

Government Alliance for Safe Communities

2025 IMPACT REPORT SUMMARY

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The Government Alliance for Safe Communities (GASC) is a collaborative effort between the City of Chicago, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC), the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

The GASC was established in August 2021 with the goal of coordinating the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to grantee organizations providing Community Violence Intervention (CVI) and other violence prevention services in Cook County. ARPA provided funding to state and local governments that aided public health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including specific guidance from the federal administration that local governments use these dollars to invest in CVI. Targeted investment to expand street outreach service provision has been a hallmark initiative of the GASC, with over \$165 million awarded to over 80 community-based organizations providing CVI-Street Outreach (CVI-SO) services.

GASC entities have worked together to:

- Identify shared priorities and common definitions for violence reduction efforts;
- Review funding data to better understand existing violence prevention investments at the program, grantee, and geographic level;
- Reduce duplication, maximize impact, and minimize burden on grantee organizations across government funders; and
- Increase capacity building support at the pre- and post-award stages of grantmaking, particularly for smaller, grassroots organizations.

The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS) at Northwestern University conducts both process and impact evaluations of the GASC's collaboration. The first GASC impact evaluation report was released [in 2024](#) and the current report was released [in February 2026](#).

Impact Report Findings

Findings below reflect descriptive trends in the data, outlining the relationship between GASC-funded CVI-Street Outreach (CVI-SO) programming and levels of violence in Chicago communities.

Levels of participation and service provision increased with public investment, with some expected seasonal fluctuations.

During Fiscal Years 2022-2024, **GASC-funded grantees served over 36,000 CVI-SO participants throughout Illinois.** Participants were majority young, Black men residing in communities of Chicago with the highest levels of gun violence. Participants received a range of holistic CVI services, from meeting individuals' basic needs to providing employment and mental health supports.

Public investment is going to the communities with the highest need.

Funding coordination by GASC partners has funneled grants into communities with the highest levels of violence. Further, communities with the highest average quarterly investment in GASC-funded CVI-SO services also served the largest number of participants, indicating that **GASC dollars are supporting the growth of CVI in areas with the greatest need for services.** The largest amounts of funding went to priority areas identified under the 2021 Reimagine Public Safety Act to receive targeted CVI investment.

Chicago Community Areas with the highest average investment showed the largest public safety gains, nearing pre-pandemic levels of gun violence.

Despite lower per-individual spending on CVI-SO services relative to the costs of incarceration and gunshot wounds, community areas with the greatest CVI investment (more than \$500,000 per quarter) experienced the largest reversals in shooting trends following pandemic-era spikes in gun violence. **Only those communities receiving the largest quarterly investments in CVI-SO from GASC funders experienced a 2024 shooting rate lower than their pre-pandemic baseline shooting rate in 2019.**

For more information about CORNERS' evaluation of GASC, please contact:

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