

American Rescue Plan New Gun Violence Prevention Investments

Guiding Principles

At the forefront is **inclusively leading with race**, which is already a core value at Multnomah County. We know that gun violence disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities. And these proposals are intended to focus on serving those individuals.

We also look to **invest in evidence-based, community-centered, and trauma informed interventions**. We're looking to address the impacts of trauma, both generational and recent, for survivors, offenders, family and community members affected by gun violence. Because we know those acts ripple out and tear at the fabric of the community, and so our response needs to be based on repair and healing. We want to support community members as they re-establish connections, while also increasing resilience in individuals, families and communities

There's also the **need for a variety of responses**. We recognize there's no one solution, there's no one program that's going to stop the violence. We need to address it in a multitude of ways. That means balancing investments, taking a holistic approach. So you'll see some of the services we'll be providing in house, while others will be delivered through our providers. And there's diversity in the type of responses, from more clinical interventions to those that rely on community health specialists and peers.

Finally, **responding to gun violence requires collaboration**. That means building new relationships and coordination between our own departments, where that expertise lives, and can bring to bear a diverse response. It also means working closely with our community partners, and most importantly, those impacted by gun violence.

Health Department

Gun Violence Behavioral Health Response Team - \$1,200,000

This seven member team will be composed of clinicians and peers and provide services for gang impacted youth and families. Their goal is to address the increased community violence we've seen as a result of the pandemic. The team will work closely with DCJ's Juvenile Services Division and use therapeutic interventions to address underlying needs.

FaithBridge Trauma Healing and Recovery Program - \$170,000

This funding will supplement culturally specific opportunities for women emerging from trauma and/or life transition to reconnect in a deep and life transforming way to faith. These women could be emerging from abuse, abandonment, incarceration, and addiction. Through aspirational weekly workshops, one-on-support, and annual retreat, FaithBridge will provide space for women to heal and recover using values from various faith practices as an anchor. 84% of Black women say religion is very important to them. 59% say they attend religious services at least once a week. No group of men or women from any other racial or ethnic background exhibits comparably high levels of religious observance. Black women place a high value on a deeper connection to their faith as a way to manage trauma and stress. Their connection to faith increases the likelihood of positive mental and physical health outcomes.

Community Partnerships & Capacity Building in Public Health - \$1,116,000

Staffing - REACH lead, position; CHIP Community Health Specialists

This new funding will scale up a wraparound model using community health workers in community based organizations. The County will contract with the Non-Profit Association of Oregon to provide technical assistance to smaller BIPOC organizations, and contract for culturally responsive maternal child health services in the African and Latinx communities. Finally, funding will go to expand Pacific Islander and Latinx coalitions, as well as the Future Generations Collaborative.

Department of Community Justice

Community Health Specialists - \$300,000

Three new Community Health Specialists will work in collaboration with the Health Department & the Department of County Human Services to provide families with safety plans and trauma support for those who have felt the direct impacts of gun violence serves 50-60 clients. 23 of the last 55 homicides have had a nexus to DCJ adult and juvenile caseloads. This is also an opportunity for partnership and leveraging other County resources.

Elevate Program Expansion - \$500,000

The County will expand our Elevate program to 18-25 year old young men in the Latinx and African Immigrant Community for those impacted by gang involvement and gun violence. This will provide community support and resources to an additional 50 justice involved individuals, including peer support, skill building, cognitive behavioral therapy, and culturally responsive services. This will also provide opportunities to partner with national experts to build out culturally responsive programming for this population of justice involved individuals.

HEAT Expansion - \$80,000

Additional capacity will be provided for DCJ's Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy (HEAT) program, which is delivered to African-American justice involved individuals. This curriculum is a culturally responsive cognitive behavioral intervention program designed to reflect and address the unique experiences and needs of participants. The ability to address antisocial thinking is an effective way to reduce recidivism especially as it relates to gun violence.

Victim Services Expansion - \$93,000

As our County moves into lesser restrictive phases, there will be a significant uptick in hearings, and rescheduling of hearings. In order to stay in compliance with victims rights, including those impacted by gun violence, the department will add one additional staff member to respond to these impacts. Victims and survivors of crime are disproportionately people of color and while they are the one person involved in our system who did not ask to be, they often have access to the least amount of support and resources.

Additional Programs Funded by the American Rescue Plan:

Community Provider Incubator - \$300,000

To address the increase in gun violence, there is a need to increase capacity among community-based organizations that have the experience necessary to provide gun violence intervention programming aimed at reducing the number of gun violence incidents in Multnomah County. DCJ will partner with community based organizations to provide intensive case management and life coaching for youth at a high risk of gun violence provided by trusted community members with relevant lived experience; positive gun violence intervention activities such as recreation out of school hours, youth grief/loss support groups, and decision-making skill-building opportunities; and training for subcontracted organizations on service delivery, nonprofit management, and staff wellness and resiliency.

Neighborhood-Focused Gun Violence Prevention Demonstrations- \$250,000

This amendment will fund the planning and research to create three hyper-localized gun violence prevention coalitions based in neighborhoods particularly affected by violence. The coalitions will consist of neighborhood residents, community-based organizations, neighborhood institutions, and relevant jurisdictional partners that will identify, advocate for, and implement specific, local solutions and responses to violence. Funds will support the planning and initial implementation to adopt and implement the public health approach that has been so effective in other areas of our work including community and partner engagement, research regarding similar efforts and best practices, and detailed recommendations regarding implementation, cost, and sustainable funding sources. Initial implementation phase will include coalition convening and facilitation.

Additional Programs Funded by County General Fund:

Community-Based Mental Health Services for Children and Families - \$160,000

Multnomah County is seeing an increase in gang violence, shootings and homicides. This is predominantly affecting our African American Community. In 2020 there were 55 homicides in Portland alone. By October 2020 nearly 173 people have been struck by gunfire and there have been over 595 shootings. This is nearly twice as much as the same time period last year. Almost half of those most impacted identify as African American in spite of the fact that the overall population of the Portland area is 8 percent African American. There is an urgent need for helping to heal the African American community that has borne the brunt of violence and loss. This offer proposes the addition of a KSA African American Mental Health Consultant for the Direct Clinical Services unit to serve gang impacted young adults and their families

Community Healing Initiative Expansion - \$250,000

This new funding will be used to expand the Community Healing Initiative (CHI) model to additional Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) communities as part of a broad strategy to support real time response to community violence and other immediate needs. CHI provides culturally specific, holistic, family-based, wraparound services to medium and high risk justice-involved BIPOC youth and their families. CHI is a family and community-centered collaboration designed to stop youth violence in Multnomah County by addressing its root causes

Culturally Specific, Justice Involved Addictions Benefit Coordinator - \$186,000

The ABC program serves over 3,000 individuals per year and consists of a continuum of adult Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support services for adult Multnomah County residents. This position will work with Black and African-American individuals who are on supervision with the Department of Community Justice. Their goal will be to connect them to services, including: residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment with supported housing, outpatient treatment, outreach/engagement, recovery mentoring, and recovery support (including linkages to housing support, pro-social/drug-free activities, basic needs support, etc).