

Ceasefire, Community and Restorative Justice Project

Project Coordinator:	\$83,000.00
Facilitator:	<u>\$27,000.00</u>
Total:	\$110,000.00

Need:

While many gains have been made in recent years, our urban areas are still plagued by violence and mistrust. The city of Richmond has seen a dramatic drop in homicides in the last 7 years, but there are still pockets of violent crime. The Ceasefire Project, which is a form of Group Violence Intervention (GVI) has made a significant contribution to the drop, but needs support in terms of coordination with community members and service providers. In addition, it is time to begin working on a replication in East County. Currently, this burden is shouldered by the Richmond Police Department. In light of the goal of strengthening and expanding the program, this burden needs to shift to a countywide agency. The coordinator will work collaboratively with social service and community constituencies to leverage community resources.

Service provision also helps in mobilizing community figures who can influence the behavior of group members. Community members are more willing to deliver the needed moral messages against violence when they know that group members have a standing, genuine offer of help.

The coordinator will be responsible for the following steps:

1. Identify providers
2. Bring providers into the strategy. Social service agencies selected for this project must be able to work with law enforcement and have good standing in the community.
3. After identifying a social service the coordinator should get dedicated providers to deliver rapid, priority attention to group members. Upon contacting the social service providers, group members should receive a prompt response. Social services should provide an individualized assessment, backed with case management and follow-up, as soon as possible.
4. The coordinator, in partnership with any other social service agencies to which the Working Group refers group members, should collect and analyze data on all group members who make contact for services. The lead agency then reports information on clients' progress, process adherence, and program outcomes to the Working Group that defines successful outcomes: e.g., no further involvement in violence.

Technical assistance:

The National Network for Safe Communities recommends the support of an experienced technical assistance team. During the initial planning period, the National Network recommends that the community interested in launching GVI work with a technical assistance team that can explain, guide, and ensure fidelity in basic implementation. Technical advisers can also provide guidance on a governing structure for the GVI effort and analytical and research capacity.