

# Peacekeepers Program

July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024

## EVALUATION REPORT SUMMARY

*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.

In January 2023, the Illinois Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP), housed within the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), supported the program’s transition into a year-round initiative. On July 1, 2023, the Program began an ambitious coverage expansion effort funded through a partnership between the OFVP and private philanthropic foundations that extended the intervention beyond Chicago and into surrounding Suburban Cook County.

The Program’s expansion was implemented in phases, with new sites launching between October 2023 and April 2024. This phased rollout, supported by OFVP, significantly increased the Program’s reach to 35 areas, including 27 Chicago community areas (CCAs) and 8 Cook County suburbs.

### Program Impact

# 41%

overall reduction in  
hotspot victimizations  
in 2023-24 compared  
to the previous two-  
year period

# 31%

overall reduction  
in community area  
victimizations in  
2023-24 compared to  
the previous two-year  
period

# Program Highlights

## Violence Reduction in Program Areas May be Influencing Broader Citywide Trends

Hotspots experienced a **41% overall reduction in victimizations** in 2023-2024 compared to the previous two-year period. Peacekeeper community areas saw a **31% decrease in shooting victimizations** in 2023-2024 compared to the previous two-year period.

## Peacekeeper Communities Experienced Less Frequent Shootings

**13 out of 14 Peacekeeper community areas** saw an increase in their hotspots' average peace intervals—the time between violent incidents. **Collectively, hotspots experienced a net increase of 136 days without shooting incidents**, indicating longer periods of stability in intervention areas.

## Expansion Community Areas Showed Promising Initial Results

**8 out of 13 expansion communities** saw a year-over-year decrease in hotspot shooting victimizations.

## More Peacekeepers Have Reached More Communities

By the end of FY24, the Peacekeepers Program was operational in **27 Chicago Community Areas (CCAs)** and **eight Cook County suburbs**, covering a total of **201 hotspots**. This growth represents a doubling of implementing communities.

## Peacekeepers Effectively Intervened in Conflicts

Peacekeepers conducted **2,172 conflict mediations**, of which **68% (n= 1480)** were successfully resolved. These mediations represent conflicts that, without intervention, may have resulted in violence.

## Pathways to Careers in CVI

**75 Peacekeepers** transitioned into full-time CVI careers between January 2023 and December 2024 (**171 total Peacekeeper CVI transitions reported from 2018-2024**).

*For more information about the Peacekeepers Program evaluation, please contact:*

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