



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

RFP Response Form

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK INFORMATION

Eligible Community(ies): Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, Turtle Creek, East Pittsburgh, Swissvale

Proposer/Community Quarterback Name: Greater Valley Community Services Inc.

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Jacqueline m. Smith, Executive Director

Address: 300 Holland Avenue, Braddock, PA 15104

Telephone: 412-351-7055

Email: Jsmith@greatervalley.org

Website: www.greatervalley.org

Legal Status: For-Profit Corp. Nonprofit Corp. Sole Proprietor Partnership

Date Incorporated: November 2009

Partners, stakeholders and/or subcontractors included in this Proposal: Please see attached.

How did you hear about this RFP? *Please be specific.* DHS website

Does your organization have a telecommunications device to accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing? Yes No

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
Chief Executive Officer	Jacqueline M. Smith	412-351-7055	Jsmith@greatervalley.org
Contract Processing Contact	Jacqueline M. Smith	412-351-7055	Jsmith@greatervalley.org
Chief Information Officer	Jacqueline M. Smith	412-351-7055	Jsmith@greatervalley.org

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Chief Financial Officer	Wanda Saulsbury	412-351-7055	Wsaulsbury@greatervalley.org
MPER Contact*	Jacqueline M. Smith	412-351-7055	Jsmith@greatervalley.org

* [MPER](#) is DHS's provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact to update and manage this system for your agency.

COMMUNITY QUARTERBACK BOARD INFORMATION

Provide a list of your board members as an attachment or in the space below.
Please see attachment

Board Chairperson Name & Title: CL Livingston

Board Chairperson Address: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Board Chairperson Telephone: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Email: [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization. *Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.*

Ross A. Watson Jr. MS

Program CURE Violence Program Manager at Violence Prevention

Director of Allegheny County Health Department

542 Fourth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

412-687-2243

Calvin Murphy

Center for Victims

3422 E. Carson Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

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Ms. Cathy Turner

Helping Our Own People (HOOP) Alliance

910 Braddock Avenue

Braddock, PA 15104

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Date Submitted 5/5/2022

Amount Requested: \$1,567,413.00 for two years

CERTIFICATION

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.

ATTACHMENTS

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- Partner and stakeholder commitment letters
- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
- Audited financial reports or other financial documentation for the last three years
- W-9
- Board Membership

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REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 160 points. Your response to this section should not exceed 20 pages.

A. Stakeholder Commitment (35 points possible)

1. Please list the partners and stakeholders that support your CVRP. For each, provide an explanation of how they participated in developing the CVRP and how they will support its implementation. Attach a signed letter of commitment from each partner and stakeholder listed.

Partners

Jullian Turner, President, HOOP (Helping Out Our People) – HOOP is one of the founding members of Violence Prevention Coalition, which is now Greater Valley Against Violence (GVCAV).

Kristen Michaels, Director of For Good Pittsburgh, For Good Pittsburgh is one of the founding members of Violence Prevention Coalition, which is now Greater Valley Against Violence (GVCAV).

State Rep Summer Lee, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives – supporting this Violence Prevention initiative shares the best available data and identifies what works to prevent various forms of violence.

Lorne Berry, President, Swissvale-Braddock Athletic Association, Investment in the safety of young men in targeted communities.

Senator Jay Costa, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Senate, has financial supported the GVCAV or gave funding suggestions.

Stakeholders (These organizations have attended monthly meetings, contribute to violence prevention strategies)

BeSmart Gun Safety

Braddock Police

Rankin Police

Swissvale Police

Mayor John Burwell, Director of Fatherhood Initiative and mayor of Homestead, PA

Tamara Collier, Community Outreach for the Department of Justice

Andre Scott, Therapeutic Support, Able Vision Consulting and Counseling

Tina Ford, MOMS (Mothers of Murdered Sons)

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Rev. Nathaniel Carter, The Connect Center

Ms. Ronnie Currie, School Board, Woodland Hills School District

Ms. Dee Scales, Braddock Council

Mrs. Lisa Franklin Robinson, North Braddock Council

B. Summary of Community Violence Reduction Plan (75 points possible)

2. Specify the Eligible Community(ies), and any specific focus areas within them, included in your CVRP. Describe the characteristics and strengths that you see as defining the community.

The communities that Greater Valley Coalition Against Violence will serve are Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, East Pittsburgh, and Turtle Creek. A major focus area will be Woodland Hills School District and youth gathering areas in these communities.

Our communities' strengths include the human capital that exists within the educators, mentors, business owners, sports coaches, community stakeholders and community influencers. They have a vested commitment in the prevention of violence.

Monthly, a meeting is held to sphere head the strategies to reduce or halt the violent behavior.

3. Describe the Community Violence that you see in your community(ies) and the factors you think are driving it.

What is seen in our neighborhoods regarding violent behavior are the following,

1. All the above communities have seen an increase in school fights, gun violence and robberies. According to City-Data.com, the communities served have an average homicide rate per 100,000: Rankin (48); Turtle Creek (45); East Pittsburgh ((38); North Braddock (34); Braddock (32). Although Swissvale (23) is not on the targeted list. This an area of concern because of the basketball court that is well attended by all targeted communities.
2. Align with several incidents of local community violence, our observation is black males are being killed at a higher rate. Supporting that observation, *Pittsburgh.gov*, black males are dying ae 72% from homicide.
3. There is another statistic that effects African Americans at an alarming rate. 'Black people, who account for 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for 27 percent of those fatally shot and killed by police in 2021, according to *Mapping Police Violence*, a nonprofit group that tracks police shootings. That means Black people are twice as likely as white people to be shot and killed by police officers. Considering that in the Braddock area, 68.33% of the residents are African American

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and 62.4% African Americans attend Woodland Hills School District gives a deeper concern.

Some reasons to factor into violent behavior:

1. The reduction of the inequities of employment, income, and societal trauma must be addressed
2. Treating violence behavior as a disease.
3. The lack of accessible training opportunities; financial literacy/education; decision-making skills; lack of connection to the community; opportunities for ex-offenders, home ownership opportunities, accessible support services such as out-of-school time programs, workforce development skill enhancement, entrepreneurial training opportunities and exposure to the cultural arts.
4. The underlining stigma related to mental health and wellness services that continues to be a contributing factor to the community violence. Other factors that relate to mental health are influence of one's peers, a lack of attention or respect, low self-worth, experiencing abuse or neglect, witnessing violence, and access to weapons.
5. We are now discovering COVID 19 effects on our neighborhoods and in family units. Rising fears and anxiety about prolonged movement restrictions, increased economic strain and diminished health care capacity to support survivors are among the potential reasons for such dramatic effects. Under normal circumstances: low income, unemployment, economic stress, depression, emotional insecurity, and social isolation are all risk factors for using violence against partners. Braddock average household income is \$33,315 with a poverty level of 36.74%
6. Lastly, but this is paramount in many communities. There is such a easy access to guns by people at elevated risk for violence. From *the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence*, 'young African American males 15-34 make up 2% of the United States population but account for 37% of the firearm homicide victims.'

Our conclusion:

Our summary is that violence prevention supports basic human rights.

4. Identify the strategies you have chosen to implement to address Community Violence. Be sure to include at least one EBP listed in the RFP. For each strategy, please include:
 - a. If the strategy is currently in place or if it will be new.
 - b. If the strategy is: 1) one of the EBPs listed in the RFP, 2) a current violence prevention effort that shows results or promise or 3) a group or activity that brings people together.
 - c. If you are asking DHS to fund the strategy and/or if you have other funding to support it. If a strategy is already funded, please provide details on this funding.
 - d. The names and roles of the partners/stakeholders who will carry out the strategy.
 - e. An explanation of why you chose the strategy and how you think it will make a measurable difference on the Community Violence that you see in your community.

How GVCS got here.

It is Greater Valley Community Services (GVCS) and Greater Valley Coalition Against Violence (GVCAV) belief that gun violence directly affects ALL in the community. It impacts families, hospital care, businesses, and the community at large. We have been in

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contact with community sadness when the death of a loved one happens because of gun violence. GVCS and many concerned stakeholders in the area organized a Violence Prevention Coalition in 2019. Meeting once a month, this coalition consist of local government, police, school officials, nonprofits, and community advocates to find workable solutions to community violence. After a year without any additional funding, a core group still felt the need to combat this violence disease. We then receive funding from State Senator Jay Costa and from the state PCCD grants for the violence prevention. The leadership was hired, GVCS supplied administrative resources, and the community still met and applied community gun prevention approaches.

GVCS wants to have a holistic approach for all youth.

One of the alarming statistics is how gun violence affects our youth. In an article from TribLIVE, in 2021, Allegheny County had 90 homicides victims with 56 of them being between the ages of 0-30. In the article, it lists all victims by name, that type of reality is one of the many reasons, GVCS has directed activities for youth. Summer programs, STEAM program, after school program, and civic engagement internship. Over 1000 youth have participating in your programs at GVCS in 2021.

Several GVCS staff got certified in two EPB programs to support our youth programming. They are:

1. SAAF (Strong African American Families), a training program developed by the Center for Family Research at the University of Georgia, which works to strengthen parent-adolescent relationships and reduce risky and harmful behaviors.
2. Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) is another evidence-based parenting program focused on developing positive attitudes, relationships, and conduct to prevent and treat emotional and behavioral problems in children and adolescents.

Where we want to be.

Currently, the GVCAV is using mentoring and interruption strategies to combat community violence. The core group realizes that to be more effective, we need to align ourselves with the EBP's offered. Some of the meeting's leadership are CURE trained. For our purposes, the EBPs that will be more effected for our community at large are CURE and READI Chicago.

Why CURE EBP?

This model has been chosen to address gun violence and use social media monitoring (to proactively address conflicts that could spill into community) and provide trauma support for at-risk residents. The staff hired will be the team monitoring the online activities of residents in conflicts within our priority communities. The staff will continue to collaborate with ACHD Office of Violence Prevention for violence initiative in proposed communities by the following:

1. Identify best practices in violence prevention on a local, state, federal and international level which are applicable to Allegheny County

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2. Identify ways to maximize the impact of existing resources and efforts
3. Identify strategies to reduce the hurdles and stigma associated with seeking mental health services that prevent individuals from getting assistance or treatment
4. Identify means to increase community involvement in creating safe and connected neighborhoods
5. Identify local approaches that can be utilized by community groups to engage their residents in a common goal of reducing violence and promoting good mental health
6. Implement evidence-based programs to deter involvement in the criminal justice system

Why READI EBP?

GVCS is currently planning a workforce development program for the residents of Braddock and nearby neighborhoods. We are drawn to READI because of the employment, behavioral therapy, and support services. Our strategy is to provide a different path that can provide different outcomes and futures.

Roles

The leadership of the Violence Prevention program are Lee Davis, Manager, Jalal Black, Outreach Worker, Cathy Turner, Program Administrator, and Jullian Turner, Program Facilitator. All are organizers, advocates and committed to violence reduction and prevention in our community. The executive director of GVCS is Jacqueline M. Smith

5. Describe the process you used to choose the Community Quarterback.

Click or tap here to enter text.

GVCS was chosen at the Community Quarterback because they have been working with Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) extensively for 2.5 years. They also currently serve as a satellite site for CURE Violence and is used as a safe space to conduct mediations and mentoring. GVCS also facilitates a Coalition that ACHD and its management are actively engaged in. GVCS facility has been the meeting place for weekly meetings; provides administrative expertise in grant writing, evaluation, fiscal and human resources for 2.5 years and plans to continue to give that type of report.

6. How will the Community Quarterback ensure that the CVRP is well implemented?

The Quarterback will work closely with the target area stakeholders and Cure Violence Global to implement the Cure Violence Model over a three-year period.

We have had several community meetings and have met with or plan to meet with key leaders including Mayors, Chiefs of Police, City Council, and local legislators who have bought into the need for violence interventions and interested in implementing the Cure Violence Model. The first six months will be dedicated to assessment and capacity building under the guidance of Cure Violence Global. Cure Violence will work with Quarterback, staff, local stakeholders, community members, and local leaders to assess the target areas for opportunities and challenges for intervention.

These are programs standards that GVCS offers for all programs, and they are the following:

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- Providing administrative for staff: Recruitment and hiring of qualified employees; processing all work-related paperwork, fiscal support,
 - Providing workspace and equipment for staff
 - Providing appropriate marketing for program
 - Establishing appropriate recordkeeping and program evaluation
 - Providing resources such as, mental health support and referral, provide resources as housing, food, workforce development, After school activities, summer activities, etc.
7. Provide an implementation plan and timeline for your CVRP that describes how the community will organize and carry out its strategies over time. If your CVRP includes adopting one of the EBPs, please include time to work with the model developers and participate in their technical assistance and training.

MONTH 1 - 3: ASSESSMENT VISIT

The Cure Violence Training & Technical Assistance Team conducts assessment visits with all interested communities that have demonstrated necessary buy-in from essential stakeholders and leadership. While the 2–3-day assessment visit is adaptable to each community, the visit typically includes a Cure Violence 101 training. The Cure Violence team can also conduct a thorough assessment of current outreach programming to determine their credibility, capacity, and skills to work with those at highest risk and ability intervene in potential violence using the public health approach. Following the visit, Cure Violence will provide a detailed report that includes:

*Level of violence (rates, groups, locations, underlying factors) Review of Meetings/Presentations

Data Analysis

*Potential target area(s) review

Meeting with Mayor's office, Health department, Police department/Sheriff's department, Level 1 trauma units, Research institutions

Determine target area, target population, and scope of violence

Key findings that could positively or negatively impact pre-implementation/implementation

Recommendations re: role(s) of key stakeholders

Possible adaptations (school, hospital)

Opportunities for Implementation

Challenges to Implementation Recommendations

Level of intervention (target areas)

C. Community Quarterback's Organizational Experience (40 points possible)

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8. Why does the Community Quarterback want to serve in the role for the Eligible Community(ies)? Which parts of the CVRP will the Community Quarterback directly implement?

Greater Valley Community Services (GVCS) resides in the Braddock area, The program development concentrates on the family, education, and health/wellness. We have long standing partnerships and collaborators are within the community. Finally, and certainly not least, many of the youth we serve attend the Woodland Hills Scholl District. For those reasons and not withstanding that these senseless crimes must stop, GVCS knows the importance of preventing and reducing community violence and will be the acting quarterback.

GVCS has implement physical space for meetings and operations, administration, youth mentorship, fiscal, grant writing and reporting, human resources, liability insurance, technology, and other resources

9. Provide two examples of how the Community Quarterback has successfully served the target population/community.

Example 1:

Food Distribution/Pantry

GVCS provides programming to the ages of 0 to 80+. All our programs, special events, and services fall under the pillars of Health and Wellness, Family, and Education. The Food Pantry is a part of the Health and Wellness pillar and has provided food to the hungry to the food insecure.

In 2020, GVCS responded to the community's food insecurities during COVID 19 pandemic. Without any startup money, GVCS gathered food and supplies to help in this time of tremendous need. The goal was to address the immediate concerns during the pandemic and offer food to the community on a consistent basis.

The pandemic hit the world, Braddock and nearby neighborhoods were not different. In an area where the poverty rate of 36.14%, COVID only made a bad situation worst. *Penn State Social Services Research Institute* states 'after a 5-week stay at home order, the state's total of jobless has surged to over 1.6 million or 24.7% of the workforce. The halt of business likely has the biggest impact on less educated, lower-income, and minority workers. For example, pandemic related job loss is disproportionately higher among the low-income population due to low flexibility and the on-site nature of many low-income jobs.

GVCS was considered an essential working organization, and we pledge to respond to the COVID crisis by suppling food to our community. With a lot of determination, GVCS set it course by doing the following:

- Gathered partners from the Mon Valley and Pittsburgh for this effort to deliver food in the Braddock and surrounding area such as World Vision, 412 Rescue, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, and Hillman Foundation.
- Pursued funders for dollars to buy food, Walmart donated \$5,000.00
- GVCS donated in-kind services, staff manpower, and dollars for the project's success

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- Each individual or family received PPE products, cleaning products, paper products, produce, food stuff including meat and prepared meals
- Individual or families picked up or had delivered food and other items three (3) times a week
- The duration was March 2020 – March 2021
- Total served: 3,062 families were served in 2020; 1809 families were served in 2021.
- According to 2020 Partner Impact letter from 412 Food Rescue, GVCS received 39 donations of food totally 27,455 pounds, which is equivalent 22,879 estimated meals and a \$68,638 retail value.

Example 2:

Violence Prevention

GVCS provides programming to the ages of 0 to 80+. All our programs, special events, and services fall under the pillars of Health and Wellness, Family, and Education. The Violence Prevention program is a part of the Health and Wellness pillar and must be ‘feet on the ground’ to prevent and reduce the violence in our communities.

In 2021, Violence Prevention Coalition becomes a program at GVCS. The development of a coalition to program has been vital for our community. There was some concern in the Braddock and surrounding areas about the unrest in the schools, youth not having anything to do, and just hanging out. In 2019, this youth getting in trouble activity became real when one of GVCS board member’s son was killed by gun violence. GVCS saw firsthand the effects that this senseless death had on parents, siblings, classmates, etc. A 16-year-old was shot senselessly. Sadness and bereavement turned into action by the creation of HOOP (Helping Out Our People) Alliance. This is a coalition of families from the Woodland Hills School District (WHSD) that have children dying from gun violence,

In 2020, GVCS and For Good-Pittsburgh, both non-profits in Braddock and community advocates, brought many other organizations and advocates to the table to discuss strategies to halt the violence in our neighborhoods. The end results are local government, police, school officials, nonprofits, and community advocates meet to find workable solutions to prevent or stop community violence and met monthly.

Grants were applied for and not received; some of the faces changed around the table; and the leadership changed. The monthly meetings still happened, and intervention of potential violence situations were stopped because core volunteers said they will not have this violent behavior in our community.

Here are some of the outcomes to date:

- An average of 25 meet each month for Violence Prevention. The April 2022 meeting had 33 attendees.

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- The average for the HOOP meeting is 19 monthly.
- Money has been secured from Jay Costa and PCCD to pay personal.
- Community coalition leadership has CURE trained.
- A mentorship has been established called Breathe Life. The attendance is 18 young males (15-24); approximately 60-65 services offer to this group monthly.
- Specific outcomes for the first quarter in 2022:
Number of mediations performed by violence interrupters/outreach workers during the reporting period are **12**

Number of individuals engaged by violence interrupters/Outreach worker during reporting period **100**

Number of individuals engaged who are considered “High Risk” for violence perpetration and/or involvement during the reporting period...**50**

Number of participants referred for case management during reporting period **8**

Number of interventions leading to positive outcome (e.g., change in attitude /behavior, decision to not engage in violence.) **10**

10. Provide two examples of how the Community Quarterback has successfully convened stakeholders, built partnerships, and coordinated large-scale initiatives.

Example 1

The Creation of SURGE (Technology program for middle and high school students)

GVCS provides programming to the ages of 0 to 80+. All our programs, special events, and services fall under the pillars of Health and Wellness, Family, and Education. SURGE is part of the Education pillar and has given learning opportunities to our community youth.

Jocelyn K. Gleib in a book *Maximize Your Potential* states ‘*To make great ideas a reality, we must act, experiment, fail adapt, and learn on a daily basis.*’ So was the case of the program that is currently known as SURGE. The beginning of SURGE was small conversation with a grand idea. There was a need to have a TECH program for the Woodland Hills students in a safe environment. GVCS looked at it two different ways, 1) Educational benefits do change depending on the zip code and 2) Technology needs a diversified workforce. Our research showed that a shift was needed with educational opportunities for the students in our school system.

The project started by finding funding, space, and instruction for the development of such a program. In May 2018, we received a grant to purchase technological equipment from Best Buy, Remake Learning Pittsburgh, and purchasing equipment from the now closed Art Institute. The same year, GVCS moved into its second site. This move gave us designated space for the tech program which was remodeled. We continue to raise funds for the programs. Financial backing

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came from two grants from Poise Foundation, New Sun Rising, and private donors who heard our pitch all over the Pittsburgh area. That is when we named the program SURGE. Surge means a sudden powerful forward or upward movement.

The first run of SURGE was in August 2020. SURGE was slated as a tech/workforce development program aimed in developing the skillset of youth in the Pittsburgh region. We found instructional partner that was committed to the prospect of this program. We partnered with Paradigm Global Innovations (PGI), The pilot program work with 13 community youth under Braddock's Learn and Earn division. We partnered with small businesses in the Braddock area, and we were able to develop professional needs while learning applicable skills. Logos and website were developed for the use of the local business needs.

Currently, for the last two summers, GVCS and PGI have offered a variety of tech instruction through SURGE. The second summer, we had 20 students and as the third summer of instruction begins, we anticipate 20 youth. The program is now in the after-school program for older students.

Stakeholders

- The youth, employees of the technology program
- Terri's Berries (Braddock small business)
- Woodland Hills School District
- Propel School District -Braddock Hills
- Poise Foundation
- New Sun Rising Ignite Vibrancy
- RK Mellon Foundation
- Greater Valley Community Services Inc.

Partnerships

- Paradigm Global Innovations
- Learn and Earn
- Carnegie Library of Braddock
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- Duquesne University tutors

Outcomes:

- 2020- 13 students attended for summer, pilot program
- 2021 – 39 students attend GVCS out of school time
- Current classes taught: Character Development with Avatars, Character animation and 3D digital sculpting, 3D Sculpting with 3D Pens, Computer Safety Research, 3D Digital Sculpting, T-Shirt Designing and Painting, Programmable Robotics and Roblox Esports Planning
- Blend of staff from GVCS and PGI facilitating the student in program.

Example 2

Golden Living (Senior group)

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GVCS provides programming to the ages of 0 to 80+. All our programs, special events, and services fall under the pillars of Health and Wellness, Family, and Education. The Senior group is a part of the Family pillar and is a growing addition to GVCS.

One of our smaller and very effective groups is Golden Living. This senior program serves as a gateway to the nation and local aging network. They connect older adults to vital community services that can help them stay healthy and independent.

In Braddock, the senior population (ages 50-80+) is 49.3% according to the recent census data. The participants of this group have a usual connection to each other and have a responsibility to their community. It's a bonding time for the seniors in a safe environment. This program meets twice a month during the year.

Golden Living is a group of community adults over 50 years old. Their current activities include preparing meals, recreation, creative arts, and volunteerism to enhance their well-being, recreation, and friendships. The seniors participate in inter-generational activities, speaker series that included Medicare and will preparation. For the seniors that have health restrictions, special needs, and immunocompromised, GVCS delivers food and other items to the seniors. During the COVID, they could not come in the building, but we did a weekly check on each member.

Stakeholders

- The membership of Golden Living
- Art therapist on site
- Greater Valley Community Services Inc.

Partnerships

- GIFT-Pittsburgh
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- Carnegie Library of Braddock
- Allegheny County Department of Aging
- PA. House of Representative Summer Lee's local office
- Medicare broker
- Lemington Fund for Black Seniors

Future Goals:

- Increase the membership (20 attend regularly)
- Include senior trips
- Purchase a Van to facilitate the physical needs of the seniors
- Provide a diversified programming
- Obtained funding for the senior program.
- Implement Senior to Senior Program (Senior Citizens connected with High School and/or College students).

11. Describe the Community Quarterback's organizational structure and how the CVRP responsibilities will fall and be managed within it. Please include:

- a. The staff positions needed to implement the CVRP and if you will need to hire and/or reassign staff.

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- i. If the Community Quarterback will hire staff, include the education and/or experience you will require and the traits you will emphasize in hiring decisions.
- ii. If the Community Quarterback has already identified individuals to staff the CVRP, include their names and a short description of their qualifications.
- b. Examples of specific strategies the Community Quarterback uses to retain staff.
- c. How the Community Quarterback uses IT to track and report service delivery data and outcomes.

i. CURE Violence Global and the coalition will form a hiring panel to hire seven violence interrupters, two case managers, and one administrator. The hiring efforts will be for:

Case Manager (two) Position title is Outreach Workers that perform Master's degree in social work, counseling, education, or other relevant human service profession, with two years' experience in children and family services

Trained, culturally-appropriate outreach workers work with the highest risk to make them less likely to commit violence by meeting them where they are at, talking to them about the costs of using violence, and helping them to obtain the social services they need – such as job training and drug treatment.

Access Highest Risk – Workers utilize their trust with high-risk individuals to establish contact, develop relationships, begin to work with the people most likely to be involved in violence.

Change Behaviors – Workers engage with high-risk individuals to convince them to reject the use of violence by discussing the cost and consequences of violence and teaching alternative responses to situations.

Provide Treatment – Workers develop a caseload of clients who they work with intensively – seeing clients several times a week and assisting with their needs such as drug treatment, employment, leaving gangs. Required to do daily documentation.

Violence Interrupters (seven) Interrupters leverage their reputation and street credibility to disrupt the cycle of violence. Some qualifications needed, but not limited to, are demonstrated experience in conflict mediation, problem solving skills; dealing with a diverse population; strong communication skills; and identify and diffuse 'hot spots' for shooting and violence; commitment to community outreach work.

Administrator (One parttime) – a support position to the Violence Prevention program. This position requires a commitment to the program and its mission; outstanding communication skills, skilled in working with diverse population of people. Some qualifications needed, but not limited to, design, implement, and conduct ongoing reports with outcome and process data; maintain quality improvement and evaluation plan; oversee and execute administrative tasks.

ii. Lee Davis/Director

Trained in the Cure Model as a supervisor and has been in the violence prevention field in the City of Pittsburgh, North Braddock, Braddock, Rankin, McKeesport, and Clairton areas; over 17 years as a outreach worker, program coordinator, supervisor, trainer, national consultant/advisor, and program developer. Mr. Davis lives in the Woodland Hills area.

Jalal Black/Outreach Worker (case manager)

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Trained and worked under the CURE model for 3 years as an interrupter and outreach worker and has extensive knowledge and training in all levels of the model.

Godfrey McCrae/Outreach Worker (case manager)

Trained and worked under the CURE model as an interrupter for three years

b. The goal of the hired staff is to prevent and reduce violent behavior in our targeted communities. Then provide mentorship and opportunities to mentees. This could be an overwhelming job. As the quarterback, the hiring model is to retain trusted, qualified staff and the avoid burn out. The strategies used to retain our staff are providing professional development training in violence prevention; providing an inclusive work environment; flexible work schedules, equipment and competitive salaries and incentives.

c. A mobile app will help achieve the goals of the Violence Prevention Community Collaborative and those involved in the common goal. The applications vary in different shapes and sizes, and have many different functions, depending on what a business is after. The purpose of using a collaboration app within the violence prevention team will strengthen trust amongst colleagues and provide while allowing stakeholders to stay up to date with the progress of the work we are all involved in, to notify each other of any change or pressing issues. This will allow for greater collaboration and engagement.

12. Describe and provide examples of how the Community Quarterback is committed to providing high-quality services to all individuals and families so that everyone with feels welcomed, well-served and supported regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), intellectual or physical ability, English language proficiency or life experiences.

GVCS, acting as the Community Quarterback for the neighborhoods of Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, and Turtle Creek for its violence prevention program brings continued commitment and demonstrated evidence of quality programming. We have a warm, welcoming, safe, secure environment at our SPACE. In 2021, we served close to 13,000 individuals. We are an organization that has impacted our community by rebuilding and empowering the lives of children and families.

Our staff have gone through *Toward Equity*, a SOGIE training that provides comprehensive, interactive training lessons designed to increase competence about sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, while providing practitioners with increased knowledge, tools, and resources for working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in the juvenile justice system.

GVCS continues their professional development in the following certifications: PRIDE (2013) and TRIPLE P (2020). In 2021, GVCS staff will pursue obtaining its certification in the Strong African American Families (SAAF) program under the Center for Family Research at the University of Georgia.

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

In 2015, we had a family from Nepal that was in crisis of losing their home and their children. The family faced an extreme barrier. The family could not speak English. There was a service gap that put our family more at risk. Our staff used apps to help translate between for all parties until we were able to connect the family. We also included interpreters from their local culturally based community center, came up with an appropriate safety plan, helped the family communicate with their landlord, and connected them to mental health professionals. Due to our dedication, the family was able to be eliminated from crisis level services and therefore stabilized.

2021 to current date, GVCS was one of the off sites to help individuals who needed help with the paperwork to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). ERAP was implemented because of higher unemployment rates from the effects of COVID 19. Regardless of age, race, sex, class, gender, economic status, etc., our trained staff assisted all persons who were going through a difficult time. We offered professional instruction with care and respect. From March to December 2021, GVCS served 489 persons to prevent them from being evicted. In 2022, we served 251 persons until the end of the program. Currently, we still are answering questions and submitting paperwork for those in need to secure their housing.

D. Budget and Participant Estimates (10 points possible)

13. Complete the following chart for all violence reduction strategies that you are asking DHS to fund. (Add rows as necessary. **Please do not** provide a budget, just the number of participants by strategy, by year.)

Strategy Name	Estimated number of participants served	
	Year 1	Year 2
CURE	40	60
Enter Strategy Name	40	60
Enter Strategy Name	Enter Number	Enter Number
Enter Strategy Name	Enter Number	Enter Number
Enter Strategy Name	Enter Number	Enter Number

14. Provide a line-item budget for the Community Quarterback's coordination work for years one and two. Include a narrative to explain the line-item budget.
- Please do not** include any program costs. For example, if the Community Quarterback will be implementing BAM, do not include those costs. Just include expenses and revenues related to the Community Quarterback's coordination.
 - Please do** include additional revenues you can bring to the CVRP. List the sources and amounts of money local government, community-based organizations, foundations or other entities will contribute during the first two years.

Personnel Expenses		
Program Manager	\$65,000.00	\$66,950.00
Case Manager (2)	\$84,000.00	\$86,520.00

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Violence Interrupters (4)	\$168,000.00	\$173,040.00	
Violence Interrupters (3)	\$114,000.00	\$117,420.00	
Administrative Coordinator	\$32,000.00	\$32,960.00	
Fiscal / HR Assistant	\$24,000.00	\$24,720.00	
Payroll Taxes 8%	\$37,040.00	\$40,128.80	
Employee Benefits	\$100,800.00	\$113,904.00	Medical, dental, etc (Year 2 13% increase)
Staff Training	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	CPR, First Aid Etc
Total Personnel Expenses	\$627,340.00	\$658,142.80	
Operational Expenses			
Travel / Mileage	\$65,000.00	\$66,950.00	Mileage
Cell phones	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	5 phones
Hardware (laptops)	\$12,000.00	\$3,500.00	
App Development Software/Programs	\$65,000.00	\$25,000.00	Year 2 maintenance
Furniture / Equipment	\$7,500.00	\$1,500.00	desks, chairs, ile cabinets
Utilites	\$10,200.00	\$10,506.00	using 2 locations
Printing and Publications	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
Mentoring Program (Prevention)	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Bookkeeping/Payroll Services	\$3,880.00	\$3,996.40	
Activities	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	Monthly Community & Youth E
Total Operational Expenses	\$213,080.00	\$156,952.40	
Subtotal	\$840,420.00	\$815,095.20	
Offsetting Revenue			
GVCS In-Kind	43,400	44,702	Office Space, , Supplies, phone
Total Offsetting Revenue	43,400	44,702	
Total Agency Indirect Admin Expenses	797,020	770,393	

3% Living Wage increase for year 2

BUDGET NARRATIVE FOR Violence Reduction/Prevention

May 2022

PERSONNEL EXPENSES	SALARY (year 1)	SALARY (year 2)
DIRECTOR of Violence Prevention (1 - FULLTIME) Leadership of the Violence Reduction and Retention Program in Braddock and targeted communities. Duties include, but not limited to:	\$65,000.00	\$66,950.00

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan the day-to-day and week-to-week activities with and for the outreach staff • Plan and hold daily meetings to review current shootings and assess what additional interventions are needed • Connect with additional resources from neighboring communities to get needed support, when necessary • Supervise staff of outreach workers and violence interrupters, including daily communication with each staff • Outreach to the community to build strong relationships with youth, residents, businesses, and community groups • Coordinate interview panels to hire outreach and violence interrupter staff • Increase staff visibility when shootings/killings take place (developing networks with other outreach program workers to coordinate an inclusive and immediate strategic response) • Works closely with Violence prevention staff to develop formalized Violence Prevention Plan • Investigate causes of shootings/killings to assist in mediating situations and preventing retaliation between individuals and groups (working with the community, outreach programs and local law enforcement to gain information that may be helpful in preventing additional killings) • Identify and diffuse "hot spots" for shootings and violence • Attend and participate in meetings regarding Violence prevention issues • Overall coordination with the program manager of all staff reports. 		
<p>CASE MANAGERS (OUTREACH WORKERS) (2-FULL-TIME) Under the direction of the director. The case manager will provide, at a minimum, weekly one-hour, home-based family therapy sessions to clients. Therapist will be required to carry a caseload of 35 families each. Master’s degree in social work, counseling, education, or other relevant human service profession, with two years’ experience in children and family services</p> <p>Trained, culturally-appropriate outreach workers work with the highest risk to make them less likely to commit violence by meeting them where they are at, talking to them about the costs of using violence, and helping them to obtain the social services they need – such as job training and drug treatment.</p> <p>Access Highest Risk – Workers utilize their trust with high-risk individuals to establish contact, develop relationships, begin to work with the people most likely to be involved in violence.</p>	<p>\$84,000.00</p>	<p>\$86,520.00</p>

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

<p>Change Behaviors – Workers engage with high-risk individuals to convince them to reject the use of violence by discussing the cost and consequences of violence and teaching alternative responses to situations.</p> <p>Provide Treatment – Workers develop a caseload of clients who they work with intensively – seeing clients several times a week and assisting with their needs such as drug treatment, employment, leaving gangs. Required to do daily documentation.</p>		
<p>INTERRUPTERS (7 FULL TIME)</p> <p>Under the direction of the Director. Trained violence interrupters prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community and following up to ensure that the conflict does not reignite.</p> <p>Prevent Retaliations – Whenever a shooting happens, trained workers immediately work in the community to cool down emotions and prevent retaliations – working with the victims, friends and family of the victim, and anyone else who relates to the event.</p> <p>Mediate Ongoing Conflicts – Workers identify ongoing conflicts by talking to key people in the community about ongoing disputes, recent arrests, recent prison releases, and other situations and use mediation techniques to resolve them peacefully.</p> <p>Keep Conflicts ‘Cool’ – Workers follow up with conflicts for as long as needed, sometimes for months, to ensure that the conflict does not become violent. Required to do daily documentation.</p>	\$282,000.00	\$290,460.00
<p>Administrator Coordinator (1 part-time)</p> <p>Support position to the Violence Prevention program. This position requires a commitment to the program and its mission; outstanding communication skills, skilled in working with diverse population of people. Some qualifications needed, but not limited to, design, implement, and conduct ongoing reports with outcome and process data; maintain quality improvement and evaluation plan; oversee and execute administrative tasks</p>	\$32,000.00	\$32,960.00
<p>Fiscal/HR Assistant</p> <p>Greater Valley Staff providing fiscal and human resources support and compliance for this program.</p>	\$24,000.00	\$24,720.00
<p>Payroll Taxes 8%</p> <p>Percentage withheld from an employee's pay by an employer who pays it to the government on the employee's behalf.</p>	\$37,040.00	\$40,128.80
<p>Employee Benefits</p> <p>Benefits provided to employees in addition to their base salaries and wages. A complete employee benefits package may include health insurance, life insurance, paid time off (PTO), profit sharing, retirement benefits, and others if determined.</p>	\$100,800.00	\$113,904.00

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Staff Training Training and development to employees allows employers to pinpoint the knowledge and skills they want their employees to have, i.e., CPR< First Aid, etc.	\$2500.00	\$2500.00
Total Personnel Expenses	\$627,340.00	\$658,142.80
Operational Expenses		
Travel/Mileage An allowance for traveling expenses at a certain rate per mile. The total miles traveled especially in each period and the amount of service that something will yield especially as expressed in terms of miles of travel	\$65,000.00	\$66,950.00
Cell phones Five cell phones designated to Violence prevention staff for work related calls and services rendered, could be an option for the use of the app.	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00
Hardware Laptops needed for staff for reporting and to work harmoniously with how young people access information and interact with their worlds.	\$12,000.00	\$3,500.00
App Development Software/Programs Tailored made app most frequently refers to a mobile application or a piece of software that is installed and used on a computer, smartphone, etc. for a variety of access to the community	\$65,000.00	\$25,000.00
Furniture/Equipment Desks, chairs, file cabinets that will be used by staff	\$7500.00	\$1500.00
Utilities Paying for gas, light, water, sewage, etc. for 300 Holland Avenue and 609 Jones (sites the staff will be using).	\$10,200.00	\$10,506.00
Printing and Publications Functions of print media are transmission information, entertainment, doing advertising and persuasive through different medias.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Mentoring Program (Prevention) In house mentoring program (Breath Life) outreach programming for 60+ males.	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Bookkeeping/Payroll Services The recording and management of employees' compensation and taxation done by Bookminders Inc.	\$3,880.00	\$3,996.00
Activities Monthly community and Youth Engagement Activities	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Total Operational Expenses	\$213,080.00	\$156,952.40
Subtotal	\$840,420.00	\$815,095.20
Offsetting Revenue		
GVCS in-Kind	\$43,400.00	\$44,702.00

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas

Office Space, Supplies, Land Line phone, etc.		
TOTAL AGENCY COST	\$797,020.00	\$770,393.00



May 2, 2022

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
One Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of For Good PGH, I submit this letter in support of the Greater Valley Community Services Inc. (GVCS) proposal for the DHS Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas proposal.

For Good PGH is in support of Greater Valley's proposal due to its unique position in a community, Braddock, PA that is plagued by the violence this funding seeks to reduce. We have collaborated with Greater Valley on a number of initiatives, most notable for this purpose, the founding of the Greater Woodland Hills Violence Prevention Coalition – which is comprised of local stakeholders and representatives from the local Woodland Hills school district, local government leaders from across the Mon Valley, nonprofit leaders and members of the affected community. This Coalition meets at Greater Valley monthly to share information on violence, identify at-risk youth and develop programming to reduce violence.

This issue is of immense importance to us, because the community that we serve and that surrounds us is one that is directly and repeatedly affected by violence. One of our buildings, the Hollander Project, is home to a nonprofit organization, Helping Our People (HOOP), which is a support group for families that have lost a child to gun violence specifically from the Woodland Hills School District Communities. We see the faces of these lost family members every day – and know that more can be done to alleviate violence. We also know that no organization is better positioned to create and enact policies and programs reduce violence than the people who live and work in these communities.

This proposal will address the complex risk factors for community violence and focus its efforts on neighborhoods disproportionately affected by violence. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with Allegheny County Department of Human Services as we use complementary efforts and activities to reduce Community Violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Michaels', is written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Michaels
Director, For Good PGH

SUMMER LEE, MEMBER
34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
101B EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202034
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2034
(717) 783-1914
FAX: (717) 705-2564

501 BRADDOCK AVENUE, SUITE #105
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FAX: (412) 273-3434



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHILDREN & YOUTH

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS
TREASURER
PLBC WOMEN & GIRLS OF COLOR SUBCOMMITTEE

April 21st, 2022

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
One Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the 34th Legislative District, I submit this letter in support of the Greater Valley Community Services Inc. (GVCS) proposal for the DHS Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas proposal.

Community violence affects millions of people, and their families, schools, and communities every year. The proposed evidence-based project will complement existing local efforts that are dedicated to serve and reach out to impacted communities. This includes educational programs, individual and family care/intervention, support, and resource opportunities.

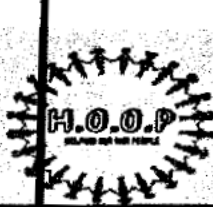
The 34th Legislative District is in support of DHS's proposal due to its alignment with efforts to prevent gun violence in the community. The proposal's intention is to address the complex risk factors for community violence and focus its efforts on neighborhoods disproportionately affected by violence.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with Allegheny County Department of Human Services as we use complementary efforts and activities to reduce Community Violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Summer Lee".

Summer Lee
State Representative
34th Legislative District



4/19/2022

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
One Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Helping Out Our People (HOOP), I submit this letter in support of the Greater Valley Community Services Inc. (GVCS) proposal for the DHS Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas proposal.

Community violence affects millions of people, and their families, schools, and communities every year. The proposed evidence-based project will complement existing local efforts that are dedicated to serve and reach out to impacted communities. This includes educational programs, individual and family care/intervention, support, and resource opportunities.

HOOP is in support of DHS's proposal due to its alignment with our efforts to support gun violence intervention and education throughout our communities. Also, with our support and commitment to healing and providing resources to our community violence and focus its efforts on neighborhoods disproportionately affected by violence.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with Allegheny County Department of Human Services as we use complementary efforts and activities to reduce Community Violence.

Sincerely,

Jullian Turner
President

Swissvale/Braddock Wolverines

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Email: SBWOLVERINES@GMAIL.COM



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Email: SBWOLVERINES@GMAIL.COM

Allegheny County Department of Human Services

One Smithfield Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of The Swissvale-Braddock Athletic Association Wolverines (SBAA) youth football organization, I submit this letter in support of the Greater Valley Community Services Inc. (GVCS) proposal for the DHS Community Violence Reduction Plans from High-Priority Areas proposal.

Community violence affects millions of people, and their families, schools, and communities every year. The proposed evidence-based project will complement existing local efforts that are dedicated to serve and reach out to impacted communities. This includes educational programs, individual and family care/intervention, support, and resource opportunities.

The SBAA is in full support of GVCS 's proposal as that organization's mission compliments the SBAA ongoing role in the gun violence scenario, which is to prevent the confrontation from even occurring via daily football practice and implicit community recognition of the football field as a "safe haven"/gun-free zone. The proposal's intention is to address the complex risk factors for community violence and focus its efforts on neighborhoods disproportionately affected by violence.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with Allegheny County Department of Human Services as we use complementary efforts and activities to reduce Community Violence.

Sincerely,

Lorne Berry, President

Swissvale-Braddock Athletic Association

April 13th,2022