

Funding For COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (CVI)

WHAT IS CVI?

Community violence intervention programs are lifesaving, community-based public health initiatives that stop gun violence before it happens.

How do they work?

- **Violence Interrupters:** Trained professionals, often from the communities they serve, step in to mediate and de-escalate conflicts before they turn violent.
- **Support Services:** These programs connect people to counseling, housing, and job training, addressing the root causes of violence.

CVI builds trust, addresses trauma, resolves conflicts, connects people to resources, and builds safer, communities.



WISCONSIN NEEDS CVI

CVI Saves Lives in WI

- **Nearly 750 lives are taken every year** by gun violence in Wisconsin.¹
- Gun violence became the leading cause of death for children and teens in Wisconsin beginning in 2020.²
- Programs like **414LIFE in Milwaukee** and **Focused Interruption in Madison** are already mediating conflicts and providing resources to prevent violence.³

CVI Works in the U.S.

- CVI programs like Cure Violence in New York, NY;⁴ Advance Peace in Stockton Sacramento, and Richmond, CA;⁵ CRED in Chicago, IL;⁶ and other group violence intervention strategies in Indianapolis and New Orleans,⁷ are all associated with reductions in gun violence.

CVI Saves Money

- Gun violence costs Wisconsin \$8.4 billion a year, including \$144 million from taxpayers, according to a 2019 study.⁸
- CVI is a wise investment. One study showed that for every dollar invested in Sacramento's CVI program, the city saved between \$18 and \$41 on medical, law enforcement, and other expenses.⁹

Statewide CVI Expands Local Success

- Cities like Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, and Racine are already seeing results.
- Racine's CVI program began in the second half of 2023. **Homicides dropped from 13 in 2023 to 4 in 2024.**¹⁰

Wisconsin Cannot Fall Behind

- Neighboring states--like **Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois**--and other states nationwide are investing in CVI.¹¹ Wisconsin should, too.

THE WISCONSIN OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

When fully funded, community violence intervention programs provide an essential component of a successful, cost-effective, community-led public health solution to gun violence.

Governor Evers established the Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention to support CVI programs throughout the state using federal funds made available during the Biden administration. While those federal funds can still be used for now, future federal support is uncertain and unreliable. In response, Governor Evers included state funding for the office in his proposed budget. Ultimately, however, the state legislature will decide whether that funding is approved.

Urge your state legislators to support CVI programs throughout the state to build safer, more connected communities for everyone in Wisconsin by fully funding the Wisconsin Office of Violence Prevention.

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