



Alachua County Cease Violence In The Hood Proposal

Program Description:

Cease Violence In The Hood (CVITH) is a community-based effort focused on addressing violence as a public health issue. Pleasant Street Civil Rights and Cultural Arts Center and Strong-Minded Mentors are the lead organizations for CVITH. Our organizations have deep roots in the community, and have developed the foundation for a bottom-up violence interruption model that focuses on resources, mentorship, and strategic partnerships to address the social determinants of health. We seek to reduce violence in neighborhoods experiencing the most violence (hot spots) in Alachua County and to expand our impact and skills by collaborating with Cure Violence Global and building a three-pronged model that will address Action 2, 3, and 4 of the US Department of Justice Roadmap. We are seeking funding for our expansion pilot that will use a community-based, collaborative approach to :

- Hire, train, and manage violence interrupters that will work to detect and prevent potentially violent situations by identifying and changing the attitudes and behaviors of the highest risk individuals (i.e., those engaged in or most likely to engage in violence) and
- identify, match and structure mentorship support, programming, job skills training, and accountability for these individuals as they seek new paths for their lives.
- Hire, Train and manage Community Health Workers (CHW) for hot spot communities that will work with these neighborhood residents to identify key needs that address the social determinants of health and refer them to resources. This information will also be used to provide feedback to agencies and organizations as they prioritize funding and program areas.

In order to achieve these goals, CVITH will leverage the existing framework of the Alachua County CHW mentoring program and Strong-Minded Mentors program to identify interrupters and CHWs that come from impacted communities and work with Cure Violence Global, a national leader in this area, to provide training and technical assistance on strategies for implementing effective prevention programs that significantly reduce violence. CVITH will also collaborate with the network of organizations and agencies that are addressing issues of crime, gun violence, and community health to ensure coordination and the flow of information that is necessary by participating in the Cease Violence effort, Black on Black Crime Task Force, and working directly with law enforcement, Public Safety officials, hospitals, healthcare, Santa Fe College, City and County Government, churches, and community organizations.

Key Stakeholders and Roles:

- Pleasant Street Civil Right and Cultural Arts Center (PSRCAC) and Strong-Minded Mentors (SMM) - Lead Organizations
 - PSCRCAC - Hire Outreach Director (OD)- TBD
 - Recruit, Hire, and manage resources and community outreach on social determinants of health with CHWs; coordination with CTAC, Partnership for Strong Families, County CSS, City of Gainesville Office of Gun Violence Prevention, DJJ, BOLD, ASO, SAO, D.O.C Community Corrections, ACPS, CRP, AFR, CareerSource, UF Health, UF, SFCC, Health Department, and others on training, resources, and support; collaborate and coordinate with Mentorship Director on training with CVG and to offer programs and host events; tracking data and impact of CHW efforts
 - SMM - Hire Mentorship Director (MD) - Jarell Whitehead
 - Recruit, train and manage Violence Interrupters (VI); recruit and coordinate mentors for at-risk and violent offenders and work with them to provide training, support, mentorship, job skills, and accountability; host events focused on violence prevention and awareness; Provide training for CHWs, VIs, mentors and other key stakeholders based on Cure Violence Global model; tracking data and impact of VI and mentorship efforts; coordination with Law enforcement to track data on violence reduction
- Cure Violence Global - Provide training and technical support for program
- City of Gainesville Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- Cease Fire / Pastors Organizations - CVITH will work with to recruit mentors and collaborate with the local Pastors and Churches on strategies for violence prevention
- Black on Black Crime Task Force - Coordinating Law Enforcement, Public Safety and the Justice system and acting as a conduit for information sharing and program discussions and feedback. CVITH will participate in this taskforce and give regular updates on efforts.
- Santa Fe Community College - CVITH will work with Santa Fe to help spread the word and identify community of stakeholders for summits or other convenings, help organize convenings and help with data collection and measuring impact of efforts to reduce gun violence
- UF Health/ Health Dept - Work with Directors to explore how to work with GFR, AFR, CSS, Meridian, and other stakeholders to coordinate ED and urgent care facilities connect with Crisis Center, Victim Advocacy, mental health resources, and other supports for gun violence victims; coordinate on CHW data and resource needs
- Alachua County and City of Gainesville - Provide funding for CVITH program, Santa Fe College efforts such as summit and other efforts; coordinate with departments such as Community Support Services, CareerSource, GPD, GFR, ACFR, Victim Services, and Parks and Recreation to coordinate and interface with VIs, CHWs, and other key stakeholders as needed.

Timeline:

The goal for the expanded pilot is that we will initially hire 1 CHW and 1 Violence interrupter that will target 1-2 of hot-spot neighborhoods, with a goal of expanding to 3 CHWS and 3 VIs and 4-6 neighborhoods by Summer of 2025. In the final quarter of this 16 month pilot, we will bring back a full report on the program, including successes, lessons learned, and recommendations for next steps.

June-August 2024:

- Hire Director(s), first CHW and VI
- Develop target list in conjunction with Task Force and decide on neighborhoods and individual clients for mentorship
- Recruit mentors and host training for them
- Introduce mentors to clients and key stakeholders (probation officers, etc)
- Host Summer Fun event and resource fair in a target neighborhood
- Establish program team in 2 neighborhoods
- Host group mentorship programming
- MD Attend Task Force meetings and other meetings to share progress and build collaboration
- OD/MD work with CVG to implement database and documentation, establish baseline data, target goals, and needs with Taskforce and other stakeholders

Sept-Dec 2024:

- Host 5 day Cure Violence Global (CVG) Training for VI, CHWs
- Host Cure Violence Global (CVG) Training for management and key stakeholders
- VIs and Director host VIs and Director host check in with Mentors and Clients
- Host Fall Halloween Event and Resource Fair in a target neighborhood
- CHW and VI collaborate to conduct baseline assessment of neighborhood needs
- Monthly calls with CVG
- VI develop implementation plan and begin work
- MD attend Taskforce meetings and other meetings to share progress and build collaboration
- OD/MD - work with Santa Fe College and other stakeholders regarding Summit
- OD/MD hire 2nd and 3rd CHW and VI and establish program team in 2 neighborhoods

Jan-March 2025:

- Host training for new VIs, CHWs and key stakeholders based on CVG framework
- CHWs conduct outreach in target neighborhoods to share information and resources
- VIs continue work with at risk and target youth with implementation plan
- VIs host group mentorship programming
- Monthly calls with CVG
- VIs and Director host check in with Mentors and Clients
- Director coordinate with resource providers regarding community needs assessment
- Director collect initial data on impact and refine plan for 2025

- Director attend Task Force meetings and other meetings to share progress and build collaboration
- Director work with Santa Fe College and other stakeholders regarding Summit
- Host event and resource fair in target community
- Establish program team in 2 more neighborhoods

April-June 2025:

- CHWs conduct outreach in target neighborhoods to share information and resources
- VIs continue work with at risk and target youth with implementation plan
- VIs and CHWs host Spring event and resource fair in target community
- VIs host group mentorship programming
- VIs and Director host check in with Mentors and Clients
- Director continues to collect data and provide updates to the local government, taskforce and key stakeholders at Summit.
- OD/MD coordinate CVG site visit in conjunction with summit
- CVITH team help with Santa Fe College Summit
- Establish program team in 1 neighborhood

June-Sept 2025:

- CHWs conduct outreach in target neighborhoods to share information and resources
- VIs continue work with at risk and target youth with implementation plan
- VIs and CHWs host Spring event and resource fair in target community
- VIs host group mentorship programming
- VIs and Director host check in with Mentors and Clients
- Director attend Task Force meetings and other meetings to share progress and build collaboration
- Director collect data on impact and develop final report, lessons learned, and proposal for full implementation for 2025-2026 Budget

Budget:

- Outreach Director - .5 FTE/16mo = \$41,400
- Mentorship Director - .5 FTE/16mo = \$41,400
- CVG Program Training, Assistance and Resources Contract = \$60,000
- CHWs (CareerSource WIOA) -1 @ \$20/hour, 20 hours/week/14mo = \$25,000
2 @ \$20/hour, 20 hours/week/12mo = \$45,000
- Violence Interrupters - 1 @ \$20/hour; 20 hours/week/14mo = \$25,000;
2 @ \$20/hour, 20 hours/week/12mo = \$45,000
- Event Materials and Supplies - \$7500
- Printing, Video and Marketing Materials - \$3000
- Indirect 5% (not INC CVG) - 11,600

Total = 304,900

Contact: Jarell Whitehead - jarellw@yahoo.com for more information.