

National **OVP** Network

March 2025 Newsletter

Welcome New Members

Event Calendar



Join us in welcoming the [Connecticut State Office of Injury and Violence Prevention](#) to the Network!

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

4/10/25-4/11/25: Southeastern Regional Convening, Birmingham, AL
5/22/25: Q2 Virtual Convening
6/26/25-6/27/25: Eastern/Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening, Philadelphia, PA
8/21/25: Q3 Virtual Convening
9/9/25-9/11/25: Annual Convening, St. Louis, MO
10/16/25-10/17/25: Midwestern Regional Convening, Cleveland, OH
11/13/25-11/14/25: State Convening
11/20/25: Q4 Virtual Convening

In the News

IMPD HOMICIDES- JAN-FEB



[Indy sees 6-year low in homicides through February 2025](#)

[On "Day 1 of Peace" in Jackson, Mississippi](#)

[St. Louis Sees Historically Low Crime in First Two Months of 2025](#)



[Columbus investing in domestic violence prevention](#)

[State Officials Visit Reading Hospital to Highlight Community-Based Programs That Are Making PA Safer](#)

[Durham barbershops seek 'underground' role to prevent gun violence, impact youth](#)

OVP Spotlight

OFFICES OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION TOOLKIT

The [Offices of Violence Prevention \(OVP\) Toolkit](#) is now available to help local leaders as they tackle gun violence. Developed by [NICJR](#) in collaboration with NOVPN members and Everytown for Gun Safety, this resource offers expert guidance for jurisdictions at every stage of OVP development. The Toolkit features three essential sections—Why Create an Office of Violence Prevention?, Deciding What Your OVP Will Do, and How to Establish an OVP—along with a comprehensive set of ready-to-use resources. We are excited to deliver this asset as jurisdictions are establishing and sustaining their OVPs.

Check out the OVP Toolkit [here](#).



Join us in applauding [Violence Intervention Program Fort Worth \(VIP FW\)](#) in Fort Worth, TX! Founded by pastor and community leader Rodney McIntosh, VIP Fort Worth is committed to ending cyclical and retaliatory gun violence by investing in the development, health, and well-being of those most impacted. Through mentorship and implementation of the Advance Peace model, VIP FW guides system-involved young men away from violence. This work is paying off. Fort Worth police reported zero gang-related shootings from January to June 2024, compared to 25 during the same period in 2023.

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



The United States saw 39 mass shootings from January to February 2025, a drop from 65 during the same period in 2024 ([Gun Violence Archive](#) defines mass shootings as incidents where four or more people are shot, regardless of fatalities). While this decline is notable, the numbers remain a stark reminder of the urgent need for sustained violence reduction efforts.

- Baltimore continues to see a steady decline in violent crime. As of March 17, 2025, homicides are down 35.9%, and nonfatal shootings have decreased by 39.5% compared to the same time in 2024 ([Baltimore Public Safety Accountability Dashboard](#)).
- From January to February 2025, Indianapolis saw 24 homicides, compared to 36 during the same period in 2024—a significant decline. In 2025, Indianapolis has recorded its lowest year-to-date number of homicides since 2019 ([Indy sees 6-year low in homicides through February 2025](#)).



Community-based organizations (CBOs) are the backbone of violence reduction efforts, driving community-led solutions that create real, lasting change. They aren't just service providers; they are trusted anchors that can transform neighborhoods from within. To make a real impact, OVPs must commit to long-term, sustainable funding that allows CBOs to build, grow, and track progress over time. For true, measurable violence reduction, OVPs should provide at least three-year grants.

Grant Opportunities

Check out these funding opportunities:

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:
 - [Systems for Action](#) (Due: 6/4; focus: systems alignment interventions that have the potential to dismantle or disrupt the health effects of systemic racism)
- Search [Candid's Philanthropy News Digest](#) for national and local private grant opportunities

Job Board

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

- [Commissioner, Save Our Community - Toledo, OH](#)
- [Director, Office of Violence Prevention - Boston, MA](#)
- [Director, Office of Gun Violence Prevention - State of Pennsylvania \(Dauphin County, PA\)](#)
- [Program Manager, Violence Intervention Team - Birmingham, AL](#)
- [Youth Engagement Program Manager - Jackson, MS](#)
- [Youth Outreach Specialist - Denver, CO](#)
- [Technical Assistance Coordinator - Los Angeles, CA](#)

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

Thank you to our Funders and Partners!

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Advance Peace



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