
Youth Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Program

February 22nd, 2023

Matthew M. Lunn, PhD
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Denver Police Department

Pat Hedrick
Director
Denver Public Safety Youth Programs

Request

Resolution 23-0107: Approves a grant agreement with the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice for \$1,045,813 and through 6-30-2024, under SB22-145, to develop a multi-disciplinary approach for crime prevention and crisis intervention for at-risk youth, with a focus on working to provide resources for youth in six pathway Denver Public Schools near Colfax Avenue, citywide (POLIC-202366412-00).

Funding Overview

Grant funds support collaborative efforts with nonprofits to hire 2 FTE mental health counselors, 1 PTE mental health supervisor, 1 FTE substance use prevention counselor, 2 FTE Denver Public Schools (DPS) court liaisons, safety planning, school-based crisis intervention and violence prevention, and community-based violence interrupters.

Background

- Youth Violence Prevention Action Table (YVPAT)
 - Support city and community-led efforts to reduce violence
 - Support the Contemporary Learning Academy (CLA) Village project by recruiting essential partners to assist with the application and program implementation
- YVPAT City-partners supporting the application:
 - Denver Parks and Recreation
 - Department of Public Safety
 - Office of Children's Affairs
- Grant Period: 1/1/23 - 6/30/24

CLA Village Partners

DPS Central Region Pathway Schools:

- Contemporary Learning Academy (CLA)
- Compassion Road Academy
- Denver Justice High School
- PREP Academy
- Emily Griffith High School and GED+ program
- Denver Center for 21st Century Learning (DC21)

CLA Village Partners

Community Partners:

- Tha Myx: Critical incident response and youth outreach to prevent violence
- Resolute Counseling: Mental Health Counselors (2 FTE) to support delivery of services
- Crystal Clear Counseling and Coaching: Substance Misuse Prevention Counselor (1 FTE) to support delivery of services

Holistic Support for At-Risk Youth

- Creating safety plans for each school
- Direct mental health and substance misuse counseling to students and families
- Trained trusted messengers/violence interrupters outside of school hours
- Support to students and families who are navigating the judicial system
- Gang intervention and de-escalation

Grant Goals & Objectives

Goal 1:

Successful engagement of identified students in Village mental health services, and/or substance intervention services

Objectives:

- Improved engagement in school and successful engagement with pre-trial/probation expectations
- Increase the number of students receiving mental health or substance misuse counseling

Grant Goals & Objectives

Goal 2:

Successful crisis intervention to prevent crime through restorative justice interventions, collaborative multidisciplinary de-escalation interventions and/or safety planning

Objectives:

- Hire an education, court, and community partner liaison to assist students and families re-entering an educational setting from the juvenile judicial system
- Provide safe passage in areas outside of schools during hours when youth are not monitored and there is a higher risk of violence occurring

Grant Goals & Objectives

Goal 3:

Increase student engagement in the educational setting of the pathway schools

Objectives:

- Improved attendance at school
- The City and County of Denver will provide summer employment resources and support to identified pathway students to keep students engaged in activities

Outcomes

- Improved access to mental health and substance misuse counseling
- Improved communication on the judicial process
- Interrupting and de-escalating potential violent events



Questions