

CITY OF AKRON'S VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION (VIP) STRATEGIC PLAN

A Process and Outcome Evaluation

ANNUAL REPORT
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I. Executive Summary

The Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Strategic Plan aims to reduce crime and violence among youth and young adults ages 13 to 24 years old in the City of Akron.

- Youth and families living in Akron are exposed to structural conditions and high levels of crime and violence that has increased risk for significant disadvantage, trauma, loss, and cyclical violence, potentially impacting outcomes in multiple systems.
- There are thirty-nine grassroots and community-based organizations funded using American Rescue Plan Act dollars (ARPA) across eight strategic approaches including mentoring, recreation and discretionary time, re-entry support, police-youth relations, mental health and substance abuse supports and treatment, gun violence reduction, community awareness and involvement, and workforce development and living wage employment.
- Theory of Change: Youth risk for trauma, crime, and violence will be reduced through community-based violence intervention and prevention programming that increases developmental assets, promotes prosocial behaviors and socially integrative norms, and improves connections within neighborhoods and to social systems.
- This report includes the results of SEI's process evaluation work completed to date with twenty-one organizations. The strategy to evaluate the VIP Strategic Plan employs a mixed methods, community-based approach that centers organizational leaders and staff as experts, and seeks to work alongside them to identify and understand program services, outputs, and youth outcomes.
- Preliminary qualitative analysis of grantee logic models and interview summaries has identified hundreds of codes and dozens of emerging themes.
- The use of the 40 Developmental Assets Framework provides support and rationale for the selection of strengths-based outcome measures and one method by which the city could broadly measure collective impact of the grantees' programs and services.
- Technical support provided to grantees contributes to the development and use of evidence-based and standardized measures and assessments of the impact of their services.
- Program output data will be collected and analyzed this year along with updated arrest and victim data from the Akron Police Department.