

The background of the entire page features two men standing outdoors in front of a brick building. Both men are wearing dark blue baseball caps with a red 'C' logo and high-visibility safety vests. The vests are dark blue with yellow and silver reflective stripes. The man on the left is smiling and looking towards the right. The man on the right is looking towards the left. The vests have a logo that reads 'Chicago CRED OUTREACH'.

Chicago CRED

CREATE REAL ECONOMIC DESTINY

2026 IMPACT REPORT

PROVIDING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
INTERVENTION (CVI) SERVICES SINCE 2016

IN 2025, CHICAGO EXPERIENCED THE LOWEST LEVELS OF GUN VIOLENCE SINCE 1965

As Chicago CRED and various other CVI partners mark a decade of work in Chicago, we also celebrate historic declines in gun violence. Last year, in fact, our city experienced the fewest number of homicides in 60 years, and we are on track to match those numbers this year. Neighborhoods that Chicago CRED serves are leading the city in declines. CRED Outreach workers have mediated 2746 conflicts and negotiated 29 non-aggression or peace agreements among active street factions.

	Total Shootings 2016	Total Shootings 2025
Citywide	4271	1861  56% decline
CRED West – North Lawndale	281	99  65% decline
CRED South – Roseland, Pullman, West Pullman	285	92  68% decline



[South Side]

CRED Brings Hope To Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman

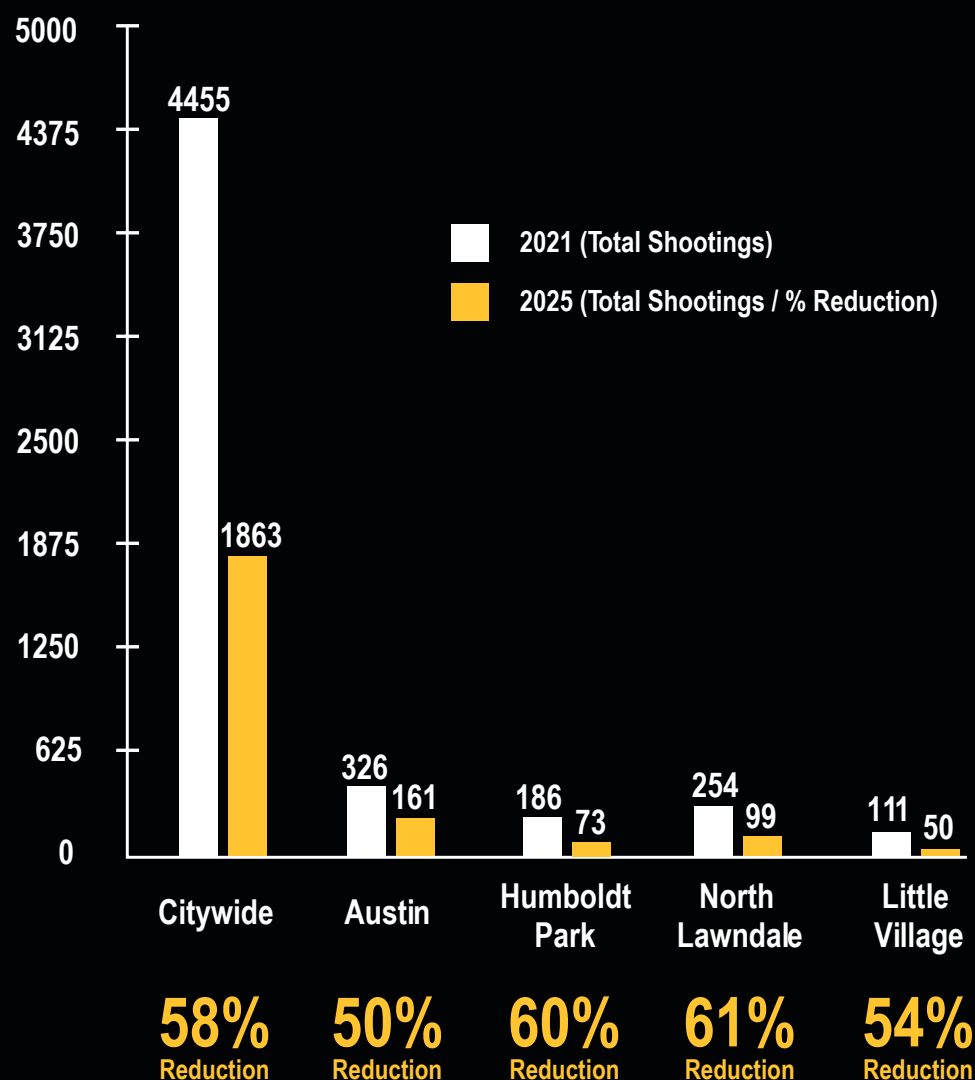
From its founding, Chicago CRED has focused on three South Side communities, Roseland, Pullman and West Pullman, that have experienced some of the worst violence in the city. CRED started in an empty bank building before establishing several stand-alone sites, serving men, women and outreach workers. We also partner with the Youth Peace Center in Roseland. Between 2021 and 2025, West Pullman had the largest net drop in homicides of any Chicago neighborhood, going from 37 to just 7.

[West Side]

Under CRED's Leadership, North Lawndale Is Chicago's First Neighborhood To Take CVI "To Scale."

Chicago CRED has also been active in the West Side community of North Lawndale, which saw the third-largest drop in homicides of any community in the city between 2021 and 2025. Starting in 2021, North Lawndale became the first community in the city to attempt to take CVI "to scale" by serving up to 75 percent of the highest-risk individuals in the community. In 2024, three additional neighborhoods began scaling up CVI as part of a privately funded initiative called SC2, which stands for "Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago." SC2, is helping test the theory that CVI can not only achieve individual-level impact but can also achieve community-level impact. Initial results are promising with SC2 communities leading the city in violence declines.

Four SC2 Communities Account for nearly 500 fewer shootings comparing 2021 to 2025.



INDEPENDENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT CRED AND CVI PARTNERS ARE SAVING LIVES

The Center for Neighborhood Research and Engaged Science (Corners) at Northwestern University partners with Chicago CRED and other CVI organizations to track trends and evaluate programs. Here's what they found:

FEWER ARRESTS AFTER COMPLETING CRED

A 2021 study of CRED alumni found that they were 73.4% less likely to be arrested for a violent crime than people of similar backgrounds who did not go through a CVI program. A 2026 report showed similar findings with alumni approximately 60% less likely to be arrested two years after enrollment.

LESS GUN VIOLENCE SINCE COVID

CRED interventions contributed to significant reductions in gunshot victimization. A 2026 study found that after the COVID-era spike, homicides and non-fatal shootings declined faster in CRED South coverage areas than in comparable control areas without CVI.

SAFER BEHAVIOR IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

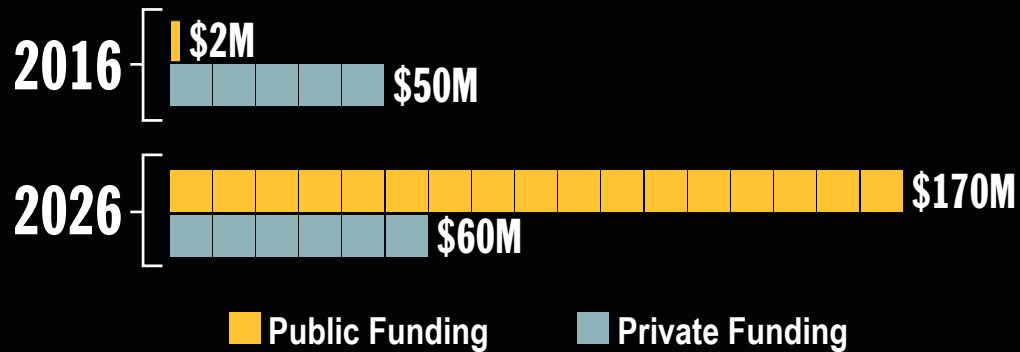
A recent survey suggests that participants enrolled in CVI programs reported reduced conflict escalation, lower exposure to violence, and less gun carrying behavior 4-6 months after starting programming.

“CRED’s model is a leading example of how CVI effectively engages individuals at the highest risk of gun violence involvement. Our longstanding research partnership has also found that CRED helps its participants choose safer lifestyles.”

*– Andy Papachristos, John G. Searle, Professor of Sociology,
Northwestern University*

Building Public Will To Support CVI

Although Chicago CRED takes no public funding, we forcefully advocate for our CVI partners and have helped boost public funding from barely \$2M in 2016 to more than \$170M this year. Our long-term goal is that CVI becomes a permanent, publicly funded feature of Chicago's public safety strategy. At the same time, we have partnered with philanthropy and business to maintain private funding of \$50M to \$60M annually.



Private Funds Drive Innovation; Public Funds Take It To Scale

THE PEACEKEEPERS PROGRAM

The state-funded Peacekeepers Program, in which CVI participants occupy dangerous locations during evening and weekend hours, demonstrates our basic theory of action: private funds pay to innovate, while public funds take proven programs to scale.

Initially funded and developed by Chicago CRED, the Peacekeepers Program (originally called FLIP, which stands for “Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace”) started in just a handful of neighborhoods at an annual cost of less than \$2M. Today, with research showing its effectiveness in reducing gun violence, the State of Illinois funds the Peacekeepers Program in 32 Chicago communities and several more in suburban Cook County and across Illinois.

Today, about 1000 CVI participants receive a stipend to help deter gun violence at hundreds of extremely dangerous locations in Chicago. According to Corners, Peacekeepers:

- Reduced gun violence at occupied locations by 41 percent.
- Reduced gun violence in surrounding communities by 31 percent.



CRED'S CORE SERVICES HELP INDIVIDUALS AT RISK LEAD SAFER LIVES

Chicago CRED was founded in 2016 on a simple theory: to reduce gun violence you must engage directly with those at highest risk of shooting or being shot and offer them a path into the legal economy. Our approach starts with outreach and continues with a life coach, trauma treatment, education and job training. In exchange for a stipend, CRED participants attend classes and programs for 18-24 months to learn to deescalate conflict, heal from trauma, earn education credentials and acquire job skills.

2800 participants served, including
284 women and 341 youth

2300 participants received trauma
treatment and therapy

2000 received life coaching

2000 received non-aggression training

580 earned a high school degree

525 participants placed in jobs



THOSE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM **ARE** **THE SOLUTION.**

THE SWEET SPOT: ARRESTS AND CRIME ARE BOTH DOWN

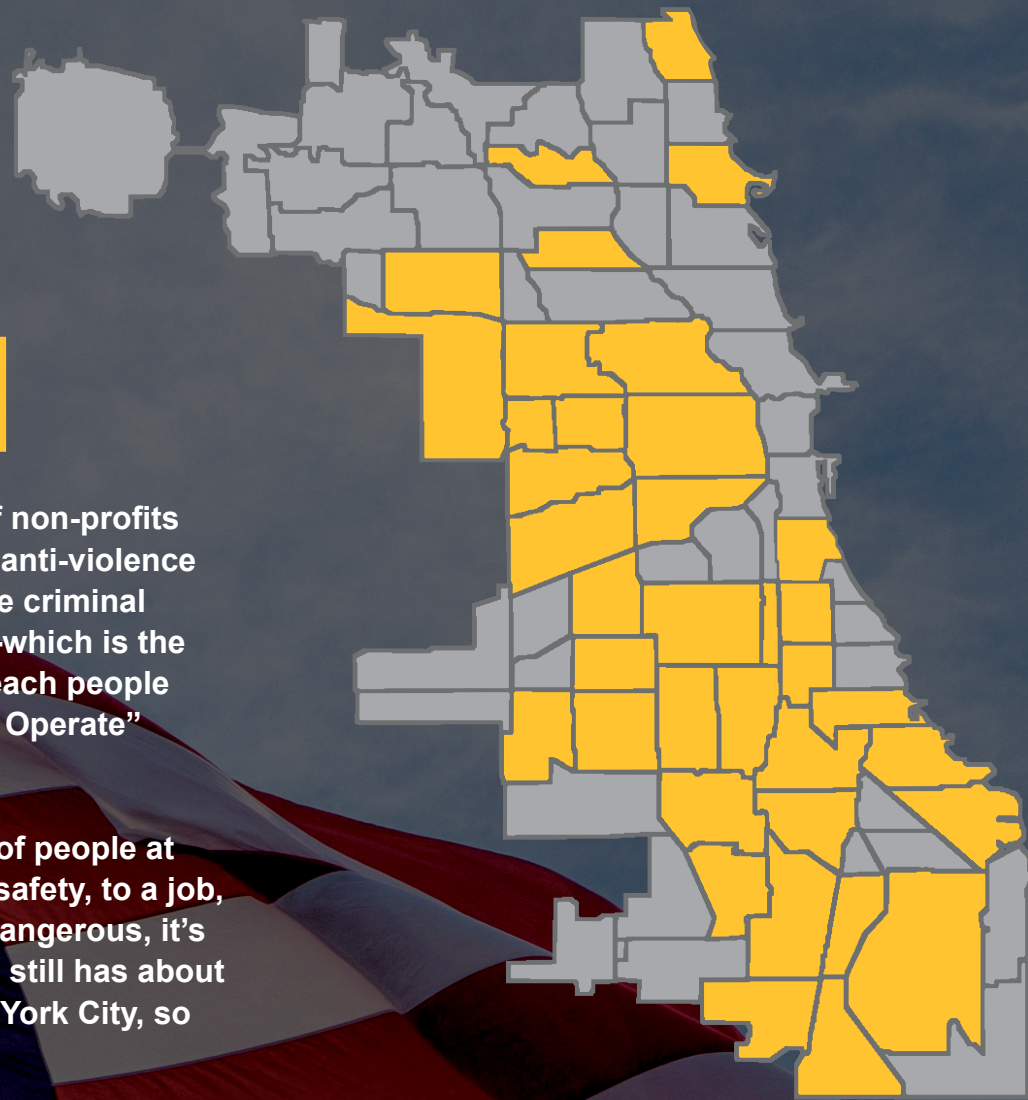
In recent years, Chicago has proven that we do not have to arrest our way out of the problem of gun violence. In fact, arrests today are way below pre-pandemic levels while crime is down in almost every category since 2021. The only logical conclusion is that people are living more safely, which points to CVI.

IN THE FIELD OF CVI, CHICAGO LEADS THE NATION

Today in Chicago, roughly 2000 people work for dozens of non-profits in the field of CVI—one of the most extensive networks of anti-violence organizations in the country. While many CVI workers have criminal backgrounds, they also have something more important—which is the respect and trust of their communities and the ability to reach people with a message of peace and safety. We call it “License to Operate” and it’s the essence of our work.

Collectively, our men and women engage with thousands of people at risk in neighborhoods across Chicago and guide them to safety, to a job, and to stable and productive lives. The work is hard and dangerous, it’s not foolproof, and we are still learning. Moreover, Chicago still has about five times more shootings on a per-capita basis than New York City, so there is much more work to be done.

But the evidence is clear: CVI saves lives and makes our city safer. Leaders at every level of government and the hard-working people of Chicago who pay the taxes and expect a good quality of life in return, should recognize the vital contribution CVI is making and should support a permanent role for CVI in our public safety system.



■ CVI coverage in Chicago
■ City of Chicago