

Community-led efforts to interrupt cycles of violence have led to a decade-low number of gun homicides in Philly and significant reductions around the state. But this progress is in jeopardy.

Everyone in the Commonwealth should be able to live, work, play and learn free from gun violence. But in too many of the most under-resourced and marginalized communities, the risk of being shot is part of daily life. It can turn a simple trip to the grocery store or a walk to school for a child into a harrowing, life-risking journey.

Unfortunately, these tremendous gains in gun homicide reduction may not last without sustained investment in the programs responsible for the reduction.



Without pandemic-era federal dollars, PA has reduced funding for these successful programs by approximately \$120 million over the past two budget cycles.

This is not nearly enough to tackle a crisis that costs PA \$12 billion each year.

We're calling for a **\$300 million, five-year investment in community based violence reduction programs** so that these remarkably successful programs have the committed and adequate funding they need to continue to reduce gun homicide around the state



TAKE A STAND

To learn more visit www.ceasefirepa.org



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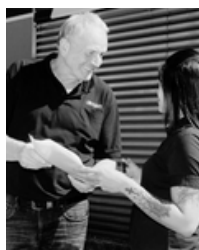


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For every \$1 spent on evidence-based prevention programs the state is estimated to get back \$4 in savings

HOW IT WORKS

Community-driven programs use trauma-informed care and supportive services with at-risk individuals to prevent shootings.



Hospital-based intervention programs (HVIPs)

Caseworkers start working with a victim when they are in the hospital to quickly heal trauma and prevent retaliation. Hospitals around the Commonwealth have these programs including Penn, UPMC, and the Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Group violence intervention programs (GVIPs)

A partnership between local government agencies, law enforcement, community organizations, and social service providers engage community members who are likely to be involved in violence. An evaluation by the University of Pennsylvania of Philadelphia's Group Violence Intervention Program found that it significantly reduced shootings among group members.



Trusted messenger programs

Outreach workers de-escalate conflicts and mediating disputes between community members. For example, Promise Neighborhood of the Lehigh Valley's Zero Youth Violence uses violence interrupters and outreach workers in Allentown to de-escalate conflicts, stop retaliations, and develop risk reduction plans with participants.

Trauma-Informed Workforce Development

Pairing workforce development with trauma-informed care helps people who've experienced or been involved in violence find economic opportunity, while addressing the cycles of trauma that increase the likeliness of being involved in future violence.



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INTERVENTION AT CeaseFirePA.org/take-action**