

# Office of Community Violence Solutions

Safety, Homelessness, Education, & Housing Committee

August 21, 2024





## AGENCY SNAPSHOT

 Established in 2010 in Safe City Office under Dept of Safety to address gang violence using a comprehensive and collaborative approach.

> GRID (Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver)

# Office of Community Violence Solutions

 Rebranded 2021 in Dept of Public Safety to reflect expanded scope and programming including firearm safety and gun violence prevention efforts.  Announced May 2024 will join new Office of Neighborhood Safety under Office of Social Equity & Innovation

In Process - Office of Neighborhood Safety

13 Staff (16 vendor contracted FTE's)

**\$1,738,933 Budget (2024)** \$1,472,600 (Gen Fund) + \$266,333 (Grant) 9 Programs serving youth, adults, families, and communities



# AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### **PREVENTION**

- G.R.E.A.T. Program
- Training Series
- Gun Buy Back Program
- Community partnerships
- Violence Reduction Public Awareness Campaigns
- Violence Prevention Technical Assistance

# SECONDARY PREVENTION

Community-based Gang Prevention

#### INTERVENTION

- Violence Interruption
- Critical Incident/Crisis Response
- Safe Haven
- Juvenile and Adult MDTs (Gang, Gun, and Group specific)
- Handgun Intervention Program (HIP Court)
- A.I.M. Project





## COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAMS

# Program Snapshot

 Seven community-focused teams have been formed to enhance our efforts in supporting youth and families, combating violence, and creating a safe environment. These teams will drive innovation in violence interruption, gang prevention, and gender-specific services, working collaboratively to strengthen Denver's initiatives against gang, gun, and group violence.

# Community Partners

- Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities (CHIC)
- The Denver Dream Center
- GRASP (Gang Rescue and Support Project)
- Life-Line Colorado
- Seeing Our Adolescents Rise (SOAR)
- The Struggle of Love (S.O.L) Foundation
- Tha Myx





## COMMUNITY-BASED GANG VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Strategy is a two-pronged approach, integrating Gang Violence Interruption efforts and Individualized Service Provision. Implementation of both components allows for both proactive and reactive strategies to reduce gang violence in the community by addressing the service needs of those most likely to be involved in violence and by identifying the causes of and solutions to conflicts between individuals and groups within the community. A primary focus is on responding to gang-involved incidents and confrontations in the community.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

- GRASP (Gang Rescue and Support Project)
- Life-Line Colorado
- The Struggle of Love (S.O.L) Foundation

2024-2026

 $3FTE \rightarrow 6FTE$ 

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#### 2023

- Violence Interruption
  - 157 Incidents Violence Interrupters Responded
  - 49 Incidents Violence Interrupters Provided Mitigation
  - 61 Responses to a Potential Conflict to Reduce Escalation
- Individual Case Management
  - 334 Individuals Received Direct Service



# SECONDARY GANG PREVENTION SERVICES

Services are provided to high-risk youth and their families. Secondary gang prevention refers to programs and services that are directed toward youth who have already displayed early signs of problem behavior and are at high risk for gang involvement. Selected programs will concentrate their resources on those high-risk and hard-to-reach you who are most likely to join local gangs.

#### 2023

- 467 Youth Provided Direct Services
- 222 Families Received Supportive Services

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

- -The Denver Dream Center
- -GRASP (Gang Rescue and Support Project)
- -Seeing Our Adolescents Rise (SOAR)
- -The Struggle of Love (S.O.L) Foundation
- -Tha Myx

2024-2026

 $3FTE \rightarrow 7FTE$ 

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## **GENDER-SPECIFIC SERVICES**

Offers trauma-informed services for young women, focusing on mental health, school connectedness, and family relationships. It targets high-risk youth ages 12-24 prone to gang involvement, providing mentoring, individual risk assessments, and specialized case management. The services aim to foster positive female development by addressing basic needs, identity, purpose, confidence, and safety.

### 2023

 64 Young Women Received Direct Services

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

-Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities (CHIC)

-The Denver Dream Center

2024-2026

1FTE → 3FTE





# MAXIMIZING IMPACT THORUGH COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Enhanced Coordination

Amplified Impact

Resource Sharing

Increased Effectiveness

Broader Outreach

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