

National OVP Network

January 2025 Newsletter

From the Director

Happy 2025, NOVPN!

As we kick off the new year, we hope you all had a chance to rest and recharge over the holidays. Congratulations to the OVPs in our Network that achieved annual gun violence reduction rates in their jurisdictions. Reducing violence is complex work, and we deeply appreciate your dedication and hard-earned successes. The work continues, and we remain optimistic about further declines across all jurisdictions nationwide.

In 2025, the NOVPN is excited to launch our three-year strategic plan. In the first quarter, we'll release version 1 of the OVP Toolkit, host our inaugural Western Regional Convening, introduce data reporting metrics for Network members, update our website, expand our team, and begin dedicated jurisdictional assignments.

NICJR is also hosting an information session for the [Violence Reduction Management Institute \(VRMI\)](#) on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10 am PST. If you are interested in learning more about the VRMI, please register for the session [here](#).

We look forward to advancing this work together and to the progress and insights we'll achieve collectively. Wishing you all a fantastic start to an impactful year!

Shantay Jackson
Director, National Offices of Violence Prevention Network

Welcome New Members Event Calendar

Our Network has grown since July 2024. Join us in welcoming the following jurisdictions as the newest NOVPN members!

St. Louis County Office of Violence Reduction; Lansing, MI Office of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Safety; Maryland State Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention; Charlotte, NC, City Administrator's Office; California State Office of Gun Violence Prevention; Pennsylvania State, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Rhode Island State Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Unit; Denver, CO, Office of Neighborhood Safety; Hennepin County Safe Communities; Fayetteville, NC, Office of Community Safety; and New York, NY, Office of Neighborhood Safety.

Find all important Network events here! **NOTE: Events are invitation only. Let us know if you haven't received an invitation.**

2/20/25: Q1 Virtual Convening
3/27/25-3/28/25: Western Regional Convening
4/10/25-4/11/25: Southeastern Regional Convening
5/22/25: Q2 Virtual Convening
6/24/25-6/27/25: Eastern/Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening
8/21/25: Q3 Virtual Convening
9/9/25-9/11/25: Annual Convening
10/16/25-10/17/25: Midwestern Regional Convening
11/13/25-11/14/25: State Convening
11/20/25: Q4 Virtual Convening

In the News



[Baltimore's fight against gun violence shows success of community initiatives](#)

[Homicides in Toledo drop in 2024 to lowest since pandemic surge.](#)

[Oakland reports 34% drop in homicides after identifying people at high-risk for gun violence](#)



[Shootings fall to 4-year monthly low in Portland with city's anti-violence efforts showing signs of success](#)

[Historic year: Jacksonville sees lowest number of homicides this century](#)

[After Columbus homicide rate falls in 2024, Ginther touts city's success](#)



NOVPN sends a big hat tip to the [Toledo, OH, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement \(MONSE\)](#)! In just two years, from 2023 to 2024, MONSE has helped achieve a record-breaking 27% reduction in homicides in Toledo. In partnership with MONSE, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform produced a [Toledo Cost of Gun Violence Report](#), revealing that a single fatal shooting in Toledo costs approximately \$883,771, while a nonfatal incident costs \$572,038—making clear the real economic impact of the lives saved in 2024. MONSE also recently secured a grant from the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to improve school safety and support families in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by gun violence. We are excited to see how Toledo MONSE continues to lead the charge in building safer, stronger communities.



Join us in applauding [FORCE Detroit](#)! Faithfully Organizing Resources for Community Empowerment (FORCE) Detroit is a powerful coalition of interfaith, grassroots, and public-sector leaders united by a shared commitment to addressing complex community challenges head-on. By fostering honest, often difficult conversations and pushing the boundaries of traditional approaches, FORCE Detroit creates innovative, justice-oriented solutions that drive meaningful change. FORCE Detroit engages in four core activities: participatory research, narrative building, youth and millennial organizing, and coalition development. These efforts have a real impact: FORCE Detroit played a role in reducing violent crime by 52% in Cody Rouge from August to October 2024.

FORCE Detroit, thanks for all that you do!

Proud of one of your OVP's on-the-ground partnerships? [Tell us about it!](#)



The CDC Injury Center launched a new [dashboard](#) that visualizes firearm deaths by census tract using provisional death data received from states. This dashboard provides detailed insights into both suicides and homicide deaths from any cause. The "all firearm injury deaths" category encompasses firearm deaths resulting from suicide, homicide, unintentional injuries, legal interventions, and deaths of undetermined intent.



Crafting a strong, clear, and consistent message about your OVP's work is essential to shaping and owning your narrative. Data plays a critical role in this process, serving as the foundation for telling your story, demonstrating the impact of your efforts, and educating the public about what your office does and doesn't do. As you own your narrative, uplift the work of frontline staff, engage the community, and ensure CVI efforts are widely recognized and valued for their essential role in reducing violence.

The importance of an OVP owning its narrative through strong storytelling is evident in [The Real Cost of Ball News](#), which highlights how misleading media coverage in Baltimore spread skewed information about youth crime.

Grant Opportunities

Check out these funding opportunities:

- [OJJDP FY25 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children](#) (Due: 2/6 grants.gov and 2/20 JustGrants; Focus: Develop programs in detention or correctional facilities for incarcerated parents—juvenile or adult)
- [BJA FY25 Improving Adult and Youth Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Program](#) (Due: 2/24 grants.gov and 3/3 JustGrants; Focus: Cross-system collab to improve reentry for people with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders)
- [OJJDP FY25 Building Local Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success](#) (Due: 2/24 grants.gov and 3/10 JustGrants; Focus: Planning and assessment for state/local jurisdictions with high youth incarceration rates to develop community-based continuum of care focused on positive youth development, prevention, diversion, and treatment)
- [BJA FY25 Smart Reentry, Housing Demonstration Program](#) (Due: 3/4 grants.gov and 3/11 JustGrants; Focus: Assess local reentry housing systems, ID strengths and gaps, and build capacity for improved housing options for reentry adults)

Job Board

Here are some violence reduction-related positions that are open within the Network:

- [Associate Director for Community Activation - New York, NY](#)
- [Cure Violence Program Manager - Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [Associate Vice President, Domestic Violence Shelter Programs - New York, NY](#)
- [Deputy Commissioner Community Safety - Minneapolis, MN](#)
- [Policy Analyst - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Washington, DC](#)
- [Safety Manager - NICJR, remote](#)
- [Community Violence Prevention Manager - Milwaukee, WI](#)

Got an opening? [Share it with us!](#)



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