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Metropolitan Peace Academy Introduces New Community Violence Intervention Leadership Program, Now Accepting Applications

CHICAGO, July 15, 2024 – The Metropolitan Peace Academy (MPA), the highly-acclaimed training center of the Metropolitan Peace Initiatives, today announced a new community violence intervention (CVI) leadership training program designed to empower and provide further professional development to emerging CVI leaders across Chicago. The MPA Management and Supervision Fellowship is a new six-month program for current mid-level management CVI leaders. The program aims to further equip frontline professionals in leading community-driven gun violence prevention initiatives, building and managing teams, developing their executive function, and contributing to a safer and more resilient Chicago.

“There are limited learning opportunities for emerging and mid-level leaders in the field of CVI,” says Dr. Vanessa Perry DeReef, Chief Training Officer at the MPA. “The MPA provides new leaders with hands-on, innovative training, rooted in best practices, but also hyper-local to their work in Chicago. As we expand the CVI ecosystem, we want our outreach workers to be poised to take on leadership positions as they emerge. We believe those who do the work, shall lead the work.

The MPA Management and Supervision Fellowship will begin accepting applications for its inaugural cohort today, Monday, July 15, 2024. The first of its kind in the field of community violence intervention, this certificate program will kick off with a two-day retreat in September, followed by two sessions per month of professional development.

“The mission of the Management and Supervision Fellowship is simple: invest in the professional development of our people, as we know that the best leadership capital exists in communities impacted most by gun violence” said Vaughn Bryant, MPI Executive Director. “This training will further expand their tool kit and equip them to make an even greater impact on our local communities. We will continue to invest in the professional development of our people to ensure those rising through the ranks are equipped with the tools they need to thrive.”

MPA graduates and alumni, as well as community leaders working in gun violence prevention, are encouraged to apply. Applications are due no later than Friday, August 16, 2024.

For more information, visit [www. https://metropolitanpeaceinitiatives.org/mpa-fellowship/](https://metropolitanpeaceinitiatives.org/mpa-fellowship/)

About MPA

The Metropolitan Peace Academy is MPI's premiere multi-disciplinary training center, designed to professionalize and strengthen the fields of street outreach and community violence intervention. It provides intensive training for street outreach workers, case managers, victim advocates, trauma recovery specialists, as well as community trainings for Chicago residents and police officers. The Academy just recently opened its first brick-and-mortar facility in Pilsen in January 2024. Funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services, the U.S. Department



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of Justice, the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities and other generous donors, the facility was created in the wake of the program's continued growth, increase in participants and staff, and CVI's increasing effectiveness as a model for public safety in Chicago.

About MPI

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), a division of Metropolitan Family Services, convenes Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a coalition of 15 community-based organizations focused on reducing gun violence in 28 of Chicago's highest-risk neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org.

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