

Illinois' Peacekeepers Program

FISCAL YEAR 2026 REPORT SUMMARY

(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Launched in 2018, the Peacekeepers Program—formerly known as the Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace (FLIP) strategy—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.

Via state providers, Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI) and Acclivus, the Peacekeepers Program leverages the expertise of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) workers. The implementing partners' street outreach teams, with input from law enforcement and the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS), locate small geographic areas with disproportionately high rates of shootings, or **"hot spots,"** within their communities. Once hot spots are identified, outreach workers recruit individuals most at risk of gun violence involvement to engage in programming. These recruited individuals, known as **Peacekeepers**, receive training to mediate potential conflicts in the designated hot spots.

This report summarizes violence trends during Fiscal Year 2026 across Peacekeepers Program community areas. It also includes a descriptive analysis of shooting victimization trends in 25 Chicago community areas that operated the Program, with particular attention given to designated hot spots. The analyses presented below are descriptive and are intended to document patterns of violence. They do not assess causation or estimate the Program's impact on observed violence trends.

FY'26 Violence Reductions

33%

overall reduction in hot
spot victimizations in
FY'26 compared to the
previous fiscal year

18%

overall reduction
in community area
victimizations in FY'26
compared to the
previous fiscal year

Program Highlights

Shooting Reductions in Peacekeeper Community Areas and Hot Spots

Peacekeeper hot spots saw a **33% decrease in victimizations** compared to FY'25, and Peacekeeper community areas had a **18% overall decrease in victimizations** compared to FY'25. FY'26 observed the lowest cumulative number of shooting victimizations since FY'21. Further, **40% of hot spots saw year-over-year decreases in shooting victimizations** in FY'26.

Peacekeeper Community Areas Experienced More Peace

On average, during FY'26, **Peacekeeper Program community areas experienced 18 more days without any shootings in hot spots** compared to FY'25. Overall, the average window of peaceful days in hot spots is widening, providing additional time for communities to experience relief from gun violence.

Peacekeepers are Helping Drive Down Summer Violence

Unlike past fiscal years, the FY'26 rolling average of shooting victimizations shows a distinct shift. The expected summer surge in gun violence trended toward lower levels than prior summers, suggesting a more peaceful Summer 2026 in program hot spots. FY'26 also marked the lowest post-pandemic levels of shooting victimization, with both the peak and trough of the rolling average reaching their lowest points.

More Peacekeepers Have Reached More Communities

By the end of FY'26, the Peacekeepers Program was operational in **41 Chicago Community Areas (CCAs)** and **Cook County suburbs**, covering a total of **192 hot spots**. The number of implementing communities has more than doubled since the Program's launch.

*Scan this QR code to read the full
Peacekeepers Program FY'26 report:*



*For more information about CORNERS and the
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