
NEWS

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Get IN Chicago (GIC) Funds Programs to Address Aftermath of Gun Violence

CHICAGO (Aug. 13) – Get IN Chicago, a public-private partnership, is providing \$230,000 to community initiatives in five neighborhoods hardest hit by gun violence.

Grant recipients – University Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and Cure Violence, UCAN and CeaseFire, and Youth Guidance – are using GIC funds to implement trauma response programs in Austin, Englewood, North Lawndale, Roseland and South Shore. The effort is part of GIC’s Violence Response Initiative (VRI). Under the funding, each organization is providing clinical and community support to survivors, family members and residents within 72 hours of shooting incidents. Additionally, the organizations are addressing violence before it occurs by working at the community level in each neighborhood.

“Strategies that coordinate efforts are essential to helping communities recover from violence,” said Toni Irving, executive director, Get IN Chicago. “These grants bring together the collective expertise of clinical providers, community-based organizations and violence interrupters to support individuals in their recovery and help communities heal.”

Violence Response Initiative grantees include:

UIC and Cure Violence – UIC and Cure Violence, an organization that detects and interrupts conflicts and treats individuals at high risk for violence, are the recipients of a GIC grant for violence response efforts in South Shore. Cure Violence is also providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), which is a proven, clinical approach to managing stress and aggressive behaviors to help traumatized youth. The Cure Violence team is also canvassing streets and hosting Peace Summits for residents to exchange ideas and strategies for reducing violence.

UCAN and CeaseFire – UCAN, an organization that provides counseling services to Illinois youth and families, is implementing a VRI project with CeaseFire (the Illinois branch of Cure Violence) in North Lawndale and Roseland. UCAN is bringing CBT services to survivors, witnesses and residents in response to violent incidents. Ceasefire is using its violence interrupter model, which involves neighborhood residents negotiating with at-risk youth, to reduce violence on the ground.

Youth Guidance – Youth Guidance, an organization that implements school-based after-school and workforce development programs targeting at-risk youth, is using a GIC grant to provide a “Crisis Team and Family Engagement Taskforce” to respond to shootings in Austin and Englewood. Youth Guidance is also working with parents of at-risk youth, conducting home visits to share tactics for violence intervention with families, and organizing public community discussions.

The Violence Response Initiative grants are one of three grant announcements this month and September.

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About Get IN Chicago

Get IN Chicago is an innovative five-year, \$50 million partnership that focuses on identifying, funding, and rigorously evaluating evidence-based programs that lead to sustainable reductions in violence for individuals and communities. Since 2013, it has awarded grants totaling more than \$11.5 million for evidence-based community programs at 40 non-profit organizations to support 8,800 at-risk youth and their families in eight Chicago communities. More information is available at www.getinchicago.org