



Chicago
**CRED ANNUAL
REPORT**
2021
CREATE REAL ECONOMIC DESTINY

Dear Colleagues –

Following a horrific increase in shootings and homicides in 2020, 2021 was another devastating year for gun violence in Chicago – we ended the year with over 800 homicides, a 25 year high. While these numbers are heartbreaking and unacceptable, I ended the year with a renewed sense of purpose in Chicago CRED's mission and a humble but hopeful appreciation of what we have accomplished together.

Notably, in 2021 CRED and our partners provided comprehensive services – outreach, therapy, mentoring, education, and training – to nearly 240 men and women to support their transition away from violence and toward a safer way of life. This brings our total number of participants served to over 650 since our inception five years ago.

Additionally, CRED led the development and implementation of several innovative city-wide initiatives, all aimed at reducing violence in communities across the city. FLIP (training and engaging high-risk individuals to keep their areas calm), 2020 VISION (engaging rappers and influencers to spread messages of safety), and On Call Peacekeepers (having a reserve of outreach workers who can be deployed as needed) have all proved effective and taught us valuable lessons in 2021. We plan on refining and expanding these efforts in future years.

Finally, CRED worked toward two related policy goals: increased public investment and the creation of community-based violence reduction infrastructure. 2022 will mark the third consecutive year that Chicago has seen a doubling in public resources to support the work of our partners in the community (\$28 million in 2020, \$59 million in 2021, \$118 million anticipated in 2022). CRED also supported the development and passage of the Reimagining Public Safety Act, which creates the state-level Office of Firearm Violence Prevention. This office will use a data informed approach and resources from the American Rescue Plan to partner with state agencies to develop and implement a robust network of violence prevention practitioners.

While our work is far from over, I approach 2022 with confidence and commitment in our work making Chicago a safer place to live, work, and raise families. I look forward to our continued work together in 2022 and beyond.

Arne Duncan
Founder, Chicago CRED
Managing Director, Emerson Collective

DIRECT SERVICES

Since launching in September 2016, CRED has served over 650 participants

CRED Participants Served by Location	TOTAL 9/1/16 - 12/31/21
Roseland & West Pullman Includes Youth Peace Center, 95 th St, Mobile Units, CRED Women's Center, CRED South Youth Program	496
North Lawndale Includes 5000 West and N. Lawndale Satellite Office	157
Total Participants Served	653

Program Participant Services	TOTAL 9/1/16 - 12/31/21
# of Participants who Received High School Diplomas	140
# of Participants who Received Educational Services	372
# of Participants who Received Therapeutic Services	500
# of Employment and Training (E&T) Job Placements	312
# of E&T Training Placements	170
# of Emergency Housing Placements (as of 11/1/21)	49
# of Permanent Housing Placements (as of 11/1/21)	18

“I’m just gettin’ tired of being lost. I wanna better myself and I’m getting to the age where I’m supposed to be either ... It’s now or never to me.”

—CRED participant



CRED-Funded Partners have served over 230 participants

2021 Programmatic Highlights

Facing a rising tide of gun violence, Chicago CRED staff worked directly with those at highest risk of being engaged in gun violence, providing hundreds of young men and women with critical services. At seven locations across multiple South and West side neighborhoods, teams of outreach workers, therapists, tutors, life coaches, and job coaches worked together to ensure every program participant received high-quality care and consistent support.

CRED outreach workers used data to help identify violent hot spots, which are areas within a community where gun violence is most likely to occur. This data assisted our frontline staff as they responded to shootings, negotiated peace agreements between rival groups, and recruited young people to join the Chicago CRED program. Participants who enroll in CRED programming receive educational services, trauma recovery and cognitive behavioral interventions, life coaching, and if ready, access to employment training and job placement.





In Roseland, CRED broadened our services to reach women with gender responsive approaches as well as younger teens who are engaged in violence. Women participants demonstrated tenacity and resilience, with 95% currently working or attending school. In the fall, they traveled to New Orleans and partnered with the NOLA Tree Project, providing over \$140,000 in free services to communities impacted by Hurricane Ida.

“They the same as me. The mentors, they been there. They been there where I been. When I was workin’ at a job, sure they—most of them ain’t never been there, ain’t never been— did what I did.”

—CRED participant





In North Lawndale, Chicago CRED expanded to launch of a brand-new program site. Our Westside team shared in the spirit of community service, organizing numerous events such as the “Trunk or Treat” giveaway at Penn Elementary. Reinforcing this community approach, our service model expanded to include families. Our family case manager conducted dozens of home visits, connecting households to valuable resources and support.



At our employment and training center, CREDWORKS, a new entrepreneurship course is being offered this year. To help participants prepare, our education department, which has helped over 175 men and women earn their high school diplomas, will continue offering academic support. Our clinical team will provide weekly therapeutic services and collaborate with job coaches to ensure multiple levels of care are being provided throughout the experience.



At Chicago CRED, we recognize that ending gun violence requires a collective effort. That is why, this year we are focused on building strong partnerships, including a new multi-agency coordination effort. By aligning our efforts, this coalition of dedicated violence prevention teams will collaborate across communities to help create a safer Chicago.



“I got a diploma. Now I got a job. I’m gettin’ paid to do what’s right. You can’t beat it. I just feel like if I didn’t do it, I’d be cheatin’ myself.”
—CRED participant





PARTICIPANT PROFILE

CRED participant Jevon Standback spent much of his youth in the Fernwood and Roseland communities. In October of 2019, he caught his case. While that might have defined his life, Jevon chose to change and moved forward in another direction. He was referred to Chicago CRED by a friend in November of 2019.

Today, he is a college graduate with a BA degree in Social Work and Criminal Justice. He credits Chicago CRED with offering him the resources and support that he needed along his journey. As a part of the CRED program, Jevon was already pursuing his college degree online when he was offered the opportunity to intern at Wonderlic as a business analyst. "I was intimidated but it was something different and I wanted to expand my thought process."

He is currently considering applying to schools to earn his master's degree and would like to have a career as a lawyer. He talks to others about the CRED program and would like to see programs like it throughout the city. "In the hood, if you can't see it, you can't imagine it. This opportunity gave me a chance to come out of that bubble." Jevon is determined to help others in his community see that choosing to change, while challenging, can put them on a path to a better life.

"It made me feel like—it's really people that care about you. You will be thinking, like, 'man'—you know, all the stuff people say—'nobody care about me.' I think some of these people here probably care about you more than your own family, man. They make you feel like you somethin'. It gives you motivation to push."

—CRED participant



Illinois General Passes the Reimagining Public Safety Act

The Illinois General Assembly passed the Reimagining Public Safety Act (RPSA) during its 2021 spring legislative session. The Act brings together the community intervention strategies that emerged first with leadership of the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities (PSPC) consisting of more than 50 philanthropic entities, including Chicago CRED. Over the past five years, these strategies have also informed City of Chicago and Cook County's approaches to violence reduction.

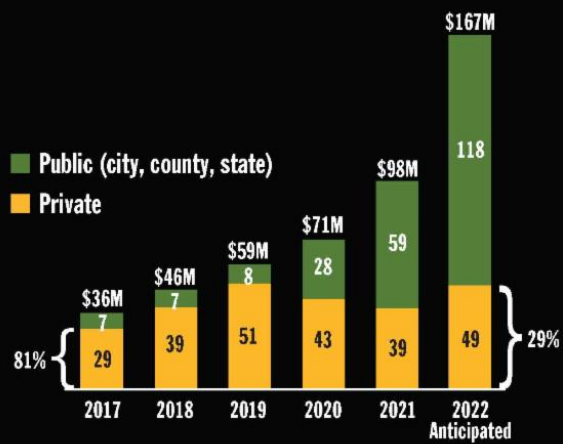
The Act establishes the first State-level Office of Firearm Violence Prevention and data-informed guidelines for the statewide distribution of funds for violence prevention programming. It mandates an expansion of Medicaid eligibility to reimburse trauma-informed violence prevention services and includes \$50M in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for trauma-informed gun violence prevention programs and outreach. Governor Pritzker has also pledged \$250 million in new funding across the next three years for RPSA. CRED's policy team is supporting the new Office and the Illinois Department of Human and Family Services as subject matter experts on violence reduction.

"I can sit here and talk to guys. We can share our stories and come to solutions, like, 'man, we went through this.' then, you got therapy. You can sit there and just express yourself. You ain't got nobody judgin' you. That's why I be, like, it's a success. It's no judging."

—CRED participant



Investments in Violence Reduction to Serve Highest Risk Individuals in Chicago



City and County Increase Violence Prevention Funding in 2022

With nearly two billion dollars of funding through the American Rescue Plan, the city is making large investments to address housing, mental health as well as gun violence. The FY2022 budget includes an increased investment of \$85 million for violence prevention with \$45 million allocated towards resources for community safety initiatives and violence reduction interventions, \$20 million for youth intervention programs, \$10 million for youth justice diversion programs, and \$10 million for victim support funding.

Cook County has approved an increase in its investments in community-driven and justice initiatives. It has taken the lead on the multi-jurisdictional (City, County and State) coordination of the federal dollars and violence prevention programming and, regularly meets with members of CRED for policy input. CRED also sits on Cook County’s Racial Equity Task Force where the County is seeking advice on how to allocate more than \$100 million in additional funding in neighborhoods beset by violence.

These increased investments in 2022 mark the most recent increase in funds that build upon a five-year trend of growth in public investments for violence reduction efforts. Annual funding has increased by \$111 million since 2017, with public sources now providing nearly three quarters of the total. While this growth in funding is critical and needed, the increased funding in and of itself will not be sufficient to drive down community-level violence. It must be incorporated into a more comprehensive public health approach to transformative violence reduction.

2022 Policy Goals

Chicago CRED will continue to be a resource for the public bodies that have appropriated funding for violence prevention in FY2022 as well as implement strategies to enhance capacity in the community so that hyper-local organizations can access public resources. It is vital that these offices have the capacity to assess statewide service needs, set reasonable standardized outcomes, and distribute funds for programming in time to be impactful in the summer months, when violence peaks. It is equally as important that community-based organizations (CBOs)—potential grantees—have the capacity to receive the funds, build a local workforce, and meet the requirements of the grantor within a very short time frame.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

CRED's Strategic Initiatives team focuses on ensuring high quality of citywide street outreach investments and ground-breaking innovation to bolster citywide violence reduction capacity. Despite previous challenging years in Chicago since the onset of the pandemic, some exciting learnings across Strategic Initiatives offer opportunities to strengthen impacts in 2022 to contribute to greater violence reduction outcomes.

FLIP 4.0

Flat Lining violence Inspires Peace (FLIP) is a place-based violence reduction strategy implemented during summer months when violence peaks in Chicago, across carefully selected hot spot areas that drive neighborhood shootings. FLIP trains and deploys credible men and women from each hot spot area to establish non-aggression agreements between rival groups, and to maintain peace via rapid detection of localized threats and rapid response via conflict mediation efforts to interrupt violence.

In partnership with Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative (N3), eight street outreach partners implemented FLIP 4.0 by training 367 FLIP Peacekeepers (mostly individuals with high-risk profiles) and deploying them across 13 African American and LatinX communities, which account for more than 50% of total shooting victims across the City of Chicago. FLIP 4.0 post-implementation highlights include:

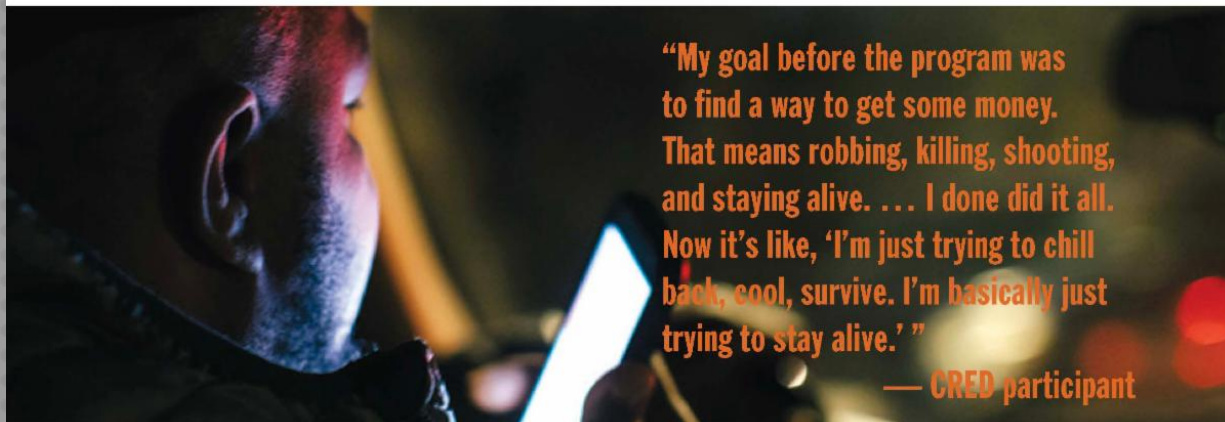
- **84% of FLIP hotspots had zero shootings while Peacekeepers were on duty**
- **54% of FLIP Community Areas experienced a reduction in shooting victims totaling 13.5% compared to 2020**
- **40 Non-Aggression Agreements established between rival groups with nearly 700 conflicts mediated**

“I’m tired of running and ducking and shooting. Boy, I’m tired of this. ... that’s the night that I really decided CRED was for me.”

— CRED participant

2020 VISION 2.0

2020 VISION 2.0 is a social media strategy on three uncensored social media platforms which utilizes local and national influencers to challenge behavioral norms that contribute to shooting victimizations. 2020 VISION features online rap challenges, and its followers are mostly between the ages of 18-35, with many having high-risk profiles. At the end of 2021, a total of 34 influencers supported 2020 VISION and social media analytics revealed explosive growth compared to the initial pilot in 2020 with over 2,200 followers and 500,000 impressions.



On-Call Peacekeepers (OCP)

During Q4 of 2021, OCP was implemented to address group conflicts in areas with no outreach coverage. Unlike FLIP 4.0, instead of set hours and fixed hot spot locations for deployment, OCP can activate a pool of trained peacekeepers who are on-call to proactively assist in the establishment of non-aggression agreements and engage in conflict mediation efforts to stem violence in uncovered areas. Data analysis of this pilot revealed exciting and promising findings:



- **A pool of 38 OCP peacekeepers were trained to support non-aggression agreements and conflict mediations**

All targeted areas saw between 43% and 80% reductions in total shooting victimizations (2021 compared to 2020)

Citywide Outreach Coordination

Citywide coordination of street outreach efforts is critical to build a cohesive and robust street outreach practice with strong standards of practice, and to unify the field with shared violence reduction goals and strategies.

Two critical channels in 2021 used to promote citywide coordination in real time include: weekly Citywide Street Outreach calls and quarterly Citywide Outreach Convenings.

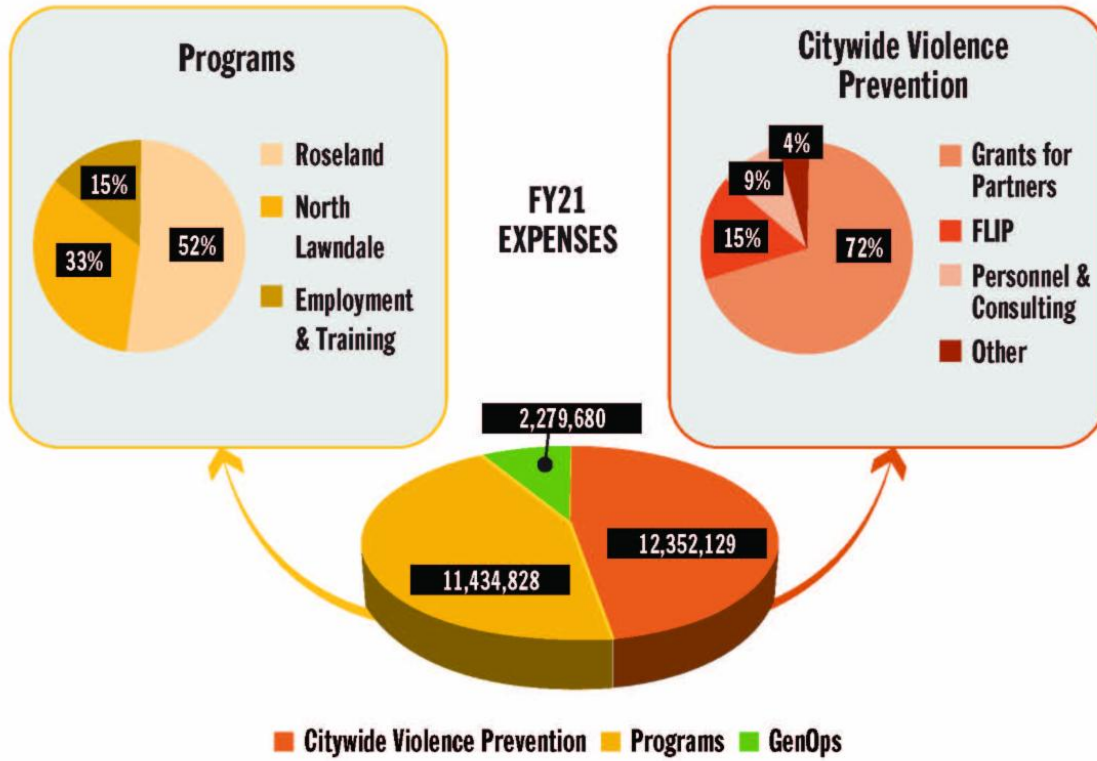
Regional Coordination

Chicago is divided into five police areas. In 2021, Regional Coordination was expanded to three of five most violent police areas (i.e., 1, 2, 4) with plans in 2022 to expand to all five areas. In the three areas, Regional Coordination, facilitated by CRED, convenes a table of diverse violence reduction stakeholders to collectively strategize violence reduction efforts in coordination, thereby disrupting harmful silos that impede progress. Stakeholders include the Mayor's Office, law enforcement, street outreach, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Parks, trauma centers, community violence reduction organizations, and many others. This platform provides an organic space for educating stakeholders about roles and responsibilities and building trust, serves as a mechanism to connect various systems, and creates a sense of collective ownership to address a complex violence problem.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CHICAGO CRED, INC. FY21 PRELIMINARY FINANCIALS



In FY21, we awarded 38 grants for a total of \$9,060,576.