love Group Members

Our emergency convening was well-received. A representative from the Black Coalition for Excellence in Education, who spoke on one of our panels, called it “the most meaningful brilliant convening on Blackness” that she had participated in, adding that “the data and stories are mind-blowing and heartbreaking.” We packaged the data, analysis, stories, solutions, and recommendations that emerged from expert presentations and community input. This information, including videos, is now widely accessible via our website. This information is critical to Black youth, parents, educators, medical professionals, lawmakers and other decision makers. In response to community support, we have decided to make this an annual event and are already planning our fall 2025 convening.

Conclusion

We are grateful to have been invited to apply for this grant opportunity. Your support was transformational for our young people. We were able to not only stabilize and support current members (who have all shown tremendous personal growth and a 0% rate of recidivism) but we were also able to expand the program to support additional students. The partnerships and momentum we have built up over the past year will continue to bolster our organization as we work to build a future where Black students and families have the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

DC National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens (VIPP-2025-0013)

Starting July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, NAARC conducted its comprehensive ‘Restore The Streets’ program within Prince George's County, Maryland. This initiative primarily focused

on the vibrant communities of District Heights, Suitland, and Seat Pleasant, aiming to make a meaningful impact on violence prevention and community engagement throughout the year.

Over the course of this period, we actively worked to introduce and build awareness of our organization's mission and proven strategies for reducing violence in these neighborhoods. Our team participated in a total of eight community events, which served as vital opportunities to engage directly with residents, listen to their concerns, and share valuable information on violence prevention, conflict resolution, and reentry processes for those returning from incarceration. During these events, we distributed educational materials, known as Pub Ed, which provided critical information about safety and resources available to community members. We also handed out swag items that helped spark conversations and foster solidarity among participants.

In addition to these outreach efforts, our team established collaborative relationships with other community-based organizations, forming a network of support and resources that could be leveraged to address various social issues. These partnerships proved instrumental in broadening our reach and effectiveness. Our engagement was recognized and appreciated by local community members and leaders alike, leading to invitations for our team to present our work at several local churches committed to making a difference in their neighborhoods. These presentations allowed us to share our success stories, discuss ongoing challenges, and explore further avenues for community involvement.

Furthermore, we received calls and outreach from families affected by violence who requested our presence at candlelight vigils honoring their loved ones lost to gun violence. Participating in these healing memorials provided an opportunity for us to express solidarity, offer comfort, and reaffirm our commitment to violence prevention.

Through our consistent outreach and community presence, we successfully identified individuals at high risk of involvement in violent activities. These individuals were encouraged to participate in our weekly support group meetings, which became safe spaces for open discussions on mediation, de-escalation techniques, and conflict resolution. During these gatherings, we also made a variety of resources available, including mental health services, employment opportunities, and local support programs, which many participants accessed, leading to improved stability and well-being.

Our relationship with the Prince George's Detention Center was a critical component of our efforts. We engaged directly with individuals as they were released, offering resources to help them reintegrate into society and providing a supportive connection to ongoing assistance. This initiative aimed to reduce recidivism by ensuring that those re-entering the community had access to vital services and support networks.

Additionally, we played an active role in supporting events at the Prince George's County Men's Shelter. During these events, we identified recently released individuals—some with histories involving violent charges—and assisted them by providing clothing, necessary resources, and guidance to help them re-establish roots in the community. Our goal was to facilitate a smooth transition back into society, reducing the risk of re-offending and promoting community safety.

Throughout the year, dedicated efforts like these contributed significantly to our overarching mission of violence prevention and community healing. We remain committed to strengthening our collaborations, expanding outreach efforts, and continually adapting our strategies to meet the evolving needs of Prince George's County residents.

One success story that stands out is when we were able to not only help someone get a job, but we also got him the tools he needed to get the job in construction.

Greater Baybrook Alliance, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0014)

The Greater Baybrook Alliance's Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan (BVRP) Implementation & Expansion program provides Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) activities in high-risk areas and school-based violence prevention programming in the Brooklyn Park (Anne Arundel County), Brooklyn, and Curtis Bay (Baltimore City) neighborhoods. During the period of performance, the program served 478 elementary and middle-school-aged youth exposed to multiple violence risk factors. Additionally, it engaged 69 resident leaders/volunteers and 1,578 participants in 118 CPTED activation events. This program leveraged GBA's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) work. Program funds provided personnel, contractual services (subgrantees), program supplies, and program stipends. This funding had a demonstrable impact: school attendance improved for participants in Youth Violence Prevention programming, and resident leaders were recruited, engaged, and gained valuable skills through CPTED activation activities and events. This work contributed to the broader violence reduction ecosystem within Brooklyn and Curtis Bay, which has contributed to a significant decrease in violent and gun-related crime from the previous year. GBA's CPTED work in particular played a key role in the ecosystem through our place-based violence prevention and intervention activities by targeting areas of high violence and achieving gains in collective efficacy throughout the neighborhood.

Data Collection

Outcome Data: GBA gathers CPTED outcome data, including the number of resident leaders and participants in CPTED activities, through monthly event forms and reports that are collected through our program management system utilizing Airtable software, and consolidated into monthly and quarterly spreadsheets.

GBA gathers Youth Violence Prevention outcome data, including the number of youth violence prevention workshops held and children served, through sustained communication with subgrantees. Each quarter, I AM MENTality (IAM), Excellence Esthetics Education (EEE), and The Complete Player (TCP) were responsible for submitting attendance sheets and performance reports.

Results Data: GBA collects and analyzes data to measure impact through public resources and databases, community feedback, and surveys. GBA's Chief Program Officer collects and analyzes crime data utilizing the Open Baltimore database and ArcGIS online to calculate the total number of incidents within our neighborhoods and our violence reduction priority areas. To track collective efficacy, GBA conducts a randomized door-to-door household survey of Baybrook residents every three years. Youth violence prevention subgrantees utilize pre- and post-surveys to measure changes in socio-emotional well-being, and work with schools to collect attendance information.

Outcomes & Achievements

School-based Violence Prevention: Excellence Esthetics, I AM MENTality, and The Complete Player provided wrap-around support to students through after-school and in-school programs, aimed at improving student mental and physical health, academic performance, leadership skills, and career readiness. During the reporting period, subgrantees hosted 555 workshops (target: 214) and 949 in-class sessions (target: 960), engaging a total of 478 students (target: 210). These workshops resulted in multiple success stories: Two students assumed leadership roles to provide academic support and encouragement to their younger peers after developing their conflict resolution skills throughout the program. At the beginning of the school year, another student expressed frustration in learning the English alphabet. After receiving support, the student learned the alphabet and gained the confidence to read aloud in class. Other students demonstrated immense academic improvement, achieving honor roll status for the first time in their academic careers. These stories highlight the program's profound impact on student achievement, success, and academic confidence, and demonstrate the effect of positive mentorship on youth.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Activities: GBA's CPTED program aims to enhance public safety in Violence Reduction Priority Areas (VRPAs - 'hotspots') through community-guided capital improvement projects and activations of space. These interventions secure vacant properties, reduce blight, and signal control of space, while providing opportunities for resident engagement and input through community events. This reporting year, GBA engaged 69 resident leaders/volunteers (target: 30) and 1,578 participants (target: 200) in 118 CPTED activation events (target: 20). Some highlights include:

- Walking School Bus: GBA's Resident Outreach Coordinator, who is a resident of the Brooklyn Homes Public Housing development and a parent of Baybrook E/M students, engaged 10-14 resident volunteers to conduct a walking school bus to Baybrook E/M in the mornings, two days per week throughout the 2024-2025 school year. This program strengthens the Brooklyn Homes community by bringing caregivers, neighbors, students, and school staff together and keeping kids safe on their way to school.
- 311 Ambassadors: GBA's staff engaged a group of 38 residents throughout the year to serve as 311 Ambassadors. Ambassadors are trained in addressing quality-of-life issues in the neighborhood, utilizing the 311 system and advocacy. Ambassadors lead and participate in regular activities such as 311 'Sweeps,' events, community clean-ups, and block parties.
- Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan (BVRP) Leadership Team Events: The BVRP Leadership Team conducted two major outreach events during the performance period. At the end of March, they held a community resource fair attended by 50 participants, which was aimed at 'Building a Network' of stakeholders and residents. At the end of June, they held an award ceremony to recognize their many resident volunteers and leaders, as well as the youth participants of our youth violence prevention programming. That ceremony was attended by 45 of our resident leaders and youth. The BVRP Leadership Team also directs all other community-led violence reduction activities, meetings, and events.
- Good Neighbor Agreement: The Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) is a contract between business owners, the City of Baltimore, and GBA to improve public safety along commercial corridors. Business owners agree to report illicit activity, post relevant signage, and work with the community to prevent and reduce crime. This year, GBA expanded the GNA to 15 businesses.
- Collective Efficacy Surveying: In October 2024, GBA recruited and engaged 31 residents to conduct this year's randomized door-to-door household survey. In addition to collecting critical data to measure results, impact, and success of the program, the survey served to train community members on best practices and increase engagement among neighbors.
- Capital Projects: Additionally, GBA designed and completed over 13 capital CPTED projects within and around our VRPAs. GBA worked closely with the community to design, implement, and/or sustain 6 of these projects, including:
 - Hanover Street Bistro Lighting: GBA worked with a group of business owners to install overhead decorative lights on four blocks on our main commercial corridor on S Hanover Street. This intervention serves to reduce crime by improving street visibility.
 - Decorative Board Ups: GBA brokered a partnership with a national non-profit, The Neighborhood Foundation, and a local workforce development non-profit,

Grow Home, to install decorative boards at 26 vacant properties. This intervention serves as a temporary solution to mitigating blight and further damage to vacant properties while also signaling ownership and maintenance of the spaces. The project culminated in a neighborhood tour that highlighted the visual transformation and received strong community support for its quick, meaningful impact.

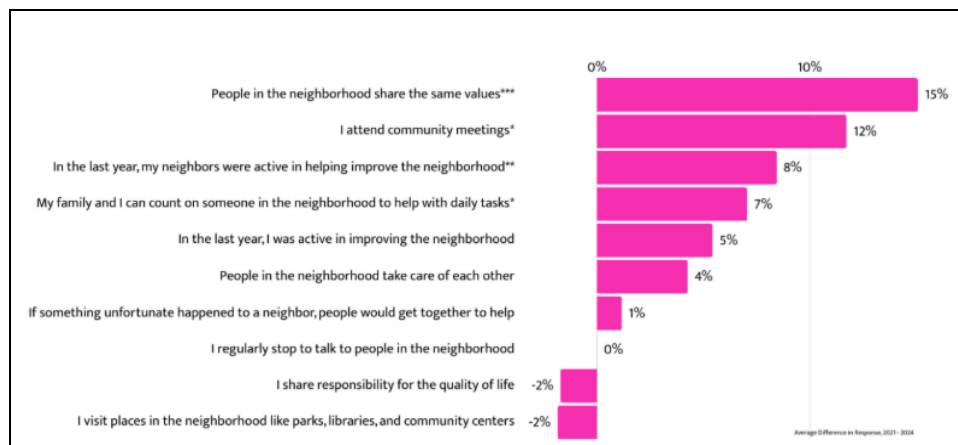
- 5th Street Alley Gates: GBA worked with residents, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, and the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (BC DHCD) to install alley gates at a well-known drug and trash dumping hot spot. Alley gates are proven deterrents of illegal dumping; GBA's 311 Ambassadors will be holding an event in this space to encourage continued beautification of the alley.
- Gretna Court Vacant Lot: GBA worked with BC DHCD, resident leaders, and volunteers to re-envision a city-owned blighted vacant lot located adjacent to the Brooklyn Homes Public Housing development into a community gathering space. Utilizing CPTED principles, GBA's Resident Outreach Coordinator led the design and development of a chess park in the lot. GBA continues to work with residents to program this space.
- Business Camera and Light Installations: As a part of GBA's Business Safety Committee work, GBA worked with 8 small businesses and faith-based partners to install cameras and lights on the exterior of their properties, serving to increase visibility on our commercial corridors and improve coordination between the community and police.
- Business Facade Improvements: GBA's worked with 8 commercial property owners to design and implement improvements to their business facades. These projects serve to improve the aesthetics of the commercial corridor and foster a sense of community identity that will attract consumers and further economic investment.

Results

Collective Efficacy

In October 2024, GBA engaged over 30 resident volunteers and collected 239 surveys focused on perceptions of the neighborhood, social cohesion, willingness to intervene/report crime, and perceptions of police. Statistical analysis of this data —compared to 2021 figures— revealed promising results, with statistically significant improvements in 8 out of 9 questions related to perceptions of police and 4 out of 10 related to social cohesion in the neighborhood. The questions that showed the most significant improvements included: “police give people an

opportunity to explain their actions and ask questions,” and “people in the neighborhood share the same values.”

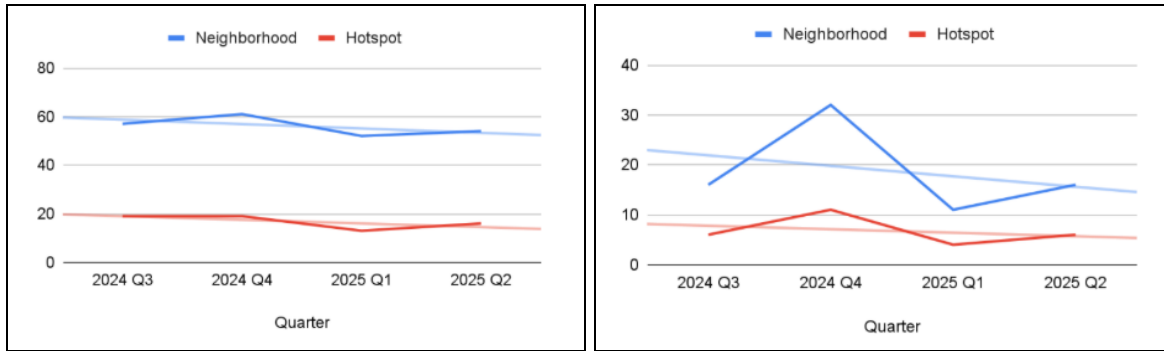


Youth Violence Prevention Programming

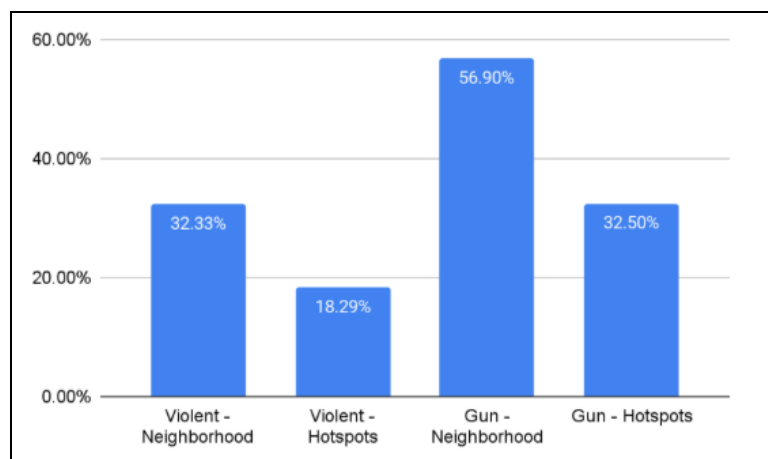
The Youth Violence Prevention Programming had a meaningful impact on students. Excellence Esthetics reported socio-emotional wellness improvements of 83-97%, far surpassing the 80% target. I AM MENTality and The Complete Player reported similar improvements of 92% and 85% respectively. School attendance also improved for students across programs: 77% of students had increased school attendance (EEE), 82% (IAM), and 80% (TCP). Excellence Esthetics saw grade improvements in 72% of students, with some achieving honor roll status for the first time in their academic careers. These figures demonstrate educational growth in students and speak to the supportive environment cultivated by the program. One subgrantee also reported a noticeable reduction in violent incidents among their middle school students, resulting in a safer and more respectful school climate.

Crime-Data Analysis

Throughout the performance period, GBA tracked violent and gun crime within the neighborhood and our Violence Reduction Priority Areas (VRPAs - Hotspots). Trends in both violent and gun crime demonstrated very modest decreases throughout the performance period. The most distinctive downward trend was in gun crime for the whole neighborhood.



GBA also conducted a year-over-year analysis of violent crime and gun crime throughout the neighborhood and in VRPA's (Hotspots). Compared to Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 - June 2024), there were decreases in all categories during our period of performance (FY 2025, July 2024 - June 2025). These decreases are pictured below. The most significant decrease was in gun crime in the neighborhood (57% decrease), and the smallest was in violent crime within our VRPAs (Hotspots) (18% decrease).



Our analysis reveals promising downward trends in crime during the performance period and demonstrates a significant decrease in violent and gun-related crime from the previous year. These trends are consistent with City-wide decreases in violent crime. GBA will continue to monitor these trends in Fiscal Year 2026, with particular attention to violent crime trends within our VRPAs (Hotspots) compared to overall neighborhood trends.

Challenges

- **Engaging Youth in Violence Prevention Programming:** The needs of Baybrook families far surpassed program capacity. Excellence Esthetics and I AM MENTality faced challenges engaging students in their programs due to unanticipated case management needs, scheduling conflicts, and other barriers to access. Obstacles to learning — such as lack of rest, skipped meals, and stressful home environments — significantly impacted

student participation and understanding. During the program, students reported issues with housing stability, with some facing eviction, living with extended relatives, or in transitional housing. Others faced barriers to accessing transportation and expressed safety concerns over walking home during darker and colder seasons. Another unanticipated barrier to access was conflicting after-school activities, which prevented students from receiving additional academic support, including Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program practice and testing support. Despite these challenges, program staff and mentors were able to get to know many of the students' families, provide resource options, and have personal discussions regarding their family struggles.

- **Capacity-related Challenges:** In April 2025, GBA's \$2MM, three-year Community Violence Intervention (CVI) grant was terminated. This grant supported two large subgrantees as well as our resident-led violence intervention and reduction initiatives, including the 311 Ambassadors program, the BayBrook EMS Walking School Bus, and other community-based work. In response to this termination, GBA had to significantly reduce the scope of our public safety and resident-led programming, resulting in stricter reporting and accountability measures for our 311 Ambassadors and the inability to recruit additional volunteers. The CVI grant also funded partnerships with MedStar Harbor Hospital and the Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center (MCRIC) to determine violent crime hotspots for intervention and to provide critical health services in these VRPAs. GBA continues to do in-house data collection, analysis, and needs assessment according to its capacity, and is exploring additional funding opportunities to fill this resource gap.

Lessons Learned

- **Community-led approaches to violence reduction can lead to more effective, targeted, and sustainable outcomes:** Engaging community members as leaders and active participants in violence reduction is essential for building trust, fostering accountability, and achieving positive changes in the community. Community-led models where residents are in charge of strategy and funding decisions have the power to build capacity for long-term sustainable reductions in crime. This approach leverages residents' and other neighborhood stakeholders' lived experiences to inform responsive programs tailored to local needs. Additionally, it enhances relevancy and participation, ensuring that interventions take into account and address the unique dynamics of the neighborhood.
- **Collaboration with public and private partners strengthens neighborhood outcomes:** Since launching the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA), GBA has collaborated with the Baltimore Police Department and local business owners to make commercial corridors safer and more welcoming. This partnership has deepened communication between public agencies, private businesses, and residents, leading to more targeted and effective

safety responses. At a recent focus group, parent concerns prompted the Baltimore Police Department to install a speed camera near Baybrook E/M, directly addressing a pressing community safety issue.

Kingdom Kare, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0015)

The Man Up Program delivers targeted violence prevention, intervention, and community engagement services to reduce crime and foster positive change in high-risk communities. Through strategic partnerships, mentorship, and direct outreach, the program serves at-risk youth, returning citizens, and vulnerable families to address root causes of violence, reduce recidivism, and promote community safety.

Program Description

Eligibility Criteria

The program serves residents of Still Meadows, Spring Meadows, Meade Village, and Pioneer Village in Severn, Maryland-identified "hot spots" based on neighborhood violence data. While open to all residents, the primary focus is on youth and young adults ages 14- 27, the group most affected by firearm violence. Expansion to other high-poverty areas such as Seven Oaks and Maryland City is possible with additional funding and staffing.

Recruitment and Screening

Participants are identified through:

- Neighborhood Canvassing - Building trust through informal conversations.
- Community Events & Workshops - Distributing "connect cards" for follow-up.
- School Partnerships - Engaging students early to prevent escalation of conflict.
- Program Hotline - Offering direct community access to services.

An intake form is completed for each participant to assess demographics and risk level, allowing for tailored interventions.

Program Activities

Community Education & Outreach

- Hosted job fairs, kickball games, cultural gatherings, jazz nights, peace bicycle rides, and other events.
- Distributed information via social media, flyers, yard signs, and door-to-door canvassing.
- Conducted four monthly workshops on stress management, violence prevention, and other community topics.

Violence Interruption

- Provided mediation for conflicts and operated a confidential "Peace Hotline."
- Engaged ~40 residents weekly in conflict resolution.
- Led youth mentoring programs in local middle schools and organized out-of-school activities.

Case Management

- Conducted weekly client needs assessments and goal setting.
- Assisted with career development, eviction prevention, and legal support.
- Connected participants with resources such as furniture, IDs, and job certifications.

Strengthening Families Program (SFP)

- Partnered to deliver a 14-week program focused on family bonding, communication, and parenting skills, including a family dinner before each session.

Gun Lock Distribution

- Distributed gun locks in partnership with the local library, emphasizing child safety and accessibility.

Major Accomplishments

- Crime Reduction & Public Safety: 100% reduction in violent crimes in Severn from Q1 to Q2 of 2025; reduced gun-related deaths by 100% and overall gun crime by 33% in Q2.
- Intervention & Support for At-Risk Youth: Delivered consistent school-based mentoring, improving student conduct.
- Reducing Recidivism: Guided justice-involved youth/adults toward rehabilitation; notable success with 12-year-old case.
- Pathways to Education & Employment: Connected participants to job readiness programs and vocational opportunities.
- Addressing Basic Needs: Provided eviction prevention, food, clothing, and utility assistance.
- Community Engagement: Hosted large-scale events for over 450 residents.

Key Partnerships

- Anne Arundel County Police Department - Western District
- United Way - Funded Boys & Girls Club tuition for 35+ children
- Black Girl Health Foundation - Mental health services
- Workforce Development Offices - Career support programs

- W.A.S.P. - Substance misuse prevention and mental health awareness
- Moms Demand Action - Gun safety advocacy
- Roca - Intensive youth mentorship

Challenges & Corrective Action

Challenge	Impact	Corrective Action
Funding Cuts (50%)	Reduced staffing hours, limited coverage in high-risk areas	Prioritized high-impact zones, expanded volunteer base, sought new grants
Low Parental Involvement	Limited effectiveness of youth interventions	Increased school-based engagement, direct parent outreach
Service Access Barriers	Transportation and long waitlists for mental health services	Partnered with providers, hosted events in neighborhood hubs

Impact Highlights

- 450+ residents engaged through events and outreach
- 125 at-risk youth mentored with documented behavioral improvements
- Dozens of families stabilized through housing and basic needs assistance
- 15 violent incidents de-escalated before escalating to gun violence

Conclusion

Between July 2024 and June 2025, the Man Up Program achieved measurable success in reducing violent crime, fostering community resilience, and providing practical pathways for at-risk individuals. Even with funding reductions, the program adapted by leveraging partnerships, maximizing resources, and maintaining strong community relationships. With restored funding, Man Up can expand its proven model to additional neighborhoods, continuing to serve as a cornerstone of violence prevention and community empowerment in Anne Arundel County.

Let's Thrive Baltimore, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0017)

Let's Thrive Baltimore's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP), funded by GOCCP, operated from July 2024 through June 2025. The program focused on reducing community violence and supporting at-risk youth and young adults in the Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park communities. Using a combination of trauma-informed conflict resolution, credible messenger mentoring, workforce development, and community healing strategies, the program made measurable progress in redirecting high-risk individuals and strengthening community safety.

Impact Metrics Summary

- Total Participants Served: 153
- Total Participants Who Completed the Program: 40 (18 is employed through partners or other agencies)
- Total Prevention & Education Activities Conducted: 106
- Conflict Mediations Facilitated: 60
- Participant Recidivism Rate: 0%
- Success Stories/Testimonies Documented: 25
- Participants Gaining Employment from Certifications: 13

Quarterly Progress Overview

Q1 (July–September 2024):

- 40 participants served
- 0 completions
- 8 prevention & education activities
- 20% decrease in violent crime
- 21% decrease in gun crime

Q2 (October–December 2024):

- 40 participants served
- 15 completions
- 38 activities conducted
- 24% decrease in violent crime
- 77% decrease in gun crime

Q3 (January–March 2025):

- 26 participants served
- 7 completions
- 24 activities conducted
- 17% decrease in violent crime
- 26% decrease in gun crime

Q4 (April–June 2025):

- 47 participants served
- 18 completions
- 36 prevention & education activities
- 17 conflict mediations (3 high-profile)

- 0% change in violent/gun crime
- 2 peace events hosted
- 7 success stories/testimonies

Highlights and Success Stories

- A former gang leader turned credible messenger was recruited and trained to mediate high-risk conflicts and mentor youth involved in street violence. His consistent leadership has played a crucial role in de-escalation and transformation.
- Peace and healing events were held in the community, including a Healing Circle at the Memorial Garden, providing a safe space for youth to process grief and build peer support.
- The program maintained a 0% recidivism rate among actively engaged participants and supported 13 youth in obtaining certifications and employment opportunities.
- Multiple former participants successfully recruited new clients and helped mediate other conflicts, proving the power of peer-to-peer influence and community accountability.

Program Sustainability

Let's Thrive Baltimore has built strong community partnerships, invested in staff development for trauma-informed service delivery, and implemented effective data tracking and evaluation systems. The organization is seeking additional funding sources to extend and expand the work beyond the current grant cycle, including integration with Youthworks, educational partners, and local employers.

Lead4Life, Inc. (VIPP-2025-0018)

L4L utilized the AZZLY EMR reporting system to enhance the documentation and management of participant care. Through this platform, the organization was able to efficiently generate reports, capture and analyze demographic information, monitor participant progress, and track individual goals. After each visit with a youth or a group, mentors would return to document every interaction in the AZZLY system. This consistent and detailed documentation ensured accurate records of each participant's engagement and progress. The use of AZZLY also allowed staff to access real-time data, which significantly improved the ability to evaluate each participant's status and make timely, informed adjustments to their care plans. This proactive approach ensured that services remained responsive to participants' evolving needs and supported more effective, goal-driven outcomes throughout the program.

AZZLY allows space for us to track barriers and strengths of the program and participants. We are able to communicate among staff in the system on each mentor, case manager, and program coordinator's efforts with each participant.

A Discussion of any collaborative efforts between the local government or non-profit organization, a community-based organization, and any other entity in furtherance of the objectives of the award

L4L actively collaborates with a wide network of local and regional agencies to ensure comprehensive support and services for youth participants. Key partnerships include law enforcement, educational institutions, judicial entities, and probation and detention services. In Dorchester County, L4L works closely with the Dorchester Police Department, Dorchester Parole and Probation, Dorchester Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), and Cambridge-South Dorchester High School. The program also maintains a strong relationship with Magistrate Mary Elliott O'Donnell, who plays a significant role in judicial coordination.

In Wicomico County, partnerships include Wicomico Parole and Probation, the Wicomico State's Attorney's Office, Wicomico Public Defender's Office, Wicomico DJS, and the Wicomico Juvenile Detention Center. Additionally, L4L engages with several educational institutions, including Washington High School, Bennett Middle and High School, and Choices Alternative School. In Somerset County, L4L also works in collaboration with Somerset Parole and Probation to support youth under supervision. These collaborative efforts are essential to providing a coordinated, community-based approach to intervention, support, and youth development.

In Prince George's County, L4L partners with the Department of Juvenile Services and Hope In Action Violence Interrupter and local businesses.

Connecting youth to community partners within their own communities was a critical component of their personal development. These connections provided youth with access to valuable resources and opportunities available in the environments they live. Through these partnerships, youth were able to build positive, supportive relationships and were encouraged to engage in prosocial behaviors, promoting healthier decision-making and greater community engagement.

Employment opportunities were offered to some participants due to our partnerships.

An analysis of the progress made in achieving the objectives of the award.

During the fiscal year, L4L served a total of 83 youth clients, providing consistent, supportive services across multiple domains to address their individual needs and support their personal growth. Our team remained committed to delivering impactful programming aimed at reducing recidivism, improving life outcomes, and fostering resilience among justice-involved youth. One of the primary components of our programming this year was anger management, which was delivered to 66 youth as part of their probation requirements. These sessions were critical in

helping participants develop healthy coping mechanisms, improve emotional regulation, and build conflict-resolution skills.

In addition to therapeutic services, L4L focused on physical wellness and positive outlets for energy and discipline. We successfully enrolled 22 youth in boxing programs at a local gym. This initiative not only provided structure and mentorship but also contributed to improved mental and physical well-being. L4L also held group sessions in three different counties, offering safe, consistent spaces for youth to express their needs, goals, and challenges. These sessions played an important role in creating a sense of community and belonging. To encourage participation and accountability, L4L implemented an incentive program that rewarded consistent attendance, reinforcing positive engagement and commitment.

Workforce development was another key area of support. L4L assisted numerous youth in completing job applications and navigating the employment process. More than 15 participants received targeted workforce development services, including resume building, interview preparation, and job readiness training. We gifted 5 youth with scooters to get to and from their place of employment independently.

This year's outcomes reflect L4L's continued dedication to empowering youth through structured support, restorative practices, life skills development, and community collaboration. Our team remains focused on expanding access to resources and opportunities that help youth build a better future.

My Communities Keeper Prince George's County Network Inc. (VIPP-2025-0019)

The My Community Keeper Prince George's County Network (MCK-PGCN) was founded to address inequities and violence impacting underserved and underrepresented communities. Our mission is to create safe spaces, provide critical support services, and build collaborative pathways that reduce violence, strengthen families, and empower individuals. This report documents all relevant project activities, including data collection, collaborative efforts, and an analysis of progress made throughout the award period.

Data Collection & Evaluation

MCK-PGCN implemented a mixed-methods evaluation process:

Quantitative Measures:

- Number of conflicts interrupted before escalation.
- Participant attendance in outreach events, workshops, and school programs.

- Referrals to mental health services, employment, or education pathways.

Qualitative Measures:

- Focus groups and surveys of residents, youth, and families to capture lived experiences.
- Success stories documenting personal transformations, such as youth choosing education or employment over gang activity.
- Feedback from school partners, community leaders, and collaborating agencies.

Progress & Impact

- Conflict Reduction: Dozens of disputes were de-escalated by violence interrupters, preventing potential assaults and retaliations.
- Community Participation: Over 200 residents engaged in Peace Walks, safe-streets events, and block parties across multiple neighborhoods.
- Mental Health Integration: More than 50 individuals were connected to trauma-informed counseling and crisis intervention services.
- Youth Engagement: Students involved in MCK's mentoring programs showed increased attendance, improved classroom behavior, and greater self-confidence.
- Collaborative Infrastructure: Established a sustainable ecosystem of partners—including OCR, local schools, healthcare providers, and faith-based groups—that now coordinate services for at-risk populations.

Lessons Learned

- Violence intervention is most effective when coupled with mental health care, workforce pathways, and mentorship.
- Community trust grows through visible, consistent presence—violence interrupters from the community were critical to credibility.
- Data collection systems must be strengthened to allow real-time tracking of outcomes and resource referrals.

Conclusion

The My Community Keeper Violence Intervention Program has made measurable progress in reducing conflict, empowering youth, and strengthening Prince George's County communities. Through partnerships, community engagement, and evidence-based practices, the program has created safer environments and pathways for healing.

As we move forward, we remain committed to sustaining and expanding these efforts so that every resident, especially those most vulnerable, can live in safety, dignity, and hope.