



NOVPN

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

As the field of community violence intervention continues to evolve, one truth has become increasingly clear: Sustainable violence reduction requires strong systems. Across the country, offices of violence prevention (OVPs) are being asked not only to respond to violence, but to construct coordinated systems that fundamentally reshape how communities experience safety.

Over the past year, the field has navigated significant complexity. Shifting political landscapes, uncertainty around federal resources, and increased public scrutiny have tested violence reduction frameworks nationwide. Yet even amid these realities, jurisdictions across the country have continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation, and measurable impact. We continue to see reductions in gun violence, and offices of violence prevention are increasingly being recognized as essential public safety anchor institutions.

This year's theme, "Strength in Systems: Uniting Policy, Practice, and People," reflects both where the field currently stands and where it must continue to go. Violence reduction cannot rest solely on individual programs or charismatic leadership. It requires durable systems capable of aligning cross-sector stakeholders around a shared vision of safety.

The continued growth of the National Offices of Violence Prevention Network (NOVPN) reflects this shift. As of June 30, 2026, the Network has expanded to 88 member offices representing cities, counties, and states across the nation. This growth is more than numerical. It signals a national movement toward institutionalizing violence reduction infrastructure and strengthening the relationships necessary to sustain it.

Throughout the past year, NOVPN supported members through regional convenings, learning exchanges, technical assistance, strategic planning facilitation, data and violence reduction infrastructure conversations, institutionalization guidance, and national coordination efforts designed to strengthen both local practice and collective field capacity. Increasingly, members are seeking not only solutions to immediate violence concerns, but support in building systems that can withstand political transitions, funding shifts, and changing public narratives around safety.

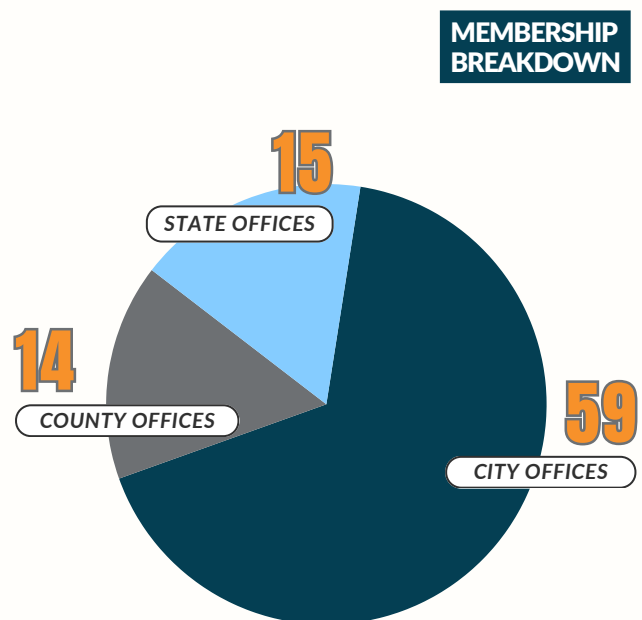
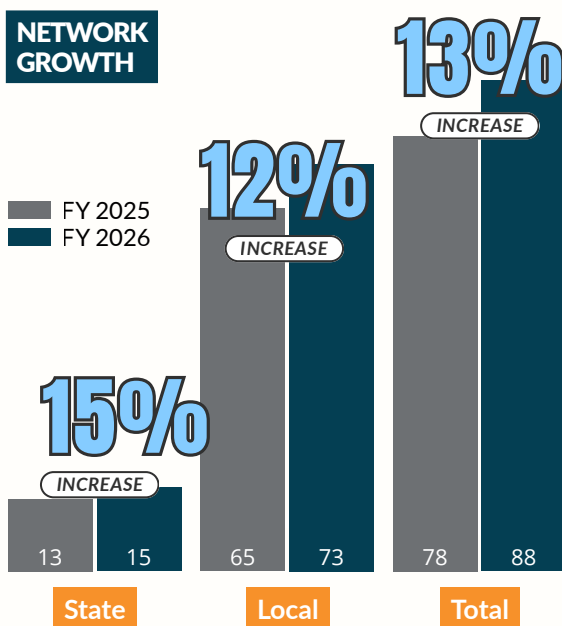
The work ahead will require courage, coordination, and continued innovation. It will also require us to think differently about what accountability, sustainability, and public safety truly mean. Strong systems do not replace community leadership; they create the conditions for community leadership to thrive.

Together, NOVPN members continue to demonstrate what is possible when policy, practice, and people move in alignment. We are not simply building programs. We are helping build the future infrastructure of public safety in America.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Over the past year, NOVPN accelerated our impact by expanding our national network, deepening institutional partnerships, and delivering tailored support to offices of violence prevention (OVPs) across the country. This growth aligns with a broader shift toward coordinated, community-driven systems that can sustain long-term reductions in violence. As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum by scaling our efforts; strengthening our infrastructure; and advancing the field of violence reduction through strategies that align people, practice, and policy.



July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026

TIMELINE

AUGUST

- State of Delaware joined the Network
- Chattanooga, TN, joined the Network
- Savannah, GA, joined the Network
- Q3 Virtual Convening

SEPTEMBER

- NOVPN 2025 Annual Convening in St. Louis, MO
- State of New Mexico joined the Network

OCTOBER

- Midwestern Regional Convening in Cleveland, OH
- Bakersfield, CA, joined the Network
- Cuyahoga County, OH, joined the Network
- Baton Rouge, LA, joined the Network

NOVEMBER

- Q4 Virtual Convening

JANUARY

- NOVPN 2026 Annual Convening theme announced
- Violence Reduction Continuum released
- Brooklyn Park, MN, joined the Network

FEBRUARY

- Q1 Virtual Convening
- Kansas City, MO, joined the Network
- San Francisco, CA, joined the Network
- Tucson, AZ, joined the Network

MARCH

- Western / Pacific Northwest Regional Convening in Seattle, WA
- Brand Ambassador pilot program launched

APRIL

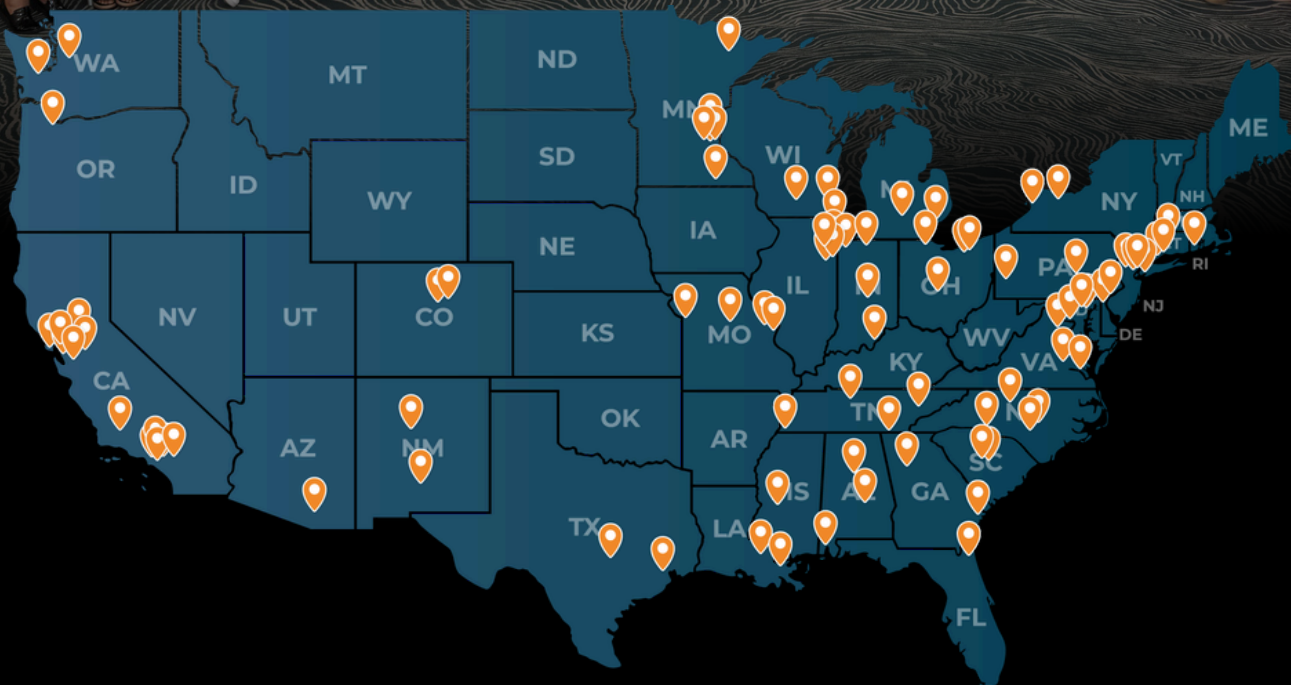
- Southwestern/Southeastern Regional Convening in Columbia, SC

MAY

- State OVP Convening in Chicago, IL
- Mobile, AL, joined the Network
- Q2 Virtual Convening

JUNE

- Eastern Regional Convening in Hartford, CT



Strengthening Systems Through Collective Leadership

We are the National Offices of Violence Prevention Network.

The NOVPN serves as a national hub for learning, leadership, and collaboration among offices of violence prevention. The Network helps members navigate emerging challenges, strengthen local capacity, solve complex problems, and build the relationships necessary to advance violence reduction efforts.

Our members bring lived expertise, operational knowledge, strategic leadership, and deep commitment to the communities they serve. Increasingly, offices of violence prevention are being asked not only to fund and support programming, but to stabilize systems, coordinate cross-sector responses, strengthen accountability, and institutionalize violence reduction within the broader public safety landscape.

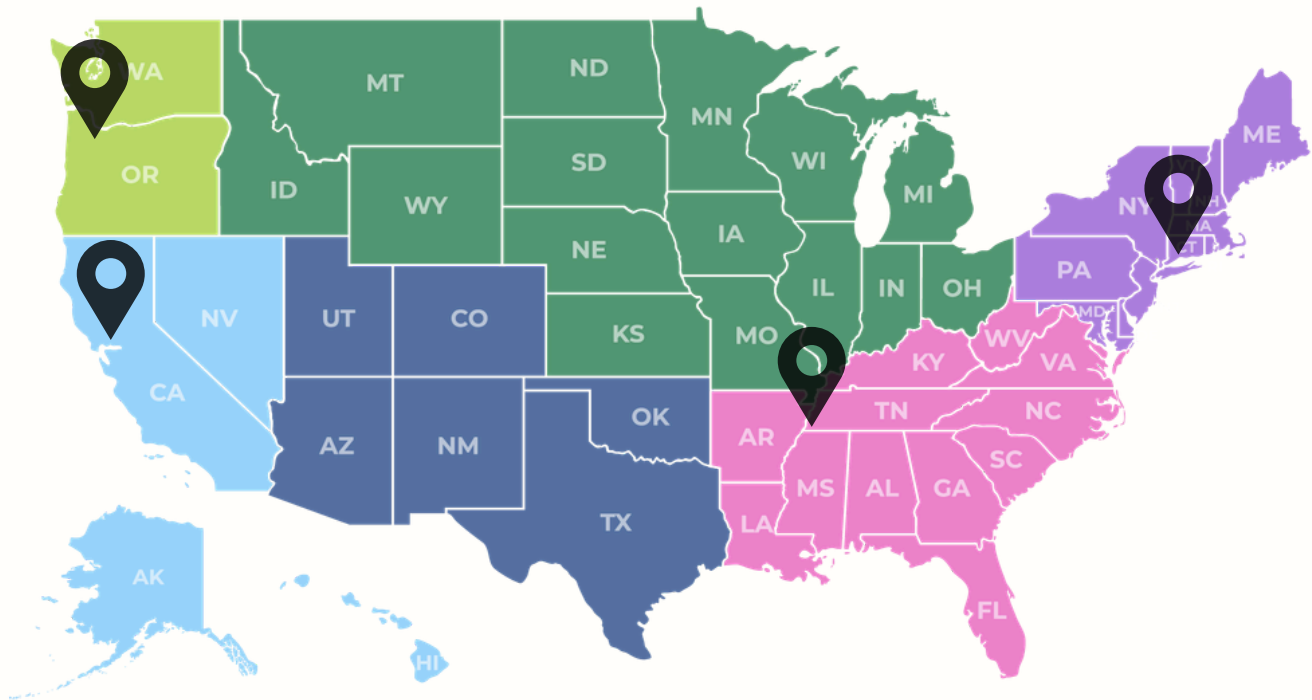
THE NOVPN:

- **Connects leaders and systems** — Brings together offices of violence prevention, government agencies, community-based organizations, researchers, and practitioners to strengthen coordination, alignment, and collective impact
- **Advances institutionalization** — Supports jurisdictions in embedding violence reduction into long-term public safety infrastructure through policy, strategic planning, funding alignment, and systems design
- **Creates space for shared learning** — Encourages members to exchange both successes and challenges to accelerate innovation, problem-solving, and field development
- **Strengthens operational capacity** — Supports offices in developing sustainable systems for data, coordination, training, technical assistance, and accountability
- **Advances collective leadership** — Invests in leadership development across the field with the understanding that transformative leadership exists across agencies, organizations, and communities throughout the violence reduction continuum
- **Accelerates systems-level impact** — Helps jurisdictions move from fragmented initiatives toward coordinated public safety frameworks capable of sustaining long-term violence reduction

Expanding, supporting, and sustaining offices of violence prevention strengthens both the field of community violence intervention and our collective ability to reduce harm at scale. As the field continues to mature, NOVPN remains committed to helping offices of violence prevention strengthen not only programs, but the systems, partnerships, and leadership structures necessary to sustain safety and community well-being over time.



OVP SNAPSHOTS



Whether through partnerships with community-based organizations, data-informed coordination, youth-focused intervention strategies, hospital partnerships, or regional ecosystem building, OVPs continue to redefine what public safety can look like. The snapshots below demonstrate how jurisdictions across the Network are building and implementing coordinated violence reduction systems in pursuit of long-term safety.

- **Hartford, CT**
Eastern & MidAtlantic Region

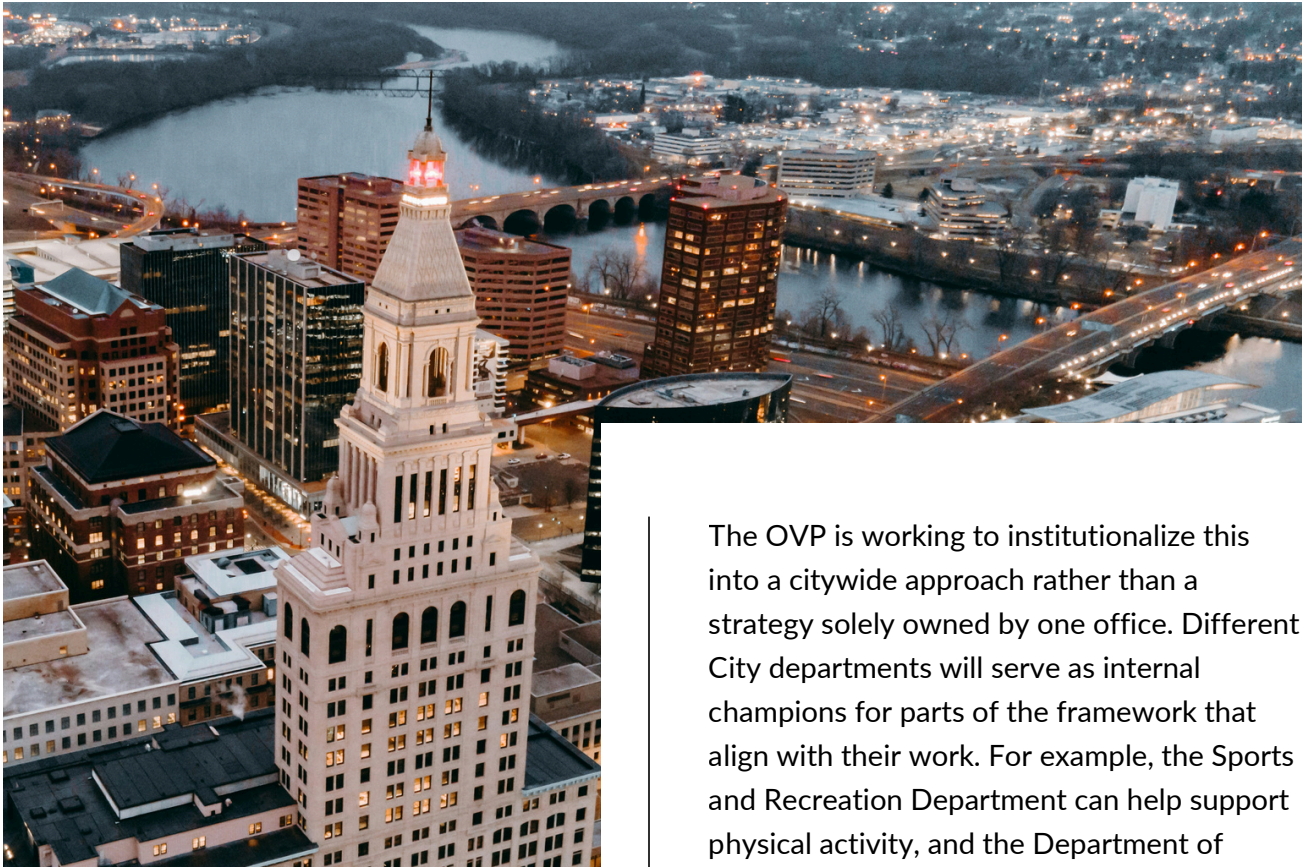
- **Richmond, CA**
Western Region

- **Portland, OR**
Pacific Northwest Region

- **Shelby County, TN**
Southeastern Region



HARTFORD, **CONNECTICUT**



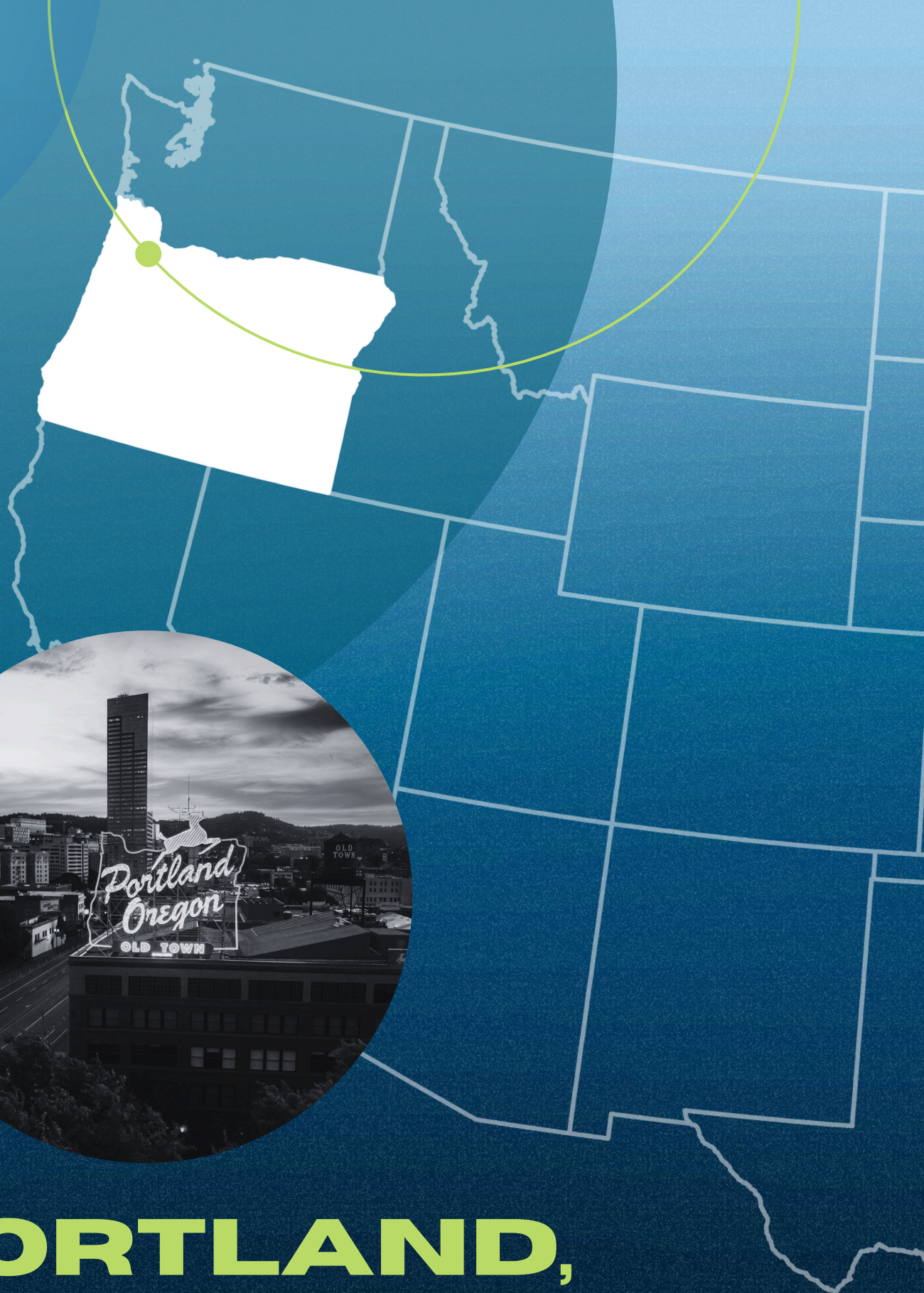
The Hartford Office of Violence Prevention is aligning the city's violence reduction efforts around a shared strategy and vision. Through a new five-year strategic plan, the office is moving away from a collection of separate programs and toward what it calls "Presence of Peace." The strategy is organized around a three-tiered framework: internal health, including physical activity, mental health, and healthcare; external stability, including housing, financial stability, access to food, safety, and education; and community prosperity, including social supports and the built environment. By operating under the Presence of Peace framework, the City hopes to take a proactive approach to public safety and shift the narrative from reacting to violence to building the conditions that allow communities to feel safe.

The OVP is working to institutionalize this into a citywide approach rather than a strategy solely owned by one office. Different City departments will serve as internal champions for parts of the framework that align with their work. For example, the Sports and Recreation Department can help support physical activity, and the Department of Public Works can help ensure the environment is safe and clean. This structure gives departments a clear role in advancing the strategy by addressing the social determinants of health that affect the prevalence of violence.

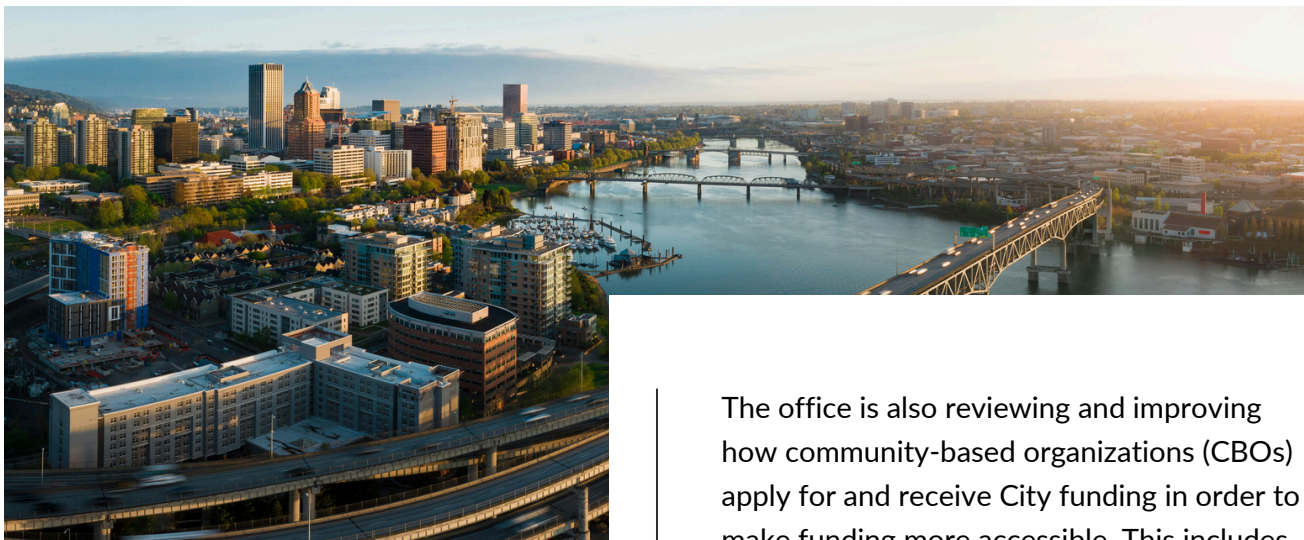
Hartford is applying the same approach to its hospital-based violence intervention work. Three hospitals and four community-based organizations have historically provided services through separate structures. The OVP is bringing these partners together around shared case management practices and key performance indicators to standardize important metrics and track long-term trends among participants.

The OVP's five-year strategic plan gives City agencies, service providers, and community members a shared vision and direction around public safety.

Portland Office of Violence Prevention



PORTLAND, OREGON



The Portland Office of Violence Prevention is refining its role within the city's broader violence reduction ecosystem, working with key partners and community members to determine how it can most effectively contribute to Portland's violence reduction strategy. In particular, the OVP is shifting its focus toward prevention and coordination as the City consolidates violence intervention work under Portland Ceasefire, a focused deterrence strategy designed to engage and intervene with the people who are at highest risk of gun violence involvement. Separating prevention and intervention responsibilities gives each part of the violence reduction system a clearer role while keeping them connected to a shared, citywide public safety strategy.

This change is directly shaping how the office allocates its funding. The OVP plans to redirect \$450,000 previously used for intervention contracts toward prevention work. For this funding, the office is exploring stronger partnerships with Portland-area school districts to support school-based prevention and restorative justice practices.

The office is also reviewing and improving how community-based organizations (CBOs) apply for and receive City funding in order to make funding more accessible. This includes revising the request for proposals process and related scoring rubrics to make it easier for smaller, grassroots organizations to apply as well as providing technical assistance and written guidance before organizations apply for funding. In doing so, Portland aims to build capacity among the organizations across its violence reduction ecosystem.

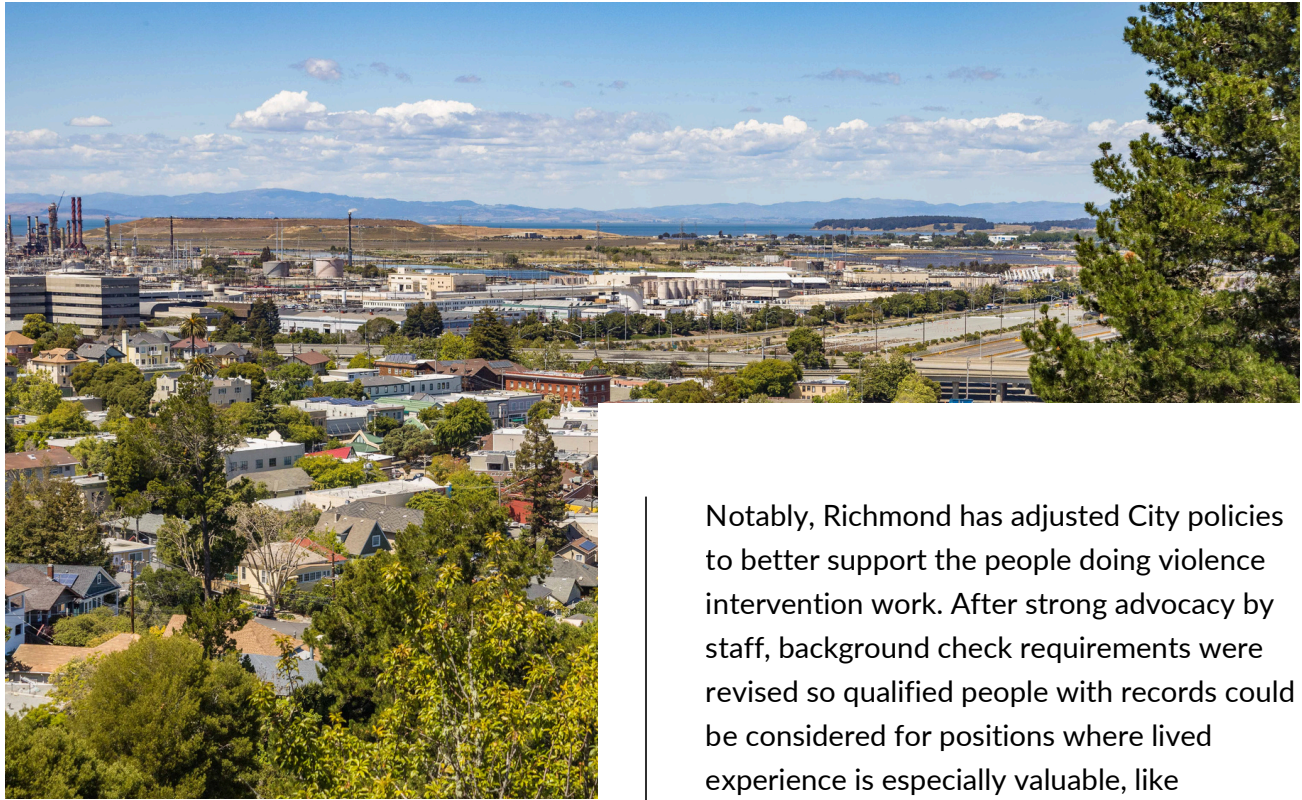
Additionally, the OVP is creating more opportunities for coordination among all violence reduction stakeholders. For example, the OVP hosts Community Peace Collaborative meetings that bring together community members, CBOs, local government officials, law enforcement, and Ceasefire representatives to discuss public safety priorities, present new initiatives, and review data. OVP staff are also developing a service directory of community-based organizations to further foster collaboration between partners.

Portland is now working to make these changes part of the City's operational structure. By clarifying responsibilities and strengthening coordination among partners, the OVP is building a system that can be sustained over time.

Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety



RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA



The Richmond Office of Neighborhood Safety has been in place since 2007, making it one of the oldest OVPs in the country. Since that time, staff have built and maintained long-term relationships with residents, City leaders, law enforcement, and community partners. Several team members have been with the office for more than a decade, helping to foster trust and authentic connections in the city.

Much of the office's violence intervention work depends on staff members' credibility and strong relationships in the community. While policies and agreements can set expectations, they cannot make residents comfortable sharing information about a conflict before it potentially escalates. That comes from staff showing up consistently for those at highest risk of being involved in violence and handling sensitive information carefully.

Notably, Richmond has adjusted City policies to better support the people doing violence intervention work. After strong advocacy by staff, background check requirements were revised so qualified people with records could be considered for positions where lived experience is especially valuable, like intervention workers. Although this began as a departmental policy, it was later expanded citywide, including to organizations contracting with Richmond. Recognizing that violence intervention work rarely fits within regular working hours, the City has also adapted its internal policies and procedures to allow staff the flexibility needed to respond to violence effectively. Staff may need to respond at night, on weekends, or whenever a client contacts them, and they now have the ability to do so.

With its core practices now well established, Richmond is focused on sustaining the work while expanding to address other issues identified through data and community input. This includes human trafficking, police-involved shootings, and outreach to women connected to violence. Richmond is able to broaden its work because it has spent years refining a strong and consistent approach to violence intervention.



Shelby County and City of Memphis – Joint Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (JONSE)

SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE



Shelby County and the City of Memphis established the nation's first Joint Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (JONSE) in 2024. This structure brings the City and County governments together in one office, even though each has different agencies and designated responsibilities. Memphis oversees the Police Department and leads much of the intervention strategy, while Shelby County provides a connection to the Sheriff's Office, courts, schools, health services, and other County systems. This arrangement allows the JONSE to bridge City and County systems that have often operated in silos.

The office is also increasing coordination in a jurisdiction with more than 12,000 nonprofit organizations. To reduce duplication and connect services more effectively, staff are determining which partners are best positioned to fill each part of the violence reduction ecosystem. Relatedly, JONSE is aligning providers around shared data collection measures so City and County leaders can better understand which supports are working and where gaps remain.

The Joint Office is also helping to connect existing services across government and the community. For example, JONSE is bringing together the community-based Transitional Reentry Adult Program (TRAP, a local CBO) and City and County agencies that each address different reentry needs. TRAP oversees a 12-month reentry program and provides workforce development, computer training, and job placement,¹ while the City can assist with services such as driver's license reinstatement, and the County can help with expungement and other court-related matters. JONSE's role is to help these supports function as a coordinated pathway rather than as separate services.

The 901 Peace strategy shows how JONSE is systematizing violence reduction work through GVRs (Gun Violence Reduction Strategy). In weekly Shooting Reviews, staff examine recent incidents with the Memphis Police Department and other government partners to identify people who are at the highest risk of gun violence involvement. That information then informs Coordination Meetings with community-based organizations responsible for violence interruption and life coaching. GVIP has created a consistent process for pinpointing potential conflicts and organizing responses.

As the Joint Office moves forward, its work is centered on making collaboration and coordination a regular part of how City, County, and community-based systems operate. JONSE is developing clearer expectations for partners and strengthening the capacity of local organizations so residents can move through a connected network of support.

¹ [Transitional Reentry Adult Program](#)

TRAILBLAZER AWARDS

Building and sustaining offices of violence prevention requires bold leadership, strong partnerships, and a deep commitment to community. Across the country, OVP leaders continue to strengthen violence reduction efforts by bringing people, systems, and strategies into greater alignment in pursuit of safer communities.

This year, we honor three OVP Directors as our 2026 NOVPN Trailblazers of the Year for their leadership, innovation, and impact within their jurisdictions and across the field. Through collaboration, persistence, and vision, they continue to shape the future of violence reduction and community safety.



Siarra Scott

State of North Carolina



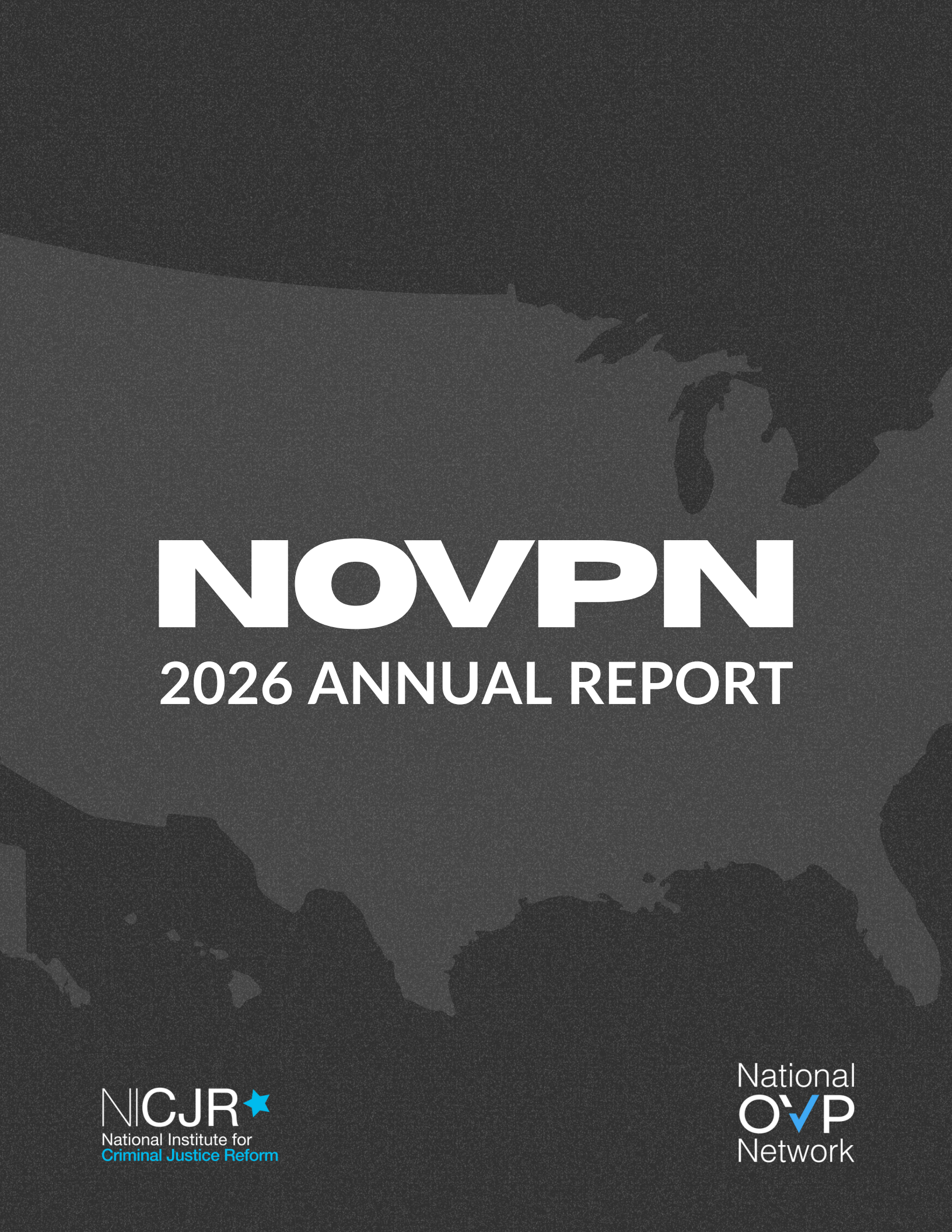
Sam Vaughn

Richmond, CA



Lupe Washington

Harris County, TX

A dark, stylized map of the United States serves as the background for the cover. The map is rendered in a dark gray color, with the outlines of the states and major geographical features visible. The map is centered and occupies most of the background space.

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