
CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Establishing the Ecosystem: A Vision for Community Violence Intervention (CVI) in Baltimore Comprehensive Update

In April 2022, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement outlined long- and short-term goals for expanding Baltimore's Community Violence Intervention ecosystem as part of the [*Establishing the Ecosystem: A Vision for Community Violence Intervention \(CVI\) in Baltimore*](#) report. Over the past year, the Scott Administration has made tangible progress toward cultivating a CVI ecosystem that approaches violence as a public health issue by identifying the cause or risk factors associated with violence, determining how to prevent violence, implementing effective strategies on a larger scale, and evaluating their impact on outcomes for Baltimoreans across the city.

Progress Update on Shorter-Term Commitments

➤ **Finalize contracts and process payments for organizations in the CVI ecosystem.**

To date, MONSE has invested \$7.3 million in competitive and directly selected grants to organizations playing a role in Baltimore's CVI ecosystem including:

- *CVI Ecosystem Partners (CVI practitioners): 8 contracts totaling \$2.55 million;*
- *Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Response (CNSR) service providers (CVI community outreach): 3 contracts totaling \$225,000;*
- *Victim Services: 8 contracts totaling \$3.025 million;*
- *Youth and Trauma : 19 contracts totaling \$1.5 million.*

The agency has also awarded \$1,545,752 to support hospital-based violence intervention programming in five hospitals across Baltimore in FY23.

Following Mayor Scott's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan commitment to establish 30 CVI-related contracts, MONSE has awarded 44 CVI-related contracts to date.

➤ **Roll out Safe Streets Baltimore Operations Manual.**

Over the last year, MONSE has implemented changes to strengthen the program including developing the first-ever CVI operations manual to unify operations across all ten sites; increasing support from MONSE to oversight partners and site staff through technical assistance and training opportunities; increasing the salary floor for site staff and instituted cost of living adjustments; and developed a new Apricot case-management system, tailored to needs of Baltimore and allowing for more detailed reporting of program result.

➤ **Begin Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) training for area hospital administration and staff.**

MONSE is partnering with The HAVI to offer HVIP training opportunities and technical assistance through the Coalition to Advance Public Safety.

➤ **Develop and initiate centralized CVI training opportunities.**

MONSE has developed a robust training track for the frontline community violence intervention workforce, including but not limited to Stop the Bleed, Conflict Mediation, Trauma-Informed Care, Financial Literacy and Leadership training.

Progress Update on Longer-Term Commitments

➤ **Use landscape analysis, violent crime data, and BPD top 30 posts for violent crime to identify where CVI partner organizations are needed to strategically build the ecosystem.**

MONSE established a partnership with the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, which is leading efforts to survey community-based and grassroots organizations across Baltimore, with a focus on identifying strengths and gaps in the existing network of providers and organizations serving residents.

➤ **Establish formal school-based violence intervention partnership with Baltimore City Public School System.**

MONSE has been leading efforts to establish school-based violence intervention pilot programs in three Baltimore City public schools — Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School, Carver Vocational Technical High School, and Digital Harbor High School — and is currently in the implementation phase, with operations slated to begin in the fall.

School-based specialists will work with youth, school administrators, and families to shift community norms about the acceptability of violence, create a positive school climate, and strengthen students' problem-solving and conflict management skills. MONSE will partner with Catholic Charities, who will serve as the operator of the pilot program.

➤ **Develop a 5-year career pathway for frontline CVI workers.**

MONSE, in partnership with site administrators, has identified training opportunities and career pathways for Safe Streets Staff. We are working with a variety of partners such as the University of Baltimore and the City's Community Action Partnership Centers to provide professional development. In addition, LifeBridge and Catholic Charities offer a range of training and growth opportunities for staff to transition into new roles within their respective organizations.

➤ **Assess academic evaluation of CVI.**

In March 2023, Dr. Daniel Webster of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health released the second-ever evaluation examining the efficacy of the Safe Streets program from its inception in 2007. The evaluation found that the weighted average of program effects across all sites estimated a statistically significant 23% reduction in shootings associated with program implementation.

➤ **Make determinations around a potential future RFP process for Safe Streets.**

MONSE will use the completed landscape analysis, firearm-related violence data by neighborhood, updated BPD posts, and programmatic impact data from calendar year 2023 to determine if an RFP will be released for FY25.