Innovating for Intervention:

Mobilizing Your Community to Reduce Gun Violence. A Look at The Newport News Gun Violence Intervention Initiative

September 30, 2022

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Historical Overview

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Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Activity

- July 2006 - City Council endorses the Keeping our Kids Safe Violence Prevention Network Action Plan
- November 2010 - Convened the Mayor's Task Force on Teenage and Young Adult Violence Reduction
- August 2011 - The South Morrison Family Education Center opens
- September 2011 - The Mayor's Task Force on Teenage and Young Adult Violence Reduction presents Final Report to City Council
- September 2013 - City Receives a three-year grant from the Office of Juvenile and Justice Delinquency Prevention Funds to support the Targeted Outreach Program

Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Activity

- March 2014 - City Council agrees to establish the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Initiative
- June 2014 - The Summer Training and Enrichment Program starts
- August 2014 - The Cal Ripken Field/TowneBank Athletic Park opens
- January 2015 - NNPD Introduces the C.R.I.M.E. Initiative to City Council
- June 2015 - The City awards community based organizations to deliver Youth Violence and Gang Prevention Services (RFP 2015-5266-0208)
- June 2015 - NNPS hosts the Summer Program for Arts, Recreation and Knowledge

Youth and Young Adult Violence Reduction Activity

- October 2016 - VML presents the City with the 2016 Innovation Award for Public Safety for the Summer Training and Enrichment Program
- July 2018 - NNPD is restructured to align with modern community policing practices strives to build trust in the community
  - Introduced Sector Policing Philosophy
  - Reorganized Major Crimes Division
  - Created the Young Adult Police Commissioners
  - Established the Community Youth and Outreach Division
  - Championed the Community Action Response Team (CARe)

Crime Data and Analysis

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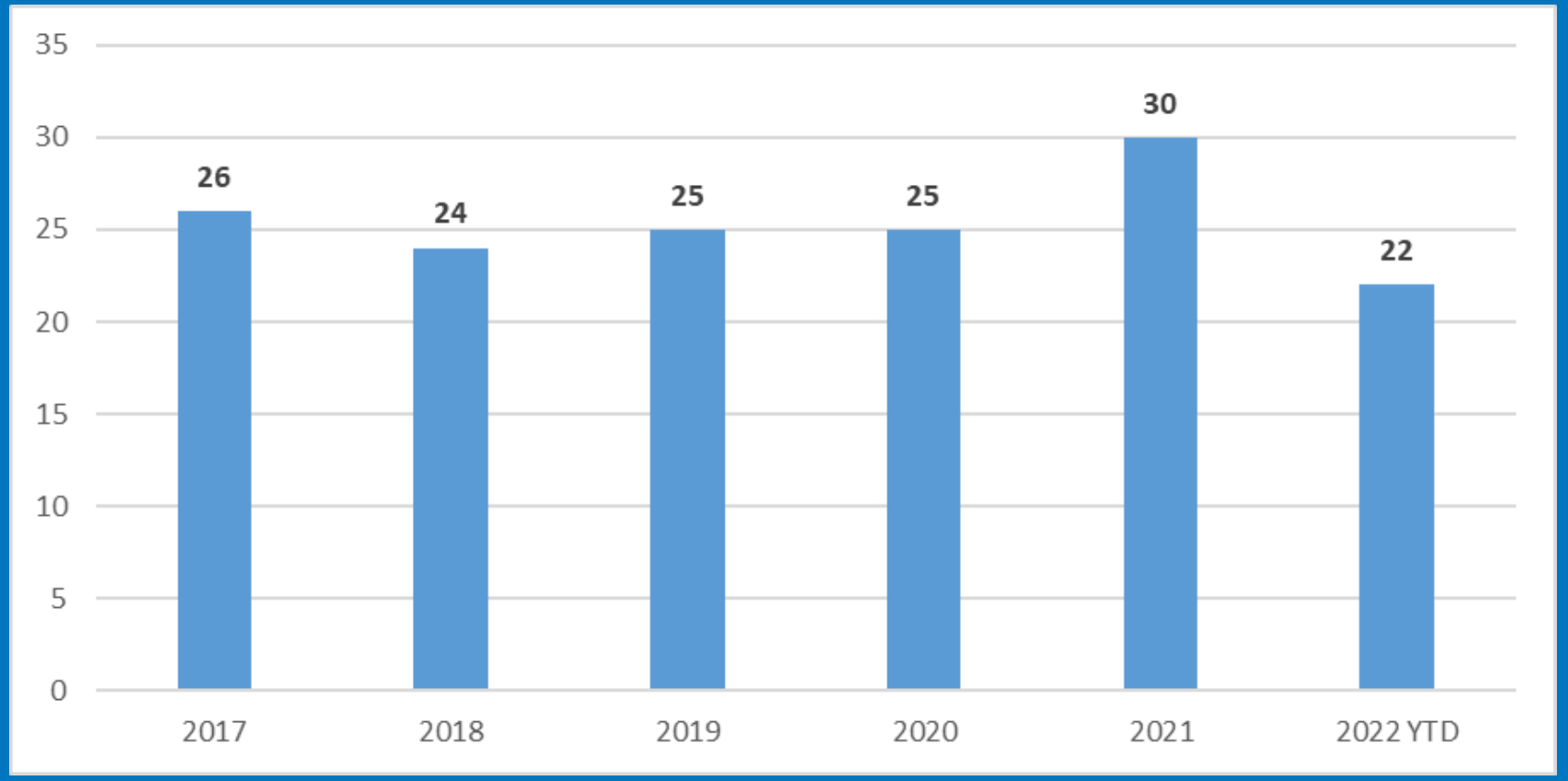
Homicides (2017-2022)



Murder, Rape = count of victims, all others = count of offense

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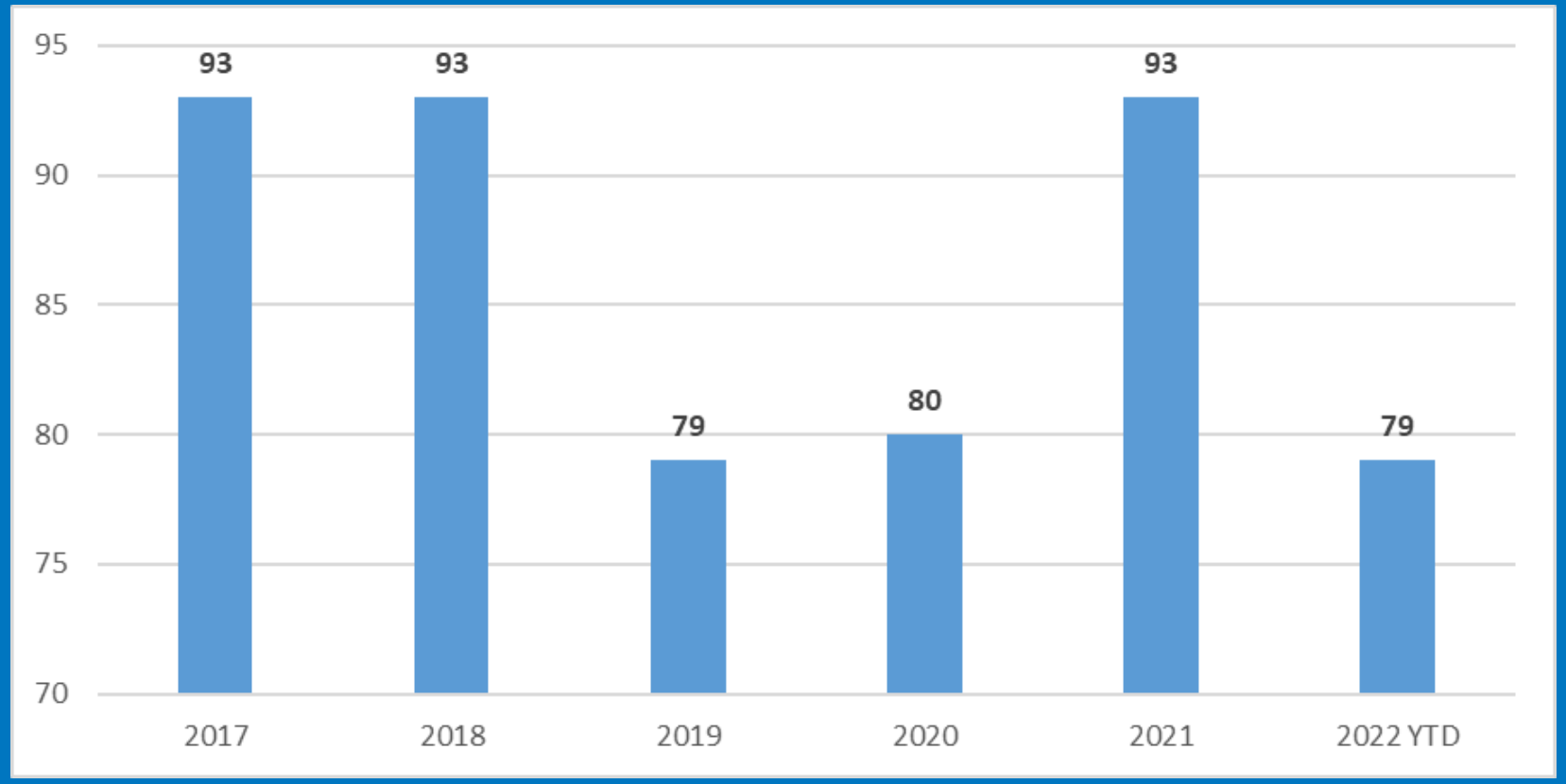
Shootings (2017-2022)



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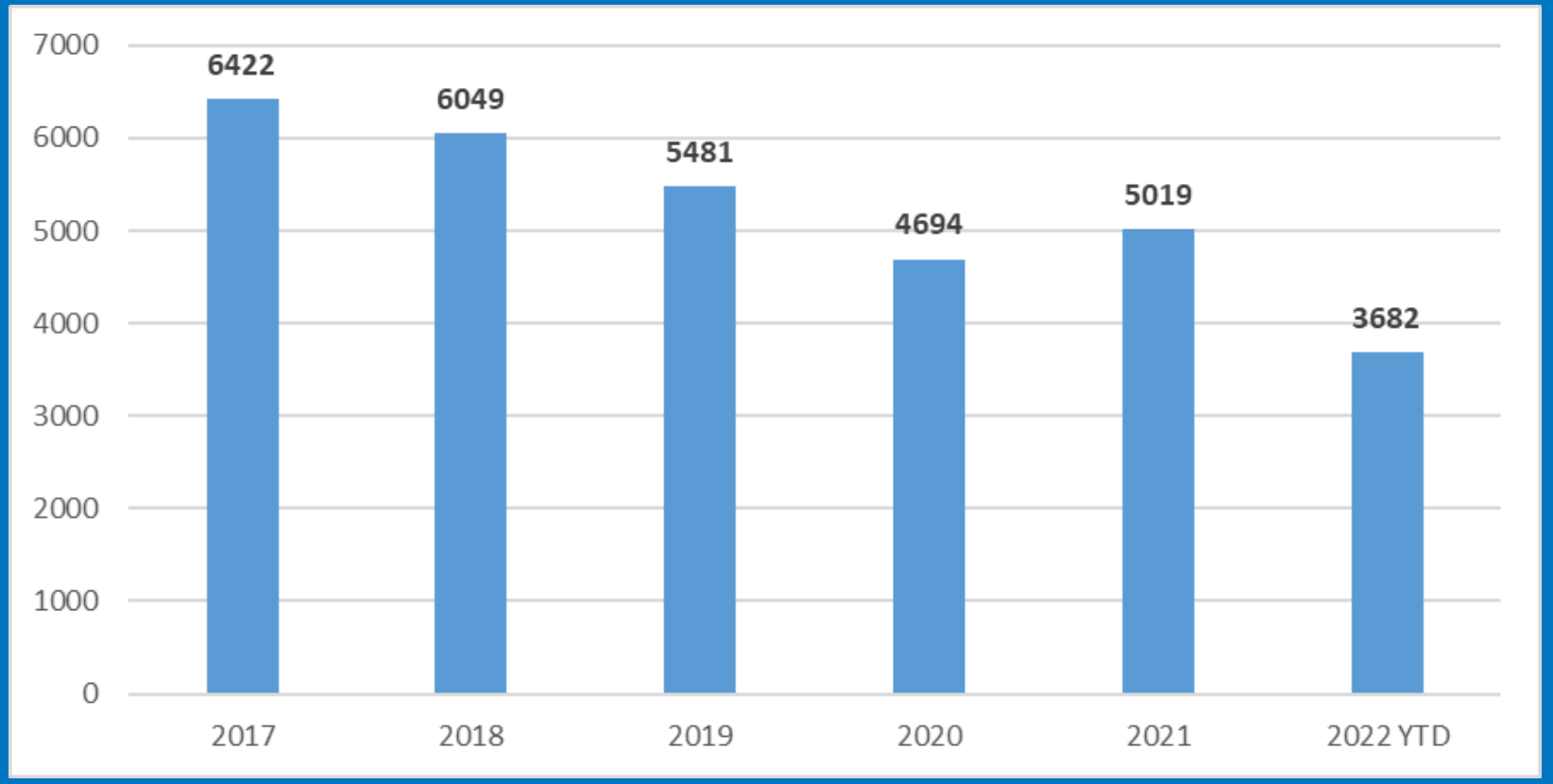
Total Crime (2017-2022)



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2022 Clearance Rates

NNPD CITYWIDE CLEARANCE RATES YTD	CURRENT YTD INCIDENTS	CURRENT YTD CLEARED	CURRENT YEAR CLEARANCE RATE	2020 NATIONAL CLEARANCE RATE
HOMICIDE/MURDER	22	13	59.1	49.8
RAPE	29	19	65.5	23.5
ROBBERY	126	66	52.4	24
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	548	291	53.1	44.4
VIOLENT CRIME TOTAL	725	389	53.7	
BURGLARY/B & E	277	114	41.2	13.1
LARCENY	2586	523	20.2	14.6
VEHICLE THEFT	251	48	19.1	11.6
PROPERTY CRIME TOTAL	3114	685	22.0	
Grand Total	**3839**	**1074**	**28.0**	
9/28/2022				

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Path Forward

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HB 422 - Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Fund and Intervention Program

- Established the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Grant Fund and Program
- The fund and program is administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of awarding grants to the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Roanoke to perform community assessments for youth and gang violence prevention
- Grants were awarded in the amount of $25,000 to fund and perform an assessment

Community Assessment Survey

- Objective - To better understand the scope, root causes, and effects of violence in our communities. Violence prevention and intervention efforts hinge on identifying risk and protective factors and determining when they emerge in the course of development, resulting in adverse community impact

Perceptions of Safety

- Most residents feel very or pretty safe in their neighborhoods during the day, but they feel less safe at night

- Young people and Black and Hispanic respondents feel less safe, and about a third of respondents report that they feel less safe than three years ago

Perceptions of Neighborhood Concerns

1 Traffic Issues

2 Unsupervised Youth

3 Drugs

4 School Safety

5 Mental Health

6 Homelessness

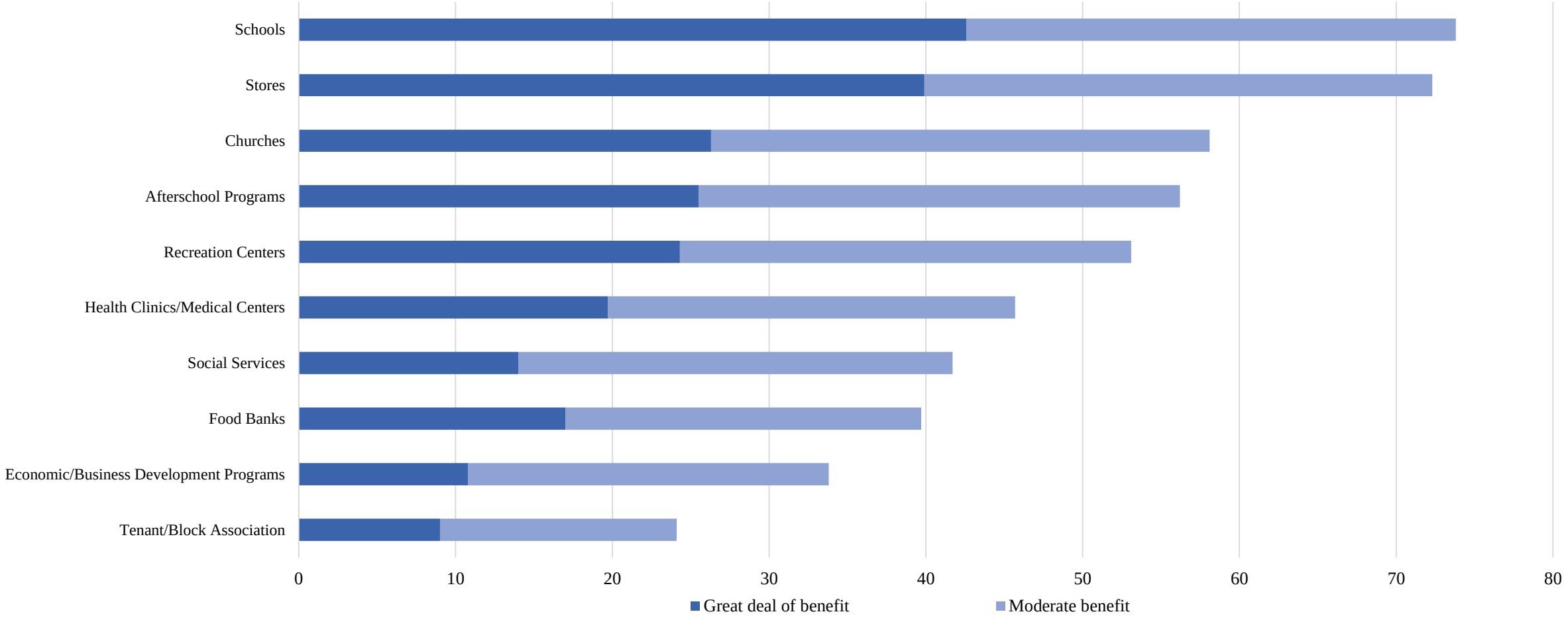
7 Gun Activity

8 Poverty

9 Poor Lighting

10 Unemployment

Perceptions of Neighborhood Resources



Gun Violence Intervention Grant Program

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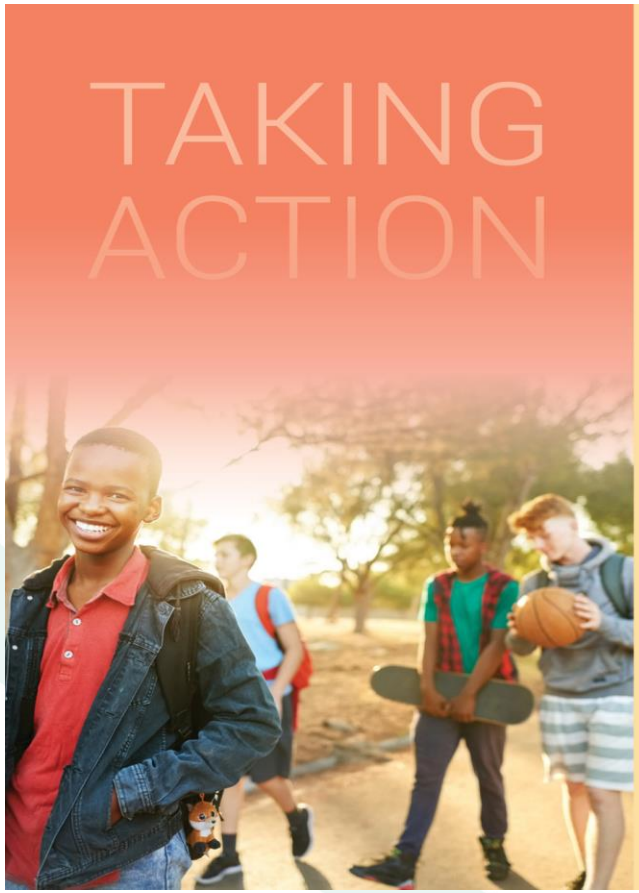
Grant Program

Grant Program



Gun violence is a national crisis that cities and counties of all sizes have struggled with for decades. The City of Newport News is taking a community-based approach to provide immediate interventions and long-term prevention strategies that address the issue and save lives.

We began by partnering with the Center for Crime, Equity, and Justice Research and Policy at Christopher Newport University (CNU) to release a Community Assessment Survey. The goal of the survey was to understand the most pressing concerns around safety, the root causes of violence, and the effects of crime in the city.

Newport News also launched a competitive application process to fund community-based organizations that offer programs, initiatives, and strategies that create change. After a thorough review process, 19 applications were funded for a total investment of $1,786,551. Programs will begin immediately and run through June 30, 2023.

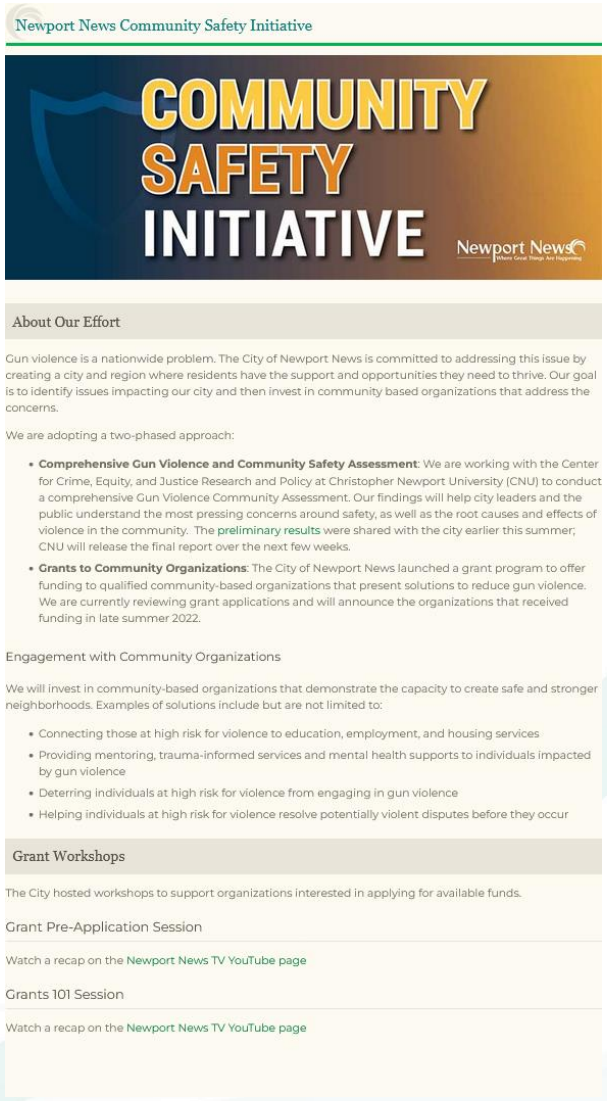
Through the Gun Violence Intervention Program, Newport News is supporting innovative and technology-based prevention, intervention, enforcement, and re-entry strategies. The community-based programs we are helping launch and expand bring nonprofit organizations, businesses, groups, residents, law enforcement agencies, and countless others together to create transformational and sustainable change.

Grant Program

Project Team

- Alan Archer, Assistant City Manager, City of Newport News
- Traci Snell, Senior Family Services Supervisor, Newport News Department of Human Services
- David Duck, Youth Programs & Outreach Supervisor, Newport News Department of Human Services
- Dr. Synetheia Newby, Senior Project Manager, City of Newport News City Manager's Office
- David Freeman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Newport News City Manager's Office
- Jered Grimes, Director, Newport News Department of Juvenile Services
- Constantinos Velissarios, Senior Budget Analyst, Newport News Office of Budget & Evaluation
- Sarah Bowman, Senior Communications Specialist, Newport News Department of Communications
- Cpt. Jeffery Smith, Newport News Police Department
- MaRhonda Echols, Community Resource Coordinator, Newport News Police Department
- Col. Shonda Whitfield, Newport News Sheriff's Office
- Da'Nya Hood, Youth Representative
- Anita Jennings, Director, Newport News Public Library System
- Dr. Steven Keener, Director, Christopher Newport University Center for Crime, Equity, and Justice Research and Policy

Communications & Marketing



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Project Development Process

YOUTH INTERVENTION MINI-GRANT PROGRAM
GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (GVIP) GRANT

DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION

This application is divided into six sections as listed below. The application responses should be specific to the particular project for which the Gun Violence Intervention (GVIP) grant funding is being requested. Single service agencies may provide information which incorporates the entire agency operation. Multi-program agencies should provide information specific to the project the grant is being requested.

PART ONE: GENERAL INFORMATION
In this section, please provide the requested agency information, sign, and date.

PART TWO: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION
In this section, please respond to the listed questions as it relates to your organizations purpose, mission, objectives, programming, projects, and services. Be sure to address how your organization benefits residents in the City of Newport News.

PART THREE: PROJECT INFORMATION
In this section, please describe your proposed project, the need for the project, the problem(s) it will address, anticipated implementation activities, goals and objectives, expected measurable outcomes, and its relevance to reducing gun violence. Be sure to include which risk factors the project addresses, how the project will continue after the funding ends, and how the project's success will be evaluated.

PART FOUR: FINANCIAL INFORMATION
This section is designed to outline funding information for the specific project requested. An itemized budget form must be completed for the specific project using the provided spreadsheet. The budget narrative should itemize each expenditure and provide a brief explanation of each line item. It is important that your budget figures clearly relate to what is proposed in the project description.

PART FIVE: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS
Grant applicants must provide the requested attachments listed in this section. Please ensure your attachments correctly match your 501c(3) status.

PART SIX: GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE
This section includes an informational table of important dates related to this grant process.

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Organizational Engagement

Pre-Application Session

Wednesday, May 25
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Brittingham-Midtown Community Center
570 McLawhorne Drive

Receive information on the grant application and insight on funding priorities.

Register at www.bit.ly/3wrZLmO

Grants 101 Session

Wednesday, June 1
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Brittingham-Midtown Community Center
570 McLawhorne Drive

Learn best practices for responding to grants.

Register at www.bit.ly/399Spw4

To keep up to date on the grant process, community organizations are invited to provide their contact information at **nnva.gov/2727**.

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NNTV

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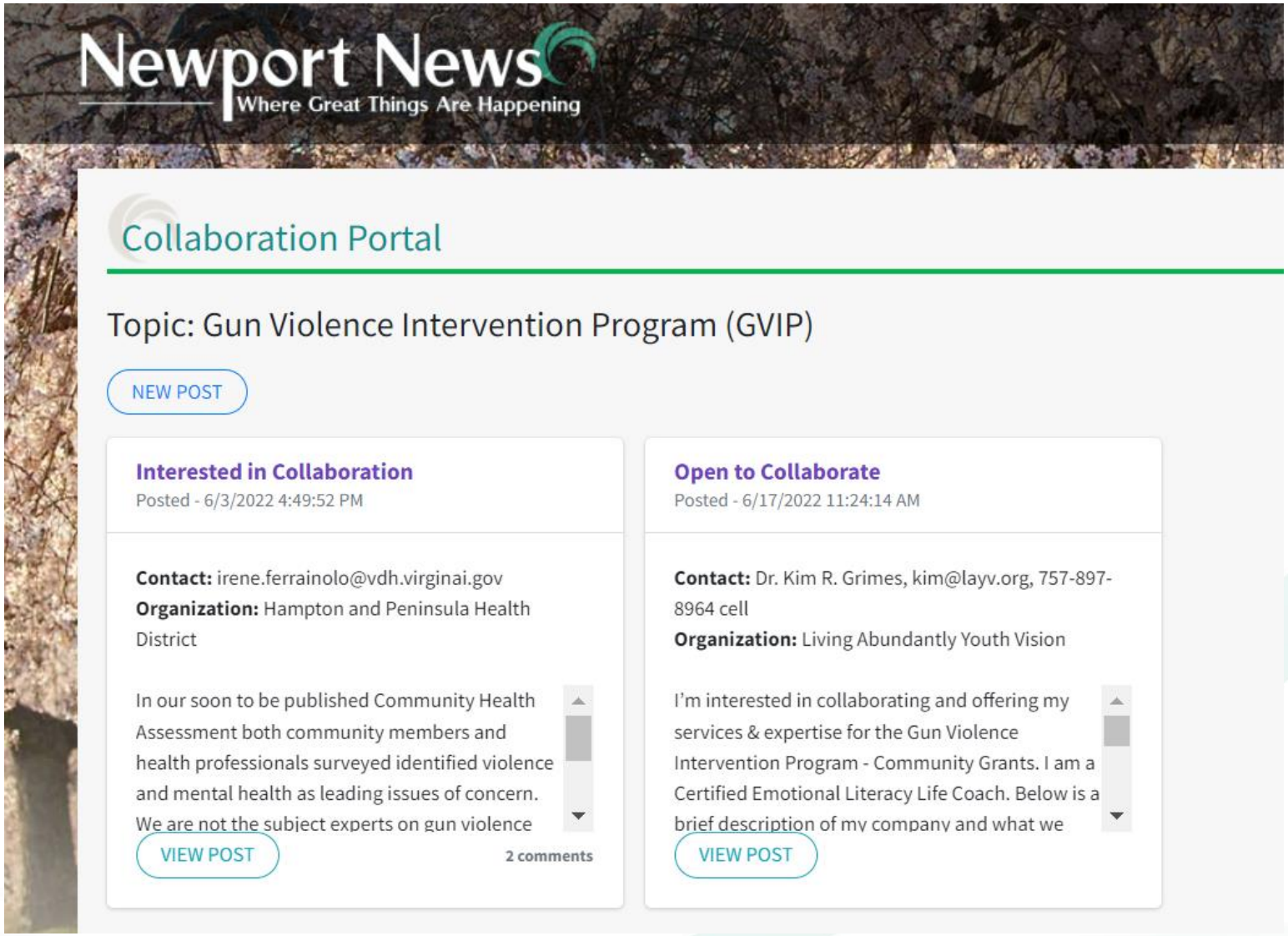
Communication Strategies



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Evaluation and Selection

FY23 GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (GVIP)
Proposal Evaluation

The City of Newport News has been awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for the Virginia Gun Violence Intervention Program (GVIP). The primary purpose is to support the implementation of strategies that will result in reduced gun violence in local communities. This will be done by using evidence-based programming or promising practices that have been proven effective in reducing gun violence. The specific focus on interrupting cycles of violence among those individuals at highest risk for perpetrating gun violence or being a victim of gun violence.

All projects should be community-based with a focus on at least one of two key elements: prevention and intervention. These are defined as:

Prevention - Solutions that keep youth and young adults from entering or reentering the cycle of violence. Prevention involves efforts to prevent escalation by assisting individuals at an increased risk of violence or exhibiting early signs (or repeated signs) of violent behavior.

Intervention - Programs and policies that assist youth and young adults, as well as their families, that have been impacted by violence and will reduce their risk levels of repeat exposure or recidivism.

Programs and practices are considered to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by data-driven evidence (generally obtained by one or more outcome evaluations) and peer-reviewed research literature.

Projects should support one of the following goals and objectives:

- Increased communication, coordination, and collaboration amongst city departments, community-based organizations, businesses, and other key stakeholders.
- Reduction in the incidents of gun violence amongst youth and young adults between the ages of 13 and 24 through the implementation of innovative and technology-based prevention, intervention, enforcement, and re-entry strategies.
- Enhance and/or expand access to mental health services, education, and interventions that prevent and reduce violence.
- Decrease in the barriers (i.e., education, employment, and housing) to the successful reintegration of youth and young adults returning to the community from a secure juvenile detention facility.
- Increase in community education, awareness, and engagement around gun violence reduction and its impact on individuals, families, neighborhoods, and broader communities.

Proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- **Effectiveness** – the extent to which the project is likely to achieve the proposed program's goals and outcomes based on identified metrics
- **Reach** – the number of youth served and the area(s) of the City where it will be implemented.
- **Replicability** – the extent to which the program could be implemented in other locations of the City.
- **Connection to Identified Need** – the extent to which the project addresses a need identified in the Community Assessment and risk factors as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

 *NOTE: This working paper may be subject to FOIA

Rating Scale Breakdown

	Effectiveness	Reach	Replicability	Connection
Exceptional (7,8)	Exceeds requirements and demonstrates an exceptional understanding of the goals and objectives of the project. One or more major strengths exist. No significant weaknesses exist.	Exceeds requirements and demonstrates project or programming impacts multiple segments of the target population. One or more major strengths exist. No significant weaknesses exist.	Exceeds requirements and demonstrates project or programming replication citywide. One or more major strengths exist. No significant weaknesses exist.	Exceeds requirements and connects project or programming to 5 or more community needs or CDC risk factors. One or more major strengths exist. No significant weaknesses exist.
Acceptable (4, 5, 6)	Demonstrates an acceptable understanding of the goals and objectives of the project. There may be strengths and weaknesses; however, strengths outweigh the weaknesses.	Meets requirements and demonstrates project or programming impacts at least one segment of the target population. There may be strengths and weaknesses; however, strengths outweigh the weaknesses.	Meets requirements and demonstrates project or programming replication in 1-2 sections of the city. There may be strengths and weaknesses; however, strengths outweigh the weaknesses.	Meets requirements and connects project or programming to a minimum of 3-4 community needs or CDC risk factors. There may be strengths and weaknesses; however, strengths outweigh the weaknesses.
Marginal (1, 2, 3)	Demonstrates a fair understanding of the goals and objectives of the project. Weaknesses have been found that outweigh any strengths that exists. Weaknesses will be difficult to correct.	Beneath the requirements and demonstrates that the project or programming has limited impact on the target population. Weaknesses have been found that outweigh any strengths that exists. Weaknesses will be difficult to correct.	Beneath the requirements and demonstrates unclear/weak project or programming replication in the city. Weaknesses have been found that outweigh any strengths that exists. Weaknesses will be difficult to correct.	Beneath the requirements and connects project or programming one to two community needs or CDC risk factor. Weaknesses have been found that outweigh any strengths that exists. Weaknesses will be difficult to correct.
Unacceptable (0)	Fails to meet an understanding of the goals and objectives of the project. The proposal has one or more significant weaknesses that will be very difficult to correct or are not correctable.	Fails to demonstrate the project or programming's impact on the target population. The proposal has one or more significant weaknesses that will be very difficult to correct or are not correctable.	Fails to demonstrate the project or programming's replication in the city. The proposal has one or more significant weaknesses that will be very difficult to correct or are not correctable.	Fails to demonstrate the project or programming's connection to community needs or CDC risk factors. The proposal has one or more significant weaknesses that will be very difficult to correct or are not correctable.

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FY23 GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (GVIP)
Funding Recommendation

GVIP Proposal Project Name:

Evaluator Name(s):

Date of Review(s):

GVIP Applicant (Name):

Amount Requested:

PROPOSAL RATINGS

Effectiveness Rating:

- ☐ Exceptional (8)
- ☐ Exceptional – (7)
- ☐ Acceptable + (6)
- ☐ Acceptable (5)
- ☐ Acceptable – (4)
- ☐ Marginal + (3)
- ☐ Marginal (2)
- ☐ Marginal – (1)
- ☐ Unacceptable (0)

Reach Rating:

- ☐ Exceptional (8)
- ☐ Exceptional – (7)
- ☐ Acceptable + (6)
- ☐ Acceptable (5)
- ☐ Acceptable – (4)
- ☐ Marginal + (3)
- ☐ Marginal (2)
- ☐ Marginal – (1)
- ☐ Unacceptable (0)

Replicability Rating:

- ☐ Exceptional (8)
- ☐ Exceptional – (7)
- ☐ Acceptable + (6)
- ☐ Acceptable (5)
- ☐ Acceptable – (4)
- ☐ Marginal + (3)
- ☐ Marginal (2)
- ☐ Marginal – (1)
- ☐ Unacceptable (0)

Connection to Identified Need Rating:

- ☐ Exceptional (8)
- ☐ Exceptional – (7)
- ☐ Acceptable + (6)
- ☐ Acceptable (5)
- ☐ Acceptable – (4)
- ☐ Marginal + (3)
- ☐ Marginal (2)
- ☐ Marginal – (1)
- ☐ Unacceptable (0)

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Youth Voice- The NN Mayor's Youth Commission

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Awarded Projects

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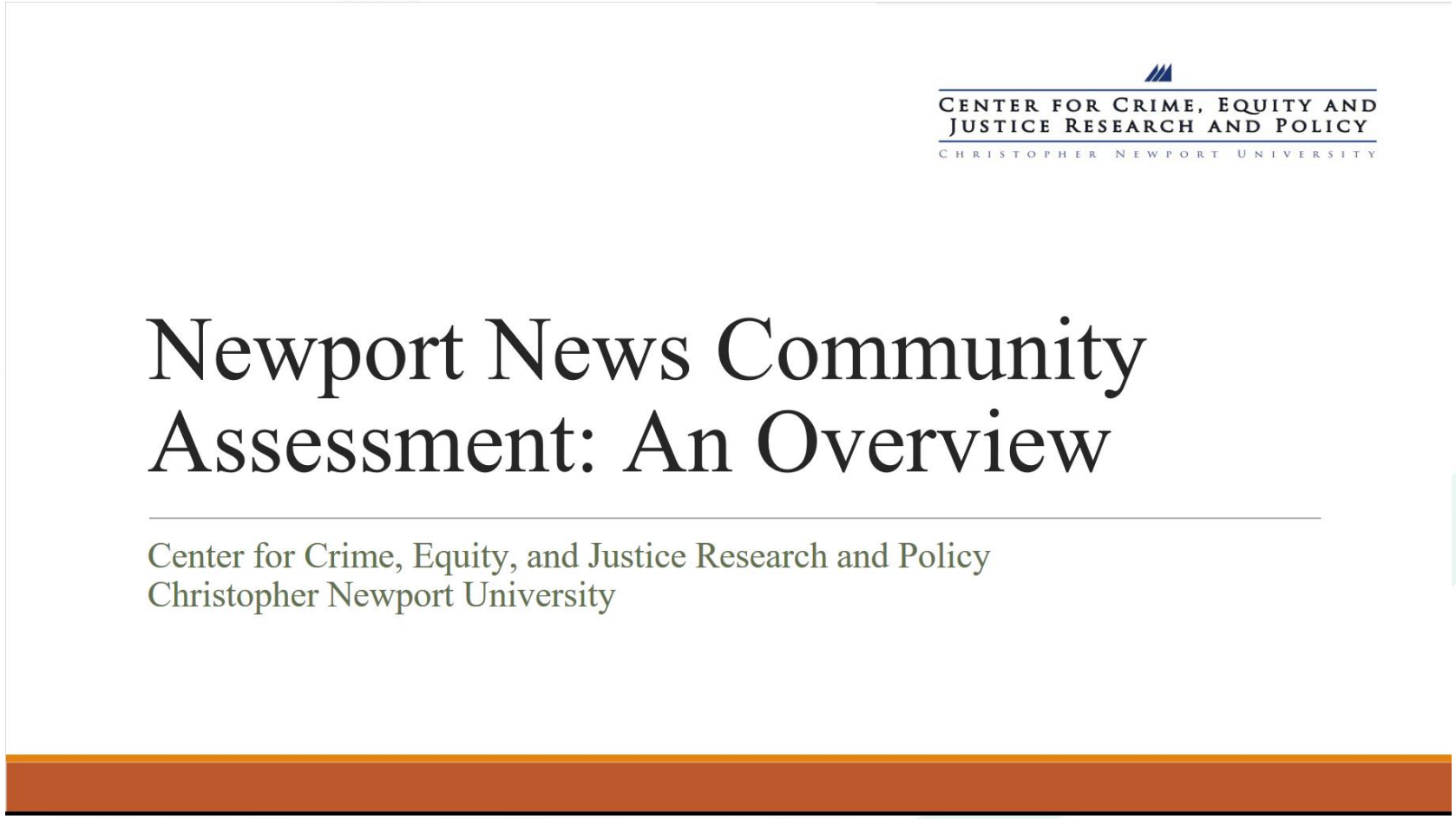
GUN VIOLENCE IS NOT A PROBLEM THAT IS SPECIFIC TO ONE NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY OR STATE. GUN VIOLENCE IS PERMEATED OUR NATIONAL CONSCIENCE. IT IS A DISEASE AND NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.

ERICA FORD, FOUNDER & OF LIFE CAMP INC.

The Importance of Community Assessment Data



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DATA UNDERSTANDING ACTION

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Community Based Organizations

Structural Support

Long-term benefits of involvement

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How can other localities engage CBO's in this work?

- ✓ Research the state of your community
- ✓ Call for community leaders/ CBO's to come together
- ✓ Provide structure and data
- ✓ Evidence-based methods
- ✓ Partner (neighboring localities, Sister Cities, regional continuums of care)

Note: Even with out the funding, you can still organize your community for IMPACT!

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Evidence-Based Approaches

- ✓ Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- ✓ US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- ✓ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- ✓ US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
  - ✓ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
  - ✓ Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
  - ✓ COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services)
  - ✓ Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative
- ✓ Youth.gov
- ✓ Vera Institute of Justice

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Next Steps

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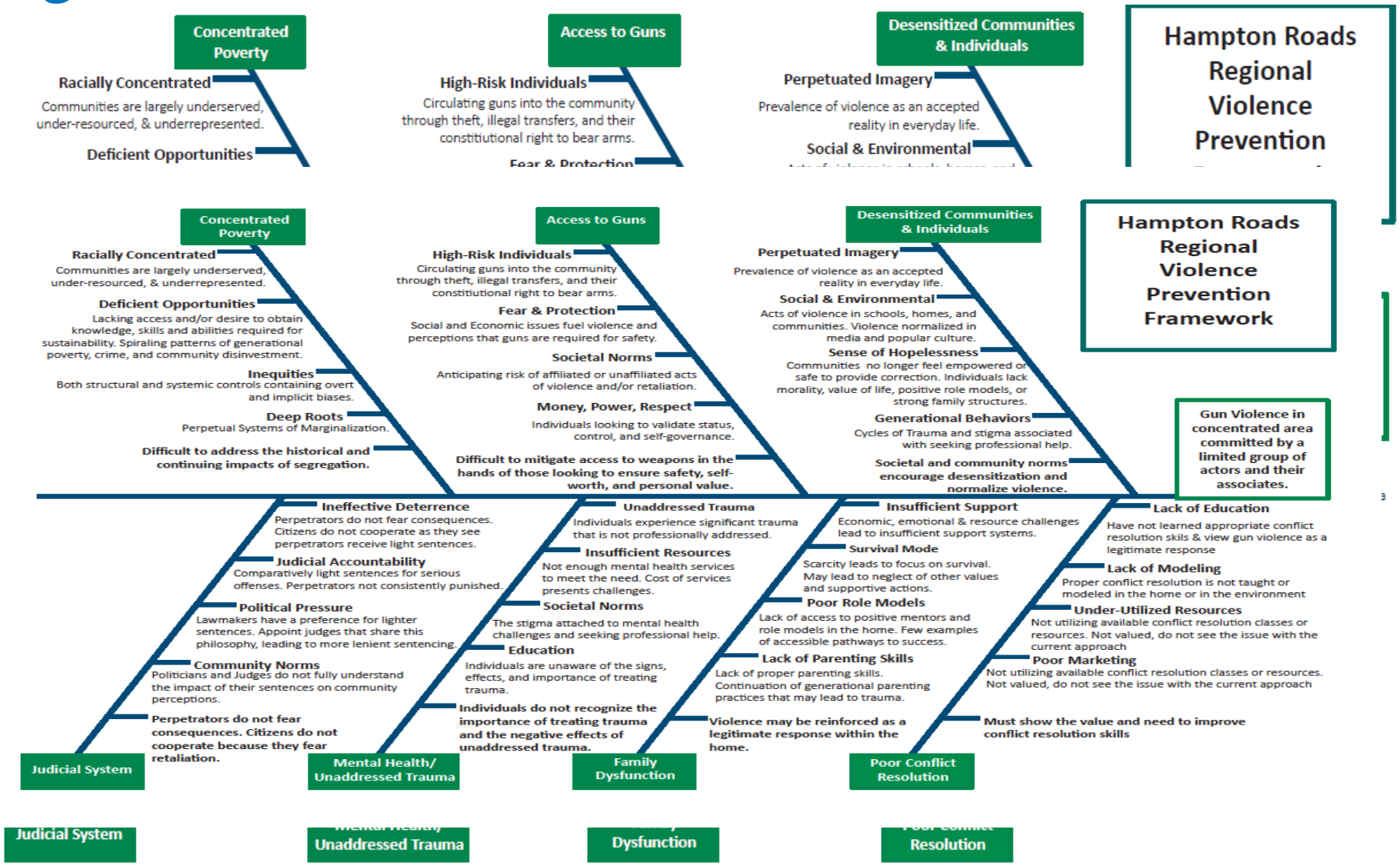
Alignment for Results

- Build a sense of community and alignment among all participating organizations (City government, Christopher Newport University, and Grant Awardees)
- Work with participating organizations to establish metrics to assess and track progress
- Establish a process to track data and to monitor progress and impact
- Position the Grant Awardees for continued engagement beyond the current funding cycle

A Regional Gun Violence Prevention Framework for Discussion



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THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

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