

A photograph of the Detroit skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers like the Spirit of Detroit Tower and the Renaissance Center, reflected in the water. The image is partially covered by a dark blue geometric overlay in the top left and bottom right corners.

DETROIT

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, Detroit has grappled with a complex and persistent surge in violence that has captured national attention. In 2022, Detroit recorded 307 homicides, representing an increase of approximately 12% from 2019, when the city recorded 275 homicides.^{1,2} Detroit is consistently among the US cities with the highest homicide rates, ranking third in homicides per capita in 2022,³ with 49.5 homicides per 100,000 residents, compared to a national homicide rate of 5.9 per 100,000 residents.⁴ But in 2023, Detroit achieved a major reduction in homicides, with the fewest killings in the city in 57 years. [Detroit experienced](#) an 18% decline in homicides, 16% decline in nonfatal shootings, and a 34% drop in carjackings from the previous year.

This violence has very tangible costs for all Detroit residents. Between 2019 and 2022, the city averaged approximately 1,303 combined fatal and nonfatal shootings annually. According to the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform's (NICJR's) [Detroit Cost of Gun Violence report](#), this gun violence will ultimately cost taxpayers more than \$873 million for each year of shootings.⁵ If Detroit was able to reduce its gun violence rate by just 20%, taxpayers would save more than \$174 million for every year of shootings.

In partnership with the Public Welfare Foundation, NICJR conducted this Landscape Analysis to review the current violence intervention and prevention, youth development, and reentry services landscape in Detroit, Michigan. NICJR's Landscape Analysis includes information on close to 40 programs, services, and organizations. In most cases, the information regarding initiatives and programs is drawn directly from their respective websites.

A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

Violence Reduction Framework

The NICJR violence reduction framework around which this report is organized includes three programmatic categories: violence prevention, violence intervention, and community transformation. Each of the violence reduction organizations identified in Detroit fit within one or more of these categories.

Violence prevention refers to the elimination or reduction of the underlying causes and risk factors that lead to violence.⁶ Violence prevention efforts are thus designed to prevent violence occurring in the first place. **Violence intervention** efforts, on the other hand, are designed to prevent the recurrence of violence or intervene and prevent the imminent act of violence.

Both violence prevention and intervention hinge on deploying services that identify and address age- and context-appropriate risk and protective factors. Violence prevention efforts are most often targeted toward children and youth as well as reentry populations, whereas violence intervention efforts are focused on the people who are at the greatest immediate risk of violence—typically young adults. While violence prevention is a broad field encompassing various types of programs, effective violence intervention is more narrowly defined and focused.

Community transformation refers to the elimination of system-level factors that give rise to violence in a neighborhood, such as poverty, blight, low performing schools, disinvestment, and chronic unemployment. While community transformation is a long-term strategy that can take 15–20 years to achieve, if successfully implemented, it can also be most effective at permanently reducing violence. Typically, there are several neighborhoods in cities with high rates of violence that do not need violence intervention programs because there is little violence in those particular communities. All neighborhoods should have a goal of not needing violence intervention programs.



Two additional, interconnected categories intersect with violence prevention, violence intervention, and community transformation: **youth development** and **reentry support**.

The **youth development** program model is designed to leverage the strengths and assets of young people while addressing their specific needs. This approach involves fostering attitudes, competencies, values, and social skills that contribute to the youth's successful transition into adulthood. Notably, youth development experiences correlate with positive outcomes, encompassing pro-social attitudes, self-efficacy, academic achievement, and readiness for employment. This complex strategy can be viewed as a form of violence prevention, as the positive outcomes serve as protective factors against the root causes of violence.

On the other hand, **reentry services** focus on assisting formerly incarcerated individuals in effectively reintegrating into their communities after incarceration. By addressing key components known as the "Big Six" — housing, employment, education, mental health services, necessary drug treatment, and establishing a positive and trusting relationship with an adult (mentor, case manager, life coach, etc.) — these services aim to reduce recidivism, enhance public safety, and improve overall individual outcomes.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

The following section provides an overview of the various violence prevention / youth development, violence intervention, community transformation, and reentry services contained in the Organizational Profiles portion of this report by providing a few brief examples in each category as well as descriptions of larger initiatives.

Violence Prevention / Youth Development

There are a number of programs operating in Detroit that can be categorized under violence prevention and/or youth development. These range from services loosely tied to a stated violence prevention outcome to those that are designed to more directly target youth or young adults engaged in high-risk behaviors.

Department of Youth Services

The Department of Youth Services' mission is to create opportunities for youth development in Detroit. The Department partners with philanthropies, workforce development programs, and local businesses to accomplish this goal.⁷ The Department runs a number of initiatives for youth, including:

- Connect for Care, an online resource that helps parents connect with early childhood education and care options in Detroit;
- Grow Detroit's Young Talent, a summer employment program that focuses on young adults between the ages of 14 and 24; and
- the Community Education Commission, a nonprofit that runs quality afterschool programming for Detroit schools.



Beyond Basics

Established in 2002, the nonprofit Beyond Basics works to achieve literacy for everyone, transforming the lives of students and creating stronger communities. The organization supports at-risk youth in developing fundamental educational skills.⁸ Beyond Basics operates a school-embedded program that incorporates fine arts activities, literacy instruction, and hands-on learning. This program engages youth five days a week for an hour each day.⁹

Community Education Commission (CEC)

Founded by the Detroit Mayor's Office, the Community Education Commission is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce barriers that prevent families and children from accessing quality schooling in the city.¹⁰ The CEC's flagship program is the GOAL Line program, which provides innovative afterschool programming to Detroit children in grades K-8. The CEC has served over 500 students across more than 12 schools in this program.

Friends of the Children–Detroit

Friends of the Children works to shift the way institutions and systems view and treat youth and their families. Friends of the Children–Detroit connects children to a professional mentor, known as a Friend. The organization hires and trains these mentors, who support youth through sustained and nurturing relationships.¹¹ Friends support youth through activities such as:

- spending time in the child's school working with teachers or advocating for individualized academic plans on behalf of the child;
- engaging in new experiences, like field trips to museums; and
- connecting youth to internships and scholarships.

Live Free Detroit Coalition

The Live Free Detroit Coalition is a local chapter of the national Live Free campaign. The Coalition is made up of grassroots organizations working to reduce violence and end mass incarceration.¹² Main partners of the coalition include the Church of the Messiah, New Era Detroit, BYP100, Black Bottom Gun Club, and Eyes Wide Open Hope Detroit.

Violence Intervention

Detroit has several violence intervention initiatives that involve numerous programs and organizations, some of which are highlighted below.

Ceasefire Detroit

Housed in the Detroit Health Department, Ceasefire Detroit is a structured, deliberate, and disciplined violence intervention program based on the Ceasefire model that was originally developed in Boston.¹³ The main components of Ceasefire include identification of those at highest risk of being involved in violence, communication of risk to those individuals, provision of services and supports, and focused enforcement. The program works to change community norms surrounding violence through open communication between law enforcement and outreach workers.

Detroit Life is Valuable Everyday (DLIVE)

Launched in 2016, DLIVE is Detroit's hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP). The HVIP model is based on the premise that there is a unique window of opportunity to engage victims of gun violence in the immediate aftermath of a traumatic injury.¹⁴ Located in or working with trauma centers and emergency departments, HVIPs engage gunshot wound patients while they are still in the hospital, often just hours after a violent injury, to reduce the chance of retaliation and provide needed victim services. In line with this model, DLIVE is a community-focused violence intervention program that is housed in the Detroit Medical Center in Sinai Grace Hospital and partners with the Wayne State University Department of Emergency Medicine.^{15,16} Program staff meet with people ages 14–30 who have been exposed to community violence to offer alternatives and resources. This HVIP provides crisis management, mentorship, mental health counseling, and education to its participants.

ShotStoppers

ShotStoppers is a citywide community violence intervention (CVI) program that focuses on street outreach, conflict mediation, and linkage to services in neighborhoods with the highest rates of gun violence. Launched in July 2023, the program is funded by a \$10 million investment from the American Rescue Plan Act.¹⁷

Through ShotStoppers, six community-based organizations were chosen to carry out their own specific approach to violence intervention, each in a different 3.5 to 4.5 square mile hotspot known as a CVI Zone. Each organization was granted \$700,000, with additional funding ranging from \$87,000 to \$175,000 per quarter available to each organization upon meeting violence reduction targets set by the City Council.

The six ShotStoppers organizations are:

- Detroit 300
- Detroit Friends and Family
- Detroit Peoples Community
- Force Detroit
- New Era Community Connection
- Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, Denby Neighborhood Alliance, and Camp Restore

Detroit Friends and Family (DFF)

Detroit Friends and Family works to support a healthier and safer Detroit by creating a pathway for youth out of gang involvement and gun violence for youth.¹⁸ DFF is one of six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.¹⁹ DFF was also one of the training and technical assistance recipients within the White House's Community Violence Intervention Collaborative (CVIC).²⁰

Faithfully Organizing Resources for Community Empowerment (FORCE) Detroit

Established in 2015, FORCE Detroit brings together interfaith, grassroots, and public sector leaders who are committed to addressing community issues and collaborating to produce innovative, justice-oriented solutions.²¹ The organization's mission is to work collaboratively to build peace and to invest in creating, sustaining, and investing in peacemakers to deepen Detroit's ecosystem. To develop these solutions, FORCE Detroit has engaged in a considerable community engagement process, surveying over 1,000 Detroiters and holding 12,000 listening sessions. The organization is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.²² As of December 2021, FORCE Detroit had distributed over \$500,000 to support violence interruption activities throughout the city.²³

New Era Community Connection

New Era is a grassroots organization created in 2014 that works to promote a safer Detroit through engaging in direct outreach and hands-on community initiatives within disadvantaged neighborhoods to prompt self-sufficiency.²⁴ The organization is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.²⁵ New Era recently piloted a Safe Zone mobile application that helps youth and adults report community safety issues.²⁶

Community Transformation

Throughout the US, government-sanctioned oppression of Black communities has led to the “ghettoization” of inner-city neighborhoods, with stark examples in Detroit. Many forms of institutional racism, including redlining, housing covenants, employment discrimination, education funding based on the local tax base, and the policies and design of public housing, have driven conditions of concentrated poverty, high crime rates, subpar education, blight, and economic immobility and isolation.^{27,28} Neighborhoods with high rates of shootings often face a mixture of these challenges. Recognizing this, there are a number of organizations in Detroit working toward community transformation as a long-term strategy to permanently reduce violence and improve community well-being.

Denby Neighborhood Alliance

The Denby Neighborhood Alliance works to reimagine their community and serve as a launchpad for grassroots activism and advocacy.²⁹ The organization establishes safe passage to schools by renovating and demolishing vacant properties near the schools. They are also in the process of bolstering the Whittier Business Corridor through added greenery, sidewalks, and local art.

Life Remodeled

Life Remodeled is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure students perform at or above grade level in math and reading; families have access to essential health and wellness services; and community members are able to achieve economic self-sufficiency.³⁰ Life Remodeled repurposes vacant lots into community hubs that provide opportunities for the whole family, such as afterschool programming, workforce development, and community resources. In conjunction with the Denby Neighborhood Alliance, Life Remodeled is turning a 7.55-acre site into a neighborhood opportunity hub in the Denby neighborhood.

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

The Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency is a nonprofit organization that works to establish thriving communities where residents have opportunities to fulfill their potential. The agency oversees the Financial Empowerment Center, which provides free one-on-one financial counseling to residents in the area. Topics covered include how to reduce debt and improve credit.³¹ The organization also provides a number of housing stability services such as housing counseling and mortgage support.

Reentry

Although reentry programs can include various types of services, they are characterized by having a primary goal of supporting those recently released from incarceration, which is an effective strategy for reducing recidivism.

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

Established in 2018, the Detroit location of the Center for Employment Opportunities works to decrease recidivism and promote gainful employment.³² The CEO provides paid transitional employment, skills training, and career assistance to individuals who have just been released from prison. CEO's program to reduce recidivism includes workforce readiness, one year of job retention support, and job placement.

Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance

Formed in 1967, the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance is a faith-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering positive systematic change in the community.³³ One of the organization's hallmark programs is the Friends of Returning Citizens program. The program offers a number of supports and services for returning citizens, including clothing, housing assistance, gift cards, bus passes, computer training, hygiene items, employment, and volunteer opportunities.,

Initiatives and Policy

The City of Detroit has an array of initiatives designed to improve residents' quality of life and reduce gun violence. As with the programs described above, some of these initiatives, such as the Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, use a youth development approach to prevent future gun violence; others, like the Gun Violence Task Force, are intended to provide direct intervention to individuals at immediate risk for involvement in shootings. Finally, additional initiatives, such as the Strategic Neighborhood Fund Initiative and the Neighborhood Beautification Program, work to transform the neighborhoods and communities in which people live to reduce underlying causes of violence. These and other city initiatives are described in this section.

One Detroit Violence Reduction Partnership

One Detroit is an extensive violence reduction initiative that is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative from the US Attorney's Office.³⁴ One Detroit is a partnership between a number of entities, including the US Attorney's Office, Detroit Police Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and community-based organizations. The goal of the partnership is to decrease gun violence in Detroit neighborhoods with the highest incidence of violent crime, particularly Detroit's Eighth and Ninth Precincts.³⁵ There are three main components to the initiative: prevention, enforcement, and reentry.

- Prevention
 - The initiative is making job training, literacy programs, blight elimination, substance use treatment, and mental health screenings available to those in high-risk areas.
- Enforcement
 - Detroit Police officers are working with federal agents to police hot spots in the two aforementioned precincts. Violent crimes will be prosecuted federally.
 - Law enforcement is utilizing tools like the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network and ShotSpotter to identify the small group of people involved in gun violence.³⁶
- Reentry
 - The initiative is providing education, job training, and additional service referrals to reentering citizens to prevent recidivism.³⁷ For example, One Detroit recently hosted a symposium for reentering citizens to connect them with a number of service providers.

Detroit Gun Violence Task Force

The Gun Violence Task Force was established by the Detroit City Council in March 2022.³⁸ The Task Force consists of City Council members, residents, representatives from community-based organizations, and law enforcement. The goal of the Task Force is to end gun violence and save lives in the city. One area that the Task Force is focusing on is community violence intervention, through the ShotStoppers program.³⁹ Despite the important goals and macroscopic agenda of the Task Force, there is currently limited information available about their activities and coordination.



Gun-Free Zones

The Detroit City Council recently passed Resolution 19.14, which endorses the idea of gun-free zones in public areas of the city.⁴⁰ Before these gun-free zones could go into effect, a state Senate bill permitting local municipalities to restrict firearm possession must be passed.

Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (DYVPI)

The Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative aims to prevent violence among the city's young people through positive youth development and engagement.⁴¹ The initiative is mainly funded by two US Department of Justice grants. There are five main programmatic components to the DYVPI:

- CeaseFire, a focused deterrence strategy that seeks to prevent and reduce youth gun violence in coordination with the Detroit Police Department;
- Safe Routes to Schools, which partners with community-based organizations and law enforcement to provide safe travel to and from Detroit schools;⁴²
- Success Centers, which are school-based resource hubs that support the utilization of alternatives to suspension and positive behavior and relationship building activities;
- Summer Strategy, which encompasses transformational mentoring, summer employment, and job training; and
- Children in Trauma Intervention (CITI) Camp, which is a mentorship program for middle school students that utilizes police department staff as mentors.

Community and Police Partnership Advocacy (CAPPA) Program

The Community and Police Partnership Advocacy Program is an innovative program that links the Detroit Police Department with a community-based behavioral health care provider.⁴³ The program provides crisis intervention services and prompt behavioral health examinations to de-escalate crisis situations in which an alternative to police would be beneficial, such as during behavioral health crises or for individuals experiencing homelessness. Areas in Detroit where CAPPA has been deployed have reported lower levels of officer injuries, decreased numbers of police-involved lethal shootings, and fewer lawsuits.

Strategic Neighborhood Fund Initiative

The Strategic Neighborhood Fund Initiative was established in 2016 through a partnership between the City of Detroit and Invest Detroit, a local nonprofit organization.⁴⁴ The purpose of the initiative is to revitalize 11 neighborhoods in Detroit through corridor revitalization, park investment, street improvements, and vast housing stabilization,⁴⁵ with the goal of increasing quality of life and financial opportunities for residents. The neighborhoods in the initiative have already shown improvements in poverty rates, increases in population, and decreases in residential vacancies. This work is being coordinated with the Detroit Housing for the Future Fund, through which approximately \$250 million in additional funding is being allocated toward maintaining and creating economical housing in these 11 neighborhoods and elsewhere in the city.

Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP)

The City of Detroit's Neighborhood Beautification Program provides grants to Detroit-based organizations and groups that wish to clean vacant lots, establish community gardens, and improve public spaces.⁴⁶ The program is funded with \$2.25 million from the Neighborhood Improvement Fund and American Rescue Plan Act. Recently, the Mayor of Detroit announced an additional \$2.5 million investment in the Neighborhood Beautification Program. The second round of NBP grants were allocated in the summer of 2023, with 45 recipients.

CONCLUSION

As demonstrated throughout this landscape analysis, there are a number of agencies, organizations, and coalitions working to reduce violence in Detroit. Based upon our experience in the field and supporting jurisdictions in establishing and refining violence reduction initiatives, NICJR has identified two primary recommendations to strengthen Detroit's violence reduction efforts moving forward.

First, NICJR recommends the establishment of an Office of Violence Prevention with a stable funding allocation to ensure its sustainability. As a centralized government body, an OVP would serve as the lynchpin for oversight and funding of the city's violence reduction initiatives. An OVP would also ensure consistency and efficacy by coordinating the various stakeholders and agencies working to prevent and intervene in violence in Detroit.

Second, NICJR recommends increased investment in effective violence intervention programming. In 2023, Detroit achieved a major reduction in homicides, with the fewest killings in the city in 57 years. [Detroit experienced](#) an 18% decline in homicides, 16% decline in nonfatal shootings, and a 34% drop in carjackings from the previous year. The City should build on this success and further invest in and expand both the Ceasefire program and especially the ShotStopper initiative.

By strengthening the coordination of violence reduction efforts and further investing in proven strategies, the City of Detroit will be well-positioned to effectively and sustainably improve public safety and community well-being.



ORGANIZATION PROFILES⁴⁷

Violence Prevention / Youth Development

The Better Men Outreach Program

Organizational Overview: The Better Men Outreach Program works to challenge and deconstruct the stereotypes and narratives surrounding Black men by improving the community through activities that create and support leadership development, opportunities for prosperity, and upward social mobility.

Programs/Services:

- The organization runs a 12-week conflict resolution program that has been attended by over 1,000 young people in Detroit.
- BMO Juniors is a prevention program that focuses on young boys in grades 6–9. The program involves mentoring, athletics, and provision of wraparound services.
- The organization helps link youth and adults with education assistance, including trade school, obtaining a GED, and financial aid for post-secondary education.

Population served: Detroit youth and families

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.thebmoprogram.org/>

Beyond Basics

Organizational Overview: Established in 2002, Beyond Basics works to achieve literacy for everyone, transforming the lives of students and creating stronger communities. The organization supports at-risk youth to develop fundamental educational skills.

Programs/Services:

- The organization runs a school-embedded program that incorporates fine arts activities, literacy instruction from trained staff, and hands-on learning. This program engages youth five days a week for an hour each day.
 - An evaluation by Wayne State University of the Beyond Basics literacy programming found that students who are involved in the program make progress on basic reading skills at five times the rate of students not participating in the program.
- Beyond Basics oversees an on-site writing program where students receive one-on-one assistance with editing as well as small-group art lessons.

Population Served: Detroit youth

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://beyondbasics.org/>

Center for Success Network

Organizational Overview: Founded in 2013, the Center for Success Network works to unite literacy and community to empower students in their education. The organization's vision is to vitalize the community's relationship with literacy, thereby inspiring families to consider literacy a necessity and encouraging parents to be engaged in their children's success.

Programs/Services:

- The organization provides structured afterschool programming for the entirety of the school year for elementary and middle school students. These sessions include transportation from the partnering schools, a meal, and one-on-one sessions with literacy mentors that take into account each student's interests and needs.
- The Center for Success Network offers a variety of virtual programming, ranging from creative writing classes to yoga sessions.
- The Summer of Success program connects students in second through fifth grade with community partners to provide rigorous academic support during the summer.

Population Served: Children and families in Detroit

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.center4success.org/>; <https://sharedetroit.org/nonprofit/center-success-network>

Community Education Commission (CEC)

Organizational Overview: Founded by the Detroit Mayor's Office, the Community Education Commission is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce barriers that prevent families and children from accessing quality schooling in the city.

Programs/Services:

- The organization works to combat transportation barriers that prevent children from accessing schools and build safe, high-quality afterschool programs.
- The CEC's flagship program is the GOAL Line program, which provides innovative afterschool programming to Detroit children in grades K-8.
 - The CEC has served over 500 students across more than 12 schools in this program.

Population Served: Children and families in Detroit

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.skillman.org/people/community-education-commission/>

Faithfully Organizing Resources for Community Empowerment (FORCE) Detroit

Organizational Overview: Established in 2015, FORCE Detroit brings together interfaith, grassroots, and public sector leaders who are committed to addressing community issues and collaborating to produce innovative, justice-oriented solutions. The organization's mission is to work collaboratively to build peace and to invest in creating, sustaining, and investing in peacemakers to deepen Detroit's ecosystem. The organization also utilizes media and advocacy to connect individuals who are least likely to be engaged to civic infrastructures. To develop these solutions, FORCE Detroit has engaged in considerable community engagement processes, surveying over 1,000 Detroiters and holding 12,000 listening sessions.

FORCE Detroit is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program. As of December 2021, FORCE Detroit has distributed over \$500,000 to support violence interruption activities throughout the city.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- FORCE conducts participatory research activities through community events and one-on-one meetings to offer visibility to neighborhood concerns.
- FORCE works to build narratives in the media to ensure that vulnerable voices in the community are incorporated in public dialogue.
- FORCE engages young people in civic infrastructures through youth and millennial organizing, including building their community organizing and civic leadership capacity.
- FORCE works with Detroit's grassroots leaders and activists to promote cross-sector collaboration and increase the impact of the collective efforts.

Violence Intervention:

- Community Violence Intervention Collaborative (CVIC): FORCE was one of the training and technical assistance recipients for the White House CVIC.
- ShotStoppers Program: As part of Detroit's initiative to implement geographically targeted community violence intervention, FORCE is enacting CVI in an approximately 3.5 to 4.5 square mile area.
 - This has included engaging youth and young adults at risk of violence involvement in mentorship, teaching them non-violent conflict resolution, providing mental health support, and referring them to wraparound services.
 - Through the UpTogether program, FORCE is also providing families directly impacted by violence with monetary resources.

Population Served: Detroit residents and local organizations

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <http://forcedetroit.org/>

Focus: HOPE

Organizational Overview: Established in 1968, Focus: HOPE's mission is to recognize the dignity and beauty of every person; engage in intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty, and injustice; and build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust, and affection.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The organization oversees a free preschool program for four-year-olds known as Great Start Readiness.
- Head Start is another no-cost program offered by Focus: HOPE that provides child development and family support services to children ages three to five and their families.
- Focus: HOPE operates an innovative, semester-long program geared to elementary and middle school students that focuses on project-based photography combined with leadership development.
- Generation of Promise is a social justice youth program for high school juniors that helps young people get involved in community and advocacy surrounding racial equity.

Community Transformation:

- Focus: HOPE offers a six-week line clearance tree trimming training program that provides training sessions with various partnering organizations.
- The organization also provides training courses in information technology, logistics and transportation, construction, and industrial manufacturing.
- Focus: HOPE engages in advocacy efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and promote mental health in schools.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.focushope.edu/>

Friends of the Children–Detroit

Organizational Overview: Friends of the Children works to shift the way institutions and systems view and treat youth and their families. Friends of the Children–Detroit connects children to a professional mentor, known as a Friend. The organization hires and trains these mentors, who support youth through sustained and nurturing relationships.

Programs/Services:

- The organization’s main program is the mentorship initiative. Each professional mentor, or Friend, works with eight to 10 young people for approximately four hours a week. Each child is connected with their mentor from kindergarten through graduation. Friends support youth through activities such as:
 - spending time in the child’s school working with teachers or advocating for individualized academic plans on behalf of the child;
 - sharing in new experiences, like field trips to museums; and
 - connecting youth to internships and scholarships.

Population Served: Children and families in Detroit

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://friendsdetroit.org/how-it-works>

The Lawn Academy

Organizational Overview: The Lawn Academy's mission is to provide leadership training and mentoring to youth through a college immersion program and community service projects, while assisting elderly, veteran, and disabled residents with lawn care services at no charge.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The organization runs a number of youth development programs, including:
 - afterschool programming that incorporates homework assistance and computer classes;
 - pairing mentors such as community leaders and AmeriCorps members with youth involved in afterschool programming; and
 - summer employment programming for youth ages 11–19 involving community service, computer classes, and financial literacy.

Community Transformation:

- Youth and AmeriCorps members work together to help local elderly, veteran, and disabled residents with lawn care.

Population Served: Detroit youth and residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://lawnacademy.com/>

Live Free Detroit Coalition

Organizational Overview: The Live Free Detroit Coalition is a local chapter of the national Live Free campaign. The coalition is made up of grassroots organizations working to reduce violence and end mass incarceration.

Programs/Services:

- Main partners of the Live Free Detroit Coalition include the Church of the Messiah, New Era Detroit, Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), Black Bottom Gun Club, and Eyes Wide Open Hope Detroit.
 - Church of the Messiah: This historical church in Detroit works to reduce violence by organizing the annual Silence the Violence March, providing housing to low-income individuals, and offering life skills training.
 - New Era Detroit: Created in 2014, this grassroots organization works to promote a safer Detroit by engaging in direct outreach and hands-on community initiatives within disadvantaged neighborhoods to prompt self-sufficiency.⁴⁸
 - Black Youth Project 100: BYP100 works to organize Black 18–35 year-olds in Detroit through advocacy, media content, and political organizing.
 - Eyes Wide Open Hope Detroit: This organization provides social services to Detroit residents, with a focus on at-risk youth, public schools, and unhoused individuals.
 - Black Bottom Gun Club: This association works to educate the Detroit community on state gun laws and the history of gun ownership among African Americans as well as to promote and train for safe and responsible gun ownership, self defense, and sportsmanship.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <http://livefree.forcedetroit.org/> (note: website down at the time of publication)

Violence Intervention

Detroit 300 Community Action Team

Organizational Overview: Detroit 300 is an anti-violence volunteer group that brings together citizens, civic groups, organizations, and businesses to fight and deter crime in residential areas. Detroit 300 is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.

Programs/Services:

- Operation Safenet: Detroit 300 patrols communities in Detroit twice per week, particularly in areas with high crime.
- ShotStoppers Program: As part of Detroit's initiative to implement geographically targeted community violence intervention, Detroit 300 is enacting CVI in an approximately 3.5 to 4.5 square mile area.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DETROIT300>

Detroit Crime Commission (DCC)

Organizational Overview: Founded in 2011, the Detroit Crime Commission is a nonprofit organization that works to create a safe community for southeast Michigan residents through a broad array of efforts that range from data analysis and investigation to help solve crime to blight abatement to reduce social disorder that fosters crime hotspots.

Programs/Services:

- The DCC provides analytical support to Detroit Public Schools Police Department through review of incident data on school grounds to help solve and prevent crime on Detroit School properties.
- The organization runs Safeguard, a program that provides temporary housing to witnesses that need security from possible retaliation.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://detroitcrimecommission.org/initiatives/>

Detroit Friends and Family (DFF)

Organizational Overview: Detroit Friends and Family works to support a healthier and safer Detroit by creating a pathway for youth out of gang involvement and gun violence. The organization's mission is to develop a network of partnerships with institutions and organizations across the globe that share resources and value education, housing, and employment. DFF is one of six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The organization runs a diversion program and a workforce placement program serving young people between the ages of 14 and 24.

Violence Intervention:

- ShotStoppers Program: As part of Detroit's initiative to implement geographically targeted community violence intervention, DFF is enacting CVI in an approximately 3.5 to 4.5 square mile area.
- Community Violence Intervention Collaborative (CVIC): DFF was one of the training and technical assistance recipients for the White House CVIC.
- The organization also provides intervention services for gunshot wound and stabbing victims between the ages of 14 and 24.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.detroitfriendsandfam.org/about> (note: website down at the time of publication)

New Era Community Connection

Organizational Overview: New Era is a grassroots organization created in 2014 that works to promote a safer Detroit through engaging in direct outreach and hands-on community initiatives within disadvantaged neighborhoods to prompt self-sufficiency. The organization is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- **Black to Reality Program:** Black history is introduced to students in a different Detroit school each month over the course of a school year, for a total of nine schools each year.
- **Meet in the Streets Program:** New Era staff host events in areas with high crime to provide resources such as GED information, financial training, etc.
- **Think First:** The organization provides conflict resolution training to youth and young adults.
- **SafeZone Mobile Application:** This mobile application was recently created by the organization to assist youth and adult residents in reporting community safety issues.

Violence Intervention:

- **ShotStoppers Program:** As part of Detroit's initiative to implement geographically targeted community violence intervention, New Era is enacting CVI in an approximately 3.5 to 4.5 square mile area.
- **Our Streets is Watching Program:** This community policing program patrols high-crime areas to create safer streets.

Community Transformation:

- The organization provides a political education class to Detroit residents that is conducted by local community members, elected officials, and attorneys.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.neweraworld.work/about-us>

Community Transformation

Camp Restore Detroit

Organizational Overview: Camp Restore is a faith-based nonprofit ministry that was formed in 2006. The organization works to address large-scale systemic challenges and support local schools and youth programming.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- Camp Restore staff host a number of youth development programs, such as community barbeques, game nights, and tutoring sessions.

Community Transformation:

- Camp Restore works to reduce blight in Detroit, particularly in the Ninth Precinct. Staff clear trash from sidewalks and remove overgrown trees and bushes.
- The organization works to board up abandoned houses, plant community garden boxes, and help restore local homes through community-funded donations.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide, with a focus on the 9th Precinct

Website: <https://camprestore.org/volunteering-in-detroit/>

Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI)

Organizational Overview: Black Family Development, Inc. (BFDI) is a nonprofit organization established in 1978 by the Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW). The organization was created to address the need for culturally relevant and sensitive family counseling services in Detroit. BFDI specializes in counseling and advocacy services tailored to families. BFDI is dedicated to enriching the lives of children, youth, and families through partnerships aimed at creating secure thriving environments within homes, schools, and communities. BFDI offers a number of services for juvenile justice, mental health, substance abuse, prevention, and family preservation.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- Care Management Organization (CMO) and CMO Integrated Services Program: BFDI focuses on reintegrating youth into the community while enhancing their independent functioning, which includes referring and monitoring treatment services, educational monitoring, afterschool support services, advocacy, and providing resources.
- The CMO-HOPE program is designed for youth dealing with substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders services. The program offers individualized outpatient services and promotes continued abstinence and facilitates productive alternatives to substance-dependent lifestyles. These services include individual and group therapy, family therapy, case management, relapse prevention, life skills training, educational and drug screen monitoring, as well as crisis intervention, among others, to support youth as they refrain from tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.
- Mental Health Services: BFDI offers mental health services tailored to address the specific needs of youth and families across emotional, behavioral, academic, and environmental domains. Services are provided to youth ages 5 to 17 ½. Specialized staff assist youth and families facing social, educational, behavioral, and mental health challenges, providing a continuum of care from mild case management to intensive home-based services. Services include intake assessments, crisis intervention, family skills training, mental health therapy, parent management training, school-based support, Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver, wraparound services, target case management, and Youth United programs.

- **Project Aware:** A collaboration between Detroit Public Schools, Michigan Department of Community Mental Health, and Michigan Department of Education, Project Aware delivers school-based mental health services and develops sustainable care solutions within Michigan. This partnership allows BFDI clinical staff to work directly with students and families, implementing resilience activities and ensuring access to effective behavioral health services, ultimately preventing youth violence in school settings.
- **City of Detroit Finding Resolution Everyday through Education (F.R.E.E):** The program aims to ensure that youth and families transitioning from the juvenile justice system receive necessary services to achieve personal goals while promoting community safety. Services include information dissemination through group sessions, parenting classes, and substance abuse residential settings, along with problem identification and referral efforts targeting community awareness.
- **Youth Assistance “Passport” Program (YAP)** offers afterschool activities focusing on fostering healthy lifestyles, values, and self-awareness, serving specific zip codes on the eastside of Detroit and accepting referrals from the community, Wayne County Prosecutor's office, or Juvenile Assessment Center. The program aims to provide community-based prevention services, empowering youth and families to engage in delinquency-free activities, while offering support and growth-inducing experiences to prevent involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Community Transformation:

- Help establish neighborhood block clubs and work with those groups to increase community engagement and social cohesion.
- Provide leadership training to build residents’ capacity to advocate for greater investments in their neighborhoods.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://blackfamilydevelopment.org/>

Denby Neighborhood Alliance

Organizational Overview: The Denby Neighborhood Alliance works to reimagine their community and serve as a launchpad for grassroots activism and advocacy. The Denby Neighborhood Alliance is one of the six community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The organization works to establish safe passage to schools by renovating and demolishing vacant properties near schools.
- The Denby Neighborhood Alliance has established an apprenticeship initiative that trains high school students and Denby residents to restore vacant homes in conjunction with a construction union.

Violence Intervention:

- The Denby Neighborhood Alliance is one of the community-based organizations selected to participate in the ShotStoppers program. They are undertaking this work in partnership with the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Camp Restore.

Community Transformation:

- The Denby Neighborhood Alliance works to revitalize the neighborhood by improving local parks and establishing green spaces.
- The organization is working to bolster the Whittier Business Corridor through added greenery, sidewalks, and local art.⁴⁸ The project links students with members of local organizations to promote Denby's business district.⁴⁹

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://denbyneighborhoodalliance.org/>

Detroit Justice Center (DJC)

Organizational Overview: The Detroit Justice Center believes that we can only build cities that work for everyone if we remedy the impacts of mass incarceration. The organization utilizes innovative community lawyering strategies—rooted in defensive and offensive fights for racial justice and economic equity—to build up Detroit’s poorest residents through direct services and novel approaches to land use, housing, and employment.

Programs/Services:

- DJC runs a number of advocacy campaigns on subjects ranging from bail reform, water justice, and increasing access to expungement services to divesting from prisons and jails and reducing the use of facial recognition and ShotSpotter technology in the city.
- The organization oversees the Metro Detroit Restorative Justice Network, a collaboration between restorative justice practitioners and community members that aims to promote the use of restorative justice practices as an alternative to punitive methods.
- DJC provides legal services to Detroit residents that include removing legal barriers for reentering citizens, assisting with expungement services, and fighting evictions and foreclosures.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://detroitjustice.org/>

Helping Operations for People Empowerment (HOPE)

Organizational Overview: Through restorative practices, HOPE works to eliminate the barriers impeding the progress of those affected by injustice in the judicial system. The organization also strives to strengthen families through education and developmental programs.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The SOAR program helps third graders improve their reading skills through twice-weekly tutoring sessions with volunteers.

Community Transformation:

- HOPE offers interview preparation services and resume writing assistance to help individuals find gainful employment.
- The organization also runs a food bank and diaper bank for those in need.

Reentry Services:

- The organization provides health care, housing, job assistance, and substance use treatment referral services to those reentering society. Counseling is also offered to reentering citizens.
- The organization also matches reentering citizens with mentors who are trained through HOPE.
- In 2022, HOPE assisted in expunging the records of approximately 72 individuals.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://hopeindetroit.org/>

Invest Detroit

Organizational Overview: Invest Detroit is a nonprofit organization that supports business and real estate projects promoting economic prosperity in Detroit. The organization's mission is to create a thriving city that works for all Detroiters and leads to improved quality of life, including inclusive housing, resourced and walkable neighborhoods, and equal opportunities for jobs and business growth.

Programs/Services:

- Invest Detroit is the main community-based partner for the Strategic Neighborhood Fund Initiative, a program that works to revitalize Detroit neighborhoods through corridor restoration and housing stabilization.
- Invest Detroit's Commercial and Industrial Program partners with large businesses in Detroit to create jobs for residents.
- The organization provides small, local businesses with technical assistance as well as loans that support operations and property development.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://investdetroit.com/>

Life Remodeled

Organizational Overview: Life Remodeled partners with communities and other nonprofits to repurpose properties into one-stop community hubs providing youth programs, workforce development, and human services to tens of thousands of students and community members each year. Through this work, Life Remodeled seeks to ensure students perform at or above grade level in math and reading; families have access to essential health and wellness services; and community members are able to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- Life Remodeled has nine youth-specific programs offered at their opportunity hub. These programs include a leadership development initiative, academic achievement services, career events, and annual field days.

Community Transformation:

- Life Remodeled repurposes vacant lots into community hubs that provide opportunities for the whole family, such as afterschool programming, workforce development, and community resources.
 - In conjunction with the Denby Neighborhood Alliance, Life Remodeled is turning a 7.55 acre site into a neighborhood opportunity hub in the Denby neighborhood.
- The organization engages in community beautification around Detroit. Since 2014, Life Remodeled has repaired 194 homes, boarded up 2,062 homes, and beautified 2,067 blocks.

Population Served: Detroit residents

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://liferemodeled.org/>

Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

Organizational Overview: The Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1971. The organization works to build thriving communities where residents have opportunities to fulfill their potential.

Programs/Services: The agency provides over 100 programs in a number of areas, ranging from housing and economic opportunities to domestic violence services, including:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The agency operates Accelerate to Great programs in schools throughout the county, including six Detroit schools. These programs provide afterschool programming, academic support, and basic needs assistance for students in grades K–12.

Violence Intervention:

- The organization provides domestic violence survivors with resources such as temporary housing, security deposit assistance, and aid with obtaining child care and mental health counseling.

Community Transformation:

- The Early Head Start and Head Start programs, which target expecting mothers and children up to five years old, focus on ensuring children's educational success.
 - Other services in these programs include low-cost health services, mental health services, family support, and healthcare.
- The Financial Empowerment Center provides free one-on-one financial counseling to residents in the area. The Center is a partnership with the City of Detroit, Wayne County Treasurer's Office, and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. Topics covered include how to reduce debt and improve credit.
- The organization provides a number of housing stability services, such as housing counseling and property tax assistance.

Population Served: Focuses on serving low- and moderate-income Wayne County residents

City Area Served: Citywide (as well as countywide)

Website: <https://www.waynemetro.org/>

Reentry Services

Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

Organizational Overview: Established in 2018, the Detroit location of the Center for Employment Opportunities works to decrease recidivism and promote gainful employment. The CEO provides paid transitional employment, skills training, and career assistance to individuals who have recently been released from prison.

Programs/Services:

- The organization provides a robust set of wraparound vocational support services along with job coaching and training. CEO's program to reduce recidivism consists of:
 - workforce readiness training;
 - transitional employment with daily pay;
 - job coaching and placement; and
 - one year of job retention support

Population Served: Reentering individuals

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://ceoworks.org/>

Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance

Organizational Overview: Formed in 1967, the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to fostering positive systematic change in the community. The Alliance's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in its communities by engaging members in social, moral, political, and economic issues in the Detroit Area.

Programs/Services:

Violence Prevention / Youth Development:

- The Tuskegee Spirits program connects young people ages 10 and up with skilled trade workshops in carpentry, woodworking, and welding.

Community Transformation:

- The Alliance runs a number of housing developments across the city for those who are in need of housing assistance.
- The Community Action Committee staff engage in advocacy surrounding criminal justice reform, assistance for returning citizens, and environmental and racial justice.

Reentry Services:

- One of the organization's hallmark programs is the Friends of Returning Citizens program. The program offers a number of supports and services for returning citizens, including clothing, housing assistance, gift cards, bus passes, computer training, hygiene items, employment, and volunteer opportunities.
- The organization also provides social workers, psychologists, and psychotherapists to assist returning citizens in the transition into society.

Population Served: Reentering individuals

City Area Served: Citywide

Website: <https://www.dcpasite.com/>

ENDNOTES

1. [2022 Homicide Statistics for 24 U.S. Cities](#)
2. [Detroit Sees Sharp Increase in Homicides, Shootings in 2020](#)
3. [Detroit Ranks Among Top Cities with Biggest Homicide Rate Problems, Study Says](#)
4. [Notes from the Field: Firearm Homicide Rates, by Race and Ethnicity — United States, 2019–2022](#)
5. [Detroit, Michigan: The Cost of Gun Violence](#)
6. [The VPA Approach](#)
7. [City of Detroit Youth Services](#)
8. [Beyond Basics](#)
9. [Beyond Basics: Our Programs](#)
10. [Community Education Commission](#)
11. [Friends of the Children](#)
12. [Live Free Detroit](#) (note: website down at the time of publication)
13. [Ceasefire Detroit](#)
14. [Effective Community-Based Violence Reduction Strategies](#)
15. [What is DLIVE](#)
16. [Organizations Gain Access to Increased State Funding to Curb Violence](#)
17. [Mayor Duggan, ShotStoppers Organizations Outline Progress Already Being Made in Detroit's Grand CVI Experiment](#)
18. [About Detroit Friends and Family](#) (note: website down at the time of publication)
19. [City of Detroit Selects 6 Organizations for Neighborhood Initiative to Reduce Violence](#)
20. [White House Providing Detroit Organization with Assistance to Stop Violence in City](#)
21. [FORCE Detroit: About Us](#)
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23. [Build Peace Report](#)
24. [Transforming the Community with Action: New Era Detroit's Impactful Initiatives](#)
25. [City of Detroit Selects 6 Organizations for Neighborhood Initiative to Reduce Violence](#)
26. [New Era Detroit Launches Crime Prevention App](#)
27. [Redlining in Michigan](#)
28. [Detroit Ranks Among Top Cities with Biggest Homicide Rate Problems, Study Says](#)
29. [Youth-led Work Revives Detroit's Denby Neighborhood](#)
30. [Life Remodeled](#)

31. [Financial Empowerment Center](#)
32. [CEO Detroit](#)
33. [Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance: About](#)
34. [Law Enforcement and Community Leaders Announce One Detroit Partnership to Reduce Violent Crime in the City of Detroit](#)
35. [One Detroit Partnership Announces Results of Unified Summer Enforcement, Prevention, and Reentry Strategy Targeting Designated High Crime Areas in Detroit](#)
36. [Detroit, Federal Officials Announce Summer Crime Prevention Plan](#)
37. [One Detroit Partnership Announces Results of Unified Summer Enforcement, Prevention, and Reentry Strategy Targeting Designated High Crime Areas in Detroit](#)
38. [City Council Resolution Creating the City Council Gun Violence Task Force](#)
39. [Detroit Community Leaders Encouraged by Drop in City Crime Stats But 'We Could Do Better'](#)
40. [Cities in Michigan Aren't Allowed to Establish 'Gun-free Zones.' Some Leaders Want to Change That](#)
41. [Detroiters Working Together to Help Youth Succeed](#)
42. [Pathways to Potential Works with the Detroit Youth Violence Prevention Initiative to Increase Safety and Improve Attendance](#)
43. [Community and Police Advocacy \(C.A.P.P.A.\)](#)
44. [A New Fund is Laser-Focused on 11 Key Detroit Neighborhoods](#)
45. [Adapting the Strategic Neighborhood Fund to Meet Community Needs](#)
46. [Neighborhood Beautification Program](#)
47. Each organizational profile highlights a few of the most relevant programs and services offered by the organization. Please note that these profiles do not constitute an exhaustive list. For the full list, please see the organization's website linked in each profile.
48. [Youth-led Work Revives Detroit's Denby Neighborhood](#)
49. [A Tech-entwined Vision for the Future of Detroit's Whittier Corridor](#)

DETROIT

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



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