

Theory of Change - Building communities' and systems' capacity to reduce crime and violence creates safer neighborhoods where all residents can live and thrive.

Program Goal – To enhance community safety by supporting evidence-based interventions that lead to reductions in criminal behavior, offenses and incarceration, increased resources for those impacted by violence and more effective and equitable justice systems

All proposals submitted to the Foundation should adhere to one of the following strategies:

STRATEGY A Youth Justice

Target Population: Justice-involved youth (<18) and those at-risk of delinquency

Components:

- Identifies and tracks at-risk individuals, and prevents them from committing crimes
- Provides holistic, age-appropriate, trauma-informed interventions (such as intensive case-management, peer counseling, and individual, group, and family therapy) proven to prevent or reduce offending, incarceration and/or recidivism.
- Supports youths' re-entry into communities after adjudication
- When appropriate, diverts offending youth to safe, accessible, and community-based alternatives to incarceration
- Re-engages youth in their education and connects them to complementary academic support, long-term mentoring, community service, recreational, job-training and employment opportunities
- Offers social-emotional learning and life-skills development (including conflict resolution, impulse-control and self-regulation)
- Equips guardians with the skills necessary to support youth at home and links both to additional supportive services including mental health, legal and social services

Evaluation criteria:

- Program enrollment, participation, retention and completion rates
- Parental involvement and inclusion
- School enrollment and consistent attendance
- Reduced suspensions and expulsions
- Increased graduation rates and academic matriculation amongst participants
- Decreased probation and parole violations
- Decreased delinquency, arrests, incarceration and/or recidivism

STRATEGY B Adult Justice

Target population: Justice-involved adults and those at-risk of committing crimes

Components:

- Identifies and tracks at-risk individuals, and prevents them from committing crimes
- Provides holistic, trauma-informed interventions (such as intensive case-management, individual, group and family therapy) proven to prevent or reduce offending, incarceration and/or recidivism
- Supports adults' re-entry into communities after adjudication
- Provides or connects participants to educational, pre-employment and occupational skills training, and employment opportunities
- Offers opportunities for life- and soft-skills training
- Links individuals and their families to additional supportive services including mental health, substance-use treatment, legal, housing and social services

Evaluation Criteria:

- Program enrollment, participation, retention and completion rates
- Number of participants linked to and utilizing referred social, education and health other services
- Entrance into and completion of educational or vocational training programs
- Job placement and retention
- Reduced offending and criminal behavior
- Decreased probation and parole violations
- Decreased incarceration and/or recidivism

STRATEGY C
Community Justice

Target Population: Individuals and communities directly impacted by crime and violence

Components:

- Provides trauma-informed crisis interventions, peer and therapeutic counseling for individual or groups of survivors and witnesses of violence
- Refers impacted individuals to supportive services
- Identifies and tracks at-risk individuals, and prevents them from committing crimes
- Builds residents' capacity to resolve conflicts, support each other and promote peace in their communities
- Promotes pro-social and peace-building norms that reflect residents' collective values and culture

Evaluation Criteria:

- Number of individuals and communities reached
- Number of individuals connected and utilizing supportive services and resources
- Number, type of and attendance at planned community-wide events
- Increased collective efficacy, social cohesion and social support networks among community residents
- Increased perceptions of safety amongst residents
- Decreased community-wide crime and/or violence rates

STRATEGY D
Systems Improvement and Innovation

Target Population: Justice systems, local, state and federal policy makers and decision makers, and agencies that serve justice-involved populations

Components:

- Implements evidence-based system innovation that demonstrates best practices and leads to increased resources, improved policies, and effective service delivery that promote community safety, reduce racial and gender bias, and decrease disparities in the justice system
- Facilitates advocacy or interagency collaboration that engages key stakeholders, advances effective policies and practices, and/or provides opportunities for capacity building for participating organizations' staff
- Articulates collective work through a clear action plan that includes defined sector goals, progress benchmarks, and anticipated outcomes
- Conducts data collection and evaluation that informs and improves justice systems

Evaluation Criteria:

- Description, number and participation rates of activities
- Demonstrated progress toward systemic changes that lead to improved resources, practices or services in identified agencies and institutions
- Reliable and useful data and/or documentation of best practices that inform ongoing sector development