



OUR VISION

To create **Safe**, **Healthy**, and **Hopeful** communities for young Black men and boys, and their families.

OUR MISSION

Supporting a national network of mayors and other local leaders who are committed to building comprehensive public safety ecosystems designed to reduce community violence and its impact on young Black men and boys, while also creating new pathways for them to thrive.





Cities United believes it takes a systems-wide approach to achieve true public safety. **We support jurisdictions in developing and implementing a comprehensive public safety strategy** that involves leveraging the political will of elected and appointed officials, as well as the public will of community-based organizations, community leaders, and young leaders. Together, we're **interrupting the cycle of violence, dismantling systems of inequity**, and supporting jurisdictions as they **invest in new infrastructures** that create real opportunities for young Black men and boys to live in communities that are safe, healthy, and hopeful.

citiesunited.org

REDEFINING PUBLIC SAFETY

SAFE

INTERRUPTING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

Stopping harm before it spreads and saving lives in real time through trusted, community-based responses.

HEALTHY

DISMANTLING SYSTEMS OF INEQUITY

Transforming schools, justice, health, and economic systems that fuel cycles of violence by centering equity and healing.

HOPEFUL

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Building durable systems that sustain safety and opportunity across generations. Infrastructure means funding and policy changes that outlast election cycles.

PUBLIC SAFETY REDEFINED

(puhb-lik 'sāf-tē rē-də-'fīnd)

a shared commitment and collective practice, both a vision (**what safety should mean**) and the daily actions required to build it.

noun / verb phrase

1. **noun** — A holistic framework that shifts the meaning of safety from punishment and surveillance to healing, equity, and opportunity. Unlike traditional models centered on policing and control, Public Safety Redefined invests in families, schools, health, housing, and local leadership as the true foundations of peace.

2. **verb phrase** — The active process of transforming how jurisdictions, systems, and communities imagine and build safety by centering the brilliance of young Black men and boys, dismantling inequities, and sustaining ecosystems that prevent harm before it occurs.

Usage in a sentence:

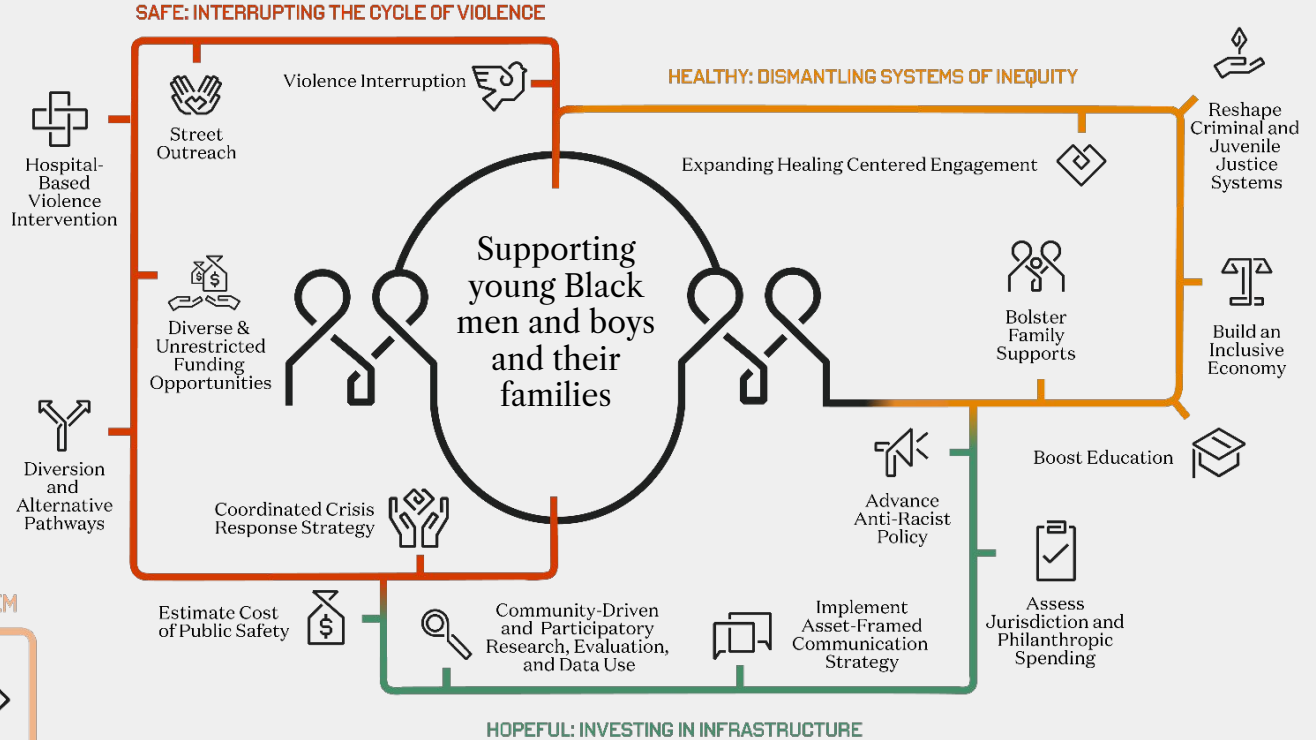
- *“When our mayor committed to **Public Safety Redefined**, the city began funding community schools, credible messengers, and family supports instead of more jail beds.”*
- *“Residents are **redefining public safety** by organizing for housing, education, and economic justice alongside violence prevention programs.”*

COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC SAFETY ECOSYSTEM

FULLY IMPLEMENTED STRATEGY



TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY SYSTEM



What It Looks Like To Have A Fully Implemented Strategy

Cities that are currently implementing and evaluating a Comprehensive Public Safety Strategy have a **defined strategy, a multi-year action plan, diversified or sustained budget and performance accountability.**



Aligned Political and
Public Will



Young Leaders fully
engaged and a part of
decision making



Jurisdiction office
that focuses on
community safety



Narrative and
communications
strategy



Enhanced Public
Safety ecosystem



Cross Sector
Collaboration

ROADMAP TO SAFE, HEALTHY & HOPEFUL COMMUNITIES

The Roadmap to Safe, Healthy, and Hopeful Communities is Cities United's **step-by-step process** for helping jurisdictions bring Public Safety Redefined to life.

- Describes the journey for getting to the vision of Public Safety Redefined.
- Guides jurisdictions through learning, planning, implementing, and sustaining strategies across the ecosystem.
- Ensures that ideas become coordinated action and lasting change.

