Chicago is in crisis

Between 2015 and 2016, the city experienced 58% more homicides and 43% more non-fatal shootings.

This surge in gun violence is concentrated in a small number of disadvantaged communities on our South and West Sides.

Violence takes an enormous toll on communities and the broader society. A University of Chicago Crime Lab analysis showed that this level of violence costs Chicago $2.5 billion per year. Living in high-violence communities also increases individuals’ risk of becoming involved in gun violence, particularly for young men.

Aggressive law enforcement strategies have contributed to the divide between police officers and the citizens they are there to serve. As the Chicago Police Department continues to evolve its policing tactics, the City needs to employ alternative approaches that can prevent and address gun violence.

Metropolitan Family Services is coordinating a cross-agency effort that brings together eight community-based organizations to deliver a comprehensive community outreach and engagement model with the goal of reducing gun violence in nine of the highest risk neighborhoods. Additional goals include:

- Increasing the Capacity of Community-Based Organizations to Deliver Comprehensive Outreach and Engagement Services
- Delivering Summer Activities in Safe Spaces called ‘Light in the Night’
- Developing and Implementing the Metropolitan Peace Academy

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What is CP4P

CommunitiesPartnering 4 Peace (CP4P), convened by Metropolitan Family Services, is a framework that provides a comprehensive, long-term approach to reducing violence and gang activity among the individuals and communities it serves. Its work is rooted in nonviolence, trauma-informed care, hyper-local collaboration and restorative justice practices.

How CP4P Works

- Understanding that effective solutions to community challenges require residents’ active support and engagement, CP4P’s model puts the power in communities’ hands. Community-based organizations form the core of CP4P’s implementation model and engages residents to participate in the solution to gun violence while forging closer partnerships with public agencies and the police department.
- CP4P prioritizes working with the Chicago Police Department to develop a strong relationship, built and maintained on mutual trust and respect between CP4P’s outreach workers and CPD.
- CP4P targets individuals at highest risk of being perpetrators and victims of that violence. We are accomplishing this through developing authentic, trusted relationships in communities, facilitated by local organizations skilled and informed in peace, trauma, and wraparound services, with capable outreach workers who live and work in the communities they serve.

Target Outcomes

CP4P is coordinating with Chicago Police (CPD), Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and Cook County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) along with other public and community partners, to implement an anti-violence infrastructure in their communities and demonstrate how they will deliver the following components:

- **VIOLENCE PREVENTION** PREVENTS AND INTERVenes IN VIOLENCE
  De-escalation through:
  - Reentry services
  - Family support
  - Employment
  - Trauma-informed services
  - Restorative justice
  - Legal services

- **LIGHT IN THE NIGHT** EMPOWERS COMMUNITY TO RECLAIM SAFE SPACES
  Events for four nights a week:
  - Free food
  - Activities
  - Public Spaces such as parks
  - Targeted to all community members

- **METROPOLITAN PEACE ACADEMY** PROFESSIONALIZES OUTREACH
  Outreach training from the Metropolitan Peace Academy:
  - Intensive, mandatory
  - Designed by multi-disciplinary team
  - Best practices sharing

- **PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS** COORDINATES SERVICES AND BUILDS CAPACITY
  Coordination of organizations and individuals:
  - Organize Light in the Night and the Metropolitan Peace Academy
  - Builds community capacity