

# Advancing Community Safety: Violence Prevention and Intervention

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*RFP for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*

## ***Buncombe County Government***

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# Application Form

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## Question Group

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Buncombe County requests proposals for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts.

Buncombe County has been awarded \$50,733,290 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. To date, Buncombe County has awarded projects totaling \$23,093,499, leaving a balance of \$27,639,791 available to award.

Visit <http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding><http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding> for details.

This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Buncombe County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP and any addenda issued hereto.

[Click here for the full terms and conditions of the RFP](#)

## Organization Type\*

Public

## Nonprofit documentation

If nonprofit, attach IRS Determination Letter or other proof of nonprofit status.

## Name of Project.\*

Advancing Community Safety: Violence Prevention and Intervention

## New/Updated Proposal\*

Is this a new project proposal or an updated version of a proposal submitted during the earlier (July 2021) Recovery Funding RFP?

New project proposal

### Amount of Funds Requested\*

\$1,189,400.00

### Category\*

Please select one:

- Affordable Housing
- Aging/Older Adults
- Business Support/Economic Development
- Environmental/Climate
- Homelessness
- K-12 Education
- Infrastructure and/or Broadband
- Mental Health/Substance Use
- NC Pre-K Expansion
- Workforce

Mental Health/Substance Use

### Brief Project Description\*

Provide a short summary of your proposed project.

This three year project seeks to support a community-based organization (CBO) with implementing an evidenced-based intervention focused on reducing harm and trauma on the most impacted communities. This project will also include training and technical assistance from a national organization that uses a public health approach to violence prevention, utilizing CHWs with additional training in violence prevention and community mobilization. CPRV is an adaptation of the CDC's STRYVE initiative which established violence as a public health priority, acknowledging that exposure to violence increases individual, family, and community trauma, and increases the risk of other mental health and physical health problems, including depression, substance abuse, and chronic disease.

### Project Plan\*

Explain how the project will be structured and implemented, including timeframe.

Funding would advance the Buncombe Community Safety Initiative to build upon trauma-informed strategies for violence prevention, intervention, and community mobilization through supporting community partners to implement CPRV. Through a competitive process, Justice Services would contract with a CBO to implement CPRV. In addition the County will partner with Community Healing through Activism and Strategic Mobilization (CHASM) and a national violence prevention organization to provide assessment, evaluation, strategic planning, and evidence-based strategy implementation support.

CPrV aims to build community cohesion and collective efficacy, and shift societal norms around violence through the following core strategies:

- Community Professional Development: CHWVP [evidence-based]
- Youth Leadership Development: Youth Empowerment Solutions (YES) [evidence-based]
- Repurposing the Built Environment: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) [evidence-based]
- Community Qualitative Research: Community-Based Participatory Research [evidence-based]
- Pedagogy of Empowerment: Popular Education [evidence-based]

In the first six months of the project, Justice Services in partnership with CHASM will work with local partners and community members to review current progress and gaps, assessing community strengths, needs, and readiness for implementation. Justice Services will release a Request For Proposals for CBOs interested in contracting on this work to employ CHWs and provide them with training and support for building expertise in violence prevention. Through contracts with local CBOs, implementation rollout would include:

- Year 1: 3 CHWs, 2 Implementation sites
- Year 2: 3 CHWs, 3 Implementation sites
- Year 3: 5 CHWs, 5 Implementation sites

CHWs are individuals with credibility in the community, who come from the area they serve and have relationships with key community players to build trust and respect. With training, CHWs have an understanding of root causes and eventual effects of violence. CHWs are skilled at modeling and explaining the need for changing community norms around conflict; they are committed to generational healing by working to shift cultural and behavioral norms around conflict away from violence and towards mediation and mutually beneficial solutions to community problems.

CHASM identifies three primary CHW roles: 1) Direct Service: Implementing a robust network of referral-based assistance to support wrap-around services to individuals/families; 2) Health Promotion, Community Organizers and Partners in Research: Developing, adapting and implementing training as well as community-level capacity building initiatives, advocacy, and equitable partnerships in research; 3) Executive Level Advocacy and Policy: Contributing to policy and strategic planning regarding decisions that impact the populations they serve and represent.

## Statement of Need\*

Describe the need that this project will address. Include data to demonstrate the need, and cite the source of the data.

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence summarizes the impact of this issue by stating “community gun violence inflicts an enormous burden upon our country, particularly within under-resourced Black and Hispanic/Latino communities. The health and wellbeing of nearly everyone living within these communities are adversely impacted. As a result, community gun violence further perpetuates the cycles of concentrated poverty, structural disadvantage, and health inequity that already exist within these communities. Policies and programs that address community gun violence are essential to tackle the public health epidemic of gun violence in the United States and promote health equity.” Both violence and the justice system have disparate impacts on Black people living in Buncombe County. In the first seven months of 2020, there were nine homicides, seven of the victims were Black men. In 2019, Black people represented 6.3% of Buncombe County’s population, yet comprised 69% of gun violence victims.

Community members voiced a strong desire for investment in community-led approaches to support safety in their communities, and there is strong interest from leadership from Asheville Police Department, Asheville Housing Authority, and the County’s Child Fatality Review Team to address community safety and violence prevention.

Justice Services contracted with The Racial Justice Coalition (RJC) to conduct research regarding the development of a program that includes outreach, mentoring, and support for young adults most at risk of engaging in violence. The research presented to the Justice Resource Advisory Council included two violence

interruption programs, Cure Violence, and CHASM, both of which are provided throughout North Carolina. CHASM was recommended by the community because of its public health and community health worker model that compliments the current efforts in Western North Carolina.

### Link to COVID-19\*

Identify a health or economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency, describe the nature and extent of that harm, and explain how the use of this funding would address such harm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the stressors that drive violence, locally and across the Country. Root causes that fuel the cycle of violence, including intersecting trauma and stress, have been intensified during the pandemic. As of July 14, there had been 7 homicides in Asheville in 2021 ; in 2020 there were 10 , and 6 in 2019 . In 2020, the APD reported 45 people were shot:

- Of offenders :
  - o 14 were Black; 3 were white.
  - o 15 were male, 2 female.
  - o Most were between 20-25 years old — 4 were under 20; 6 were 20-25; 4 were 26-30; 1 was 41-50; and 2 were over 50.
- Of victims:
  - o 37 were Black, 7 were white.
  - o 6 were female, 38 male.
  - o Most were between 19-25 years old — 3 were under 19; 17 were 19-25; 8 were 26-30; 7 were 31-40; 5 were 41-50; and 4 were over 50.

The Biden Administration is encouraging communities to leverage ARP funds to support this work stating: “With the secondary consequences of the pandemic ... we have seen increased violence. Homicides rose 30%, and gun assaults rose 8% in large cities in 2020. The number of homicides in the first quarter of 2021 was 24% higher than the number of homicides in the first quarter of 2020, and 49% higher than in the first quarter of 2019. Black and brown Americans are disproportionately harmed by the direct and indirect consequences of gun violence... We are experiencing an epidemic of gun violence in this country. This violence robs us of loved ones and causes life-altering physical injuries. It causes lasting trauma, with cascading consequences for children, families, and communities. It steals our freedom, our sense of belonging and security, and has ripple effects for our economy.”

### Population Served\*

Define the population to be served by this project, including volume and demographic characteristics of those served.

According to the State of Black Asheville, of the ten public housing communities with 3,100 residents; 71.8% of these residents are Black. The SJC/SPARC Community Safety Street Team initially canvassed multiple low income/high crime neighborhoods with the purpose to meet with community members, discuss intentions of the team, determine engagement and support for the project. Members of the team canvassed many public housing communities in Asheville, including Klondyke, Erskine, Walton, Livingston, Hillcrest, Deaverview, Bingham Heights. Upon completion of canvassing, the team determined to focus on Hillcrest and Klondyke where the team felt momentum was strong for partnership and engagement.

The street team is building up relationships in Pisgah View Apartments, and other neighborhoods with higher rates of violence around Buncombe County. They will continue these outreach efforts as they work to identify future neighborhoods to expand the work. The Asheville Police Department recently launched a dashboard that maps gun-violence (linked here), and Buncombe County and City of Asheville partners are working on mapping broader community violence incidences. These data sources, combined with community outreach and CHASM’s Community Assessment will continue to inform the expansion to future neighborhoods.

## Results\*

Describe the proposed impact of the project. List at least 3 performance measures that will be tracked and reported. If possible, include baselines and goals for each performance measure.

The primary goal of implementing CPRV is to decrease violence and increase community healing.

Performance measures will include (but are not limited to) the following measures, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender whenever possible:

- a. Number of CHWs trained in Violence Prevention in our community.
- b. Number of people connected to resources, and types of resources (e.g. trauma and resilience training).
- c. Number of youth engaged in Youth Leadership Development.
- d. Quantitative and qualitative reports of participants impacted by violence.

Though we expect impact of these investments to take time that will likely extend beyond the life of this funding, we will also be tracking community-level indicators including:

- o Rates of community violence in Buncombe County. As available, this data will be disaggregated by neighborhoods served; while recognizing that the impacts of violent incidences expand beyond the location of the event through the impacts on families and friends of those involved.
- o Rates of racial inequities in the jail population related to people charged with violent offenses

If not already in place, CBOs who contract on this work will work with the County and CHASM to develop systems to collect data and track outcomes and will provide reports on agreed performance measures/outcomes on a quarterly basis, with results disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender whenever possible.

## Evaluation\*

Describe the data collection, analysis, and quality assurance measures you will use to assure ongoing, effective tracking of contract requirements and outcomes.

Evaluation will occur as a multifaceted approach. Justice Services staff will monitor all aspects of the program through a variety of methodologies to include bi-monthly check-in with all subcontractors, conducting site visits, ensuring backup information is provided with invoices and monitoring reporting. An independent evaluator will be contracted to measure the effectiveness of the programs. The last approach is CHASM technical assistance and training that comes in a four-phase approach: Readiness, Social Network Analysis, Rapid Assessments, and 30-60-90 follow-up. CHASM applies the socio-ecological model as their grounded theory in order to comprehensively address needs and gaps within the 5 levels: intrapersonal, interpersonal, community, organization, and systems. The Social Ecological Framework supports recognizing the complex and dynamic interplay of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or engaging in violence, and the complexity of seeking to address these root issues. The CDC states that the Social-Ecological Framework suggests that “in order to prevent violence, it is necessary to act across multiple levels of the model at the same time. This approach is more likely to sustain prevention efforts over time and achieve population-level impact.”

## Equity Impact\*

How will this effort help build toward a just, equitable, and sustainable COVID-19 recovery? How are the root causes and/or disproportionate impacts of inequities addressed?

According to the CDC (2017) Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Black males under 35 and Black males make up 2% of U.S. population but account for 37% of all homicide victims. COVID-19 has

exacerbated longstanding structural inequities rooted in racism that have led to increased poverty, disrupted family systems due to justice system involvement, and exposure to trauma within Black communities. These stressors are drivers of violence, and violent felonies are a significant driver of inequities in our jail system. Addressing violence, and the disparate effects that violence has on Black communities (detailed above) is critical to also addressing inequities in incarceration.

There is often an overlap between those who are survivors of violence and those who commit violence, and the risk of violent victimization and offending is highly concentrated during the transition to adulthood which spans from roughly 16 – 25. This population of “emerging adults” also experiences some of the worst racial inequities in the justice system. According to the Emerging Adult Justice Project: “In 2019, Black and Latinx 18- and 19-year-old males were 12.4 times and 3.2 times more likely to be imprisoned than their white peers respectively.”

The Governor’s task force on Racial Equity in the Criminal Justice System released their recommendations in December 2020, including supporting violence prevention programs. On July 15th, 2021, the TREC hosted a training session on leveraging American Rescue Plan funding to support Violence Prevention Programs – slides and recordings are available here. The proposed initiatives are aiming to address the need to build and grow local violence prevention and community safety work, ideally using an approach that centers community leadership (rather than law-enforcement) using a public health, trauma-responsive, and economic development approach.

## Project Partners\*

Identify any subcontractors you intend to use for the proposed scope of work. For each subcontractor listed, indicate:

- 1.) What products and/or services are to be supplied by that subcontractor and;
- 2.) What percentage of the overall scope of work that subcontractor will perform.

Also, list non-funded key partners critical to project.

- 1) Subcontractors:
  - o CHASM - is dedicated to empowering historically marginalized communities through empathy, advocacy, and honoring indigenous ways of knowing leading to community and systems transformation. CHASM is a Community-Based Organization (CBO) of strategic learning that aims to build capacity for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and CBOs within historically marginalized communities and inequities in order to enhance harmony within the ecology of our society. The primary goal of CHASM is to establish CPrV as a nationally recognized evidence-based program that increases capacity within historically marginalized communities to advance violence as a public health priority and community based leadership and professional capacity as essential to effective violence prevention strategies.
    - o Local community-based organizations to be identified through an RFP. This organization will provide support wrap-around services and social support for individuals and families.
    - o Local Evaluation Consultant identified through an RFP.
- 2)
  - o CHASM 10%
  - o Local community-based organizations to be identified through an RFP 80%
  - o Local Evaluation Consultant identified through an RFP. 5%
- 3) Key Partners include (but are not limited to):
  - o Buncombe County District Attorney’s Office
  - o Public Defenders Office
  - o North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts in Buncombe County
  - o Justice Resource Advisory Council
  - o Safety + Justice Challenge Working Groups
  - o City of Asheville, Asheville Police Department

- o Asheville Housing Authority

## Capacity\*

Describe the background, experience, and capabilities of your organization or department as it relates to capacity for delivering the proposed project and managing federal funds.

There is funding allocated within the SJC to maintain staffing levels in 2022, so this proposed funding will support staffing at the current level in 2023 and 2024. Additional funding will be sought to grow the work. This investment in the initial years of this work will provide a foundation to see what is working, what needs to be adapted to improve outcomes and to develop collaborative plans with community and system partners on how to integrate this work into the future of a Comprehensive Community Safety and Violence Prevention plan for Buncombe County (this plan is being developed in 2021 – 2022 with support from SJC funds).

The Buncombe County Justice Services Department already manages multiple funding streams, including federal funds, \$1.75 million in SJC grant funding from the MacArthur Foundation between 2018 – 2022, and another \$1.75 SJC renewal grant that runs between 2021 – 2023. The department has successfully partnered with justice and community organizations to implement systemic reforms, fund staff positions within the County and through contracts with partners, and to invest in innovative community-led solutions like the launch of the Community Safety Initiative this past year.

## Budget\*

Provide a detailed project budget including all proposed project revenues and expenditures, including explanations and methodology. For all revenue sources, list the funder and denote whether funds are confirmed or pending. For project expenses, denote all capital vs. operating costs, and reflect which specific expenses are proposed to be funded with one-time Buncombe County Recovery Funds.

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Recovery-Funds-budget- Community Safety Violence Prevention - April 8 2022.xlsx

## Special Considerations\*

Provide any other information that might assist the County in its selection.

This project is in support of several county proclamations such as RESOLUTION NO. 20-08-03: Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health & Safety Crisis and RESOLUTION NO. 20-08-08  
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY REPARATIONS FOR BLACK PEOPLE IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY



## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- Recovery-Funds-budget- Community Safety Violence Prevention - April 8 2022.xlsx



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			<b>Total</b>	\$	1,189,400.00	