# **Community Engagement for DVP Strategic Spending Plan**

The DVP incorporated feedback and insights we received during extensive community engagement effort into the FY 2022-24 strategic spending plan that included a series of community town halls for Oakland residents, public health and violence prevention and public health experts, community-based organizations (CBOs), system partners, and neighborhood residents directly impacted by violence. Over 430 people contributed insights through a mix of town halls, focus groups and interviews with stakeholders.

Following direction from City Council in December 2020, during a two-month period-from mid-February to mid-April of 2021, the DVP held three, virtual, community town halls for residents of West, Central, and East Oakland. And collaborated with youth serving CBOs for one in-person, town hall for youth.

A poll during the town halls helped DVP capture demographic information about who attended. Though not everyone responded to the poll,<sup>1</sup> survey results on town hall attendance show that more than 50% of attendees at the West Oakland and East Oakland identified as Black. Nearly one-quarter of East Oakland attendees identified as Latinx and 26% of Central Oakland attendees identified as Latinx.

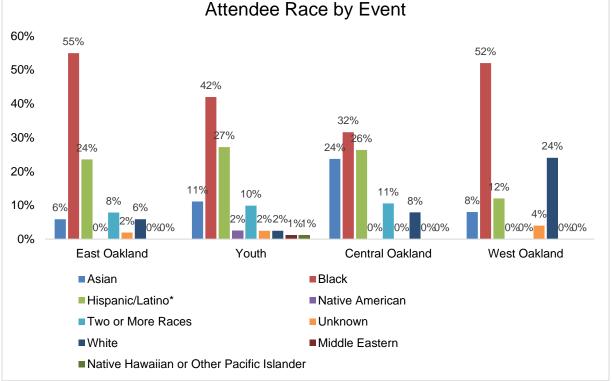


Figure 1: DVP Town Hall Demographics by Race

\*Includes attendees who identified as Hispanic/Latino of any race.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The response rate averaged roughly 50% over the four town halls.

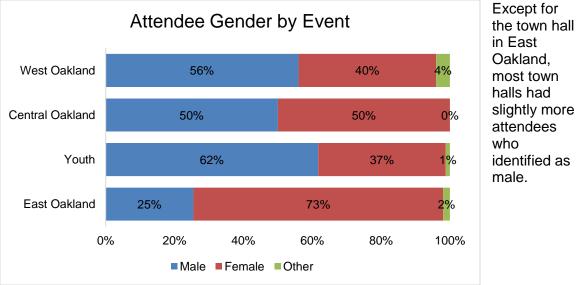


Figure 2: DVP Town Hall Demographics by Gender

Oakland. most town halls had slightly more attendees identified as male.

Overall the regional town halls captured the perspectives of Oakland residents and community-based providers across a range of ages from youth to elders, particularly those ages 25 to 65. Youth and young adult perspectives were most represented at the youth town hall.

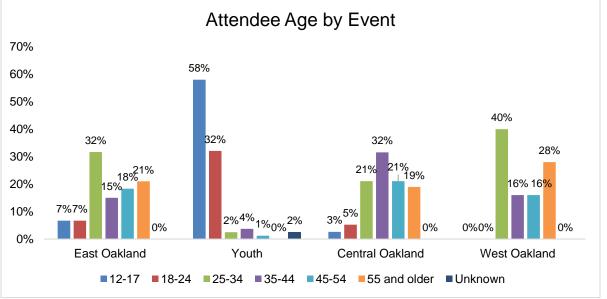


Figure 3: DVP Town Hall Demographics by Age

As the engagement effort came to a close, community members and subject matter experts alike agreed that the DVP should continue to engage the community through town halls as it provided a better understanding of existing violence prevention practices, fostered a feedback loop between community members and city departments, and allowed for candid dialogue about what the entire City can do to reduce violence.

In addition to hosting community and youth town halls. The DVP facilitated focus 12 focus groups with various stakeholders including the DVP provider network (by strategy); young adults impacted by violence, mothers who have lost loved ones to violence; Asian American community organizations and residents, Oakland-based violence prevention advocacy groups, the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, and public health experts. DVP staff also met with systems partners and stakeholders such as Probation, as well as the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), Alameda County Office of Education, and Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services. **Appendix A** includes a full list of the partners consulted and the CBOs and neighborhood groups represented at the various focus groups.

#### **Community Engagement Themes**

All of the community engagement sessions were designed to provide small groups that maximized input from those in attendance. A range of expertise and lived experience was evident in each session. Feedback from these sessions revealed themes the community would like to see addressed with funding from the DVP.

#### These themes include:

- Prioritize investments in people and places most impacted by violence
- Elevate and develop natural, homegrown expertise of community leaders to address violence prevention from within the community
- Provide services and programs for youth living in neighborhoods with high violence exposure rates
- Provide financial and employment support that addresses the economic insecurity that leads to poverty and homelessness
- Provide culturally relevant mental health services to address multi-generational trauma and assist with individual and community healing
- Improve coordination between and across city departments and community organizations
- Adequate funding is needed for the Department of Violence Prevention to tackle both violence prevention and intervention; particularly for youth programs and gender-based violence
- Educate the community on all the available resources delivered by the DVP and its network of partners

These community engagement sessions stressed the importance of a collaborative approach where community members feel heard, understood and part of the solution.

### Appendix A:

### Partners Consulted for Department of Violence Prevention Community Engagement Effort

### City of Oakland

- City of Oakland Councilmembers
- City of Oakland Safety and Services Oversight Commission (SSOC)
- Department of Race and Equity
- Human Services Department (various divisions)
- International Pediatrics
- Office of the Mayor
- Oakland Police Department
- Office of Parks, Recreation and Youth Development
- Reimagining Public Safety Advisory Board

## **Community and Public Partners**

- A Safe Place
- AC United Against Trafficking
- Akonadi Foundation
- Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
- Alameda County District Attorney's Office
- Alameda County Health Services Highland Hospital
- Alameda County Office of Education
- Alameda County Probation Department
- Alameda County Public Defender's Office
- Alameda County Public Health Department
- Anti-Police Terror Project
- API Legal Outreach
- Asian Health Services
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
- Asian Prisoner Support Committee
- Asians 4 Black Lives
- Bright Research Group
- Brotherhood of Elders Network
- California Partnership for Safe Communities
- Ceasefire
- Chinese Community United Methodist Church
- East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
- Family Bridges Inc.
- Family Justice Center
- Filipino Advocates for Justice
- Love Never Fails

- Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council
- New Breath Foundation
- Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- Faith In Action
- Oakland Rising
- Oakland Unified School District
- Oakland Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce
- Oakland Youth Advisory Committee
- Prevention Institute
- Shalom Bayit
- The Village, Young Oakland
- Trybe Inc.
- Urban Strategies Council
- Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce
- Violence Prevention Coalition, Family Support Advocates
- Whole Story

## **Department of Violence Prevention Provider Focus Groups**

- Adult Life Coaching and Employment & Education Support Services
- Community Healing
- Gender-Based Violence
- Violence Interruption and Shooting and Homicide Response
- Youth Life Coaching, Diversion, and Employment Education Services and Supports

## Expertise from Outside of Oakland

- Advance Peace, Richmond, CA
- Chicago CRED, Chicago, IL
- Cities United
- City of Milwaukee, Health Department Office of Violence Prevention
- City of San Francisco, Department of Children Youth and Families