

READI CHICAGO  
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

BLACK  
MEN  
UNITED

COMMUNITIES  
PARTNERING  
4 PEACE

Chicago-  
CRED | CREATE  
REAL  
ECONOMIC  
DESTINY

ucan  
THE POWER OF POTENTIAL

ONE Northside  
ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOODS FOR EQUALITY

THE SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT  
SWOP  
EL PROYECTO ORGANIZADOR DEL SUR OESTE

INSTITUTE  
FOR  
NONVIOLENCE  
CHICAGO

TOGETHER  
CHICAGO  
ONE CITY. ONE MISSION.

Acclivus

IMAN

Project  
HOOD  
Helping Others Obtain Destiny

Precious  
Blood  
Ministry of  
Reconciliation

MAAFA  
REDEMPTION PROJECT

ALSO

TARGET AREA  
AWAKENING THE SPIRIT OF LEADERSHIP

NEW LIFE  
CENTERS

PSPC PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE  
AND PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

North Peace Center of Education  
PEACE IS POSSIBLE

metropolitan  
PEACE  
INITIATIVES

CLARETIAN ASSOCIATES  
Building Community in South Chicago

PUBLIC  
EQUITY  
EQUITY IS KEY

ENLACE  
CHICAGO

Breakthrough

# Community Violence Intervention in Chicago

FALL 2023 REPORT



**Community violence  
intervention organizations  
meet people where they are.**

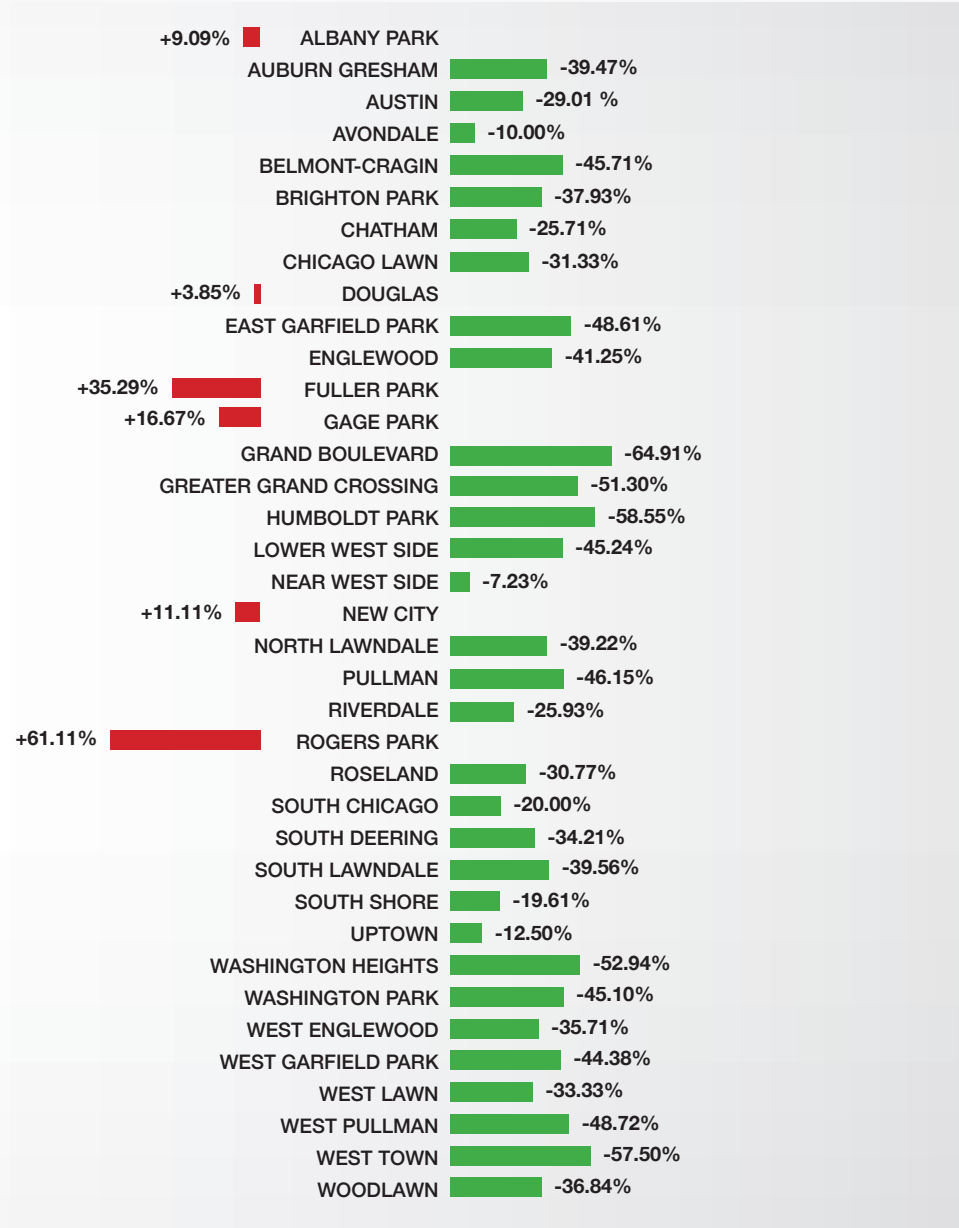
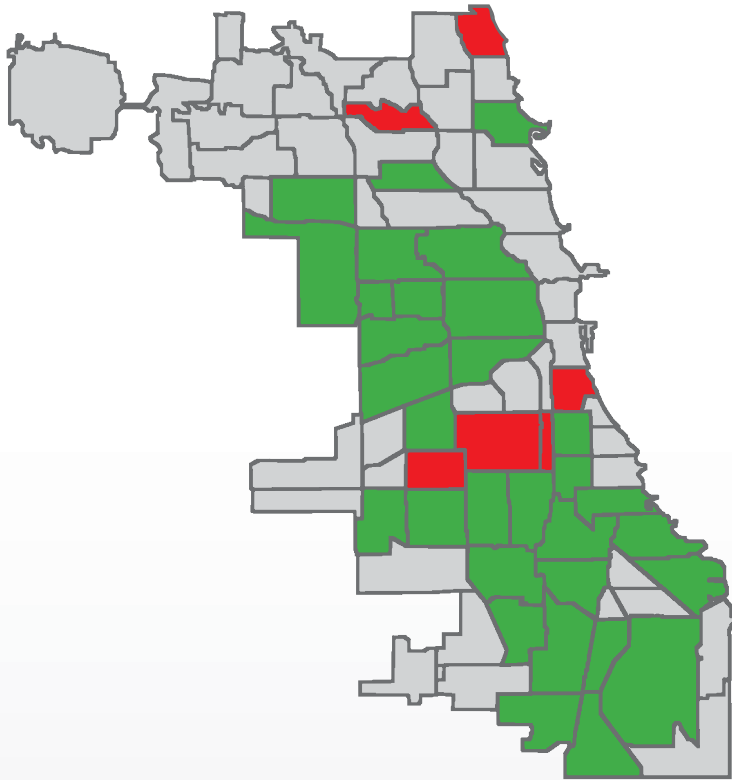
Starting in 2016, with initial funding from the philanthropic sector, a handful of community violence intervention (CVI) organizations began serving individuals at high risk of shooting or being shot with a menu of services that include outreach, life coaching, trauma treatment, education and job training. Today, as public funding at the city, county and state level has increased, Chicago's CVI network has grown to more than two dozen organizations that are currently active in nearly half of Chicago's 77 communities, including all of those with the highest levels of gun violence. Collectively, they serve more than 3000 individuals, representing about 15-20 percent of the highest risk population.

In addition to the core menu of services, CVI activities include:

- Occupying dangerous locations during the highest-risk hours to deter gun violence
- Intervening and mediating disputes among high-risk individuals
- Negotiating non-aggression agreements and peace treaties among active street factions
- Supporting gun violence victims and their families coping with injury, loss of life and financial and emotional stress
- Helping families with housing, substance abuse, legal issues and emergency expenses
- Supporting the City of Chicago in managing large youth gatherings.
- Recruiting and training the next generation of outreach workers.

Comparing 2023 year-to-date to the same period of time in the peak year of 2021, shootings in most CVI communities are down. Many exceed the citywide decline.

Citywide decline in shootings 2021 YTD to 2023 YTD (Sept. 27) **-33.95%**



## **CVI organizations embrace accountability and transparency.**



CVI organizations in Chicago's growing network recognize that accountability and transparency are critical to building support for this work. To that end, those with capacity are committed to tracking and publishing data on their impact, being transparent about their work, and being responsive to media inquiries. They recognize they are accountable to the same metrics as the Chicago Police Department, specifically, the number of homicides and shootings. However, most CVI organizations go beyond the raw shootings data to track the number of people served, services provided, rearrest rates and shooting rates for participants in CVI programs. Some also track the number of participants earning education degrees, job placement and endurance in jobs. We are also candid about challenges, including the need to recruit and train many more credible CVI workers, manage a workforce recovering from chronic exposure to violence, better serve out-of-school youth, and support CVI graduates in the legal economy.



### **Independent researchers evaluate CVI's impact.**

CVI organizations partner with Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science and the University of Chicago's Crime Lab to evaluate their programs.

## **UChicago Crime Lab says READI Chicago's benefits far outweigh its cost.**

A large-scale randomized trial of the Rapid Employment and Development Initiative (READI) Chicago conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago Crime Lab, University of Michigan, and Cornell University shows that it is possible to find and engage men at extremely high risk of gun violence. It further shows that READI's combination of cognitive-behavioral programming and a job, while not lowering all forms of serious violence, may reduce shooting and homicide arrests. For participants referred to the program by community outreach workers, READI clearly and substantially reduces shooting and homicide arrests and victimizations by 79% and 43%, respectively. Overall, the research concludes, in the 20 months after men are referred, READI generated benefits from reduced involvement in crime and violence that were between 4 and 20 times the cost to run the program.

## **Corners research on CP4P and CRED shows they are saving lives.**



Northwestern University's Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (Corners) is the research partner for Chicago CRED and Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a consortium of 13 CVI organizations serving 27 Chicago neighborhoods. Since 2020, CORNERS has released a series of research briefs.

- A 2020 analysis of CP4P affirmed that the consortium of CVI organizations were serving an extremely high-risk population and that the communities they served experienced monthly declines in gun violence.
- An August 2020 report highlighted the positive impact CP4P outreach workers have on participants, particularly as it relates to emotion coping and access to resources.
- A September 2020 research brief examined the added burden on outreach workers amidst the COVID outbreak, with many of them managing multiple “epidemics” including gun violence and COVID, as well as racism and police abuse.
- A 2021 analysis of CP4P affirmed that participants in the program are less likely to be shot after joining the program than before joining the program, although they remain at extremely high risk.
- A March 2023 research brief on CP4P estimated that the program has prevented 383 fatal and non-fatal shootings in neighborhoods that they serve.
- A January 2021 research brief explained that participants choose to join CRED for a variety of reasons. They feel safer, they trust CRED outreach workers because many have lived similar lives to them, and they are motivated by the benefits of joining, including a modest stipend and development of meaningful relationships.
- An August 2021 research brief suggested that participants in Chicago CRED are 50 percent less likely to become victims of gun violence after joining the program, though they remain at extremely high risk. Research further showed they were far less likely to be rearrested for a violent crime once they joined the program.



## Private funders have built the network of CVI providers.

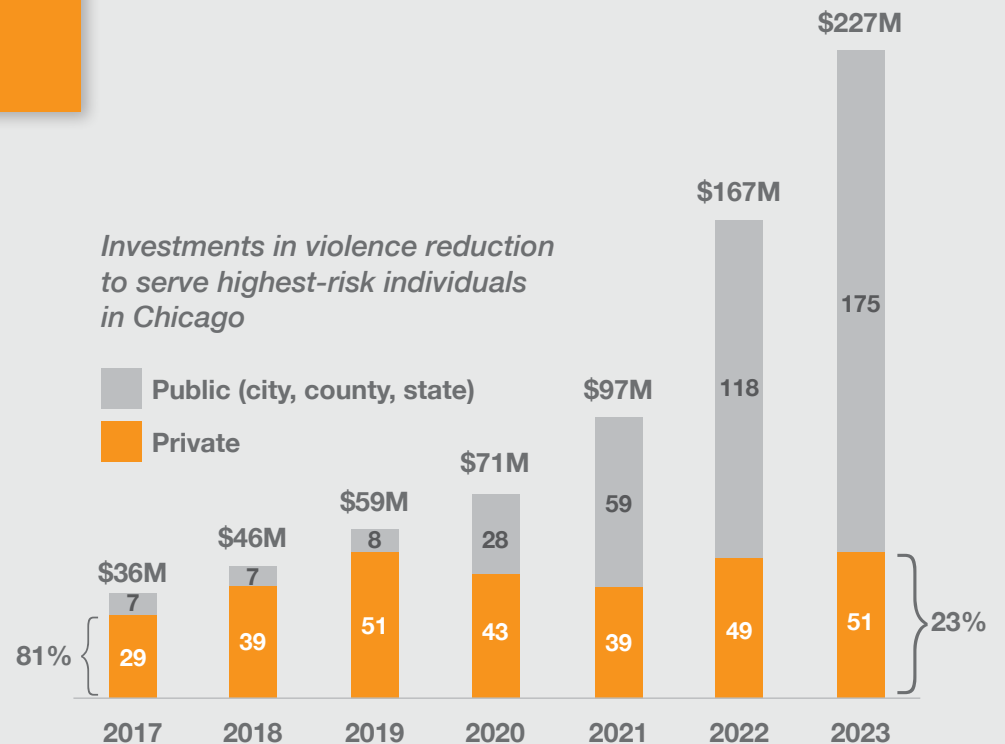
CVI organizations in Chicago began with private funding, primarily through The Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities (PSPC), a coalition of more than 50 foundations and private funders working together to support promising solutions to addressing gun violence. Collectively, private donors have committed over \$300 million to community violence intervention. PSPC also supports gun policy reform, public safety reimagining and reform and grassroots efforts and neighborhood activities that create safe spaces and promote peace.

## Local and state governments are now helping to fund CVI. Business community is poised to contribute.

More recently, the City, County and State have begun investing in CVI organizations and the business community, through the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club, has further vowed to raise tens of millions of dollars to support CVI. With state funding, CVI programs are now starting in suburban and downstate communities under the banner of the Illinois Peace Project.

## PSPC Chicago Fund

For several years, PSPC's Chicago Fund has provided micro-grants of up to \$10,000 to grassroots organizations working to reclaim their neighborhoods. In 2023, the Chicago Fund provided \$2.5M in grants to 253 grassroots organizations to host activities throughout the summer and fall in 24 neighborhoods on the South and West Sides. Grantee activities are focused on increasing community cohesion and safety, and ranged from community gardening, mentoring, arts and culture, music festivals, youth sports programs, block clubs, and wellness activities.



## FLIP deters gun violence at the most dangerous locations in Chicago.

- FLIP (Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace) is a program that began in 2018 with private funding serving a handful of neighborhoods that experience high levels of gun violence. Under the program, individuals caught up in street life are recruited by CVI organizations to occupy the most dangerous locations in the city (“Hot Spots”) during summertime evenings and weekends in order to deter violence.
- Starting in 2023, with state funding, the program has expanded to over 100 “hot spots” in 14 neighborhoods with over 500 “peacekeepers” on-duty year-round.
- Neighborhoods served include Austin, Brighton Park, East and West Garfield Park, Englewood, Grand Crossing, Humboldt Park, New City, North Lawndale, Roseland, Little Village, South Shore, West Pullman and Woodlawn.
- Corners research shows that the presence of unarmed FLIP workers dramatically reduces the number of shootings in the immediate area surrounding “hot spots.” The research also shows that most of the 14 communities served by FLIP workers have experienced overall reductions in gun violence.
- Research further shows that FLIP workers, in partnership with CVI organizations, have successfully mediated hundreds of disputes that could have led to violence and have negotiated dozens of non-aggression agreements or peace treaties among warring street factions.

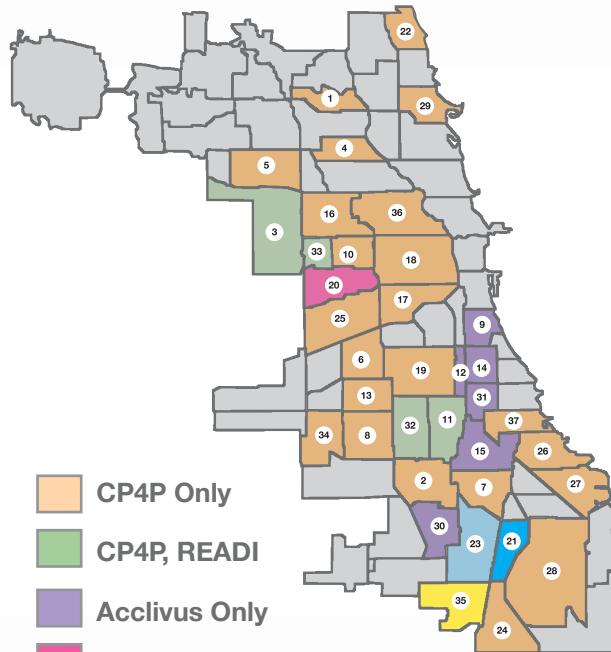
## Taking CVI to Scale

- Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago, or SC2, is a growing community of donors, anti-violence practitioners, business leaders and community stakeholders working together to establish fully-resourced, locally-led, at-scale CVI efforts in the 20 Chicago communities with the highest levels of gun violence.
- Citywide, CVI organizations serve an estimated 15-20 percent of the highest-risk individuals in the city. SC2’s goal is to increase this to 50 percent in five years and 75 percent in 10 years. The larger goal is a 50 percent reduction in shootings and homicides in five years and a 75 percent reduction in ten years.
- North Lawndale is the first community to take this approach with five organizations collaborating to serve more than 50% of the highest-risk people in the community. The effort is being independently evaluated by Northwestern University.
- The total cost to sustain and scale CVI in an initial group of six to eight communities in the first five years is an estimated \$400 million. With existing private and public resources, roughly half is committed, leaving a gap of \$200 million.

# TODAY'S CVI SYSTEM COVERAGE

**READI CHICAGO**  
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

*Chicago*  
**CREATED**



CP4P Only

CP4P, READI

Acclivus Only

CRED, CP4P, READI

CRED Only

CRED, CP4P

Acclivus, CRED

	COMMUNITY	Acclivus	Chicago CRED	CP4P	READI
1	ALBANY PARK			ALSO	
2	AUBURN GRESHAM			Target Area.	
3	AUSTIN			INVC & Together Chicago	
4	AVONDALE			ALSO	
5	BELMONT-CRAGIN			ALSO	
6	BRIGHTON PARK			INVC & New Life Centers	
7	CHATHAM			Target Area.	
8	CHICAGO LAWN			Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)	
9	DOUGLAS	Acclivus			
10	EAST GARFIELD PARK			Breakthrough & Together Chicago	
11	ENGLEWOOD			Public Equity & Target Area.	READI
12	FULLER PARK	Acclivus			
13	GAGE PARK			Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)	
14	GRAND BOULEVARD	Acclivus			
15	GREATER GRAND CROSSING	Acclivus			
16	HUMBOLDT PARK			ALSO	
17	LOWER WEST SIDE			New Life Centers	
18	NEAR WEST SIDE			Together Chicago	
19	NEW CITY			Precious Blood / INVC	
20	NORTH LAWNSDALE		CRED & Black Men United	UCAN	UCAN
21	PULLMAN		CRED & YPC		
22	ROGERS PARK			ONE Northside	
23	ROSELAND		CRED & YPC	UCAN	
24	RIVERDALE			UCAN	
25	SOUTH LAWNSDALE			Enlace & New Life Centers	
26	SOUTH SHORE			Claretian Associates	
27	SOUTH CHICAGO			Claretian Associates	
28	SOUTH DEERING			Claretian Associates	
29	UPTOWN			ONE Northside	
30	WASHINGTON HEIGHTS	Acclivus			
31	WASHINGTON PARK	Acclivus			
32	WEST ENGLEWOOD		IMAN	Public Equity & Target Area.	READI
33	WEST GARFIELD PARK		MAAFA	INVC	
34	WEST LAWN			Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)	
35	WEST PULLMAN	Acclivus	CRED & YPC		
36	WEST TOWN			ALSO	
37	WOODLAWN			Project H.O.O.D.	