

# Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP)



## Program Descriptions and Goals

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP) was created on July 17, 2006. OYVP reflects priorities identified by City Council to build a more family-friendly city and increase public safety and reflects the emphasis on attacking the root causes of problems in neighborhoods, rather than simply focusing on policing efforts.

OYVP coordinates with pro-social resource services, provides and manages grant funding and enjoins the community in problem solving. OYVP offers research information and facilitates communication associated with best practices and grant funding opportunities to supplement local resources. OYVP works with city bureaus, county, state and federal services, business, schools, and the faith community to provide consistent policy input, guidance, and advocacy to address youth violence.

OYVP facilitates the bi-weekly Community Peace Collaborative Public Forum which seeks to inform community, increase communication and coordinate resources and expertise to reduce the many forms of violence, and crime.

OYVP serves in co-chairing the Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee. The subcommittee is committed to collaborating and communicating across systems and with affected communities. The subcommittee's vision is a violence-free, opportunity-rich future for every member of our community. Its mission is to reduce youth and gang violence, reduce related disproportionate minority contact, and lessen the disproportionate negative impacts of gang violence on communities of color. The subcommittee implemented and completed the Multnomah County Comprehensive Gang Assessment in 2013 / 2014. The resulting strategic plan was approved by the LPSCC Executive Committee in 2017. The plan serves to align City and County intervention and prevention programming based upon nationally recognized and recommended program models. All OYVP programming supports and aligns with the approved plan.

OYVP collaborates with communities and institutions to eliminate racial inequity. OYVP supports the City's 5 Year Racial Equity Plan through the facilitation of the bi-weekly Community Peace Collaborative Public Forum (CPC), additionally by serving as a stakeholder at the bi-weekly held Interfaith Peace and Action Collaborative (IPAC) and other community meetings. Finally, OYVP through the provision of grant funding and the selection of programming models continues to strengthen outreach, public engagement, and access to City services for communities of color, as well as immigrant and refugee communities.

## Explanation of Services

- **Defining the context.** The Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP) reflects priorities identified by City Council to build a more family-friendly city and increase public safety and reflects the emphasis on attacking the root causes of problems in neighborhoods, rather than simply focusing on policing efforts.
- **Description of activities.** OYVP serves as grant manager for the following pro-social resource programs: Street Level Gang Outreach (SLGO); Gang Impacted Family Team (GIFT) Coordinator; and Restorative Justice Program. The grant programs provide pro-social resources to at risk youth, and their families, creating an investment in Portland's livability and economic future.

Youth being served through OYVP managed programming are persons 25 years or younger.

Grantee organizations include: Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Latino Network, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC), and Resolutions Northwest. These grantee organizations provide a multitude of culturally specific services to Portland's youth and families through the listed OYVP grant programs.

- SLGO workers build relationships with youth and their families with specific goals in mind: to reduce conflict and violence, to support and assist youth and their families in accessing social and educational services, while providing services as a mentor, life coach, positive role model, advocate, and mediator. SLGO workers funded by OYVP provide service City wide while coordinating services with SLGO workers funded through the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, TriMet and the City of Gresham. OYVP hosts weekly meetings for all SLGO serving in the Portland and Gresham area to assist in the alignment of services.
- GIFT is a collaborative multi-disciplinary team involving City, County, State and private non-profit organization services. The team was created to provide pro-social service support for youth and families to break intergenerational ties that perpetuate gang involvement and violence within the community. The GIFT Team meets monthly. OYVP is a GIFT stakeholder service. The GIFT coordinator connects client resources and need for resources with SLGO workers, clients receiving treatment at Legacy Emanuel Hospital, and HEAT reentry program. The GIFT Coordinator is a member of the LPSCC Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee and Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Collaborative.

- In school year 2016-2017 to date in 2018-2019 grantee organization Resolutions Northwest Inc. (RNW) has provided Restorative Justice implementation planning and support at the district level of the Parkrose School District. The focus has been to offer professional development to administrators, teachers and staff to build capacity within the system to effectively reduce disproportionate exclusionary practices that impact students of color. In school year 2017-2018 59 combined meetings, trainings and events were conducted by RNW with school administrators, teachers, and students.
- OYVP in addition provides small grants, under \$5000, sponsoring pro-social culturally specific programming for youth involving education, mentoring, and recreation opportunities.
- Additionally, OYVP has provided funding to the post incarceration / reentry program entitled HEAT (Habilitation, Empowerment, Accountability, Therapy) through Volunteers of America Oregon (VOA). The funding provides incentive for HEAT program enrolled clients, to encourage those clients to complete the 9-month program. OYVP, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, and GIFT Coordinator are stakeholder services assisting VOA with the HEAT program.
- OYVP coordinates with the Multnomah County Court, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, faith and community leaders in providing court probation clients with pro-social mentoring meetings as a client elective. 8 probation clients have contacted OYVP and been aligned with community mentors to date in FY 2018-2019.
- **Program results.** Since OYVP has aligned service models and methods of service delivery through LPSCC's Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee a substantial reduction in gang related gun violence has occurred. The Portland Police Bureau investigated 193 incidents of this type in 2015. In 2018 110 cases of this type were investigated, resulting in a 43% reduction in these cases, many of which have involved youth of color as victims. OYVP is continuing to research new pro-social service delivery methods which will continue to offer future reduction in youth and gang related violence.
- **Community engagement.** OYVP facilitates the bi-weekly Community Peace Collaborative Public Forum, the mission of which is to increase communication and coordination among services and community to further the development of solutions, interventions and prevention strategies to reduce violence. OYVP

attends the bi-weekly community led and facilitated Interfaith Peace and Action Collaborative (IPAC). IPAC's purpose is to gather as members of faith, community, business, and law enforcement to discuss and create action to improving police/community relations and impact the criminal justice system at-large to ultimately ensure real justice for all.

Through the two listed reoccurring meetings community members enjoy in dialogue, while seeking solutions for the reduction of gun-related and other types of violence, better enabling OYVP to match service to community expressed need.

### Equity Impacts

- Programming managed by OYVP supply pro-social resources and services to communities of color and the underserved.
- OYVP observes The Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of Portland and Multnomah County, adopted by the City of Portland in 2006, which is made available on the OYVP webpage.
- OYVP's grant managed programs provide culturally specific services to communities of color and those underserved.
- OYVP provides reoccurring community engagement opportunities for communities of color, while networking public concerns with public and private resources through the facilitation of the Community Peace Collaborative Public Forum. Additionally, OYVP provides facilitation and or enjoins as a stakeholder in meetings or events supporting communities of color.
- OYVP small grant funding (under 5K) sponsors private non-profit organizations offering programming to youth of color. 8 small grants were provided during FY 2017-2018.
- Listed grantee organizations (IRCO, Latino Network, NAYA, POIC, Resolutions Northwest) are equal opportunity employers, and honor their obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state disability laws.
- Listed on the OYVP web pages, "It is the policy of the City of Portland to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or source of income. Such discrimination poses a threat to the health,

safety and general welfare of the citizens of Portland and menaces the institutions and foundation of our community”

- Listed on OYVP email, “The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-1125, Relay: 711. (503) 823-1125”
- OYVP grantee organization IRCO employs experienced language specialists locally and nationally. IRCO adheres to American Translators Association (ATA) standards.