

INTRODUCED: April 11, 2022

AN ORDINANCE No. 2022-107

To amend Ord. No. 2021-040, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to transfer \$82,800.00 from the Non-Departmental agency, Communities in Schools of Richmond, Inc. line item, and to amend Ord. No. 2021-041, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations thereto, to appropriate such \$82,800.00 to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities' Youth Gun Violence Prevention Program Special Fund, all for the purpose of providing additional funding for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities' youth gun violence prevention programming.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: APR 25 2022 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Ordinance No. 2021-040, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted a General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and made appropriations pursuant thereto, is hereby amended by transferring \$82,800.00 from the Communities in Schools of Richmond, Inc., line item in the Non-Departmental agency.

AYES:            8            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

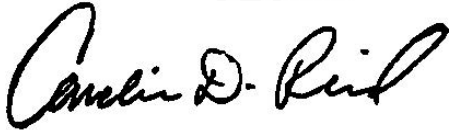
ADOPTED:    APR 25 2022    REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_    STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

§ 2. That Ordinance No. 2021-041, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted a Special Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, and made appropriations pursuant thereto, be and is hereby amended by increasing revenues from the funds transferred pursuant to section 1 of this ordinance by \$82,800.00 and increasing the amount appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreations, and Community Facilities' Youth Gun Violence Prevention Program Special Fund by \$82,800.00 for the purpose of providing additional funding for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities' youth gun violence prevention programming.

§ 3. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

**A TRUE COPY:**

**TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**City Clerk**

RECEIVED

By B L Fore at 3:01 pm, Apr 07, 2022

RECEIVED

By CAO Office at 10:34 am, Mar 11, 2022

2022-052



# CITY OF RICHMOND

## INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

### O&R REQUEST

**DATE:** March 2, 2022

**EDITION:** 1

**TO:** The Honorable Members of City Council

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

Handwritten signature of Levar M. Stoney in black ink.

**THROUGH:** J. E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

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**THROUGH:** Sheila White, Director of Finance

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**THROUGH:** Jason May, Director of Budget

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**THROUGH:** Reginald Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services

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**FROM:** Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Office of Children and Families

**RE:** Amendment to ORD. 2021-269

**ORD. OR RES. No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** To amend the Fiscal Year Budget 2021-22 by reducing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Non-Departmental agency by \$82,800 and re-appropriating these funds to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Youth Gun Violence Prevention Program Special Fund

**REASON:** Program responsibilities have shifted since ORD 2021-269 was approved in October, and so funds currently appropriated to Communities in Schools must be re-appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities so that the terms of the grant may be fulfilled.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval is recommended by the City Administration.

**BACKGROUND:** In May 2021, the Office of Children and Families submitted an application describing a gun violence prevention initiative in response to the Virginia Gun Violence Intervention Program Grant Solicitation. The initiative will engage Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities and external partners ChildSavers, Challenge Discovery Projects and Communities in Schools to deliver integrated in-school and afterschool programs to 30-40 Richmond youth who meet specific criteria that are reflective of the Center for Disease Control's indicated risk

factors for youth violence. The initiative endeavors to build CDC-defined protective factors in participating youth so that they are measurably less likely to engage in gun violence.

City Council approved ORD. 2021-269 at the October 14, 2021 meeting, thus authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to accept \$500,000 in grant funds from DCJS and to appropriate it as follows:

- \$143,200 to a new special fund line in Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities
- \$100,000 to ChildSavers
- \$100,000 to Challenge Discovery Projects
- \$156,800 to Communities in Schools

Since October 14, program responsibilities have shifted and so the total appropriation to Communities in Schools needs to be reduced so that Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities has adequate resources to fulfill their responsibilities in the grant.

**FISCAL IMPACT / COST:** No cost

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** N/A

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY:** Yes, to reappropriate \$82,800 from Communities in Schools to Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

**REVENUE TO CITY:** The total amount to be received from DCJS will be \$500,000.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon adoption

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:** April 11, 2022

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** April 25, 2022

**REQUESTED AGENDA:** Consent

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** Education and Human Services

**CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:** Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:** Human Services; Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities; Budget; Finance

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.:** N/A

**REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S):** N/A

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. ORD. 2021-269



DCJS 2021 Virginia Gun Violence Intervention Program Grant Application  
City of Richmond: Youth Employment Initiative  
Project Narrative

## NEED STATEMENT

### *Agency Description*

The Office of Children and Families (OCF) is a new agency within the City of Richmond's Human Services portfolio, just launched in 2020. OCF's vision is that Richmond is the very best place to grow up and to raise a family, no matter your background. OCF has six strategic priorities for all families: adequate income and wealth; access to high-quality early childhood experiences; parenting supports and relational health; enriching whole-community learning experiences; healthy physical environments; and maternal and child health. The office serves all of Richmond's residents by working to align City agencies and our partners in order to allow all families in Richmond to thrive. Over the past year, OCF has refined its mission to explicitly include gun violence prevention, with the advisement of the Gun Violence Prevention Workgroup that was convened by Mayor Stoney in late 2020. VCU Health is working with OCF to provide measurement and evaluation technical assistance as we integrate GVP into all strategic priorities. The GVP Workgroup has recently released its Gun Violence Prevention Framework, which is informing this proposal.

### *The Problem*

The City of Richmond, Virginia, is a mid-sized city with an outsized problem: intentional injury due to violence among its young people is disproportionate to its population and again on the rise. The historical and societal causes for this violence are multi-layered and complex, but the sheer numbers are straightforward and speak to the need for meaningful change. Richmond leads Virginia's 38 independent cities in the total number of gun-related homicides per year and ranks second among all Virginia localities in gun-related homicides per capita. Due to gun-related non-fatal injuries in Richmond, hospitalizations were double that of the surrounding counties. Therefore, Richmond needs a unique, evidence-based approach to reducing intentional injury due to violence that considers its specific legacy of disparity and the ongoing impacts to social determinants of health that continue into the modern era.

Richmond has led the Commonwealth in the number of firearm homicides from 2016-2019 (Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, 2010). Yet, gun violence continues to be on the rise in the City. Gun violence has taken a toll on the City, with 266 shootings in 2019 alone (Richmond Police Department Crime Statistics, 2019). Richmond's homicide rate is also increasing, with a 60% increase in homicides from July 1-September 30, 2020, over the same period last year (Richmond Police Department Crime Statistics, 2019).

Furthermore, gun violence has a far more significant impact on young people in Richmond, with the rate of firearm deaths for youth ages 10-24 being more than three times the national rate in 2017. In 2020 alone, VCU Health saw 65 youth aged 18 or younger with gunshot wounds, up from 36 in 2019.

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Mayor Stoney recognizes gun violence as a public health crisis, and convened the GVP Workgroup in 2020 with a directive that they develop an evidence-based, public health response to address the underlying social, economic and systemic factors that promote gun violence. This effort is tailored to and informed by our communities and operates with the goal to decrease violence rates by engaging in systems-level changes and addressing both individual and community-level behaviors and norms. The Workgroup centers community voices, experiences and knowledge, including: persons living in most-impacted communities, survivors of gun violence, family members of victims, community and grassroots organizations and government offices agencies (including but not limited to the Office of the Mayor, Richmond Police Department, Richmond City and Henrico County Health District, VCU, VCU Health, DCJS and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority).

In May 2021, the GVP Workgroup presented the Richmond GVP Framework, which prioritizes six key components: a homicide and shooting review commission; crisis intervention and wraparound support; intensive case management; credible messengers; training and quality assurance; and prevention. Youth engagement, specifically engagement with employment and mentorship opportunities, is a critical element of the Framework's prevention component. Anecdotally, there continues to be a dearth of positive opportunities for youth in Richmond, especially older youth.

As a result of the stark rates of youth-involved gun violence in Richmond, the absence of positive opportunities for older youth in the city and the Richmond GVP Framework's recommendations, the Office of Children and Families has developed this proposal, which would engage an indicated population of youth in evidence-based programming to prevent their involvement in gun violence.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This initiative will target an indicated population of youth in order to prevent gun violence by providing a positive experiences, jobs training, a stipend and a pathway to employment. The program will marry best practices from traditional afterschool programming with evidence-based approaches to gun violence prevention. Programming will occur afterschool (3:30-5:30 PM) Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and on Saturday mornings. For the 25-month grant period, 40 youth will be served.

Eligibility will be limited to overage middle school students who have not committed violent acts but who either witnessed gun violence firsthand or have sibling(s) who have committed gun violence. Youth could be referred to the program by a variety of sources: police, medical/behavioral health professionals, school staff, or self-reporting. For the 25-month term of this grant, the program will focus on students at two middle schools: Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Richmond's East End and River City Middle School on Richmond's Southside. Parents and/or caregivers will provide consent for their children's participation.

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Communities in Schools will include participating youth in their caseload and provide in-school support services and navigation to other resources. Students would be organized into age-specific cohorts of 8-10 students each. Each cohort will be staffed with two adults: one, an outreach worker who has behavioral health expertise, to be provided by either Challenge Discovery Projects or ChildSavers, and two, a supervisor from Parks and Recreation who will serve as a credible messenger given their lived experience. Cohorts will meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons as well as Saturday mornings. Programming will be designed around the school day with the expectation that this population of youth will likely be enrolled in summer school.

Each cohort of 8-10 youth will rotate through a variety of job placements. In the first year of the program, placements will be with City agencies like the Office of Community Wealth-Building, Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Works. The Office of Children and Families is actively soliciting additional partners for placements and will expand offerings as partners are identified. For the near-term, Parks and Recreation will be the primary partner and the project director.

The program will be organized into three-month seasons; programming will run for three seasons each year. For each season, youth will receive a \$500 stipend.

The cohorts will begin each season with a one-week orientation primarily facilitated by the Office of Community Wealth-Building, which will provide explicit training in soft skills and encourage workplace excellence. Youth will leave orientation with clear understanding of professionalism, expectations on a job site, and how to engage with coworkers and supervisors.

Then, cohorts will rotate through placement agencies. Youth will learn transferrable skills as they engage in activities like school beautification, community garden cultivation, mural painting, audio/visual production and others. Youth will build relationships with City employees while building tangible skills. Youth will spend three days each week on job sites, with their cohort's outreach worker and credible messenger.

One day each week will have one hour dedicated to group counseling, to be facilitated by the outreach worker, and one hour dedicated to an information session with other partners who are not able to provide a job site. For instance, youth may participate in an information session with the chiefs of Richmond's Police and Fire Departments, during which they'll be able to ask extensive questions and learn more about the life experience of these department leaders. Other partners may include: Venture Richmond, the Black History Museum, Richmond Food Justice Alliance, Metropolitan Business League and others. These sessions will provide exposure to youth so that they learn about possible career paths. Additionally, grassroots and community organizations participating in the GVP Workgroup will partner with the program so that youth have an opportunity to learn more about how to give back within their communities.



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At the end of each season, each cohort will plan a “capstone project”. The cohort will vote to determine what project they want to do and then they will lead their neighborhood through an event. For instance, youth may decide to build a community garden or host a tee shirt making party.

Youth will be encouraged to stay in the program from season to season. No youth will be expelled or dismissed from this program unless they choose to leave. After completing middle school or two seasons (whichever comes first), youth will be eligible for part-time jobs with the City and/or its employer partners, or they may choose to pursue enrollment with the Mayor’s Youth Academy.

*Equity and Diversity*

**1. Explain how you propose to draw upon diverse perspectives in the community or field that the proposed project would serve?**

This proposal leverages the diverse perspectives of those participants with the GVP Workgroup, which includes a variety of community and grassroots voices. Community members have made it exceptionally clear that there are currently far too few positive opportunities for youth, especially older youth.

Additionally, the end-of-season capstone projects will be the direct result of youth voice and community engagement.

**2. Does your organization’s staff and governance diversity reflect the community that you serve?**

The Office of Children and Families has prioritized partnering with Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities because they have a strong track record of hiring from our communities. The Project Director, Raqiyah Cooper, grew up in Richmond and within PRCF programs and started with the City when she was 17. Cohort supervisors will be hired in part based on their connections with our communities.

**3. How do you ensure that the CBO has established goals for increasing the representation for the underrepresented in decision-making?**

All three community partners have a long track record in our communities. Additionally, all have been previously screened for their commitments to equity and diversity as part of the City’s non-departmental grant-making process.

*Additional Details*

This proposal comes within the context of an all-hands-on-deck approach to expanding positive youth opportunities. This is one component of Phase One of the Gun Violence Prevention Framework (see attached). The City will also be investing in reopening community centers and ensuring that they are open and staffed until 10pm, especially in our most impacted communities. Additionally, other City resources will be funding community mini-grants so that community members can organize positive multigenerational events within their own communities.

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*Budget Narrative*

The Office of Children and Families has designed this proposal with the assumption of no additional available funds. However, the Office of the Mayor is working with OCF to pursue additional public and private sector funding opportunities. The budget described below is limited to what is possible within the \$500,000 maximum award for this grant, and we intend to scale the project as we identify additional funding sources.

- **Time Period and Total Hours**

Programming will occur in three-month seasons, for three seasons a year. From June 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023, we anticipate the following schedule:

**2021:** July 1-September 30; October 1-December 31 (2 seasons)

**2022:** March 1-May 30; June 1-August 31; September 1-November 30 (3 seasons)

**2023:** March 1-May 30 (1 season)

- **Personnel/Employees**

Existing staff will serve in primary program roles, including administrator and director. Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities (PRCF) will hire four cohort supervisors who will double as credible messengers. They will each be assigned one cohort and will remain with the cohort for the duration of a season. Over the course of 25 months, we estimate a total of 720 program hours. This budgeted amount assumes an hourly wage of \$15/hour for supervisors. PRCF is poised to make these hires quickly so that staff will be on hand by July 1.

- **Consultants**

The budgeted amount accounts for estimates provided by our three community partners: ChildSavers, Challenge Discovery Projects and Communities in Schools. ChildSavers and Challenge Discovery Projects will provide staffing for cohort counselors who will serve in dual role as outreach worker and behavioral health expert. Communities in Schools will provide:

- Identification and recruitment of students who match risk indicators
- Case managed support of students through tiered interventions provided in a group setting to students with common needs (Tier 2) and direct intervention supports for a student and his/her family (Tier 3)
- Set goals and monitor and measure success for improved school Attendance, Behaviors, and Course performance (ABC's)
- Support attendance in the afterschool/out-of-school time programming

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- Provide a connection from the school day to afterschool/out-of-school time and collaborate on goals for overall student success
- **Supplies/Other**
  - The budgeted amount includes \$500 stipends for each 3-month season for each participant. For the 25-month grant period, there will be six total seasons with 40 participants for a total cost of \$120,000.
  - The budgeted amount estimates the cost of tools and supplies for the two primary placement agencies at \$50,000 for the 25-month grant period. This includes tools for job sites, materials for capstone projects, and other needs.

*Project Goals*

The project has the following goals:

- Jobs training
- Development of Protective Factors: Connectedness to adults
- Development of Protective Factors: Peer relationships
- Development of Protective Factors: Commitment to school

Additionally, our three community partners are working with us to determine additional measurable goals for academic achievement, socio-emotional learning and behavioral health. We will submit those by May 22, 2021.