



# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Guillermo Cespedes  
Chief, Violence Prevention

**SUBJECT:** Violence Prevention  
Services Spending Plan

**DATE:** May 10, 2021

City Administrator Approval

Date:

May 25, 2021

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Funding Priorities For Programs Funded By The 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act (Safety And Services Act) For The Funding Cycle From July 2022 Through The End of Safety And Services Act Funding Period (December 2024).**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides City Council with recommendations on the strategic investment of funds from the Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act of 2014 (Safety and Services Act) for violence intervention and prevention programs. The Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) worked with community members and public partners to develop the funding priorities in this report.

This report further provides an overview of DVP's vision and plans for violence intervention and prevention in Oakland, based upon spending plan investments aimed at reductions in five areas:

- Gun violence
- Intimate partner violence
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Unsolved homicides (cold cases), particularly support for families
- Community trauma associated with violence.

Highlights in the spending plan include the following;

- Initial funding recommendations to invest Safety and Services Act funds along with 2 additional tiers of suggested programming possible if new funding is allocated to the DVP based upon the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force's recommendations;
- Amplification of services aimed at reducing intimate partner violence and commercial sexual exploitation through a 94 percent increase in funding;
- Services that prioritize those residing in geographic areas of Oakland in which underlying conditions generated the highest rates of documented gun and gender-based violence and COVID-19 infection;

- Ambassadors as credible messengers whose primary focus is to nurture and maintain relationships with community members, serve as neighborhood peacekeepers, and plan evening and weekend events, as part of a violence prevention and intervention strategy that focuses on positive community engagement through sports, music, and other cultural activities for individuals, and family members of all ages; and
- Strengthen cultural and linguistic capacities to serve immigrants from the Latinx and Asian Pacific Islander communities.

City Council approval of the proposed plan will allow staff to issue a competitive request for qualifications (RFQ) that may provide for services to the end of the Safety and Services Act funding period (December 2024). Staff intends to issue the RFQ with an initial two-year funding cycle, starting July 2022 through June 2024 (Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24) with possibility of extension based on the outcome of upcoming measures to extend funding for violence prevention services.

Approximately \$8.8 million will be awarded to community-based providers through this RFQ process- an estimated \$7.5 million in Safety and Service Act funds and \$1.3 million in General Purpose Funds anticipated per the Mayor's Budget FY 2021-23 proposal. Prior to entry into new grant agreements, staff will return to Council in Spring 2022 with specific grant recommendations with allocations informed by updated projections from the City's mid-cycle budget process.

## **BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

***Overview of Safety and Services Act:*** In 2014, Oakland voters passed Measure Z, the Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act to fund violence prevention services over a ten-year period (through December 2024). The Safety and Services Act fund varies over time and is projected to raise roughly \$28 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 through a special parcel tax along with a parking surcharge on commercial lots – out of this, \$843,000 (3% of total funds) goes towards independent audit, oversight and evaluation, \$2 million (constant) is set aside to improve fire response services, \$15.1 million (60% of remainder) goes to the Police Department for violence reduction efforts, and \$10.1 million (40% of remainder) goes toward community-based violence intervention programs. The objectives of the Safety and Services Act are to:

1. Reduce homicides, robberies, burglaries and gun-related violence;
2. Improve police and fire emergency 911 response times and other police services; and
3. Invest in violence intervention and prevention strategies that provide support for at-risk youth and young adults to interrupt the cycle of violence and recidivism.

In regard to violence prevention and intervention strategies, the Safety and Services Act emphasizes coordination of public systems and community-based services with a joint focus on youth and young adults at highest risk of violence as guided by data analysis. It names collaborative strategies such as crisis response, victim services, and reentry support intended to interrupt the cycle of violence and recidivism. The City administers Safety and Services Act funds through the DVP. The DVP prepares a spending plan to outline the strategies and services recommended for the next funding cycle. The Act establishes a Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Oversight Commission (SSOC) that, among other duties, reviews

spending plans for proposed funding, and makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the plans prior to City Council approval.

**Funding Cycles:** The Safety and Services Act sunsets in December 2024, and a new measure for continued funding of the City's violence prevention efforts is expected to be introduced in advance of the sunset date. Following the previously awarded funding cycles, DVP recommends that violence prevention grants be awarded through another competitive request for qualifications (RFQ) process.

Awarded: January 2016 through Fiscal Year 2017-18 (2.5 years; Resolution No. 85720 C.M.S.)

- Fiscal Year 2017-18 (1-year extension; Resolution No. 86767 C.M.S.)
- Fiscal Year 2018-19 (1-year extension; Resolution No. 87195 C.M.S.)

Fiscal Year 2019-20 through Fiscal Year 2020-21 (2 years; Resolution No. 87477 C.M.S.)

- Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Initial recommendations, Resolution No. 87756)
- Fiscal Year 2020-21 (1-year extension, Resolution No. 88120)
- Fiscal Year 2021-22 (1-year extension, Resolution No. 88466)

Proposed: Fiscal Year 2022-23 through Fiscal Year 2023-24, with possibility of extension through December 2024 based on monitoring and performance and available future funding, or if a new measure is passed prior to legislation sunset, which alters funding requirements before that date.

**Department of Violence Prevention:** The Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) was created by the City Council on June 20, 2017 (Ordinance No. 13451 C.M.S.). The mission of the DVP is to dramatically reduce violent crime and serve communities impacted by violence to end the cycle of trauma. To inform the development of the DVP, Urban Strategies Council (USC) facilitated a participatory research planning process, completed a landscape analysis and hosted the Safe Oakland Summit (summer 2019) to inform findings and recommendations (Resolution No. 87192 C.M.S.).

In September 2019, Guillermo Céspedes became the department's first chief, bringing to Oakland expertise in reduction of interpersonal violence acquired over four decades of domestic and international practice experience. Chief Céspedes began his career on the East Coast in 1972, then came to Oakland and provided direct services to families in East and Central Oakland for 19 years (1981-1999). Céspedes led the successful gang violence reduction strategy as Deputy Mayor of the City of Los Angeles (2007-2014). From 2014 to 2019 Céspedes led violence reduction programs in Central America, Eastern Caribbean and North Africa. Céspedes comes to the City of Oakland with proven expertise in blending public health principles with balanced focused deterrence models used in various cities in the US, including Oakland.

The Department of Violence Prevention became fully operational in July 2020. Per the 2017 City Council ordinance establishing the department,<sup>1</sup> the DVP has a broader violence prevention/intervention mandate than previously; namely the addition of supporting families

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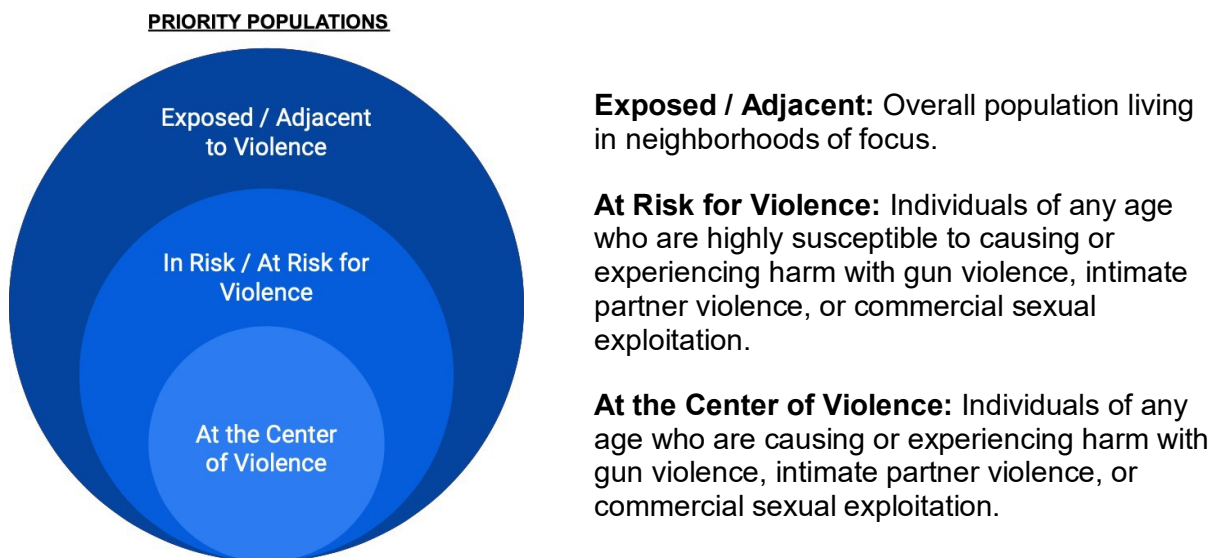
<sup>1</sup> Ordinance No. 13451 C.M.S.

impacted by unsolved cold cases, addressing broader community trauma, and applying a public health approach.

**Principles of Public Health Approach:**

- Improves health and safety by addressing specific behaviors and underlying community conditions that lead individuals, peer groups, and families to be harmed or inflict harm on others.
- Identifies people at the center of violence, at-risk for violence; and exposed/adjacent to violence. (see Figure 1)
- Aligns the focus of interventions at each identified level.
- Emphasizes building on strengths, assets and promise rather than deficits or pathology.
- Centers collaborative efforts that value expertise of community stakeholders from all over the city and puts neighborhood residents in the lead- the people who are most impacted by violence have the best and most creative ideas about how to prevent it.
- Supports healing from multi-generational complex trauma through relationship building and positive social norms to strengthen community responses to violence.

**Figure 1.** DVP Priority Populations Defined



**Community Driven Principles:**

- Community participates in the identification of a problem and the implementation of the solution.
- Builds capacity within formal and informal community systems during the identification and problem-solving process among individual, peer, family, and community systems.
- Defines all community members as legitimate stakeholders, including those that have been harmed by violence, and those that have caused harm to others through violent actions.

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## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

### ***Recommendation:***

DVP recommends adopting the priorities outlined both below and in **Attachment A** for the period beginning July 1, 2022, through the end of Safety and Services Act funding in December of 2024. The proposed DVP community-based, public health violence intervention strategy is informed by; a) feedback from community members, volunteers, and organizations with an established history of violence prevention work in Oakland through community engagement efforts detailed in **Attachment B**; and b) proven effectiveness of evidence-based community violence models that demonstrate reductions in violence in a national and international context

### ***Public Health Vision of an Integrated Community-Based Strategy of Violence Intervention:***

The DVP theory of change is based on the following public health premise to reduce violence:

- If DVP focuses on specific places in Oakland with underlying conditions that generate the highest rates of violence;
- And the specific people determined to be at: the center of violence (tertiary), at-risk for violence (secondary), and exposed/adjacent to violence (primary);
- Provide services at the times and days of the week when violence occurs most; and
- Direct interventions to the individual, peer, family, and community levels simultaneously then,
- The public health conditions DVP is trying to mitigate will be reduced.

Many of the specific people DVP investments are focused on, described in **Figure 1** above, reside in neighborhoods heavily impacted by and exposed to violence. While DVP services will be provided to people experiencing violence who live throughout Oakland, some focus will be on those neighborhoods identified as DVP priority areas in **Figure 2** below.

**Figure 2. DVP priority areas**



The underlying conditions, that predispose these priority areas to trauma and harm include, but are not limited to:

- These priority areas contained roughly half of all shootings resulting in injury in the past 3 years.<sup>2</sup>
- These priority areas contained one-third of reported incidents of intimate partner violence
- In 2020, these priority areas were among the highest rates of COVID-19 infection (see **Table 1** below).
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- These priority areas have some of the highest rates of unemployment and poverty in the city as well as high rates of criminal justice involvement, and low rates of educational attainment.

Studies have shown that IPV and community gun violence are linked as forms of violence that fuel each other, and both must be addressed through an intersectional and gender-responsive lens. The DVP recognizes that both of these forms of violence contribute greatly to broader levels of community trauma, perceptions of insecurity, and inter-group conflict.

In 2020 and early 2021, these geographic areas also experienced some of the highest rates of COVID infection, particularly in East Oakland, which suggests that the same underlying conditions that place families at the highest risk of victimization by gun and intimate partner violence, also places them at the highest risk of victimization by the pandemic (see **Table 2**).

**Table 2. DVP areas by region. COVID-19 case rates by zip code.**<sup>3</sup>

DVP Area	Main Zip codes within DVP area	COVID Case Rate (per 100,000 residents) Range between Zip Codes
East Oakland	94601, 94603, 94621	~10,750 – 13,400
West Oakland	94607; 94608	~3,400 – 4,800
Central Oakland	94606	~5,800

<sup>2</sup> Please note that prior to issuance of the proposed funding solicitation, DVP staff will review trends in shooting and IPV across 4+ years of data from 2018 to 2021 to confirm priority areas for investments.

<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 Data. (2020). Retrieved October 13, 2020, from <https://covid-19.acgov.org/data.page>

Rest of Oakland	Various	~1,600 – 4,000
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Similar to the data presented above, community members, service providers and DVP direct service staff have shared similar assessments of where the violence is most concentrated in Oakland, based on their own lived experience and the experiences of the people they serve.

**Equity requires a focus on Oakland’s Black and Latinx Communities**

In 2020, shootings primarily victimized Black and Latinx residents, who accounted for close to 80% of the 1,265 shootings that resulted in injury- 48 percent (619) and 30 percent (392) respectively. In 2020, though the trend of roughly 75 percent of male-identified victims continued, the city experienced a 77% increase of female-identified shooting victims (from 193 to 341). In addition, 55% percent of shootings victims in 2020 were between the ages of 18 and 34 (668 people; up from 251 in 2019). Shooting with injury victims under age 18 remained 7 percent of the total, but increased by 61 percent from 56 youth in 2019 to 90 in 2020.

DVP also recognizes the cultural and linguistic needs of immigrant communities. Immigrants from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico come from environments with the highest rates of femicides in the world. This combined with immigration issues, anti-latinx sentiment, and language barriers can make it difficult to reach and engage these families.

In addition to focusing on people at the center of, at-risk, and exposed to violence, the DVP will emphasize services directed simultaneously at the individual, peer, family, and community level domain during the time frame of Thursday through Saturday from 6pm to midnight. Below are the days of the week and times of the day that data indicates shootings with injuries are most likely to occur (**Table 3**), with shootings routinely increasing on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

**Table 3. Hours of shootings with injury in Oakland’s ten most impacted police beats in 2019 & 2020.**

Hours	2019	2020
12:00 – 5:59AM	21%	20%
6:00 – 11:59AM	7%	8%
12:00 – 5:59PM	22%	23%
6:00 – 11:59PM	50%	49%

**PROPOSED FUNDING PRIORITIES**

To achieve its mandated goals of reducing violence in Oakland, DVP will fund, coordinate and support a network of violence prevention and intervention programs that prioritize the people and places most impacted by violence. The DVP network of service providers will promote and nurture the strengths of families as the critical element of neighborhood safety and healing.

To provide intervention and community-level services in Oakland, the DVP seeks to invest initial Safety and Services Act resources through contracts with community-based organization partners. For the initial Safety and Services Act investment and any additional funds, DVP recommends proportionate investment as indicated below.

50%: Gun/Group/Gang Violence Response  
25%: Gender-based Violence Response  
25%: Community Healing and Restoration

Current recommendations for funding a DVP network to interrupt violence and protect and strengthen communities will respond to incidents of violence in real-time, engage youth and young adults most active in violent activities through coaching and access to economic supports including employment programs, provide trauma-informed support services to survivors of violence and their families or loved ones, and activate natural, grassroots leadership to heal communities exposed to high rates of violence by hosting events and activities that promote family engagement, nurture and celebrate community resilience, transform norms around violence and restore hope in healing.

Staff and leadership of the DVP network's funded providers reflect the racial, cultural and gender diversity of Oakland and possess the credibility and awareness that only lived experience can provide to earn the trust and respect of the people they serve. Available around the clock and throughout the week, especially when violence occurs, the DVP network also work closely with DVP staff when responding to shootings and homicides and gender-based violence, providing an alternative to law enforcement when arriving at crime scenes, hospital bedsides or homes.

In Gun/Group/Gang Violence Response, DVP anticipates 10-12 grants with agencies serving approximately 1,200 youth and young adults and their families. For Gender-based Violence Response, 6-8 grants are anticipated to serve 2,300 individuals and families experiencing commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and intimate partner violence (IPV). Community Healing and Restoration events and activities will touch thousands more through an anticipated 5-7 grants.

**Table 4** provides an overview of the interventions and activities the DVP will seek to fund with the initial Safety and Services Act investment and the proposed interventions within each response area made possible if additional investments of local, state, federal or philanthropic funding are made. Detailed descriptions of the proposed interventions and services that will be delivered by the DVP-funded network of providers is included in **Attachment A**. All allocations in the chart are estimates and will be finalized based on actual revenue funds available.



**Table 4. DVP Priorities and Recommended Allocations**

	<b>Gun/Group/Gang Violence Response</b> <b>50% Investment</b>	<b>Gender-based Violence Response</b> <b>25% Investment</b>	<b>Community Healing &amp; Restoration</b> <b>25% Investment</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>	\$4.4 million	\$2.2 million	\$2.2 million
Current Safety and Services Act Funding (~ \$7.5M)  Proposed in Mayor's FY 21-23 Budget (~ \$1,300,000)  Total ~\$8.8 M	Violent Incident Crisis Response -Hospital-based Intervention - Violence Interruption - Temporary Relocation - Homicide Response for Family Youth and Adult Life Coaching Youth Reentry Coordination Youth and Adult Employment Support and Placement Triangle Incident Response at crime-scene	-24-hour IPV Survivor Hotline -Legal Advocacy for IPV -Bedside Advocacy for IPV -Increased Cultural and linguistic capacity for IPV -Drop-in Center and Life Coaching for CSE -Emergency Shelter/Safe Space for both CSE and IPV -Therapeutic Support for both CSE and IPV	-Community Ambassadors -Community Healing Spaces and Activities -Mental health and grief/trauma supports -Family strengthening -Parks Events/Block Parties -Provider Network Capacity Building/Trainings
	\$5 million	\$2.5 million	\$2.5 million
<b>Tier 2</b> Additional \$10 million (funds still needed)	More resources to scale-up: - Violent Incident Crisis Response Services - Youth and Adult Life Coaching -Youth and Adult Employment Support and Placement -Triangle Incident Response  Plus: -Youth Diversion and other youth programs -Neighborhood teams -Community Education Campaign - School-based Restorative/Wellness Centers	More resources to scale-up: -24-hour IPV Survivor Hotline -Legal Advocacy for IPV -Life Coaching for CSE -Bedside Advocacy for IPV -Emergency Shelter/Safe Space - Cultural and linguistic capacity for IPV  Plus: - GBV-centered Employment Support and Placement -GBV Support Groups - GBV-centered Leadership Development -Community Education Campaign	More resources to scale-up: -Community Ambassadors -Community Healing Spaces and Activities -Mental health and grief/trauma supports -Family strengthening -Parks Events/Block Parties  Plus: -Mothers in Action - Grassroots mini-grants -Community Dialogue/Town Halls -Community Resident Capacity Building/Trainings

	<b>Gun/Group/Gang Violence Response 50% Investment</b>	<b>Gender-based Violence Response 25% Investment</b>	<b>Community Healing &amp; Restoration 25% Investment</b>
Tier 3 Additional \$6.2 million (funds still needed)	\$3.1 million	\$1.55 million	\$1.55 million
	-Transitional Housing -Youth Drop-In Neighborhood Centers - Reentry Hub	-Transitional Housing -Systems Data Collection/Research Development -Policy Advocacy/Organizing	More resources to scale-up: -Grassroots Mini-grants -Leadership Development (Youth/Adults)  Plus: -Policy Advocacy/Organizing -Roving Medical Clinics
Internal Staff & Capacity Current Funding (~ \$3.35M)  Additional funds still needed (~ \$3.65M)	Direct Service Staff (Violence Interruption, Community Engagement and Life Coaches) Fiscal/Administrative Contract Management Research/Data/Evaluation Communications/Public Relations Fund Development Policy Reform/Advocacy Internal training/capacity building; Clinical supervision for Direct Service staff Mental health/healing supports for all staff		

**Total Funds Needed: \$32M (\$25M services + \$7M DVP internal staffing)**

### RFQ TIMELINE

**Proposed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Process:** Staff recommends releasing funds through a competitive RFQ process. For the submission process, DVP will solicit proposals from nonprofit community-based agencies. As in the past, applicants will be required to demonstrate the ability to leverage an additional 20 percent in matching funds. DVP will provide technical assistance to applicants, including at least one bidders' conference following RFQ release.

For the review process, DVP will convene review panels that consist of community members, subject-matter experts and public sector partners. Past performance will be shared with the review panel for any applicants that are former grantees. DVP will present final grant recommendations to the SSOC and City Council for approval. A tentative timeline of key dates includes:

- RFQ released – January 2022
- Proposals due – Six weeks later; February 2022
- Grant recommendations – April 2022 (SSOC); May 2022 (Committee); June 2022 (City Council)
- Contract start date – July 1, 2022

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

**Total Projected Expenses:** Approval of the proposed spending plan will allow DVP to invest approximately \$8.8 million to be issued through an RFQ process to identify community-based partners to provide DVP services. Of this \$8.8 million, \$7.5 million will be generated by annual revenue from Safety and Services Act and \$1.3 million is anticipated in FY 2022-23 per the Mayor's FY 2021-23 Budget proposal. Additionally, approximately \$1.4 million of Safety and Services Act annual revenue supports on-going baseline staffing that coordinate and provide direct services to the community, as approved in the FY 2019-2021 City budget and proposed in the FY 2021-23 budget as well. Similarly, an additional approximate \$1.4 million goes towards on-going baseline staffing to cover program management activities, including planning, research, data analysis, and contract management.

**Funding Sources:** The recommended allocations will be supported primarily by restricted funds collected for violence prevention programs as authorized by the Safety and Services Act. The Safety and Services Act is estimated to provide a total of \$28 million in FY 2022-23. As prescribed in the voter-approved measure, funding is allocated as follows in **Table 5**:

**Table 5 – Safety and Service Act Funds**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Percent Allocation</b>	<b>FY 2022-23 Amount</b>
Audit and Evaluation	3% of total funds	\$0.84 million
Oakland Fire Department	\$2 million of remainder	\$2 million
Oakland Police Department	60% of remainder	\$15.1 million
Department of Violence Prevention	40% of remainder	\$10.1 million

Funding is held within the Measure Z – Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act of 2014 Fund (2252). In addition, the General Purpose Fund allocation in the Mayor's FY 2021-23 proposed budget held in fund (1010) may be available to enhance funding for the grant period. Safety and Services Act revenue projections for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 are estimated at \$10.1 million. Revenue projection for FY 2023-2024 and beyond, are not yet available, and if revenue projections change, either positively or negatively, staff will reflect adjustments during the grant award process and return to Council for approval of grant amounts based upon the available funds in the FY 2023-25 budget when proposed.

**Leveraged Funds:** DVP works with multiple partners to leverage funds and resources, including the City's Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, Community Housing Services, and the Workforce Development Board, along with Alameda County Probation, Alameda County District Attorney, and Oakland Unified School District. Over \$4 million in funds annually from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (CBSCC), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention have been secured to supplement Safety and Services Act funds. Additional available funding from related grants and other revenue sources, if secured, may be included in the RFQ alongside Safety and Services Act funding to facilitate a more efficient allocation and award process.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

DVP staff designed a community engagement strategy to seek input about violence prevention and intervention strategies, both current and proposed, along with new ideas generated from those who attended. As requested by City Council, three virtual community town halls directed at each region of the City- West, Central and East- were scheduled to solicit input from Oakland residents in the regions, stakeholders, and community-based providers. DVP hosted those three virtual community town halls, as well as a fourth one that focused on youth and young people, from mid-February to mid-April 2021. In addition, DVP conducted 11 focus groups and 41 interviews with stakeholders. Close to 450 people contributed insights.

In addition to these town hall sessions, which averaged 92 attendees at each event, specific focus groups were held for target populations including family members who have lost loved ones to violence, DVP service providers and their program participants (by service strategy), Asian American community advocates, local and national public health and violence prevention experts, and members of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force. Stakeholder interviews included public systems partners such as Alameda County Probation, 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.

All of the listening 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, with the majority of attendees from the Black and Latinx communities of Oakland. See **Attachment B** for a complete list of partners consulted and organizations represented in the various community engagement activities.

Staff presented this spending plan to the SSOC on May 24, 2021, during the Committee's publicly noticed meeting held via Zoom.

## **COORDINATION**

This report and legislation have been reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney and Budget Bureau.

The DVP participates in collaborative efforts including the Alameda County Reentry Network, Oakland Ceasefire, the California Cities Violence Prevention Network, the Alameda County Human Trafficking Advisory Council and AC United, and the California Violence Intervention Programs network. Recommendations in this report were developed in coordination with stakeholders from these and other efforts.

## **PAST PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

**Evaluation Efforts:** The Safety and Services Act requires evaluation of funded efforts to be conducted by a third-party independent evaluator. SSOC and City Administrator's Office oversaw the process for selecting the evaluator, Mathematica Policy Research, who began activities in January 2017 through December 2020 (Resolution No. 86487 C.M.S).

The evaluation of violence intervention services includes: annual descriptive reports on program activities; annual evaluations of the impact of selected strategies on participant outcomes; and a four-year comprehensive evaluation of the impact of participation in programs. Results from current and future evaluation will inform program implementation.

**Evaluation Findings:** Initial evaluation findings on new strategies launched in 2016 include:

- People are better off. Adults who received life coaching or employment and education support services had fewer short-term arrests for a violent offense, relative to a comparison group of similar individuals.
- Participants are at high risk of violence. Participants have experienced violence, contact with local law enforcement, and are often disconnected from education.
- Agencies have shared values and shared practices. Grantees value hiring peer providers with similar lived experience and agree that training, support, and coordination around use of best practices is necessary for program success.

A 2018 report linked recent gun violence reductions in Oakland (prior to 2020 and the recent impacts of the pandemic on rising violence) in part to the Ceasefire strategy, which emphasizes a shared focus on young men at the center of gun violence. DVP's role in the strategy is to advocate for and serve these young men through life coaching and supportive services that help them stay alive and free.

In an evaluation on Youth Life Coaching presented to LEC in February 2020, it was found:

- Youth life coaching contributed to increased school participation. Youth who received life coaching or employment and education support services had higher rates of school enrollment relative to a comparison group of similar individuals.
- Youth life coaching helped decrease arrests. Youth who received life coaching had fewer short-term arrests for violent offenses.

Also presented to LEC in February 2020, an evaluation on Commercial Sexual Exploitation support services found:

- Agencies serve the intended population. CSE youth participants are girls and young women of color with a history of victimization, contact with law enforcement, and school disengagement.
- Participant engagement with CSEC agencies reflects a continuum of care for youth as they access services as needed. Although the services offered by funded agencies focus on short-term crisis response, many youth return for support over time with almost half of participants receiving support over multiple service periods.

A recent Shooting and Homicide Response evaluation presented to SSOC in October 2020 showed:

- Individuals avoid additional harm after program participation. After a shooting incident was referred to violence interrupters, victims largely avoided retaliation and re-injury in the following two-year period. Moreover, two years after engaging in hospital-based intervention or temporary, emergency relocation programs, participants were less likely to experience violent re-injury after enrollment.

- Shooting and Homicide Response staff established trusting relationships with communities. Agency staff established unique relationships with communities that allow them to quickly identify and support families affected by homicide. Moreover, participants were less likely to experience violent re-injury after engaging in the hospital-based intervention or temporary emergency relocation programs.
- Most participants reported an East Oakland residence. Across the shooting and homicide response strategies, East Oakland was the region with the largest number of participants.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** Programs for Oakland residents affected by violence will improve their economic stability through recidivism reduction, educational achievement, and employment for youth and young adults. Breaking the cycle of violence reduces medical, police, and incarceration costs.

***Environmental:*** Expanding social services and improving opportunities for those most impacted by violence helps make marginalized communities safer, healthier, and stronger. Safer neighborhood conditions contribute to the growth and revitalization of Oakland communities.

***Race and Equity:*** DVP programs focus on serving low-income communities of color most impacted by violence, a vast majority being African American and Latinx, and seeks to achieve greater social equity by improving public health outcomes, improving school performance, expanding employment opportunities, and providing comprehensive support and social services.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Funding Priorities For Programs Funded By The 2014 Oakland Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Act (Safety And Services Act) For The Funding Cycle From July 2022 Through The End of Safety And Services Act Funding Period (December 2024).

For questions regarding this report, please contact Guillermo Cespedes at 510-238-2916.

Respectfully submitted,



[Guillermo Cespedes \(May 19, 2021 15:41 PDT\)](#)

**GUILLERMO CESPEDES**  
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Jessie Warner, Planner

Attachments (3)

- A: DVP Strategic Spending Plan FY 22-24
- B: DVP Community Engagement Efforts February-April 2021
- C: Oaklandside Article

