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# Youth Violence Prevention Programs

Safety, Housing, Education & Homelessness Committee

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# Programs & Partnerships

## Primary Prevention

- G.R.E.A.T. Program
- GRID Training Series
- Gun Buy Back Program
- Public Safety Youth Leadership Team
- DOS Mentor Program
- [Violence Reduction Public Awareness Campaigns](#)
- [Community partnerships](#)
- [Violence Prevention Technical Assistance](#)

## Secondary Prevention

- Community-based Gang Prevention
- School-Based Alternative to Citation Program
- Runaway Outreach Notification & Intervention (RONI) Project
- Healing Circles/Restorative Justice Programs
- Family Resiliency Program
- Helping Youth Pursue Excellence (HYPE) Program

## Intervention

- Violence Interruption
- Critical Incident/Crisis Response
- Safe Haven
- Juvenile and Adult MDT's (gang specific)
- Handgun Intervention Program (HIP Court)
- A.I.M. Project
- Municipal Juvenile Diversion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> JD CYDC Program
- Human Trafficking MDT's
- Marijuana Youth Diversion Fund (MYDF)

# OCVS Agency Overview

## Personnel

- General Fund – 9 FTE

## Contracts

- Active service contracts – 10
- Approved 2023 budget expansion – 2 additional service contracts
- Services for youth, adults, and families
- Services based on needs of youth/adults/families served

# OVCS Primary Prevention

## Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program

- Evidence-based gang prevention/awareness program
- Partnership with DA Diversion Program and Denver Public Schools
- Over 1,300 DPS students trained since 2011

## Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID) Training Series

- Gang specific educational training series for professionals working with youth and/or gang-involved individuals
- Over 800 professionals attend training series sessions per year

## Gun Buy Back Program

- Program purchases and saws the guns into several pieces by Raw Tools, who later turns the pieces into garden tools. Once the gun is totally dismantled, the person turning it in can be compensated.
- Partnership with CW Sawyer, Denver Police Department, Denver Health, and RAWtools
- 2022 Denver/Aurora Buyback Numbers: 906 (455 Denver)
- Denver will host two events in 2023

# OVCS Secondary Prevention

## Community-Based Gang Prevention

- Mentoring and advocacy services for at-risk youth and young adults

## Current Service Contracts

- Gang Rescue and Support Program (GRASP) (Central Denver)
- Life-Line Colorado (West Denver)
- Struggle of Love Foundation (Northeast Denver)

## Expanding to 7 Service Contracts in 2023

- Concentrated service delivery in smaller target areas
- Alignment with citywide initiatives like Police Network Investigations (PNI)

# OVCS Intervention

## Community-Based Gang Intervention Program (Violence Interruption)

- Proactive outreach to high risk individuals
- Critical incident response to acts of violence (shootings, gang conflict)

## Contracted Service Providers

- Gang Rescue and Support Program (GRASP) (Central Denver)
- Life-Line Colorado (West Denver)
- Struggle of Love Foundation (Northeast Denver)

## Expanding to 7 contracts in 2023

- Concentrated service delivery in smaller target areas
- Alignment with citywide initiatives like Police Network Investigations (PNI)

## Program Measurements

- Number of incidents responded to/diffused
- Capacity to increase community-based providers

# OVCS Intervention

## Critical Incident Response Protocol

- Ensures appropriate and timely information sharing amongst responding partners
- Enhances violence interruption by focusing on the groups and/or individuals involved in or affected by the violent incident

## Gang Violence Interruption Services

- Contracted service providers respond to incidents of gang violence and provide services to those involved in the incidents

## CCD Community Crisis Response Protocol

- OCVS is partnering with OCA and PEAK Academy to improve the City's response process to communities in crisis following traumatic events
- Aligns with the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table Comprehensive Plan
- Program goal is to implement an effective city-wide crisis response process

# OVCS Intervention

## A.I.M. Project

- Hospital-based violence intervention program for youth 10-24 who seek emergency services for traumatic injuries
- Outreach workers provide one-on-one focused mentoring and develop long-term plans to change at-risk behaviors
- Contract with Denver Health and GRASP (Outreach)
- Program measurements include number of bedside interventions, individuals served (unduplicated), trauma-informed care trainings, and critical crisis interventions

## Program Update

- Department of Public Safety will continue to fund program and OCVS will begin to provide oversight and support



# OVCS Intervention

## Safe Haven Project

- OVCS supports the faith-based led project
- Faith and community organizations work together to respond to critical incidents of gang violence
- Provides support, guidance, awareness, and service connections for those exposed to community violence

## Contracted Service Provider

- New Hope Ministries

## Program Measurements

- Number of Safe Haven activations
- Number of active faith partners
- Number of community participants in Safe Haven activations

# OVCS Intervention

## Juvenile and Adult MDT's (gang specific)

- In-depth knowledge of Denver communities and gang culture
- Individual and family mentoring and advocacy to high-risk gang members and families
- Support gang disengagement and greater cooperation with provided services

## Coordinated gang intervention/case management services

- Focuses on high-risk youth and adults involved in gang culture
- Team of youth and adult criminal justice agencies and treatment provider organizations

## Gender-Specific Programing

- Community-based organization provides specialized case management services to young woman at medium to high risk for future gang involvement

## Program Update

- Collaboration with UC Boulder to study the effectiveness of an MDT approach with a gang outreach worker component
- Randomized control trial evaluating 150 clients
- Assess if the coordinated treatment approach facilitates gang disengagement and crime and violence desistance
- Final report submitted to OJJDP in December 2022 and is currently under peer review

# OVCS Intervention

## Handgun Intervention Program (HIP Court)

- Juvenile court program
- Aims to prevent teens facing a gun possession charge from escalating to violence and facing more serious charges
- A 6-week program with cross-sector partners

## Contracted Service Provider

- State Judicial Juvenile Court funds probation officer

## Program Measurements

- Number of youth supervised
- Number of successful program completions
- Recidivism rates

# Youth Programs Agency Overview

## Personnel

- General Fund – 23 FTE
- Grants – 13 FTE
- Grant funded FTE to be onboarded in 2023 – 5

## Contracts

- Active contracts – 17
- Services for youth participating in Diversion and Pretrial Programs
- Services based on needs of youth/families served

## Grants

- Grants – 5
- Grant Funding – Approx. \$2.1 million in 2023
- Manage Marijuana Youth Diversion Fund

# YP Primary Prevention Programs

## Public Safety Youth Leadership Team (PSYLT)

- 15 members ages 14-24
- Serve as youth advisory group for Department of Safety and YVP Action Table
- Plan and hosts Safe City Youth Summit attended by over 350 youth annually

## Public Safety Mentor Program

- Focuses on youth in grades 6-8
- Individual and group mentoring activities
- Recruitment pipeline for other youth-led groups

# YP Secondary Prevention Programs

## School-Based Diversion

- Provides access to services and support on a voluntary basis
- No citation issued
- Includes a risk/needs assessment, case planning, and case coordination

## Program Update

- Alternative to Citation Program pilot with DPD
- Incidents on school grounds where a municipal citation could be issued

## *2022/2023 School Year Outcomes*

Referrals	Complete %	Refused/Failed
80	76	24

# YP Secondary Prevention Programs

## Runaway Outreach Notification & Intervention (RONI) Project

- Connects youth/families to services to prevent or reduce future run incidents
- Outreach for youth with no active child welfare or juvenile justice involvement

## Program Update

- Runaway reports will be routed to YP via the Juvenile Services Center rather than DPD
- New process will result in over 2500 hours saved by DPD

## 2022 Program Outcomes

Target Engagement Rate	2022 Actual
25%	14%

# YP Secondary Prevention Programs

## Healing Circles/Restorative Justice

- Provides access to services and support on a voluntary basis
- Partnership launched in 2023 with Denver Healing Generations to provide culturally responsive programming to at-risk and system-involved youth
- Healing Circles utilized to address incidents involving multiple youth
- Contracted with the National Compadres Network to certify 30 individuals to facilitate the Joven Noble curriculum for boys

## Program Update

- Coordinating a facilitator training for the Girasol curriculum for girls with the National Compadres Network and Denver Healing Generations



# YP Secondary Prevention Programs

## Family Resiliency Program

- Collaboration with Vuela for Health and Steps to Success Montbello
- Offer evidence-based family skill-building groups
- Vuela for Health facilitates the Familias Fuertes Program and Steps to Success
- Montbello facilitates the Strong African American Families Program
- Over 100 families completed programs in 2022

## Program Update

- Provides access to services and support on a voluntary basis
- YP will contract with a local provider to facilitate the Connect Program in 2023, which is focused on parents/caregivers

# YP Secondary Prevention Programs

## Helping Youth Pursue Excellence (HYPE)

- Job-readiness and community service program for at-risk and justice-involved youth in partnership with The Urban Farm
- 10-week "earn as you learn" program focused on preparing youth to pursue career pathways
- Community engagement/service hours for youth required by school or court.
- 205 youth served in 2022 with successful completion rate of 92%

# YP Intervention Programs

## Municipal Juvenile Diversion Program

- Job-readiness and community service program for at-risk and justice-involved
- Diversion option for youth cited for municipal ordinance violations
- Includes automatic expungement of case upon successful completion of program
- Includes risk/needs assessment, case planning, and case coordination
- Attempts to address root causes of behavior
- Cases are automatically expunged upon completion of program

## 2022 Outcomes

Referrals	Completion %	Refused/Failed %
253	76	24

# YP Intervention Programs

## 2nd Judicial District Youth Detention Continuum (YDC) Program

- Grant with the Division of Youth Services to provide detention screening and pretrial release services for youth with misdemeanor and/or felony charges
- 369 detention screens completed July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023
- 77% sent to secure detention with 23% released to home
- Gun-involved cases are highest percentage of cases
- 251 youth served through the pretrial program
- Average length on stay is 119 days
- Recidivism rate for current year is 3.6%

# YP Intervention Programs

## Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance (DATA) Juvenile Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team

- Assess youth risk and develop outreach plans for high risk youth
- Partners include Denver DA Office, Denver Human Services, Denver Police, Homeland Security, FBI, Denver Juvenile Court, Denver Public Schools, and Denver Children's Advocacy Center
- YP staff coordinate and facilitate monthly meetings and outreach to youth to prevent future victimization by engaging youth/family in services

# YP Intervention Programs

## Marijuana Youth Diversion Fund (MYDF)

- Oversight of MYDF program transferred to YP in 2023
- Funding allocated to support drug diversion programs and/or services for justice-involved youth struggling with substance misuse
- MYDF currently funds 3 programs that served 444 youth and young adults in 2022