Peacekeepers Program
FY 2024
Mid-Year Report

Peacekeepers Program Data and Violence Trends Analysis for July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023
Acknowledgements

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Launched in 2018, the Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace (FLIP) strategy—now known as the Peacekeepers Program—aims to build peaceful communities by addressing two major challenges for individuals at the highest risk for gun violence involvement: barriers to economic opportunity and group-related conflicts. The Peacekeepers Program serves two interrelated functions—expanding the reach of existing community violence intervention (CVI) programs and engaging those closest to and most impacted by gun violence, the Peacekeepers, in violence prevention activities. This multi-pronged strategy is designed to reduce gun violence and bolster Chicago’s growing street outreach workforce by recruiting, training, and mentoring Peacekeepers in CVI approaches. Peacekeepers, who often face significant barriers to accessing formal employment and economic stability, are paid a stipend for participating in the program.

The Peacekeepers Program, funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) and private philanthropic foundations, began an ambitious expansion effort on July 1, 2023. The program is expanding to more communities in and around Chicago and becoming a year-round initiative to more effectively serve those at highest risk for gun violence involvement.

As part of CORNERS’ two-year evaluation, this mid-year report presents violence trends across community areas (CAs) implementing the Peacekeepers Program between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023. This report also features findings derived from programmatic data and focus group discussions and interviews with Peacekeepers. Given this brief reporting period and early stage of the evaluation, the analyses in this report do not purport causation. As the evaluation efforts advance, CORNERS will continue to issue milestone reports and provide more in-depth research on the impact and implementation of the Peacekeepers Program.
Program Highlights, July - December 2023

Expansion: The Peacekeepers Program expanded into 9 new Chicago community areas by the end of 2023, expanding into the Northwest Side of Chicago and increasing the total number of Peacekeeper community areas to 23.

Deployment and Coverage: By the end of the reporting period, 750 peacekeepers were deployed across 142 hotspots, extending the program's reach and potential impact on shooting victimizations within communities experiencing high levels of gun violence.

Scaling the CVI Workforce: 115 Peacekeepers transitioned into careers as full-time CVI professionals.

Reduction in Community Area Shooting Victimizations: Among the 14 community areas implementing the Peacekeepers Program for the entire six-month reporting period, 13 (94%) witnessed a reduction in shooting victimizations when compared to the same period last year. Overall, there was a 24% reduction in shooting victimizations across these 14 community areas.

Cumulative Reduction Trend: Peacekeeper community areas witnessed a decline in shootings during the initial two quarters of FY '24 compared to the same period over the previous four years.

Reduction in Hotspot Shooting Victimizations: Of the 14 Peacekeeper community areas that operated for the full reporting period, there was a 35% reduction in hotspot shooting victimizations compared to the same period last year.

Conflict Mediations: Peacekeepers across all program communities conducted 630 conflict mediations during the reporting period.

Successful Conflict Resolution: Of the conflict mediations conducted by Peacekeepers, 448 (68%) were successfully resolved by December 31, 2023.

Prevention of Escalation: Peacekeepers report that if left unaddressed, 55% of successfully resolved conflict mediations would have escalated into gun violence.
The Peacekeepers Program, also known as the FLIP (Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace) Strategy, was launched in the summer of 2018 to address the alarming rates of gun violence and lack of economic opportunity for individuals at the highest risk of gun violence involvement in Chicago. The program is founded on the principle that violence perpetuates further violence, whereas peace cultivates reconciliation and stability. The program aims to affect change at the individual, group, and community levels by employing promising CVI methods with innovative violence prevention approaches.

The Peacekeepers Program leverages the expertise of street outreach workers from local community-based organizations (CBOs) with expertise in implementing community violence intervention (CVI). These workers are crucial to the program's efforts to mitigate violence and promote community safety. Street outreach teams, law enforcement leaders, and CORNERS work together to locate violence hotspots within community areas implementing the program. Once these stakeholders identify the target geographic areas, street outreach workers recruit individuals closest to gun violence or most at risk for gun violence involvement to engage in programming. These recruited individuals, known as Peacekeepers, form the backbone of the Peacekeepers Program.
Peacekeepers undergo comprehensive training that equips them with essential conflict mediation skills before they begin violence interruption activities. Implementing partners provided supplemental trainings related to CVI work to support Peacekeeper skill development. During this reporting period, Peacekeepers completed general core program training in conflict mediation, safety protocols, community engagement, and violence prevention as well as several supplemental trainings to strengthen their skills in CVI.

The Peacekeeper mission extends beyond violence intervention. Peacekeepers are vital links between community members and the broader network of violence intervention workers. Peacekeepers play a pivotal role in curbing hotspot-related violence and fostering safe spaces within their communities by mediating conflicts and supporting street outreach workers as they negotiate non-aggression agreements between groups.

The program's desired outcomes are twofold: 1) **Contribute to reducing gun violence in hotspots and, eventually, entire communities**; and 2) **Support the integration of Peacekeepers into the CVI workforce pipeline**.

Beyond their roles as mediators, Peacekeepers actively engage with residents through an extensive list of activities, including hosting community barbecues, providing accompaniment for families during walks to and from school, regular community clean-up, and providing daily necessities like groceries or toiletries to youth in need. During conversations with Peacekeepers, one Peacekeeper shared that a participant even fostered an aggressive stray dog for over a week at their home to prevent it from attacking community residents. Through these multifaceted efforts, the Peacekeepers Program strives to mitigate violence and cultivate more resilient communities.
Program Reach and Expansion Efforts

At the start of the state Fiscal Year 2024 (FY '24), July 1, 2023, the Peacekeepers Program operated in 14 out of 77 Chicago community areas on the West and South sides of the city. 2020 Census data shows that these 14 communities represent approximately 22% of the city's population.

By December 31, 2023, the Peacekeepers Program expanded into nine additional community areas [1] in Chicago's South and Northwest sides. The expansion communities listed in Table 1 are home to a tenth of Chicago's total population (CMAP, 2023), increasing the program's total reach to 32% of the city's population as of December 31, 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peacekeeper Community Area (PCA)</th>
<th># of Hotspots</th>
<th># of Peacekeepers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Side</td>
<td>Austin, East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Little Village (South Lawndale), North Lawndale, West Garfield Park</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side</td>
<td>Back of the Yards (New City), Brighton Park, Greater Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Roseland, West Pullman, Woodlawn, South Shore, Chicago Lawn, Fuller Park, Washington Park, Burnside, Chatham, Riverdale (Altgeld Gardens)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Side</td>
<td>Albany Park, Belmont-Cragin, Hermosa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Peacekeeper Program Hotspots and Peacekeepers by Implementation Area

[1] Expansion areas are marked in purple.
By December 31, 2023 there were 750 Peacekeepers enrolled in the program. Since the program’s launch in 2018, over 125 Peacekeepers have moved into formal violence prevention positions, contributing to the scaling of the CVI pipeline in Chicago.

Peacekeepers themselves are at the highest risk for gun violence involvement due to social determinants of safety that affect their overall well-being and quality of life. By engaging with more neighborhoods, particularly those that have experienced ongoing disinvestment, the Peacekeepers Program plays a crucial role in reaching those who are most likely to be impacted by gun violence.

The decision to expand reflects the program's adaptability and responsiveness to the diverse needs of Chicago's communities. By increasing its coverage, the Peacekeepers Program is positioned to make a more substantial impact on public safety, social cohesion, and the overall quality of life for nearly a third of the city's residents.
GROUP ONE: THE ORIGINAL 14
(launched by July 1, 2023)

West Side: Austin, East Garfield Park, South Lawndale (Little Village) North Lawndale, West Garfield Park, Humboldt Park

South Side: New City (Back of the Yards), Brighton Park, Greater Englewood (Englewood and West Englewood), Greater Grand Crossing, Roseland, South Shore, West Pullman, Woodlawn

The 14 Group One communities implemented the Peacekeepers Program prior to or by July 1, 2023. All 14 Group One community areas are included in this report. The population of these communities represents 22% of Chicago’s population (approximately 611,824 individuals).

GROUP TWO: EXPANSION COMMUNITIES
(launched between October 1 and December 31, 2023)

Northwest Side (cluster): Albany Park, Belmont-Cragin, Hermosa

South Side: Burnside, Chatham, Chicago Lawn, Riverdale (Altgeld Gardens) [2], Washington Park, Fuller Park

Out of the nine (9) Group Two communities launched at varying times during the second quarter of FY '24, only five communities (Albany Park, Belmont-Cragin, Hermosa, Fuller Park, and Washington Park) implemented the program long enough during this reporting period to identify meaningful trends in their violence data. As such, only these five communities are included in this report. Future violence trend reporting will include all nine expansion CAs. The population of all Group Two communities represents 10% of Chicago’s population (approximately 263,278 individuals).

[2] Burnside, Chatham, Chicago Lawn, and Riverdale launched the program in November - December. Due to their brief period of implementation during the reporting period, they are excluded from this report.
Methods and Approach

The following section provides information on violence trends within CAs implementing the Peacekeepers Program and hotspots. During the first six months of FY '24, the Peacekeepers Program operated solely within Chicago. Therefore, only information from Chicago CAs are included in this report.

Violence trend data were sourced from the Chicago Data Portal’s Violence Reduction (VR) Dashboard and were analyzed using Python and R programming languages. Both year over year (YoY) calculations and frequency distribution were used to analyze violence trend data for CAs and hotspots.

Programmatic data were provided by the program’s implementing partners and through survey reporting completed by implementing partner street outreach teams. Peacekeeper perspectives and experiences were gathered through conflict mediation surveys and focus group discussions. Given the recent start date of expansion CAs, Peacekeepers from these areas did not participate in conflict mediation surveys or focus group discussions.

All survey data were analyzed using Python and R programming languages. Focus group discussions were analyzed using framework matrices and reviewed for emerging themes. Peacekeeper qualitative data were also triangulated with violence trend data to support the emerging themes identified during analysis. In total, 80 Peacekeepers participated in focus group discussions during the first half of FY '24.

This report presents outcomes for CAs implementing the Peacekeepers Program grouped by program start date. Specifically, CAs are divided into two groups: those that launched on or before July 1, 2023, and those that started afterwards. Grouping communities based on start date and tenure implementing the program allows for a more nuanced examination of violence trends and participant experiences.
Group One, July – December 2023

**West Side:** Austin, East Garfield Park, Little Village (South Lawndale), North Lawndale, West Garfield Park, Humboldt Park

**South Side:** Back of the Yards (New City), Brighton Park, Greater Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, South Shore, Roseland, West Pullman, Woodlawn

**Year-over-Year (YoY) Trends**

As displayed in Table 2, between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, Group One CAs collectively experienced a **24% reduction in shooting victimizations** across their communities. As illustrated in Figure 3, 13 out of 14 CAs experienced a reduction in shooting victimizations when compared to the same period in 2022. Furthermore, as illustrated in Figure 4, CAs in Group One have experienced fewer shootings and homicides than the same period (July – December) in 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Areas</th>
<th>2022 Total Shooting Victims</th>
<th>2023 Total Shooting Victims</th>
<th>YOY Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Side CA</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>-30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side CAs</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Group One CAs</td>
<td>1059</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 2. YOY Violence Trends in Group One CAs*
Change in Total Shooting Victims, 2022 vs. 2023
From Saturday July 01 2023 to Sunday December 31 2023 Compared with Same Dates in 2022

Cumulative Shootings Victims in Group One CAs, 2019 - 2022
From Saturday July 01 2023 to Sunday December 31 2023 compared with 2019 to 2022

Figure 3. Change in Total Shooting Victims by CA - Group One

Figure 4. Cumulative Shootings Victims in Group One CAs, 2019 - 2022
CAs in Group One experienced a 20% homicide reduction, and a 25% reduction in non-fatal shooting victimizations compared to the same period in 2022. Similarly, communities that did not implement the Peacekeepers Program also experienced a 24% homicide reduction, and a 22% reduction in non-fatal shooting victimizations. In total, shooting victimizations reduced citywide by 23% when compared to July-December 2022.

As illustrated in Figure 5, CAs implementing the program experienced a collective reduction in shooting victimizations during the reporting period. However, Group One CAs continue to disproportionately experience most of the city’s gun violence incidents. Notably, shooting data indicate that between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, 54% of Chicago’s shooting victimizations occurred within Group One CAs. Per capita, this translates into a shooting
victimization rate of 138 victims per 100,000 residents across 14 of Chicago’s 77 community areas. Given their substantial contribution to the city’s overall shooting victimizations, achieving sustained reductions in these areas is critical to reducing gun violence citywide. Moreover, the shooting reductions observed in Group One CAs during the first six-month implementation period of FY ’24 highlight the critical importance of targeting gun violence within these areas for the safety, security, and well-being for over 600,000 of Chicago’s residents (U.S Census Bureau, 2023).

Hotspots

The Peacekeepers Program aims to reduce shooting victimizations within hotspots in CAs that experience the highest rates of gun violence in and around Chicago. These hotspots are strategically identified in collaboration with street outreach teams, law enforcement, and research partners with the aim of addressing group-related and interpersonal conflicts that may be driving shooting incidents within the area. Between July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, 536 Peacekeepers were assigned to 107 hotspots in Group One CAs.

Once hotspots are identified, street outreach workers from partnering community organizations leverage their knowledge of local group-driven conflicts to recruit residents who the program refers to as “individuals of key influence” to be Peacekeepers. Conflict mediation is a pivotal component of the Peacekeepers Program model, and a primary activity for Peacekeepers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotspots</th>
<th>2022 Total Hotspot Shooting Victims</th>
<th>2023 Total Hotspot Shooting Victims</th>
<th>YOY Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Side CAs</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side CAs</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Group One CAs</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>-35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. YOY Violence Trends in Group One Hotspots
From July through December, hotspots in Group One CAs experienced longer periods of time without a shooting relative to the surrounding community. Focus group discussions revealed that Peacekeepers firmly believe that program communities need more hotspots and additional Peacekeepers to spearhead increased conflict mediation efforts.

Program participants across Group One CAs firmly believe that their work—be it conflict mediations, walking groups of children home from school, domestic violence interventions, or hosting community barbecues—is moving the needle on gun violence. However, as seen in Figure 6 and supported by Peacekeepers' observations, Peacekeeper-monitored hotspots are experiencing lower frequency of shootings. As such, Peacekeepers believe there is a need for intracommunity expansion to reach a larger proportion of a CA.

The Peacekeepers Program operates four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday. Generally, participants are on duty between the hours of noon and midnight each day. Focus group discussions revealed that Peacekeepers find themselves continuing their work well after their shifts have ended.

24/7 you on call. You could be at home watching TV and people will call you, you gotta go...You gotta sleep with your shoes on.

Peacekeeper, Back of the Yards

Peacekeepers are dedicated to their role beyond standard working hours, often taking telephone calls, conducting home visits, and canvassing well into the night. Street outreach workers, who also operate beyond their scheduled shifts, underscored the importance of Peacekeepers during non-standard hours, particularly in gathering crucial information when conflicts arise. This collaboration becomes especially critical when conflicts jeopardize established non-aggression agreements or emerge within the Peacekeepers' sphere of influence, prompting street outreach workers to seek firsthand insights from Peacekeepers to better understand conflict triggers and involved parties.
Figure 6. Weeks without Shootings, Hotspots above, CAs below
Figure 7 affirms Peacekeeper claims of community-wide conflict occurring throughout the day. During the first six months of FY '24, **Group One spaces outside of hotspot areas experienced both higher numbers of shooting victimizations and shootings at every hour of the day**. Peacekeepers believe that expanding the program’s days, hours, and hotspot coverage is the most efficient way to reduce shooting victimizations across the whole of their community.

![Distribution of Shootings by Hour of Day](image)

*Figure 7. Group One CA and Hotspot Distribution of Shooting Victimizations by Hour*
Mediations

As seen in Table 4, within the first six months of FY '24, Peacekeepers reported 588 conflict mediations. According to Peacekeeper mediation data, 68% of all reported conflicts were successfully resolved.

Moreover, Group One Peacekeepers reported that over half (60%) of all resolved mediations involved disputes that, if not for intervention, were highly likely to escalate to gun violence. The diffusion of potentially lethal conflicts by Peacekeepers underscores the program’s potential to de-escalate violent events at the onset of a conflict, effectively enhancing community safety.

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“[There is] Power in being able to say [during a conflict] ‘I’m going to tell your grandma!’”

Peacekeeper, Austin

“It’s not a schoolyard fight. It’s about people who have been injured and killed. They have a strong weight on their shoulders because it’s their creed. What we are doing is changing that creed. This can then change the pattern in the community.”

Implementing Partner, Woodlawn

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict Status</th>
<th># of Mediations</th>
<th>% of Mediations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolved</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Conflict Mediations 588

*Table 4. Mediations by Status*
Conflicts

Figure 8 illustrates the diversity of conflict type for 465 out of the reported 588 [3] mediations led by Group One Peacekeepers. Out of the 465 conflicts where conflict type was reported, 46% were identified as group related. Approximately 41% of conflicts involved interpersonal or domestic violence elements, underscoring the complexity of violence Chicago communities face. During focus group discussions, Peacekeepers shared additional challenges to conducting mediations. For example, Peacekeepers mentioned that substance use was oftentimes involved between the parties involved in a conflict, layering an additional challenge to conducting mediations.

A lot of the kids are totally gone, high on PCP, drunk, and you can see it in their eyes. And just getting them to slow down before they do anything... If you just have a conversation with somebody you can get them to stop; a lot of these kids are smart it's just about flipping the switch in the situation.

Peacekeeper, Austin

[3] 123 conflict mediations did not report the conflict type before the end of the reporting period and therefore are not included in this analysis.
Group Two, October - December 2023

Northwest Side: Albany Park, Belmont-Craigin, Hermosa

South Side: Fuller Park, Washington Park

Year-over-Year (YoY) Trends

Between October 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, Group Two CAs experienced a 39% increase in shooting victimizations. Figure 9 shows that Albany Park is the only Group Two CA that had a reduction in shooting victimizations in Q2. Figure 10 illustrates that Q2 shooting victimization trends outpaced prior years in Group Two CAs. Between 2019 and 2022, only 2021 had a higher cumulative total of shooting victimizations than during the same period in 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Areas</th>
<th>2022 Total Shooting Victims</th>
<th>2023 Total Shooting Victims</th>
<th>YOY Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Side CAs</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side CAs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>+150%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Group Two CAs</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>+39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5. YOY Violence Trends in Group Two CAs
Change in Total Shooting Victims, 2022 vs. 2023
From Sunday October 01 2023 to Sunday December 31 2023 Compared with Same Dates in 2022

Figure 9. Change in Total Shooting Victims by CA - Group Two

Cumulative Shooting Victimization in FLIP Community Areas
From Sunday October 01 2023 to Sunday December 31 2023 compared with 2019 to 2022

Figure 10. Cumulative Shootings Victims in Group Two CAs, 2019 - 2022
Hotspots

Group Two shooting victimization data reveals the timeliness of the program’s expansion in the South and Northwest Side of Chicago. Table 6 illustrates that by the end of the second quarter, Group Two hotspots experienced an overall 20% reduction in shooting victimizations. However, the upward trend in shootings at the community level supports the timeliness and urgency of the program's expansion to help address the escalating violence in both the South and Northwest Sides of Chicago. More time is needed to comprehensively understand violence trends in expansion CAs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotspots</th>
<th>2022 Total Hotspot Shooting Victims</th>
<th>2023 Total Hotspot Shooting Victims</th>
<th>YOY Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Side CAs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Side CAs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Group Two CAs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6. YOY Violence Trends in Group Two Hotspots
The Peacekeepers Program continually seeks avenues for improvement. The following reflections and recommendations are all guided by learnings gleaned from focus group discussions held with Peacekeepers across Group One CAs.

**Intracommunity Program Expansion**

The Peacekeeper Program plays a critical role in diffusing potentially lethal conflicts and preventing violent events. While hotspots within Group One CAs experience longer periods without shootings compared to surrounding areas, Peacekeepers unanimously agree that there is a pressing need for program expansion within existing CAs to address the higher rates of shootings observed outside of hotspot boundaries. Peacekeepers remain dedicated to their work, often extending their efforts beyond scheduled shifts to address ongoing conflicts and ensure community safety. During focus group discussions, participants expressed that more Peacekeepers are necessary to address the near 24hr presence of violent conflict that occurs in their communities. Peacekeepers are enthusiastic about the program’s expansion into more community areas and the suburbs. Still, shooting data and Peacekeeper observations equally highlight the need for intracommunity expansion to support shooting reduction efforts in established CAs.

**Additional Wrap-Around Support for Physical Safety and Mental Well-being**

While the dedication of Peacekeepers is essential in realizing the program’s goals of reducing violence and enhancing the well-being of their communities, they are exposed regularly to secondary trauma, witnessing violence while engaging in violence interruption activities. Across focus group discussions, nearly all 80 participants reported witnessing a shooting victimization while canvassing. That said, focus group participants collectively shared that their lived experiences prepared them to be Peacekeepers. However, Peacekeepers overwhelmingly expressed that additional safety resources to protect themselves are needed. Aside from the possibility of physical harm, regular exposure to trauma can lead to emotional dysregulation, anxiety, fatigue, heightened physical pain (somatization), and depression among many other physical and psychological symptoms (SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 2014).
While some community partners provide cognitive behavioral interventions, group therapy, and training sessions to program participants aimed at recognizing the manifestations of trauma, Peacekeepers advocate for additional skill-building on understanding behavioral responses to trauma. An expansion of trauma-informed training opportunities and group therapy would benefit both Peacekeepers and fellow community members, aiding in navigating the safety challenges inherent in violence interruption work.

**Additional Financial Support for Training and Community Enhancement Activities**

Across implementation sites, participants in focus group discussions emphasized that promoting peace relies on investing in their communities. Peacekeepers personally invest their own resources within and outside of program hours to support their communities' needs. Peacekeepers discussed picking up trash, hosting barbecues, engaging youth in sports games or dance lessons, supporting schools during dismissal, and more. In one West Side community, Peacekeepers expressed pride in supporting newly arrived migrants through dropping off food at shelters and providing safety-related information on colors and symbols to avoid mistaken group affiliation that could compromise a new arrival’s safety.

As leaders in their communities who are highly visible through canvassing and hotspot monitoring, Peacekeepers are uniquely equipped to address their communities' evolving needs and to spread information and positivity to residents. However, Peacekeepers often find themselves spending their own money to do this work, joking that much of their stipend goes to buying children food and adequate clothing or funding barbecues. To both recognize and fortify Peacekeepers' unique power to invest in their communities, they should be given additional resources for community-investment activities. Peacekeepers interested in leading prevention strategy based activities, like supporting new arrivals, the unhoused, or youth, should be offered special training, support, and financial resources to do so.
References


CORNERS. (2024, March 15). FLIP REPORTS DASHBOARD. CHICAGO, IL, USA.


The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS) is housed at Northwestern University's Institute for Policy Research. We develop transformative research projects with community and civic partners aimed at improving health and safety for more equitable neighborhoods.

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