

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

August 18, 2020



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OPHS Awards 2020 Violence Prevention Grants

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, as part of the City’s community-focused public safety strategy, Mayor Joe Hogsett, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief Randal Taylor, and Indianapolis City-County Council President Vop Osili joined the Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) to award the third round of Community-Based Violence Reduction Partnership grants. First launched in 2018, this grant program seeks to invest \$300,000 per year into the efforts of grassroots organizations in Indianapolis neighborhoods. This year, four community organizations were awarded \$75,000 each to support evidence-based violence prevention programming and wraparound services.

“To truly reduce violence in our city and communities, we must depend on those who dedicate their mission to this cause,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “The groups receiving funds today have proven their unique approaches to reducing violence. We support their efforts to meet those at risk where they are and guide them to lives outside of violence and crime.”

OPHS reviewed nine applications for violence prevention grants. This year, applicants had to partner with another organization to strengthen their violence intervention and interruption programming. Written applications were initially scored by a peer review panel of researchers from IUPUI. The reviewers developed numeric scores for each application by following a weighted rubric that evaluated applicants’ statement of problem, design and implementation of the program or service, capabilities and competencies, plan for collecting necessary data, and proposed budget.

Site visits were then conducted by the OPHS Violence Reduction Team at the facilities of all nine applicants’ organizations, and a second round of scoring was completed based on a weighted rubric that evaluated applicants’ site, personnel, and capabilities. Final award decisions were based largely on these two sets of numeric scores, with 75% weight placed on peer reviewers’ evaluations of written applications, and 25% on site visits, along with attending violence reduction training provided by the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform. The final decisions also considered strategic priorities such as the need to direct resources to underappreciated populations and considerations of geographic diversity.

In 2020, Mayor Hogsett invested nearly \$4 million in community-based crime and violence prevention.



The following organizations were recognized today:

RecycleForce

RecycleForce provides transitional employment and other services to Indianapolis justice-involved adults, with a focus on 14 ZIP codes that experience violence. Its evidence-based program focuses on building occupational skills, providing safety training, job search and placement assistance.

VOICES

VOICES is a healing-centered, community arts organization that provides after-school and in-class programming. VOICES' grant award will support Power and Promise, its cross-age peer mentor and youth leadership program. The program recruits and trains Indianapolis youth to mentor elementary and middle school students from the same communities who have experienced similar levels of trauma and exposure to violence. These mentors receive stipends for their work and are connected to additional wraparound services at the end of the mentoring cycle.

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Inc. (CAGI)

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Inc. (CAGI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the reduction and ultimate elimination of poverty among the clients in its service area. CAGI and its partners aim to intercept individuals in need, continue to provide current programming the community relies on, while offering a new coherent, interconnected, holistic solution to the systemic plague of violence. Those new programs include emotional regulation training, employment placement, cognitive-based therapy, and case management.

Edna Martin Christian Center

Edna Martin Christian Center is focused on providing violence prevention case management, restorative justice training, and mental health services to 40 youths between the ages of 18 to 24. The youth will be referred from the Youthful Offender Unit of the Marion County Superior Court Adult Probation. Services provided include job readiness, occupational skills training, financial literacy, income support, entrepreneurship, and more.

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