



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contacts:**

Jamel Gardner, Chicago CRED

[jamel@chicagocred.com](mailto:jamel@chicagocred.com) - 708-623-5012

Brian J. Packer, Metropolitan Peace Initiatives

[PackerB@metrofamily.org](mailto:PackerB@metrofamily.org), - 630-294-8315

**COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (CVI) ORGANIZATIONS RALLY IN  
SPRINGFIELD TO EDUCATE LAWMAKERS ON THE POSITIVE IMPACT THEIR MAKING  
THROUGHOUT CHICAGOLAND**

**SPRINGFIELD, ILL, May 14, 2026**— Today, Community Violence Intervention (CVI) organizations held an annual gathering at the state capital in Springfield to meet with state legislators and further educate them on how the CVI sector is contributing to historic reductions in gun violence throughout Chicago and other parts of the State of Illinois. 2025 marked the fourth consecutive year of declining gun violence in Chicago, reaching a 60-year low in shootings and homicides. CVI leaders are encouraging continued support from state, county, city and private stakeholders to continue advancing the progress they are making in this critical area of public safety.

“We are deeply grateful to our state legislators and the Governor for supporting CVI, said Vaughn Bryant, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI). “All of our CVI partners are working tirelessly every day to save lives, but gun violence is still way too high, and we need to remain diligent in this work in partnership with the community and our elected officials.”

The Metropolitan Peace Initiative is an umbrella organization that convenes Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P), a network of 15 independent CVI organizations serving 28 high-risk Chicago neighborhoods.

Currently, more than 50 CVI organizations are active in 51 Chicago neighborhoods, collectively providing important intervention services, which include outreach, life coaching, victim support, trauma treatment, education and job training. Collectively, they employ more than 2,000 people and serve thousands of individuals who are at high risk of gun violence. Within the scope of CVI services rendered, partners often assist in mediating disputes among individuals and street factions to help de-escalate situations before incidents occur.

“With arrests and crime on the decline, CVI is having a noticeable impact, said Arne Duncan, Founder of Chicago CRED. “Now our goal is to ensure that this type of outreach becomes a permanent feature of our public safety ecosystem.”

Duncan also notes that with the implementation of CVI programming crime has continued to drop in Chicago in almost every category. This insight is important in comparison to the number of current arrests that are well below pre-pandemic levels.

A [growing body of research](#) from the Center for Engaged Neighborhood Research and Science (Corners) at Northwestern University also affirms the positive impact of CVI. One study found that the state-funded Peacekeepers Program reduced shootings by 41% at the most dangerous locations in Chicago and by 31% in surrounding communities. One study found that participants in Chicago CRED's program are 73% less likely to be rearrested. Another study found that CP4P participants experienced 63% fewer gunshot victimizations and 25% fewer arrests at 12 months post-enrollment.

A new initiative called SC2 (*Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago*), currently underway in North Lawndale, Austin, Humboldt Park and Little Village, is testing the theory that CVI at scale can help whole communities – as opposed to just individuals – become safer. He said, “SC2 communities are achieving some of the most dramatic declines in gun violence in Chicago. Over time, we need to take CVI to scale in every community where it is needed.”

For more information on Community Violence Intervention programming and services, please visit, [ChicagoCred.org](http://ChicagoCred.org) and [MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org](http://MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives.org) online and [@Chicago.Cred](https://twitter.com/ChicagoCred) and [@MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives](https://twitter.com/MetropolitanPeaceInitiatives) on Social Media.

###