



Leading the Way 2025 Tour

LEXINGTON REPORT

HIGHLIGHTING WHAT WORKS

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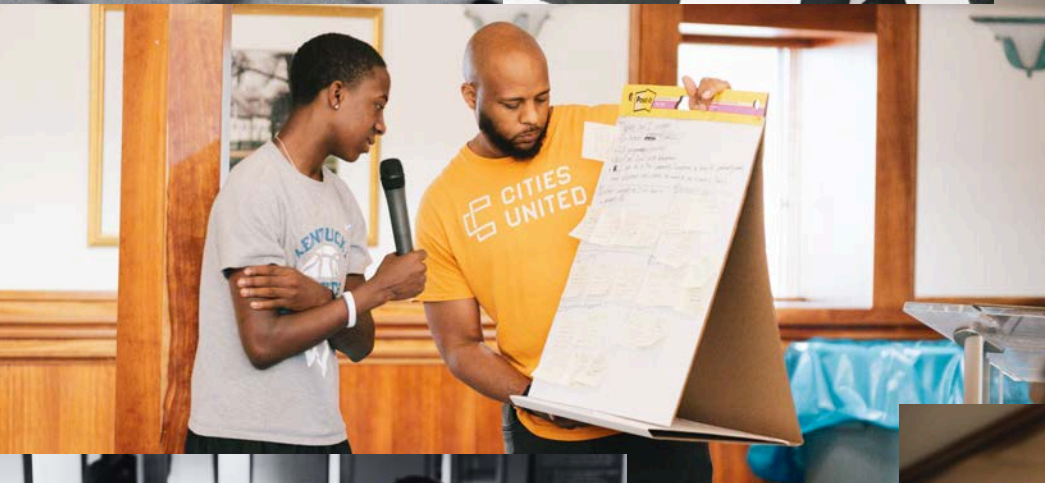
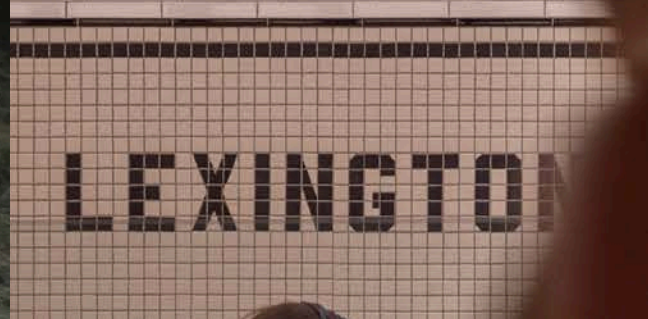
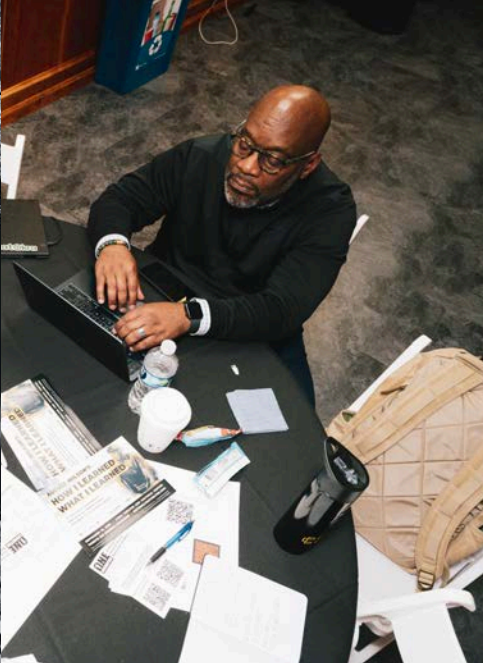
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LETTER FROM CITIES UNITED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Dear Friends,

This summer, Cities United joined with One Lexington, young leaders, city leaders, and community partners to take part in the Lexington stop of our Leading the Way Tour. What we witnessed was a city with **much to celebrate — and much still to do.**

Lexington has made real progress. **Youth shootings have declined by nearly 70% since 2022, and 2024 marked the first year in years with no homicides of young people ages 13–17.** These outcomes reflect what is possible when political will, community leadership, and intentional investment come together around a shared vision. The city's new multi-year strategic plan, alongside the All Hearts on Deck framework, demonstrates Lexington's commitment to long-term action to address the root causes of gun violence.

At the same time, our visit surfaced urgent reminders that **progress remains fragile without deeper accountability, sustainable funding, and inclusive leadership.** As I shared in Lexington, *“One of our best conversations we had in your city — and in most cities we go to — is with young folks, especially young folks who are survivors of gun violence, who have been impacted, who have witnessed it, who have lost loved ones. Listening to how they see this work and how they see y'all's city... they see lots of opportunity in this city, but don't see that they're connected to that opportunity.”* Those voices, alongside survivors and grassroots leaders, underscored the need for **transparency in funding, stronger survivor support, and authentic roles for young leaders in decision-making and implementation.**

This report captures the **grounded strengths Lexington can build upon, the persistent challenges that must be addressed,** the momentum already emerging, and the strategic considerations that point the way forward. It also offers recommendations — immediate actions that can be taken in the next three to six months, and long-term priorities that will determine whether progress is made durable.

Cities United's vision is clear: **we believe in safe, healthy, and hopeful communities where every young Black man and boy — and all young people — can thrive.** We are committed to walking alongside Lexington as it takes the next steps: providing technical assistance, connecting leaders to peer cities, and helping secure the resources needed to sustain the work.

Lexington is **on the cusp of transformation.** By aligning leadership, deepening community ownership, and sustaining investment, the city has the opportunity not only to protect its progress but to show the nation what it looks like to redefine public safety with equity, healing, and hope at the center.

In partnership,

Anthony D. Smith

Executive Director, Cities United



INTRODUCTION

Lexington’s public safety story is rooted in community determination. Residents, survivors, and young leaders have insisted that **safety must mean more than policing—it must mean belonging, healing, and opportunity**. That conviction has shaped a citywide strategy that places relationships at the center of public safety efforts.

Those values are showing results. In 2024, Lexington recorded a **68 percent reduction in youth shootings**, launched a new 2025–2028 strategic plan, and expanded One Lexington’s role as an emerging hub with demonstrated successes in coordination and support. The initiative’s **“All Hearts on Deck” framework** has aligned government resources with grassroots leadership, producing outcomes that resonate across neighborhood lines.

These achievements made Lexington an ideal site for the Leading the Way Tour, which is designed to celebrate what works while also identifying the next steps to strengthen public safety.

Across three days of site visits, leadership roundtables, and youth-focused sessions, young leaders shared perspectives on the trauma they carry, the need for safe and supportive spaces, and the **difference between performative engagement and consistent, authentic relationships**. Their contributions reminded participants that advancing public safety requires approaches rooted in care and shaped by those most directly impacted, while also building the conditions for long-term trust and tangible systems of support.

THE LEADING THE WAY TOUR SEEK TO:

- Highlight effective, comprehensive public safety practices and models
- Foster cross-sector collaboration
- Amplify community-led solutions
- Enhance local capacity
- Evaluate progress and impact through the Cities United Roadmap Framework
- Assess and foster young leader engagement

Currently positioned in **Phase 3 of the Cities United Roadmap**, Lexington has entered the stage of implementing a multi-year plan of action. This phase emphasizes clarifying roles and responsibilities across agencies and partners, **securing sustainable resources, strengthening evaluation and data systems, and communicating progress publicly** through narrative and storytelling. While many of these elements are still in development, others are already underway, reflecting Lexington's progress toward a fully realized implementation structure.

This report draws from session notes and transcripts (if applicable), post-stop surveys, Cities United team reflections, and supplemental local materials including **All Hearts on Deck: One Lexington's Community-Based Strategy to Address Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence and Addressing the Root Causes of Gun Violence: A Community-Based Strategic Plan (2025–2028)**, as well as city public safety data. It highlights grounded strengths, names persistent challenges, and outlines areas of emerging momentum alongside opportunities for Cities United to partner with Lexington in moving from short-term reductions toward durable, lasting change.

UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Lexington's public safety ecosystem is at a **turning point**. The city has demonstrated measurable reductions in youth violence and produced a comprehensive **2025–2028 strategic plan shaped by community engagement**. Yet the stop revealed that implementing this plan will require stronger coordination, shared ownership, and sustainable resources across agencies, organizations, and neighborhoods.

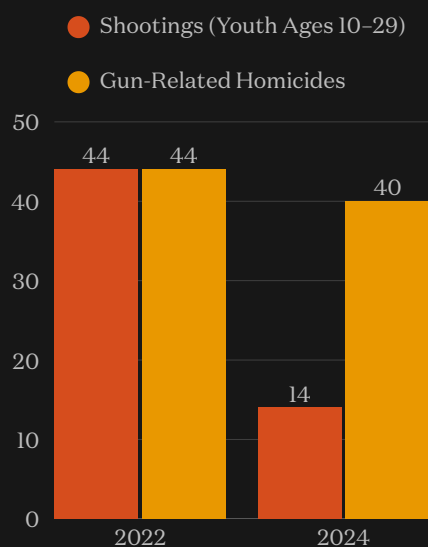
Grounded Strengths: Progress Marked by Data and Strategic Planning

Throughout the tour stop, participants consistently pointed to Lexington's measurable progress as evidence that a community-rooted approach to public safety can produce real results. The data is striking: in 2022, there were 44 shootings involving youth ages 10–29; by 2024, that number had fallen to just **14—a 68 percent reduction**. Gun-related homicides also declined from 44 in 2022 to 40 in 2024, signaling a broader downward trend. These outcomes, while fragile, were celebrated as proof that **intentional coordination and investment can change the trajectory of violence**.

⚠️ MOMENT THAT MATTERED

During one session, a community leader reflected on the decline in shootings: *“Two years ago, we were worried about losing a generation. Now the numbers show that progress is possible, but we have to protect it.”* The comment was met with agreement across the room, serving as a reminder that **data alone is not enough—sustaining the progress will require continued alignment and accountability**.

GUN VIOLENCE TRENDS IN LEXINGTON (2022–2024)



Another strength lifted up during the stop was Lexington's expanding network of cross-sector partnerships. Leaders pointed to the **University of Kentucky Community Innovation Lab** as a valuable partner in evaluation, the role of **Fayette County Public Schools** in mentoring and prevention, and the visibility of the **Lexington Police Department** in supporting coordinated responses. These connections, alongside One Lexington's coordination, reflect a **maturing infrastructure for public safety**. At the same time, participants acknowledged that survivors and young leaders have not yet been fully embedded in these processes — a gap that must be addressed to ensure strategies reflect those most directly impacted.

Community-based organizations were also recognized as vital assets in advancing Lexington's strategy. Groups such as the **Lexington Rescue Mission, SWAG, Urban Impact**, and the **Bridge Initiative** provide mentoring, reentry services, and advocacy that extend the reach of city-led efforts. The **Wholehill International Market** was highlighted for its work with immigrant and refugee families, offering tutoring and support to young people often overlooked in public safety conversations. Alongside these efforts, the **Community Action Council** and faith-based partners were acknowledged for strengthening families and creating trusted spaces where prevention and intervention work can take root. Together, these organizations represent the credibility and cultural competency that make Lexington's public safety approach possible.

The city's planning infrastructure, managed by **One Lexington**, was also seen as a source of potential strength. Through its coordination, the **All Hearts on Deck: One Lexington's Community-Based Strategy and the 2025-2028 Addressing the Root Causes of Gun Violence plan** demonstrate progress toward long-term action. Together, these plans reflect One Lexington's role as an **emerging and demonstrated hub for coordination and support**. They outline strategies across prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry while also naming systemic challenges such as economic disparity, food insecurity, and untreated trauma. Mayor Linda Gorton underscored this commitment during the stop, noting, *"Public safety is our number one priority. Over half of Lexington's budget goes toward public safety, because everything else builds off of that"*.



PERSISTENT CHALLENGES: ADVANCING COORDINATION TOWARD A SHARED ECOSYSTEM

Even as Lexington celebrates progress, participants throughout the tour stop made clear that the city's gains remain **vulnerable without stronger alignment and accountability across the ecosystem**. The 2025–2028 strategic plan outlines a governance framework, but participants noted that many responsibilities remain undefined in practice. Without more structured accountability, Lexington risks uneven progress.

Grassroots and survivor-led organizations, while recognized as **critical to Lexington's public safety strategy**, continue to face significant capacity challenges. Groups closest to young people and families often struggle with limited staffing, small budgets, and short-term funding. While One Lexington directs about **\$150,000 annually in community grants** to local organizations, participants noted that this level of support is not sufficient to sustain the breadth of programs needed. Some expressed concerns that resources were not distributed equitably, creating the perception that larger or more connected organizations were favored over smaller community partners. For the ecosystem to function effectively, survivor networks and frontline organizations must be resourced alongside institutions.

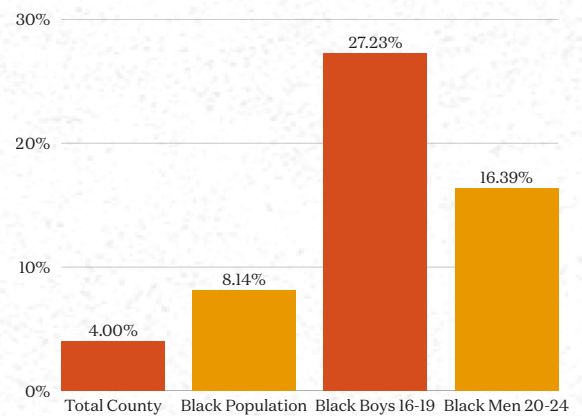
Workforce pathways for young adults, particularly those ages 18–32, were also identified as an **area needing greater investment**. City data shows that unemployment for 18–24 year olds is nearly **twice the citywide average**, underscoring the risk of economic instability among those most vulnerable to violence. Participants emphasized that developing and sustaining these pathways requires both funding and coordination across sectors. Without dedicated resources, Lexington risks leaving this critical element of public safety underdeveloped, **limiting opportunities to break cycles of instability and violence**.

Finally, participants reflected that coordination efforts must expand beyond **information-sharing to ensure inclusive decision-making and implementation.** While One Lexington has been central in advancing public safety strategies, some partners noted the importance of **building systems that guarantee co-ownership across sectors — including community-based organizations, young leaders, and survivors of gun violence.** Embedding their perspectives into structures of accountability and decision-making was seen as **essential for Lexington’s next stage of progress.**

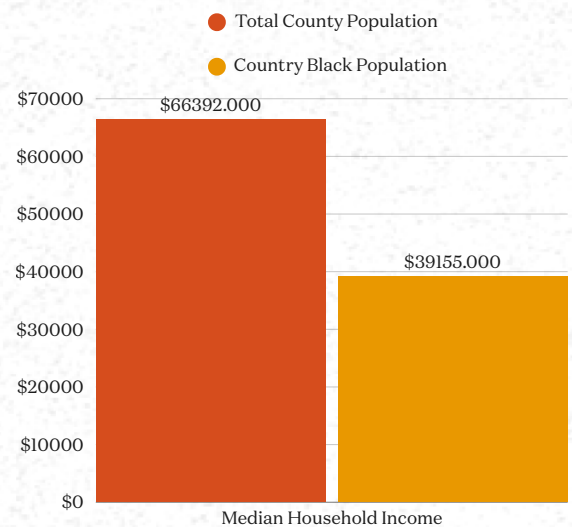
MOMENT THAT MATTERED

During a roundtable discussion, a grassroots leader reflected on the unevenness of engagement: *“We’re all in the same fight, but not everyone is at the same table.”* The statement resonated with participants, underscoring the risk that **without broader alignment and consistent structures for collaboration, Lexington’s progress could stall or fracture.**

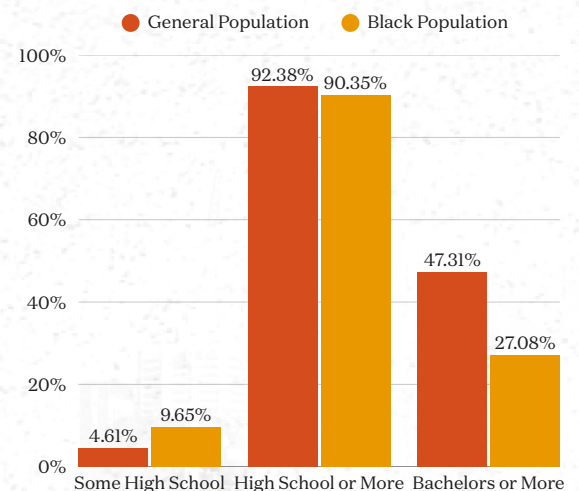
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



EDUCATION LEVEL



EMERGING MOMENTUM: BUILDING MOMENTUM THROUGH ACTION

The Lexington stop revealed clear signs of momentum as the city transitions from **planning into practice**. During the Roadmap Bootcamp strategy session, participants focused on how to move Lexington's new **2025-2028 strategic plan off paper and into reality**. This shift is being propelled by both community partnerships and visible political will, with city leadership consistently framing public safety as a top budget priority.

Stakeholders identified **priority areas** that must drive Lexington's next stage of progress. Discussions highlighted the importance of expanding fatherhood and mentoring programs, strengthening survivor support, creating trauma-informed services, and investing in workforce pathways for young adults. Participants agreed that sustaining safety requires more than crisis response alone; **it depends on addressing root causes and creating opportunities** that help young people and families thrive.

⚠️ MOMENT THAT MATTERED

*During the Roadmap Bootcamp, a participant pointed to workforce development as a critical investment for Lexington's future: **"Jobs are the intervention that keeps young people from coming back through the system."** The statement drew nods across the room, underscoring that Lexington's emerging momentum is not just about responding to violence, but about **building pathways that prevent it from happening in the first place.***

Young leaders also contributed to shaping momentum during the **Young Leader Collective Workshop**. They pressed for more consistent roles in decision-making and more engaging ways to participate in the city's public safety strategy. As one young leader reflected, "If you want us to lead, let us build with you, not after you." Their perspectives reinforced that **those most affected by violence must help guide solutions.**

Narrative change also emerged as a point of energy. Participants underscored the **power of storytelling, arts, and culture** to shift perceptions of public safety and highlight progress. As one participant noted, *“Music and art are how our young people tell their stories. If we don’t use that, we’re missing the connection.”* Community members lifted music, spoken word, and visual arts as **tools to connect with young leaders and communicate that Lexington’s public safety efforts are not only about reducing harm but also about creating spaces of healing and opportunity.**

Momentum was also reflected in Lexington’s growing ability to **measure and communicate progress.** The partnership with the University of Kentucky Community Innovation Lab has positioned the city to evaluate strategies over time and strengthen the use of data in decision-making. Participants noted that having access to **consistent data is essential** not only for tracking outcomes but also for telling Lexington’s story of progress in ways that can sustain community confidence and attract long-term investment.

While participants acknowledged that gaps remain, they noted a **growing ability to align sectors** — from schools to grassroots organizations to city agencies — under a shared framework. The emphasis was clear: those closest to the problems, including **survivors, young leaders, and grassroots providers, must be consistently integrated** into the structures that shape solutions.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS: STRENGTHENING STRUCTURES FOR SHARED ACTION

The Lexington stop highlighted that **sustaining progress will require more than strong programs or short-term reductions**. Across discussions, participants named structural issues that must be addressed for the city's public safety ecosystem to endure. These considerations were not framed as solutions, but as questions of durability and ownership that emerged throughout the tour.

Governance and accountability were recurring themes. While the **2025–2028 strategic plan outlines a coordination framework**, participants noted that many roles remain unclear in practice. Lexington benefits from strong political will at the mayoral level, yet participants highlighted that **durable structures and shared accountability mechanisms are still needed** to ensure progress outlasts individual administrations. Who is responsible for driving implementation across agencies, community-based organizations, survivors, and young leaders? How will accountability be shared so that public safety strategies are not dependent on a single office or leader? As one participant observed, *“The structure looks good on paper, but people still don’t know what they’re accountable for.”* Another added, *“If this is going to last, everyone has to know their lane and how it connects to the bigger picture.”*

Sustainability also surfaced as a central concern. While participants celebrated the reductions in violence and the city's new plan, they noted that **progress will remain uncertain if tied too closely to the priorities of a single mayoral administration or political moment**. They acknowledged that Lexington's gains have been bolstered by strong political will and mayoral commitment, but emphasized the need to **safeguard strategies against turnover** to ensure they endure beyond individual leaders.

MOMENT THAT MATTERED

Moment That Mattered: As one participant remarked, “The work has to outlast any office or leader if it’s going to mean something.” The statement captured the urgency of building structures that make Lexington’s progress durable across political cycles.

Evaluation and data capacity were lifted as another critical area. The partnership with the University of **Kentucky Community Innovation Lab**, as noted throughout the stop, was seen as a strength, but participants pointed out that **more consistent systems are needed to collect and share data across agencies**. Without shared measures, it will be difficult to track progress, hold institutions accountable, and tell Lexington's story in ways that maintain public confidence and attract investment.

Finally, **inclusion in decision-making** was emphasized as an essential consideration. While survivors, young leaders, and grassroots providers participated actively during the stop, many noted that **their involvement in planning and decision-making remains inconsistent**. Participants stressed that **those closest to the problems must have structural roles in shaping solutions** if Lexington's strategy is to be comprehensive and resilient.

LEXINGTON: SAFETY & EQUITY SNAPSHOT

Informed by tour discussions, CU reflections, and local data, the following snapshot highlights key indicators of Lexington's public safety ecosystem (see Appendix for sources). These figures show significant progress—especially in reducing youth violence—while also surfacing challenges of sustainability, workforce development, and inclusion that remain critical across neighborhoods.

- **Population:** ~325,000 (Lexington-Fayette County)
- **Black Population:** ~15%
- **Youth Shootings (ages 10–29):** 44 in 2022 → 14 in 2024 (68% decrease)
- **Gun-Related Homicides:** 44 in 2022 → 40 in 2024 (~10% decrease)
- **Overall Homicide Rate (2024):** ~4.2 per 100k residents (a modest decline from prior yrs)
- **Youth Homicides (ages 13–17):** 0 in 2024 (a milestone underscored with pride during the stop)
- **Strategic Plans:** All Hearts on Deck: One Lexington's Community-Based Strategy (2019, refreshed 2023); Addressing the Root Causes of Gun Violence: 2025–2028 Strategic Plan
- **Governance & Coordination:** One Lexington, housed in the Mayor's Office, serves as the convening body; the governance framework is outlined but practical role clarity across partners remains a work in progress
- **Funding Commitment:** ~\$150K in annual community grants via One Lexington, supplemented by ARPA and philanthropic investments; long-term sustainability remains a concern
- **Education:** FCPS graduation rate ~93% (2023–24); data on Black student outcomes under review — more clarity needed
- **Socioeconomic Context:** Overall unemployment ~4.0%, but in ZIP code 40526 (East End) it reaches 19.9%, nearly five times higher. Housing inequities persist, with only 53.6% of households owner-occupied, contributing to instability for families most vulnerable to violence.
- **Community Assets:** Grassroots orgs (Lexington Rescue Mission, Urban Impact, Bridge Initiative); Wholehill International Market (immigrant/refugee youth support); Community Action Council and faith-based networks (family services, trusted spaces); University of Kentucky Community Innovation Lab (evaluation partner). Key programming includes fatherhood and mentoring, trauma-informed services, and arts/cultural prevention strategies.

Lexington's sharp reduction in youth shootings and zero youth homicides in 2024 highlight the impact of intentional coordination and investment. Yet questions of sustainability, uneven resource distribution, and disparities in youth employment and housing stability show that progress remains uneven. Ensuring consistent inclusion of survivors, young leaders, and grassroots providers will be essential to transforming recent gains into durable, citywide safety and healing.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIES UNITED SUPPORT

The Lexington stop highlighted both the **promise and the fragility of progress**. The city has demonstrated **sharp reductions in youth shootings**, a new multi-year strategic plan, and growing cross-sector partnerships. At the same time, participants named **gaps in governance, uneven capacity for grassroots and survivor-led organizations, and questions of sustainability** that place gains at risk.

Emerging momentum in **implementation, young leader engagement, narrative change, and evaluation** reflects a city on the cusp of deeper transformation if structural issues are addressed. Against this backdrop, the following recommendations outline **immediate steps that can be executed within 3-6 months** based on available resources and stakeholder consensus, alongside **long-term strategies to build a durable public safety ecosystem rooted in shared accountability, sustained investment, and inclusive leadership**.

IMMEDIATE ACTION STEPS (3-6 MONTH PRIORITIES)

1. Develop an ownership and accountability implementation framework for Lexington's strategic plans

Building on All Hearts on Deck and the 2025–2028 plan, assign and confirm goal and activity owners across agencies, organizations, and sectors to move fully into Phase 3 of the CU Roadmap. CU can provide facilitation support to finalize ownership charts and embed accountability mechanisms.

2. Partner with survivor-led organizations to provide support services

Shift responsibility for survivor support to community-based survivor groups, with One Lexington serving as liaison, so those most directly impacted shape services. CU can assist in connecting Lexington to survivor networks for peer-learning and sustainability.

3. Include young leaders in decision-making and implementation roles

Formalize compensated opportunities for young leaders to contribute to strategy, planning, and program execution, ensuring their voices are integrated into governance and not limited to consultation. CU can provide peer-learning examples from cities where young leaders are institutionalized in leadership roles.

4. Create a community oversight and advisory board for funding transparency

Establish a resident-led body with authority to review and provide input on funding allocations and grant-making, ensuring accountability and trust in how resources are distributed. CU can share peer models from cities with similar boards to support design.

5. Launch a coordinated communications and narrative strategy

Develop a citywide communications approach across government, schools, and community partners that celebrates progress while amplifying survivor and young leader voices. CU can provide technical assistance to build narrative infrastructure and train community storytellers.

LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Position One Lexington as a standalone department or commission

Participants strongly emphasized that One Lexington's placement in the Mayor's Office leaves progress tied to political turnover. Transitioning it into a permanent office or commission would embed accountability, provide stability, and institutionalize public safety as a citywide priority.

Opportunities for CU Support:

- Share models from CU cities that have established independent safety offices.
- Facilitate peer exchanges with jurisdictions that transitioned initiatives into permanent structures.
- Provide guidance on drafting enabling legislation and budget frameworks.

2. Build inclusive and transparent accountability structures

Stakeholders called for clearer role definitions across city agencies, grassroots organizations, survivors, and young leaders. Oversight mechanisms should reflect Lexington's diversity and ensure shared ownership.

Opportunities for CU Support:

- Provide technical assistance for shared accountability frameworks.
- Offer training on community-driven grantmaking.
- Connect Lexington with evaluation partners to build data-driven accountability.

3. Expand survivor and family support systems

Participants called for trauma-informed supports, standardized survivor groups, and family-centered programming. They also lifted concerns about unsolved homicides as a barrier to trust. Expanding this work requires sustainable funding streams and integration with citywide planning.

Opportunities for CU Support:

- Share national models for homicide review commissions.
- Provide TA to survivor-led organizations to scale trauma-informed programs.
- Connect to funders focused on family stability and healing.

LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Advance workforce development and economic mobility

Addressing disparities in youth employment was lifted as central to long-term safety. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of job readiness, resume building, financial literacy, and scholarships. Sustaining and scaling effective workforce programs will require durable funding and cross-sector coordination.

Opportunities for CU Support:

- Support design of workforce pipelines for ages 16–26.
- Connect Lexington to CU cities with strong youth employment ecosystems.
- Assist in identifying philanthropic and federal workforce funding streams.

5. Enhance narrative infrastructure and preventive strategies

Participants lifted the importance of consistent storytelling, arts and culture, and school-based prevention efforts. Narrative infrastructure is critical to sustaining trust and momentum. Stakeholders also called for a citywide funding scan to identify untapped resources for prevention.

Opportunities for CU Support:

- Support development of a public communications strategy.
- Provide training for survivors and young leaders as storytellers.
- Assist in conducting a funding scan and connecting Lexington to national funders of prevention and arts-based programming.

Conclusion:

A Call for Aligned Action

Lexington's **reductions in youth shootings** and its commitment to a **multi-year strategic plan** show what is possible when political will, community leadership, and intentional investment align. The stop affirmed that **progress is real but fragile**, and that without deeper accountability and shared ownership, recent gains risk being uneven or short-lived.

Participants consistently lifted the need for **stronger governance, clearer accountability, and survivor- and youth-led engagement** as the foundation for next steps. Immediate actions over the next three to six months—such as developing an ownership and accountability implementation framework, partnering with survivor-led organizations, and launching a community oversight board—can reinforce progress while signaling that Lexington is committed to co-ownership of its strategy. Long-term priorities, including positioning **One Lexington as a standalone office, strengthening survivor and family supports, advancing workforce pipelines, and expanding narrative infrastructure**, will determine whether progress is made durable across administrations and sustained for generations.

Cities United remains committed to its **vision of building safe, healthy, and hopeful communities** where every young Black man and boy—and all young people—can thrive. By providing technical assistance, peer learning, and connections to national resources, Cities United will continue to walk alongside Lexington. With **aligned leadership, inclusive ownership, and sustained investment**, Lexington has the opportunity not only to protect its progress but to become a **model for how cities can redefine public safety with equity, healing, and hope at the center**.

APPENDIX

Referenced Quotes & Attribution

- *“Two years ago, we were worried about losing a generation. Now the numbers show that progress is possible, but we have to protect it.”* — **Community leader, Public Safety Session transcript**
- *“We’re all in the same fight, but not everyone is at the same table.”* — **Grassroots leader, Roundtable Discussion transcript**
- *“Jobs are the intervention that keeps young people from coming back through the system.”* — **Participant, Roadmap Bootcamp transcript**
- *“If you want us to lead, let us build with you, not after you.”* — **Young leader, Young Leader Collective Workshop transcript**
- *“Music and art are how our young people tell their stories. If we don’t use that, we’re missing the connection.”* — **Community participant, Narrative Session transcript**
- *“The work has to outlast any office or leader if it’s going to mean something.”* — **Participant, Strategic Considerations discussion transcript**
- *“Public safety is our number one priority. Over half of Lexington’s budget goes toward public safety, because everything else builds off of that.”* — **Mayor Linda Gorton, Public Safety Tour Overview transcript**
- *“One of our best conversations we had in your city — and in most cities we go to — is with young folks... they see lots of opportunity in this city, but don’t see that they’re connected to that opportunity.”* — **Anthony Smith, Executive Director, Cities United, WUKY news article**

Key Data Points Referenced in Report

- **Youth shootings (ages 10–29):** 44 in 2022 → 14 in 2024 (68% decrease)
- **Gun-related homicides:** 44 in 2022 → 40 in 2024 (~10% decrease)
- **Overall homicide rate (2024):** ~4.2 per 100,000 residents
- **Youth homicides (ages 13–17):** 0 in 2024 — first time in years
- **Population:** ~325,000 (Lexington-Fayette County)
- **Black population:** ~15%
- **Unemployment rate (overall):** ~4%
- **Unemployment in ZIP 40526 (East End):** ~19.9% (5x citywide rate)
- **Housing stability:** 53.6% owner-occupied households
- **Graduation rate (2023–24):** ~93% (Black student rates under review)
- **Community grant funding:** ~\$150,000 annually via One Lexington, supplemented by ARPA/philanthropy
- **CU investment during stop:** \$40,000 in grants to Lexington organizations

APPENDIX

Sources of CU Team & LTW Jurisdiction Member Feedback

- CU Team Daily Reflections (Lexington LTW Daily Reflections Form responses)
- CU Team End-of-Stop Reflections (Lexington End of Stop Reflections)
- CU Internal Notes (Lexington CU Notes)
- Cities United Debrief Session Transcript
- Young Leaders Survey Responses
- Post-Stop Survey

Supplemental Materials Reviewed

- *All Hearts on Deck: One Lexington's Community-Based Strategy to Address Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence (2019, refreshed 2023)*
- *Addressing the Root Causes of Gun Violence: 2025–2028 Strategic Plan*
- Lexington LTW Pre-Stop Report
- Lexington LTW Working Agenda
- LTW Pre-Stop PPT (includes strategic plan + SWOT)
- Vividus Labs Lexington Evaluation Report (August 2025)
- Community Engagement Strategy Meeting Transcript
- Community Engagement Evaluation Transcript
- Community Safety Workshop Transcript
- Public Safety Tour Overview Transcript
- Youth Leadership Engagement Meeting Transcript
- Grant Funding and Training Session Transcript
- Youth Empowerment Event Transcript
- Public Safety Strategy Meeting Transcript
- Lexington Public Safety Strategy Transcript
- Daily Briefing/Mini Evaluation Reports
- WUKY News Article: *“This is the community’s voice: Cities United, One Lexington say the fight against youth gun violence is always evolving” (August 7, 2025)*





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