
CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) Quarterly Public Report

FY23 - Quarter 2

Period: October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

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FY23 Q2 of MONSE's Framing Year

In Quarter 2 of its Framing Year, MONSE has made great strides in continuing to implement Baltimore's comprehensive public safety strategy. From further deepening interagency partnerships through the expansion of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy, to establishing the first-of-its-kind internal data and reporting system, MONSE remains rooted in community-based, holistic solutions.

As the agency embarks on Quarter 3, it will focus on:

- Expanding and streamlining victim services;
- And streamlining community-based funding protocols to increase the capacity of community-based organizations to play a role in the work of violence prevention, including executing contracts for Community Violence Intervention ecosystem service providers.

Agency Formation and Hiring

This quarter, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement onboarded staff in the following roles across the agency:

- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Court Liaison** (Victim Services)
- **Visitation Center Program Lead** (Victim Services)
- **Victim Services Manager** (Victim Services)
- **Community Engagement and Opportunity Manager** (Community Engagement and Opportunity)
- **Re-Entry Coordinator** (Community Engagement and Opportunity)
- **Grant Writer** (Finance)

MONSE is preparing to onboard additional staff who have accepted offers for the following roles, starting work in the next quarter:

- **Policy and Research Associate Director**
- **Victim Services Associate Director**
- **Community Engagement and Opportunity Associate Director**

MONSE Quarterly Updates - By Lane

Gun Violence Prevention

MONSE's Gun Violence Prevention team develops strategies to shift the culture of gun violence in Baltimore City, with a focus on partnerships and coordination. MONSE engages high-risk communities in the pursuit of prevention and intervention in violence that could result in a shooting or homicide.

In this quarter, MONSE's Gun Violence Prevention team:

- Successfully piloted Baltimore's Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) in the Western Police District, closing out the quarter with a 38 percent decrease in homicides and non-fatal shootings in the Western. This includes: Overseeing the strategy's delivery and planning for citywide scaling; Planning the weekly cycles for shooting reviews with BPD to share information and identify the people who the strategy will focus on; Managing weekly coordination meetings with BPD, community partners and service providers to stay in close communication about the people engaged by this strategy and their needs;
- Announced expansion of GVRS to the Southwestern District in Quarter 1 of 2023 and full scale by mid 2024;
- Reported 2,207 Safe Streets Baltimore mediations at the end of 2022;
- Fully transitioned Living Classrooms Foundation Safe Streets sites to new administrator LifeBridge Health;
- Onboarded inaugural Community Violence Intervention Advisory Board members;
- Completed trainings for eight Safe Streets cohorts;
- Transitioned all Safe Streets sites to Apricot data system;
- Deputy Director of CVI, Crystal Miller, attended and spoke on a panel at the National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit Conference (11/17-11/19) on Alternative Response: Finding the Right Balance;
- Onboarded Baltimore Health Corps fellow to support implementation of school-based violence intervention program and CVI portfolio.

Victim Services

Every shooting and violent incident leaves behind a web of trauma – for the victim, as well as bystanders, families, neighbors, and even the perpetrators of violence.

MONSE's Victim Services team has laid a foundation for intentional coordination with a trauma-informed approach, which is now supported by a fully-staffed lane.

In this quarter, MONSE's Victim Services team:

- Hired and onboarded a Victim Services Associate Director, Intimate Partner Violence Court Liaison, Visitation Center Program Lead, and a Victim Services Manager;
- Coordinated multiple seamless relocations of an gun violence-related victims achieved via collaborative partnerships and coordinated handoffs from community-based partners and BPD to MONSE Victim's Services team;
- Established a centralized contact system for victims in Baltimore City to reach out to MONSE for services;
- Completed Intimate Partner Violence training needs assessment survey;
- Completed Maryland Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) Certification training for three members;
- Continued serving families impacted by intimate partner violence at the Baltimore City Visitation Center;
- Continued to support families in need of services through CNSR efforts;
- Received notification of new grant awarded from GOCCP (\$100,000) for Project EASE to continue through the Domestic Violence Center grant program.

Community Engagement and Opportunity

Dedicated to the co-production of public safety in all of Baltimore's neighborhoods, the Community Engagement and Opportunity team partners with residents, community-based organizations, institutions, businesses, and City agencies to stem the tide of violence, while simultaneously unearthing its root causes.

This team leads the agency's collaborative efforts in youth justice, re-entry, community healing, social and emotional development, coordinated neighborhood stabilization response, and other associated work.

MONSE's Community Engagement and Opportunity team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Hired and onboarded a Community Engagement and Opportunity Associate Director and Re-Entry Coordinator;
- Served nine youth in SideStep Pre-Arrest Youth Diversion pilot in the Western Police District and secured a community-based workspace at the Center for Urban Families for MONSE's Youth Opportunity Coordinator.
- Continued piloting Neighborhood Policing Plans (NPPs) with the Fayette Street Outreach/Penrose and Brooklyn/Curtis Bay communities, in partnership with BPD, and hosted a community walk with the Fayette Street Outreach community association.
- Served over 668 residents across three Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Responses (CNSR).
- Announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for Baltimore community-based organizations to serve as service and referral partners for the SideStep Youth Diversion program.
- Began to develop a process and protocol for a soft launch with the ability to make modifications as needed for the Returning Citizens Behind the Wall Initiative;
- Finalized Re-entry Action Council (RAC) plan;
- Conducted first of three Naloxone training for MONSE staff.

Policy and Research

MONSE's Policy and Research team is also responsible for developing and pushing Mayor Scott's legislative agenda as it relates to public safety. This team will also be home to the agency's in-house data capacity, which will be stood up in the next quarter.

MONSE's Policy and Research team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Hired and onboarded a Policy and Research Associate Director;
- Hosted one Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) meeting;
- Presented Public Safety Accountability Dashboard to the CJCC;

- Conducted five public feedback sessions for the Public Safety Accountability Dashboard;
- Fully integrated Safe Streets program measures to the Apricot 360 data management system;
- Conducted Apricot training for all Safe Streets Baltimore staff.

Finance

The Finance team ensures that MONSE has the necessary funding to support the agency's work associated with implementation of the CVPP and the work of community-based organizations and service providers. This team works to expand the potential network of funding available for neighborhood safety.

This team provides programmatic and fiscal management of the grants that support community-based organizations and service providers; manages the contracts and fiscal needs of MONSE; works with the City's Procurement Office, Chief Solicitor, Audits Office, and Board of Estimates to ensure all contracts are being executed properly; and identifies and compiles potential funding for immediate and future support.

MONSE's Finance team has accomplished the following this quarter:

- Hired and onboarded a Grant Writer;
- Received notification of new grant awarded from GOCCP (\$100,000) for Project EASE to continue through the Domestic Violence Center grant program;
- Announced fourth round of ARPA awards to community-based organizations totaling \$500,000;
- Held community grant reviewer meeting to evaluate fifth round of ARPA awards;
- Worked closely with the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) to ensure appropriate accounting for the Mayor's \$50 million violence prevention investment;
- Prepared and submitted the FY24 Budget Proposal for the agency.

ARPA Violence Prevention Investment

MONSE is dedicated to the co-production of public safety in all of Baltimore's neighborhoods, through partnerships with Baltimore's residents, community-based

organizations, institutions, businesses, and agencies to stem the tide of violence, while simultaneously unearthing its root causes.

Mayor Scott announced \$50 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding over the next three years to MONSE to fund violence prevention efforts, including community violence intervention, victim services, youth justice, re-entry, and community healing. This investment will support essential components of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS), expand Baltimore's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) ecosystem and victim services, and fund re-entry programs and trauma-informed practices.

Between July 1, 2022 - October 31, 2022, MONSE made the following funding announcements:

Announced	Organization	Grant Amount	Strategy
MONSE Competitive Grant Portal Applicants			
10/05/22	Art with a Heart Inc.	\$25,000	Youth Justice - Art with a Heart, Inc. works to provide engaging, educational, and interactive visual arts classes to under-resourced Baltimore residents. In order to achieve its mission, Art with a Heart works to harness the benefits of arts education to cultivate positive, long-lasting changes in the lives and communities of its students.
10/05/22	University of Maryland, Baltimore	\$250,000	CVI - The Collaborative: University of Maryland (social work faculty, staff, and police officers) will work with credible messengers to provide street-based outreach and service provision within the footprint of Eutaw to MLK and Baltimore to Saratoga to address poverty, drug use, mental health issues, unemployment, violence, and crime. Stakeholders include people who are housing insecure, unemployed, people engaged in the sale or use of drugs/alcohol, people at high risk of violence, and people who are experiencing mental health challenges.
10/05/22	HTP Homes	\$50,000	Re-Entry - HTP Homes' 18-month construction skills program equips at-risk young adults and justice-involved citizens who lack traditional academic credentials, have limited work experience, or are returning citizens, with in-demand skills to acquire jobs in the construction field.

10/05/22	BCIITY (Baltimore City Intergenerational Initiative for Trauma & Youth)	\$25,000	Community Healing - BCIITY's coalition members provide a wide range of trauma-informed care, community-based, and culturally responsive mental health services that reflect both mainstream and non-traditional practices. Developing a pilot "Ecosystem Relationship Management" (ERM) platform that would be able to track and segment participants, providers, partners, and other stakeholders to analyze how various parts of the system connect, identify gaps and missed opportunities, and identify where interventions and/or resource allocation could have the greatest impact on youth mental health.
10/05/22	Libraries Without Borders	\$25,000	Community Healing - In partnership with the Black Mental Health Alliance (BMHA), LWB US will pilot the Baltimore Crown Project. This two-year, community-based initiative will offer mental health resources in barbershops and hair salons in Baltimore City.
10/05/22	Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE)	\$50,000	Victim Services - AWE will provide social, academic, and vocational support services to foreign-born minor and young adult trafficking survivors in Baltimore. AWE will create the Steps to Success program to address the unique challenges faced by minor and young adult trafficking survivors. Steps to Success will promote positive social engagement and support academic and vocational achievement for trafficking survivors between the ages of 15 and 24. Through trauma-responsive social inclusion activities and academic and vocational support, AWE aims to provide survivors with the necessary tools to successfully navigate their new communities.
10/05/22	Holistic Life Foundation, Inc	\$50,000	Community Healing - HLF provides yoga and mindfulness education for underserved students and residents in the Baltimore community and beyond. Their comprehensive approach helps individuals develop their inner lives through yoga, mindfulness, and self-care. To initiate and advance community healing, HLF proposes offering yoga and mindfulness classes in Baltimore area drug treatment centers and homeless shelters. This four-year project will utilize HLF instructors to teach participants yoga practices and mindfulness techniques on location.

10/05/22	The Community Builders	\$25,000	Youth Justice - TCB aims to establish safety, connectedness, and support among youth, and community members through the following objectives: Promote community healing and positive engagement, build social cohesion, and foster intergenerational understanding between youth and adult residents. Achieved by implementing monthly youth violence reduction initiatives with 60 youth and ten collaborative partners. Youth undergoing training are not only learning de-escalation techniques and building their capacity to reduce violence among peers; they are duly reflecting on their mental process surrounding this issue by engaging in self-reflection.
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ARPA grant applications submitted to MONSE’s Grants Portal are reviewed by Community Grant Reviewers, a group of 18 Baltimore residents with diverse backgrounds and who have relevant expertise and experience in MONSE’s funding priority areas. Grant applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis based on funding availability.

Grants and Contracting

MONSE received Board of Estimates (BOE) approval for the following contracts, grant award acceptances, and agreements:

October 19, 2022

- **Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services - \$68,869 Grant Award (Term: 07/01/22 - 06/30/22).** *The Board is requested to approve and authorize acceptance of a Grant Award from the State of Maryland, Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The period of the award is retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.*
- **National League of Cities - \$700,000 Grant Award (Term: Upon BOE Approval Through 05/31/24).** *The Board is requested to approve and authorize execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National League of Cities Institute (NLCI). With support from the Wells Fargo Foundation, NLCI’s Reimagining Community Safety Initiative will provide cities with technical assistance, evaluation support and pass-through grant funding to support local safety work. Building upon “A Path Toward Safety and Equitable Cities” and “A Toolkit for Cities and Towns” – the two reports developed by NLC’s Reimagining Public Safety Task Force – this initiative will advance and support City efforts to*

rethink local systems of public safety and move toward more equity and community driven safety/violence prevention plans.

- **Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. - \$250,000 Agreement (Term: 07/01/22 - 12/21/22).** *Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. was selected as a vendor to operate one of the Safe Streets sites. This agreement is to award a six month contract with Park Heights Renaissance, Inc. to render violence reduction services in Baltimore City. The provider agrees to use the techniques set forth in the Agreement as the “Cure Violence/Safe Streets Model,” which is a public health strategy aimed at reducing gun violence in Baltimore.*
- **Community Law In Action (CLIA) - \$50,000 Agreement (Term: One Year from BOE Approval).** *The purpose of this Agreement is for the provider to offer programming that develops youth participants as leaders with activities related to college/career planning and civic engagement.*
- **Roberta’s House - \$50,000 Agreement (Term: One Year from BOE Approval).** *The purpose of this Agreement is for the provider to implement a curriculum that integrates health, art, and experiential learning to cope with grief. In addition, the provider will conduct 12 good grief workshops for 200 students.*
- **Mission Fit, Inc. - \$25,000 Agreement (Term: 07/01/22 - 06/30/23).** *The purpose of this Agreement is for the provider to offer programming that uses movement, community, inclusion, and wellness to provide resources for personal growth and healing. In addition, the provider seeks to reinforce communities that face high incidents of trauma with the capacity for self-healing while building fortitude against retraumatization.*

October 5, 2022

- **University of Pennsylvania - \$604,181.21 Agreement (Term: 07/01/21 - 06/30/22).** *The purpose of this Agreement is to provide comprehensive technical assistance to assist the City, the States Attorney’s Office (SAO), and the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) in the planning, implementation, evaluation and institutionalization of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS). The University provided direct technical assistance, training, technology, research services, and subject matter expertise to assist the City, including BPD, SAO and the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, in developing, implementing and evaluating this strategy.*
- **Living Classrooms Foundation, Inc. - \$250,000 Agreement (Term: 07/01/22 - 10/31/22).** *Living Classrooms Foundation, Inc was selected as a vendor to operate one of the Safe Streets sites. This agreement is to award a four-month*

contract with Living Classrooms Foundation, Inc to render violence reduction services in Baltimore City. The provider agrees to use the techniques set forth in the Agreement as the “Cure Violence/Safe Streets Model,” which is a public health strategy aimed at reducing gun violence in Baltimore. The Provider will cease operations on September 30, 2022 and initiate closeout procedures through October 31, 2022.

- **Family Health Center of Baltimore - \$250,000 Agreement (Term: 07/01/22 - 12/31/22).** *Family Health Center of Baltimore, Inc. was selected as a vendor to operate one of the Safe Streets sites. This agreement is to award a six-month contract with Family Health Center of Baltimore, Inc to render violence reduction services in Baltimore City. The provider agrees to use the techniques set forth in the Agreement as the “Cure Violence/Safe Streets Model,” which is a public health strategy aimed at reducing gun violence in Baltimore.*
- **House of Ruth Maryland, Inc. - \$189,600 Agreement (Term: 10/01/21 - 09/30/22).** *On March 2, 2022 the Board authorized acceptance of a grant award for the “City of Baltimore, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and High-Risk Task Force” (award #13329633) by the U. S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025. The primary purpose of this four-year grant is to re-establish Baltimore City’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT), a multidisciplinary team that will partner to provide an interagency and coordinated community response to prevent deaths and near deaths related to intimate partner violence. Additionally, the grant will provide funding for personnel and administrative resources in support of a data-driven review and analysis of the high-risk assessment and response protocols currently utilized in Baltimore City. The goal of this evaluation will be to identify gaps and recommended solutions designed to increase the safety of victims and the accountability and supervision of high- risk offenders. The House of Ruth Maryland will provide direct oversight for the administrative assistant funded by this grant in support of deliverables and collaborative activities as outlined in the Scope of Work. The annual salary for this person will be \$40,000.00 plus reimbursement for 18.5% for fringe benefits totaling up to \$47,400.00 as outlined in the Budget.*
- **Challenge2Change, Inc. - \$100,000 Agreement (Term: One Year from BOE Approval).** *Challenge2Change seeks to develop partnerships with a variety of public and private schools to help provide communities with a pipeline of services through in school and out of school programming. Fusion Partnerships will act as the Fiscal Sponsor for Challenge2Change.*

- **We Rise - \$25,000 Agreement (Term: One Year from BOE Approval).** *The purpose of this agreement is for the provider to implement mentorship for juveniles moving into occupations that provide a living wage through programming. In addition, the provider will offer workforce programs to reduce delinquency and increase earnings.*