

Gun Violence Prevention

Department of Justice Services and Office of Gun
Violence Prevention

June 11, 2026

Greg Hopkins, Director of Justice Services
Education & Human Services Committee

Thriving Families

Thriving Neighborhoods



**CITY OF
RICHMOND**

Agenda & Objectives

- Updates DJS
- Data: Gun Violence data by demographics and geography
- Funding: Safer Community overview FY 2026
- Programming:
 - Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)
 - Trauma Healing Response Network (THRN)
 - DJS and OGVP Updates



Updates: Department of Justice Services

New Leadership



Greg Hopkins
Director



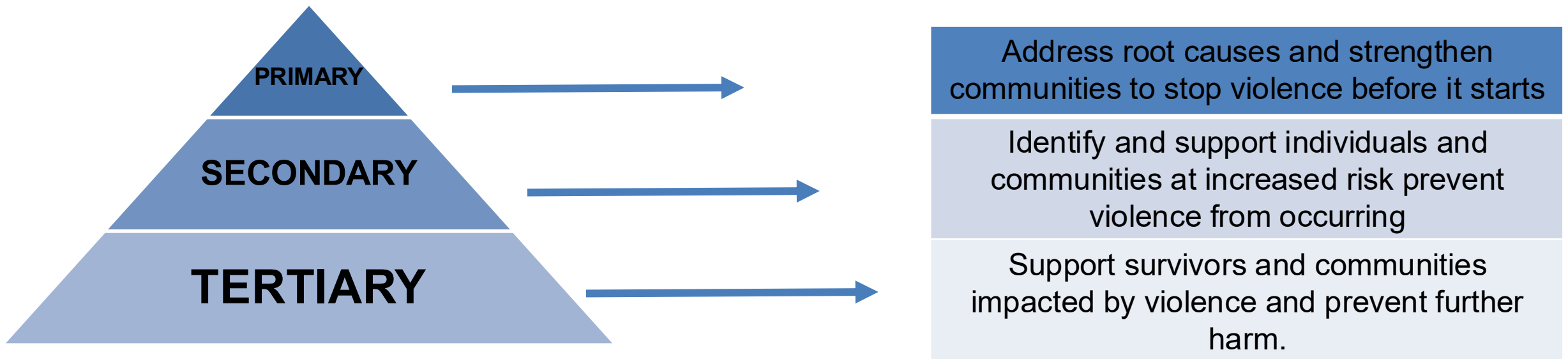
Tracy Matthews
Deputy Director, Sr
Adult Programs



Letta Jones
Superintendent of the
Juvenile Detention Center

Updates: Department of Justice Services

DJS alignment advances a comprehensive, evidence-based, public health approach to reducing gun violence

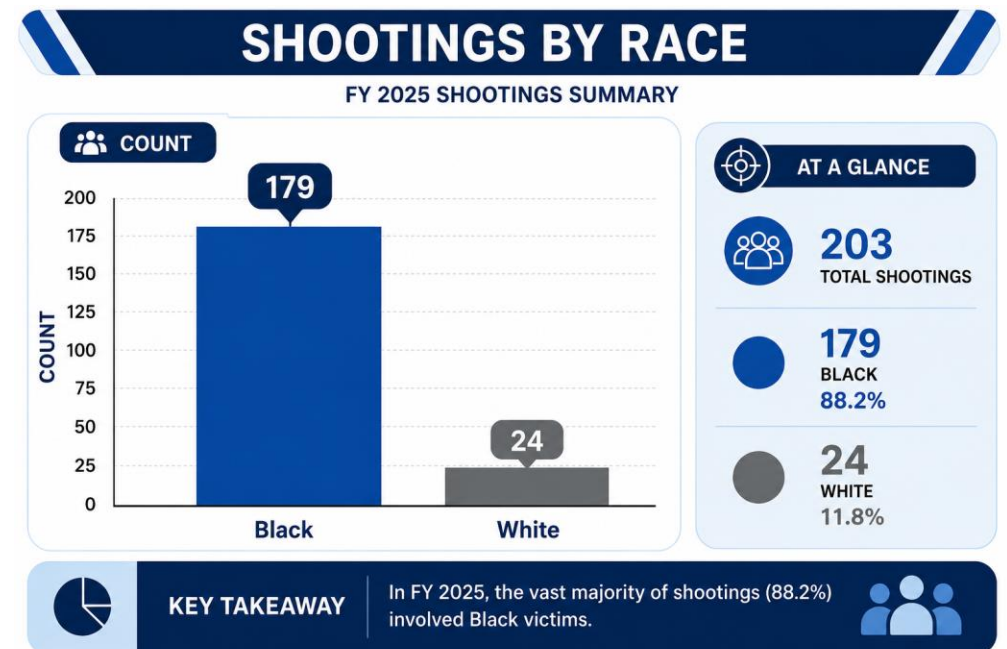


Data: 2025 Observations

Key observations from CY 2025 shootings data:

- Black residents accounted for the majority of shooting victims/incidents represented in the data.
- Males represented the majority of shooting victims.
- East End and Northside districts showed the highest concentration of shootings.
- Young adults and adolescents continue to represent a high-risk demographic.

Key Insight: The data highlights significant racial disparities, reinforcing the need for targeted prevention and community investment strategies

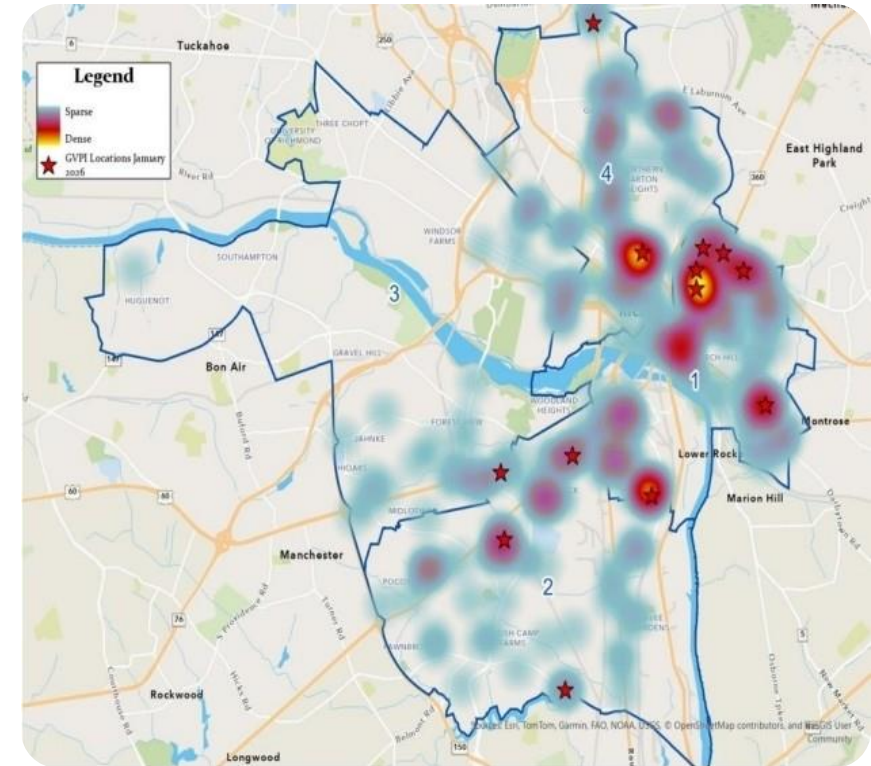


Data: 2025 by Council District

Strategic Opportunities

Priority focus areas moving forward:

- Expand community violence intervention
- Credible messenger outreach.
- Increase trauma-informed response and victim support services.
- Strengthen youth engagement
- Data-driven deployment of resources
- Cross-sector collaboration



Funding: Safer Communities 2026 Overview



SAARA
of Virginia

- The City of Richmond's Safer Communities Grant Program (FY26) is a comprehensive violence reduction initiative funded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.
- Programs continued to align with Richmond's public health approach to gun violence prevention and the GVPI framework of Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, and Healing.
- Collectively, subrecipients delivered youth development programming, culturally responsive outreach, workforce preparation, survivor services, targeted community engagement, data-driven policing support, and trauma-informed healing activities.



Safer Communities 2026 Overview

Based on the submitted FY26 Safer Communities Quarterly Reporting spreadsheet, the following Year-to-Date (YTD) quantitative summary reflects combined activity reported through Q1, Q2, and Q3 reporting submissions.

FY26 Safer Communities Grant Program

YTD Quantitative Summary (Q1–Q3)

Performance Measure	YTD Total
Total Residents Served	16,638
Total Program Activities Conducted	395
Total FY26 Safer Communities Funding Represented in Reports	\$3,219,529



Safer Communities 2026 Overview

Services and activities were delivered across multiple hotspot and priority neighborhoods throughout Richmond, including



• Gilpin	• Mosby	• Whitcomb	• Southwood
• Jackson Ward	• Barton Heights	• Fulton	• Creighton
• Manchester	• Carver	• East Highland Park	• Brooklyn Park Corridor

Safer Communities 2026 Overview

Subrecipient Performance Summary (January – March 2026)

Total Recipients	Focus Areas	Communities Served	Sub Recipients Reporting	Performance Period
3805 	8 	26 	10 	Jan 2026-Mar 2026 

Example



Provide short-term and long-term support services to empower survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence

- 11,726 EmpowerNET Hotline calls received
- 1,238 Emergency shelter bed-nights provided
- 1,152 Counseling session hours for 529 adults & children



Programming: Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act



The Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) is a state law enacted in 1995 to create a community-based system of progressive, intensive sanctions and services for juveniles, tailored to the severity of their offense and their treatment needs. Its goal is to deter crime, hold juveniles accountable, and reduce repeat offending while keeping youth in the community rather than in secure detention.



VJCCCA Fiscal Snapshot for the City of Richmond

Pre- Pandemic

2018 VJCCCA

6 Programs in Operation
563 Youth Served
Total Budget of **\$1,135,175**

2019 VJCCCA

6 Programs in Operation
491 Youth Served
Total Budget of **\$1,268,863**

Post Pandemic

2024 VJCCCA

6 Programs in Operation
351 Youth Served
Total Budget of **\$608,446**

2025 VJCCCA

5 Programs in Operation
289 Youth Served
Total Budget of **\$525,760**

The VJCCCA state allocation has remained unchanged since the program's inception, despite evolving service demands and the increasing complexity of youth needs.



VJCCCA FY26 Program Plan

FY26 Richmond VJCCCA Plan July 1, 2025, through May 2026 YTD

Program Area	Program	# Served YTD
• Public Safety	• Pre-Dispositional	120
	• Outreach Electronic Monitoring	
	• Post-Dispositional Surveillance Services (Community Monitoring)	38
• Accountability	• Community Service Program	57
• Competency	• Decision Points	7
	• Arise (Life Skills)	6
• Prevention	• Virginia Rules	9
	• Broken Men Foundation	7
	• Larceny Reduction	7

Total served

251

13th Court Service Unit Youth Population

Total Intake Cases	865
Diversion Eligible	517
Probation Placements	71



VJCCCA FY27 Program Plan

Key Priorities:

- **New Specialized Services Category** to address unique youth and family needs.
- **Shift from Reaction to Prevention** by focusing on behaviors and risk factors before offenses occur.
- **Greater Investment in Competency Development** through skill-building, family engagement, and positive youth development.
- **Strengthened Collaboration with the Courts** to improve service coordination and outcomes.
- **Focus on Long-Term Success** by reducing recidivism and promoting safer communities.

Vision:

Preparing youth for success through prevention, competency development, and strong court-community partnerships.



Programming: Trauma Healing Response Network (THRN)



- During the FY 2025–2026 project period, the **Trauma Healing Response Network** advanced a community-based model that intentionally builds peace by meeting urgent needs, strengthening healing supports, and connecting residents to trusted partners.
- THRN partners responded to alerts following incidents of firearm violence, coordinated emergency relief requests, conducted wellness checks, facilitated grief/loss support, supported relocation needs, and worked to reduce retaliation risk through trusted messenger engagement and de-escalation.

Trauma Healing Response Network (THRN)

Program Activity/Objective	Program Measure	Target	Actual
Respond to violence-related alerts and urgent community incidents	Number of THRN alert responses logged	Maintain active alert response system	70 alert responses logged
Provide emergency relief and family stabilization support	Number/value of relief requests and funds dispersed	Meet urgent family needs following incidents	126 relief requests; \$35,060 monthly reported dispersed; \$55,550 approved in relief request decisions
Deliver relationship based outreach and wellness checks	Number of wellness checks and family contact	Increase proactive outreach and de-escalation touchpoints	927 wellness checks reported
Reduce retaliation risk through mediation and trusted messenger response	Retaliation risks identified and responses coordinated	Interrupt retaliatory cycles after incidents	8 alerts marked retaliation concern; 23 unclear; 4 retaliations prevented reported
Strengthen healing supports after violence and loss	Number of grief/loss supports and healing spaces	Provide trauma-informed support to impacted families	40 grief support groups, 18 alerts identified grief/loss support needs

Together, these outputs show that THRN helped families move from crisis toward stabilization while creating healing-centered alternatives to isolation, retaliation, and unmet trauma



Trauma Healing Response Network (THRN)

Emergency Relief Response

- Emergency relief requests were routed through dedicated fund partners, including **Faith Community Baptist Church**, **The Hive**, and **Heart for the City**.
- Monthly partner reporting separately captured **\$35,060** in funds dispersed, **91** relief requests submitted, **10** relocations, and **880** families served.



Updates: Office of Gun Violence Prevention

Strategic Evaluation of the Initiatives Related to Gun Violence Reduction:

- **Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize process evaluations
- Track outcomes
- Restructure the six-point framework

Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Program Evaluation:

- **Key Findings:**

- The evaluation found that the three CVIPI programs - **We Matter RVA, Youth Justice, and LIFT Messengers** - are making meaningful progress in engaging youth, building protective factors, and strengthening community connections, while also facing operational and implementation challenges.

Gun Violence Steering Committee:

- The Gun Violence Steering Committee serves as the primary oversight body for Richmond's gun violence prevention strategy, guiding the evaluation, coordination, and continuous improvement of violence reduction initiatives while ensuring investments and interventions are evidence-based, community-centered, and focused on achieving sustainable public safety outcomes.



Next Steps: Office of Gun Violence Prevention

New Grant Funding

- 2026 Operation Ceasefire Grant
Community-based initiatives, such as crime prevention through environmental design and violence interrupter programs

New and Ongoing Initiative

- Initiated contract with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)
- 2027 Safer Funding pending state budget approval.



Next Steps: Department of Justice Services

New Grant Funding

- 2026 BYRNE/JAG Juvenile Detention Centers
Richmond Trauma-Informed Intake Environment Enhancements & Staff Wellness Initiative

New and Ongoing Initiatives:

- **PATH** (Personal Accountability Through Healthier Relationships) Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Conducting a Foundational Assessment of the Community Criminal Justice Board
- Families Rise Against Violence
- Youth Justice (L.I.F.T. Messenger)



DJS & OGVP in the Community



Department of Justice Services

Office for Gun Violence Prevention

Questions?



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