

Sustaining Local Violence Intervention Efforts Through Public Funding:

Evidence from the GASC's Collaboration

September 2026

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Executive Summary

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), established in 2021 in response to the influx of federal [American Rescue Plan Act](#) dollars to support Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programming in the state of Illinois. Together, GASC funders allocated more than \$260 million in public funding (including, but not limited to, ARPA) to more than 100 CVI-Street Outreach (CVI-SO) organizations between fiscal years 2022 and 2025.

The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS) at Northwestern University has been conducting an independent process and impact evaluation of the GASC's collaboration. This summary provides an overview of CORNERS' September 2026 Policy Brief, which includes updates to CORNERS' [GASC 2025 Impact Report](#) by incorporating GASC funding and participation data through 2025. Analyses included in this brief measure and compare GASC investments in CVI-SO organizations, post-ARPA sustainability planning for public CVI funding, levels of CVI-SO service provision, and community safety metrics for Chicago neighborhoods where GASC-funded CVI-SO organizations operate. Findings reflect descriptive trends in the data, outlining the relationship between GASC-funded CVI-SO programming and levels of violence in Chicago communities.

Finding 1: Since 2022, the GASC has supported more than 100 CVI-SO organizations in providing wraparound services—including but not limited to violence intervention—to participants at the highest risk of violence involvement.

Collectively, GASC-funded CVI-SO programs served more than 40,000 participants in Illinois between 2022 and 2025. In addition to direct, community-based violence intervention, these organizations also provided wraparound services to participants to meet a variety of needs, including basic needs support, case management, education, employment, mental health, and victim advocacy work.

Finding 2: ARPA funding represented a massive influx of public dollars into the field of CVI-SO, most of which has been sustained through the GASC’s continued collaboration as ARPA is ending.

The GASC shepherded more than \$260 million in ARPA and ARPA replacement funding to CVI-SO organizations between 2022 and 2025, and ARPA funding for CVI-SO increased more than three-fold between 2022 and 2023, representing substantial growth in public funding for the field. State entities (IDHS and ICJIA, together) led these investments, with substantial contributions from county and city entities. Now, as ARPA funding reaches its predetermined end date in 2026, GASC entities are working together to establish shared priorities and pursue sustainable funding sources post-ARPA. In 2025, nearly a third of GASC awards to CVI-SO organizations were funded through ARPA replacement dollars.

Finding 3: GASC funding allowed CVI-SO organizations to grow their reach, particularly in Chicago communities with the highest levels of shootings and homicides.

GASC CVI-SO funding remains concentrated in Chicago communities on the South and West sides of the city, in communities with the highest level of need for CVI services, as measured by rates of shootings and homicides. Likewise, participation numbers are also concentrated most heavily in these same communities.

Finding 4: Shootings and homicides dropped in GASC-funded communities in the years since ARPA dollars were first distributed, and communities receiving the largest public investments in CVI-SO also saw the steepest declines in violence following pandemic-era peaks.

The GASC’s coordinated dispersal of ARPA investments in CVI-SO may have been an important contributor to Chicago’s historic declines in gun violence between 2022 and 2025, though CORNERS’ analysis cannot attribute any causal claims to the effect. Between 2022 and 2025, South and West side Chicago community areas (the same general areas receiving concentrated GASC funding) saw the greatest declines in gun violence victimization. Comparing shooting and homicide rates among groups of communities receiving different levels of GASC funding to past trends in those same areas suggests that post-pandemic reductions in violence were greatest in those communities where the GASC invested more funding. Shooting and homicide rates returned to pre-pandemic levels most rapidly among communities that received the largest levels of quarterly CVI-SO grant investments from GASC funders, with slower declines in communities receiving less GASC funding for these services.



GASC Background

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). Established in August 2021, the GASC allowed these public funders to coordinate the distribution of [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA)¹ and other public dollars to grantee organizations providing Community Violence Intervention (CVI)² and other violence prevention services in Illinois. Together, GASC funders allocated more than \$260 million in public funding (including, but not limited to, ARPA) to more than 100 CVI-Street Outreach³ (CVI-SO) organizations between fiscal years 2022 and 2025.

In addition to coordinating public investments, the GASC's work includes establishing shared reporting mechanisms for CVI-SO organizations, convening a Community of Practice for organizational staff and leadership, and developing a tailored system of capacity building supports through the [GASC Capacity Building Network](#). As the GASC manages the sunset of federal ARPA dollars,⁴ the group is also collaborating to develop more sustainable systems of funding for violence prevention efforts in Illinois, including coordinating around allocations from each GASC entity toward future CVI efforts.

More information on the GASC's founding and structure can be found in [CORNERS' GASC 2024 Progress Update](#), and additional context on the work of the group through the end of 2025 is available in [CORNERS' GASC 2025 Impact Report](#).

¹ More background on ARPA's passage and funding use cases can be found in CORNERS' [GASC 2025 Impact Report](#).

² The [Giffords Center for Violence Intervention](#) defines CVI as "a set of non-punitive, community-led strategies that are designed to interrupt the transmission of violence by engaging those at the highest risk through the provision of individually tailored support services."

³ A large component of CVI, street outreach is a strategy through which "CVI workers use their credibility to develop relationships with community members and groups that might cause violence with the goal of preventing the spread of violence and building peace in a community," per [Giffords](#).

⁴ Per the [Government Finance Officers Association](#), federal guidelines dictate that all ARPA dollars have been allocated by the end 2024, with final spending complete by the end of calendar year 2026.

CORNERS Evaluation Background

The Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research and Science (CORNERS) at Northwestern University has partnered with the GASC to conduct an independent process and impact evaluation to assess the GASC's coordination and funding for CVI-SO organizations in Chicago, suburban Cook County, and throughout the state.⁵ This brief focuses on the reach of the GASC's CVI-SO funding and community-level outcomes related to funding, participation, and violence between fiscal years⁶ 2022 and 2025. Analyses and findings included build on prior CORNERS' reporting that established descriptive relationships between levels of violence and GASC-funded CVI-SO programming. Additionally, findings in this brief expand on previous work by including data through 2025 and examining GASC funding for CVI-SO as GASC entities rely on non-ARPA funding sources to sustain the work of grantee CVI-SO organizations.

Descriptive analyses in this brief provide insight into GASC-funded CVI-SO efforts, including an exploration of how the GASC's funding is evolving in a post-ARPA landscape and an examination of the reach and potential impact of CVI-SO programs. Analyses also focus on the geographic distribution of GASC-funded CVI-SO programs across the state, in suburban Cook County, and within the City of Chicago to surface patterns in funding and participation relative to geographic need and over time. Finally, this brief concludes with a descriptive analysis of the relationship between rates of gun violence and geographic saturation of GASC CVI-SO funding.⁷

Data in this brief draw from the sources listed below. To address differences in agencies' fiscal years (see Footnote 6 below), the following analyses aggregate results by calendar year.

- **GASC Grant Funding Data (reported by agency fiscal year)**, which includes funding agency, grantee organization, grant program, award amount, and geographic areas served for each grant. To map funding to calendar years, these grant data have been evenly distributed across months within a given grant period and aggregated into annual totals.
- **Grantee Programmatic Data (reported monthly or quarterly)**, which includes outputs and outcomes of CVI-SO grantee activities during their respective grant periods, pulled from the GASC's standardized grantee reporting mechanism, the CVI Metric Tool.
- **Public Safety Data (for Chicago community areas)**, which includes administrative records of shooting incidents, allowing for analysis of violence trends over time by geographic area.

There are several limitations to these analyses, largely related to data availability/missingness, geographic distribution of funding and participation data, and mismatches in GASC agency fiscal years, all of which are discussed in more detail in on page 6 of CORNERS' [2025 GASC Impact Report](#). Additionally, these analyses include dollars labeled as "ARPA Replacement Funding," most of which can be cleanly differentiated across funders, except for state RPSA funding, which contains a non-specified mix of ARPA and non-ARPA dollars for state fiscal year 2025.

Ultimately, this brief seeks to outline the role of GASC funding in supporting and expanding Chicago's CVI field, with an eye toward future funding priorities and the importance of developing sustainable systems of public funding for community-based violence prevention efforts.

⁵ More information on these interrelated research efforts, as well as a complete list of research questions, can be found on pages 4-7 of CORNERS' [GASC 2025 Impact Report](#).

⁶ State entities (IDHS and ICJIA) operate on a July-June fiscal year, the City of Chicago follows the calendar year, and Cook County (JAC) operates on a December-November fiscal year.

⁷ These analyses largely mirror those included in CORNERS' GASC 2025 Impact Report, with the primary difference being the addition of fiscal year 2025 data, which provides insight into the GASC's efforts to ameliorate the effects of the end of ARPA funding. Additional context on these analyses and related metrics can be found on pages 7 and 8 of CORNERS' [GASC 2025 Impact Report](#).

Findings

GASC Funding for Wraparound CVI Services

Finding 1: Since 2022, the GASC has supported more than 100 CVI-SO organizations in providing wraparound services—including but not limited to violence intervention—to participants at the highest risk of violence involvement.

In the years following ARPA’s passage, the GASC strategically funded more than 100 CVI-Street Outreach organizations across Illinois that have collectively served over 40,000 participants between 2022 and 2025.⁸ This funding has supported the critical work of CVI-SO organizations leading community-based violence prevention efforts and providing wraparound supports to participants at the highest risk of violence involvement in their communities. Using GASC dollars, CVI-SO organizations in Illinois conducted more than 45,000 mediations to prevent violent incidents in addition to providing direct services to individuals.

The table below outlines total numbers of CVI-SO organizations funded by GASC entities and the count of new participants served by these organizations. Although the number of participants served increased significantly between 2022 and 2024, lower 2025 participation numbers likely reflect current limitations on availability of programmatic data, as well as the fact that the state’s 2025 fiscal year ended in June of that year. CORNERS is actively working with partners to collect full participation data for 2025, which will be included in final reporting in the spring of 2027.

Year	Number of GASC-Funded CVI-SO Organizations	Participants Served
2022	44	2,723
2023	84	13,985
2024	85	21,248
2025	106	6,781

Although CVI-SO strategies rely first and foremost on the role of street outreach workers as community-based first responders and violence interrupters, these organizations also support participants through a suite of services intended to create future pathways for success. Reported through the GASC’s CVI Metric Tool,⁹ these services include Basic Needs (Housing, Food Assistance, Transportation, and Medical), Case Management (Insurance, Legal Assistance, and Identification Support), Education, Employment, Mental Health (Mental Health, Substance Use, Crisis Services), and Victim Advocacy (Funeral, Referral to Victim Advocacy Services). Figure 1 below outlines changes in the provision of these services by grantee organizations over time.

⁸ Consistent with prior reporting, participants served by the GASC’s grantees are majority Black or African American males ranging in age from under 18 through 60+, with the most common age group between 18 and 24.

⁹ Subcategories for each service category (including in parentheses in the text) are pulled directly from reporting in the CVI Metric Tool. Employment and Education do not have subcategories as these are one-to-one reporting categories in the tool.

Service Composition for CVI-SO Organizations Shifts Over Time

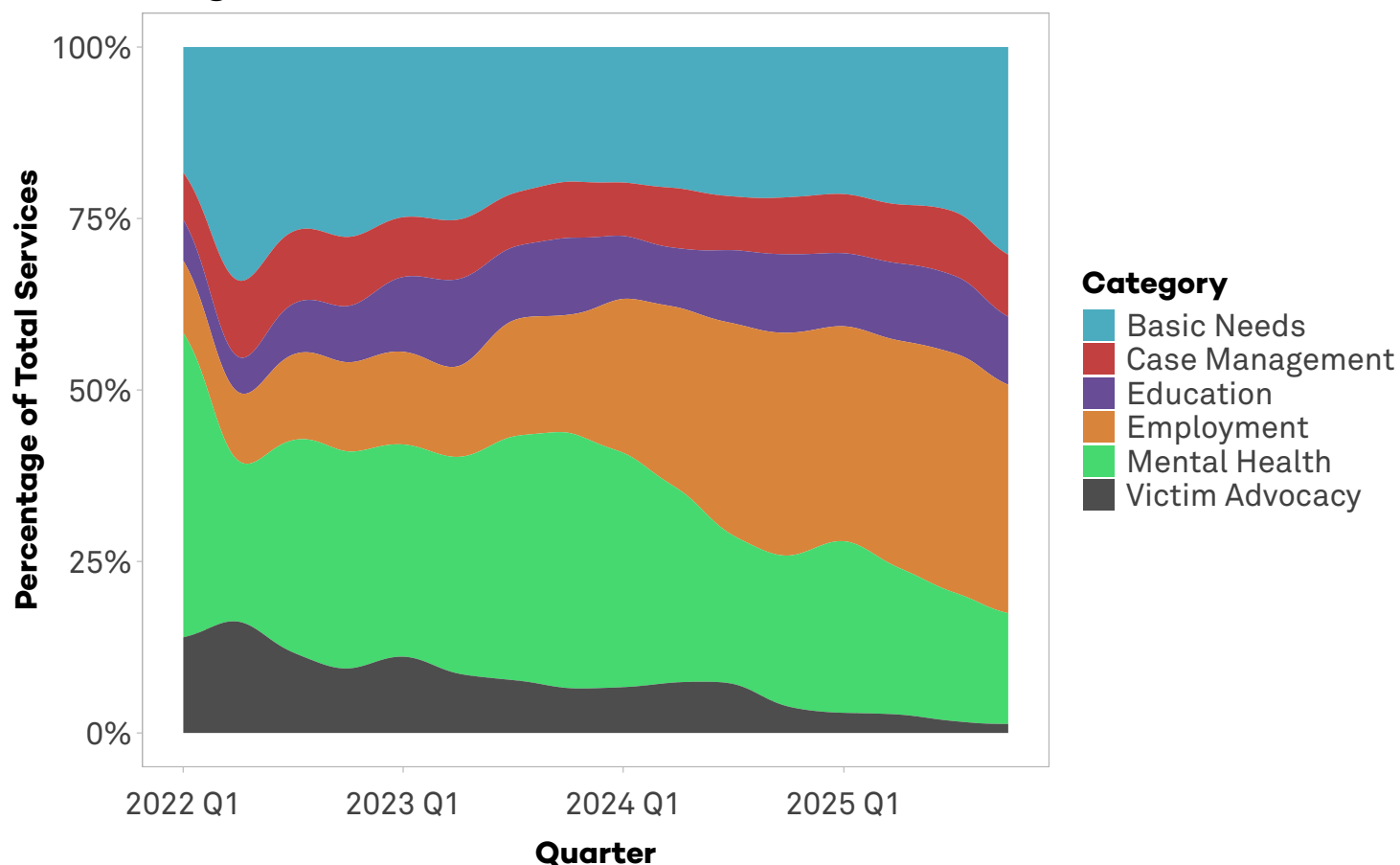


Figure 1. Service Composition for CVI-SO Organizations Shifts Over Time

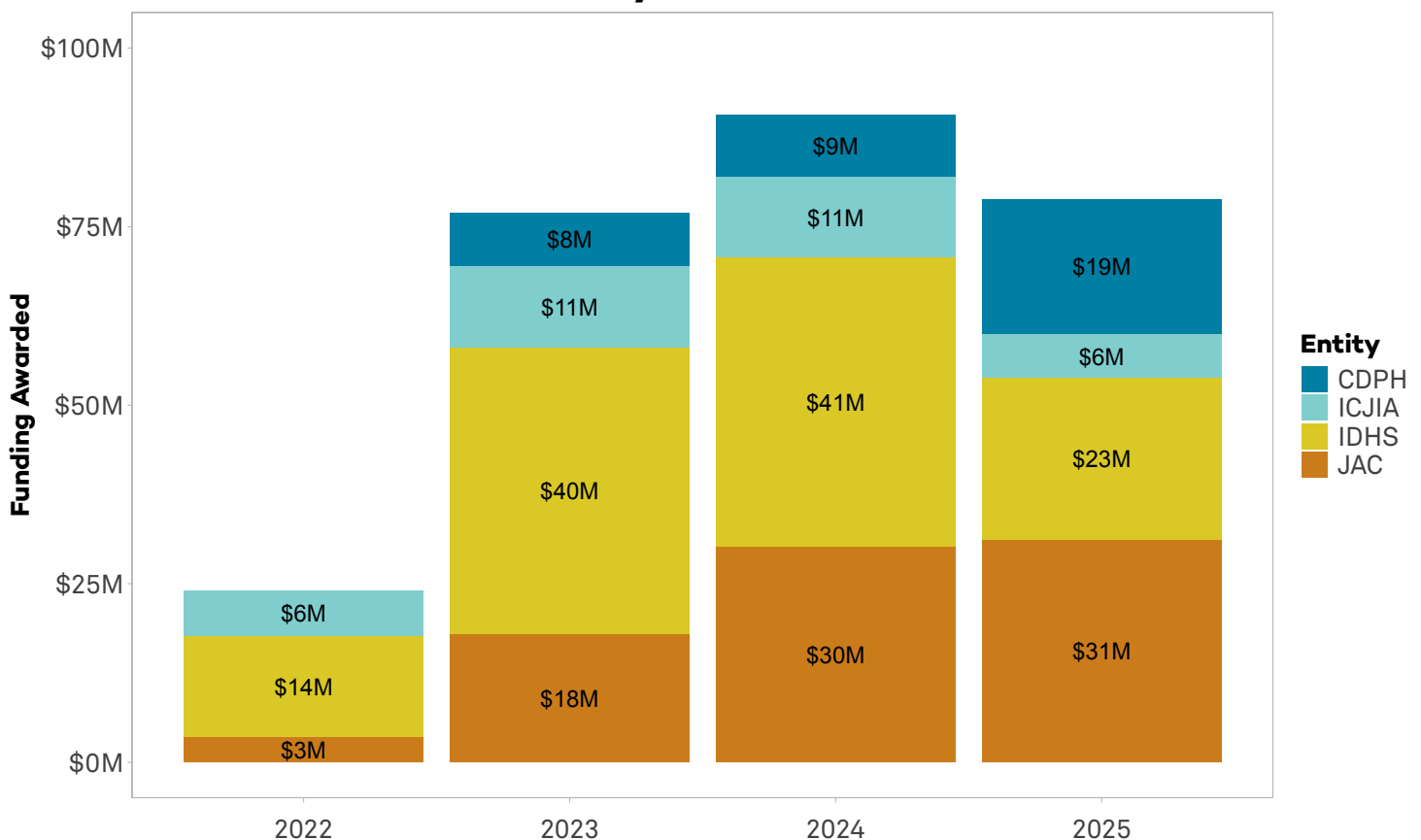
There have been shifts in the focus of CVI services reported by GASC grantees over time. Services to meet basic needs, which comprised over a quarter of all service provision in 2022, declined slightly before becoming a larger share of services in 2025. Employment has become a primary service provided to CVI participants in 2025, while the share of services addressing mental health has declined. CVI organizations continue to provide education and case management services as a smaller proportion of total services.

ARPA Funding and the ARPA Cliff

Finding 2: ARPA funding represented a massive influx of public dollars into the field of CVI-SO, most of which has been sustained through the GASC’s continued collaboration as ARPA is ending.

The introduction of ARPA funding in 2022 and subsequent strategic collaboration between GASC funders represented a substantial influx of public dollars to support CVI-SO efforts across the state of Illinois. However, ARPA was a time-limited federal funding source, set to expire at the end of calendar year 2026. To prepare for this drop in funding—colloquially referred to as the “ARPA cliff”— GASC funders established shared priorities around violence prevention funding, developed streamlined notice of funding opportunities, and sought replacement funds within their own budgets to sustain GASC-funded CVI-SO efforts.

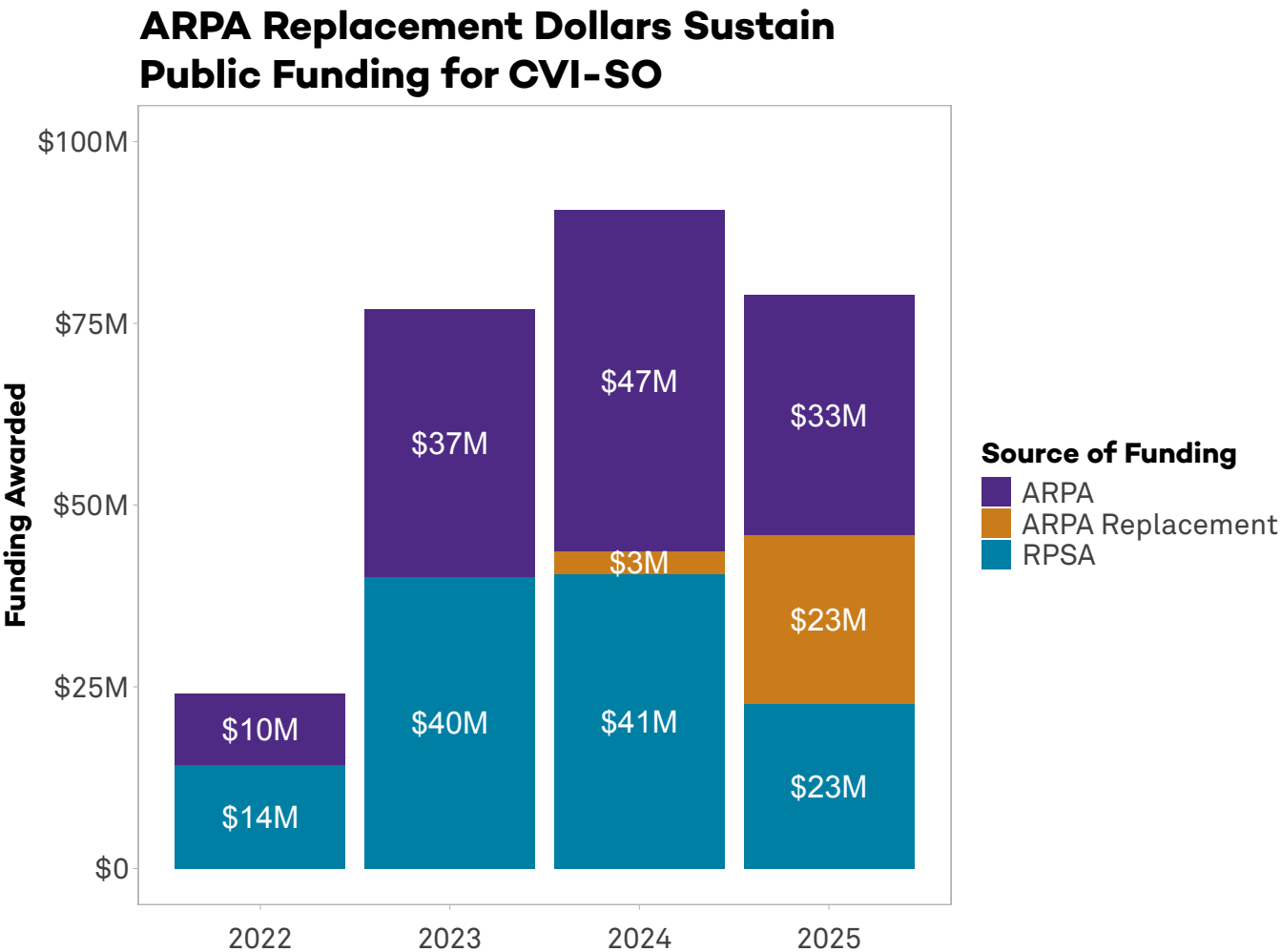
Investments in CVI-SO by GASC Partner, 2022-2025



Note: 2022-2023 totals do not include non-ARPA funding. 2024 and 2025 totals do include non-ARPA funding.

Figure 2. Investments in CVI-SO by GASC Partner, 2022-2025

Figures 2-4 illustrate investments in CVI-SO by GASC Partner between 2022-2025. Given the GASC’s original emphasis on ARPA spending for CVI, 2022 and 2023 funding amounts below include only those dollars allocated to CVI-SO organizations through ARPA funds. For 2024 and 2025, funding includes ARPA and ARPA replacement dollars to highlight GASC entities’ intentional efforts to sustain the influx of public CVI dollars initially brought about by ARPA funding. In Figure 3 below, [Reimagine Public Safety Act](#) (RPSA) dollars, which represent IDHS’s CVI-SO funding across all four years, are separated out because RPSA funding in 2024 and 2025 included a mix of ARPA and non-ARPA funding and cannot be categorized as either ARPA or ARPA replacement funding, as noted earlier in this brief.



Note: IDHS RPSA was fully ARPA-funded through the end of FY2024, which ended June 2024. RPSA funding after this date comprises a mix of ARPA and Non-ARPA funds.

Figure 3. ARPA Replacement Dollars Sustain Public Funding for CVI-SO, 2022-2025

As shown in Figure 2, state entities (IDHS and ICJIA, together) led investments in CVI-SO organizations with substantial contributions from county and city entities (JAC and CDPH). As seen in Figure 3, replacement funding began to supplant ARPA dollars in 2024, with almost a third of GASC awards to CVI-SO organizations funded via non-ARPA sources in 2025.

Most of the GASC’s grants supported CVI-SO programming in Chicago, with a smaller share of funding distributed to organizations operating in Suburban Cook County and Greater Illinois (figure 4). CORNERS’ final reporting in the spring of 2027 will further examine trends related to participant enrollment, retention, and costs related to service provision.

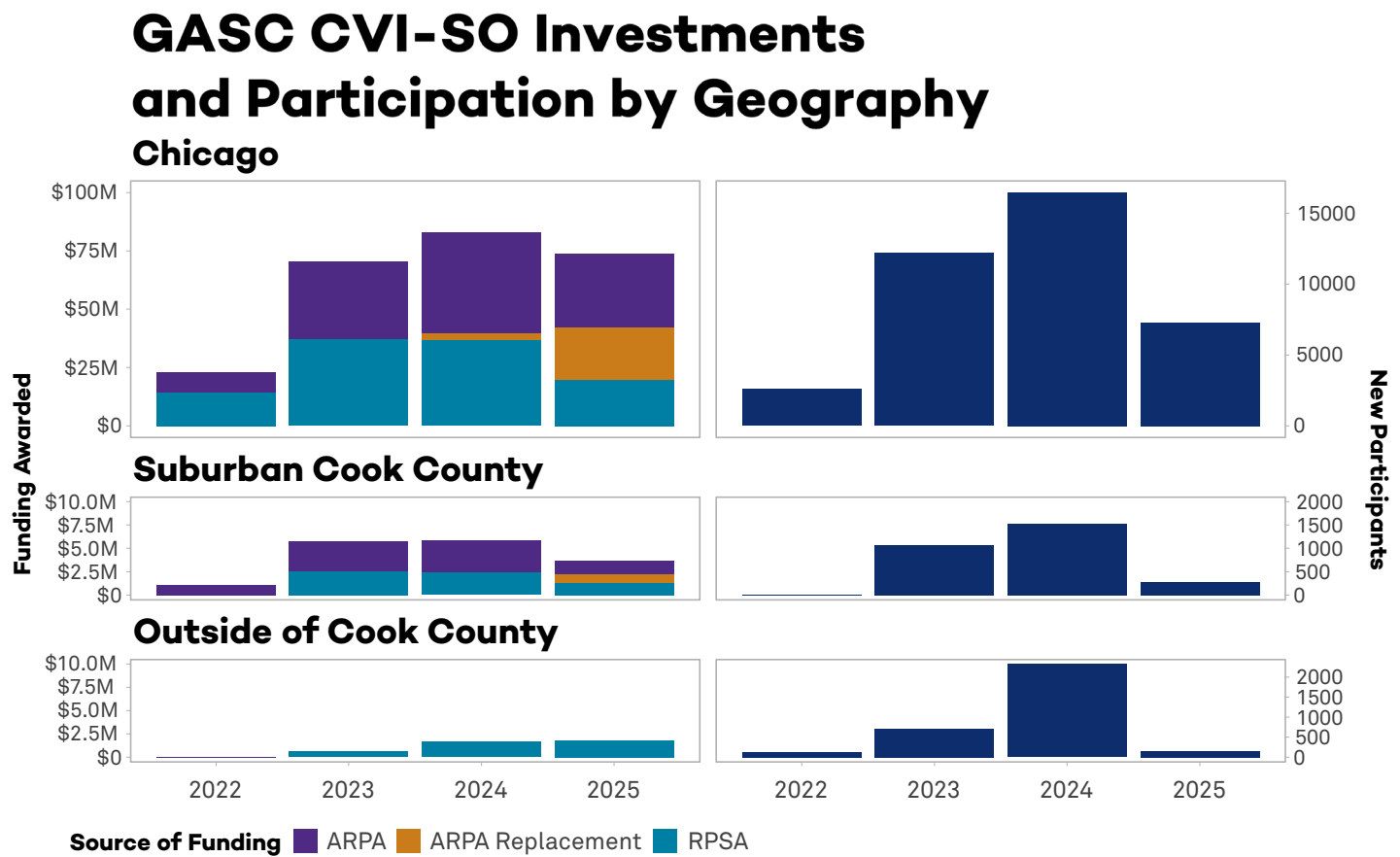


Figure 4. GASC CVI-SO Investments and Participation by Geography

Geographic Distribution of CVI-SO Funding Relative to Need

Finding 3: GASC funding allowed CVI-SO organizations to grow their reach, particularly in Chicago communities with the highest levels of shootings and homicides.

CORNERS' [GASC 2025 Impact Report](#) established that the GASC CVI funding concentrated in Chicago communities with the highest level of need for CVI services, as measured by rates of shootings and homicides (Figure 5). Funding data for 2025 demonstrate that the highest levels of funding for CVI-SO continue to support programming in neighborhoods with higher levels of violence. Altogether, the GASC's collaborative, strategic approach to funding persists in supporting neighborhoods where community-based violence prevention services are most needed.

Investment and Participation in CVI-SO Concentrated on South and West Side(s)

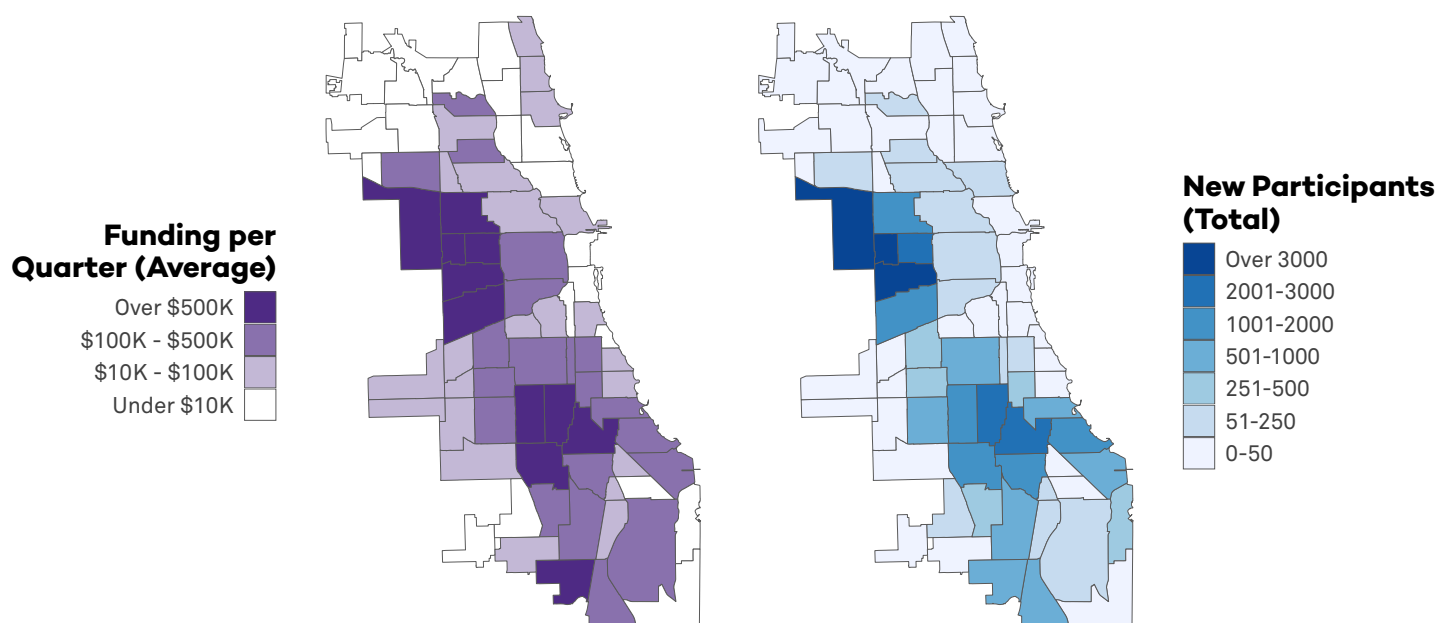


Figure 5. Investment and Participation in CVI-SO Concentrated on South and West Side(s) of Chicago

Building on these analyses, finding 4 below incorporates gun violence data alongside geographic distributions of funding to understand the relationship between rates of violence and GASC-funded CVI-SO programming in these highest-funded neighborhoods.

CVI-SO Funding Distribution and Post-COVID Violence Trends

Finding 4: Violence dropped in GASC-funded communities in the years since ARPA dollars were first distributed, and communities receiving the largest public investments in CVI-SO also saw the steepest declines in violence following pandemic-era peaks.

The GASC’s coordinated dispersal of ARPA investments in CVI-SO may have been an important contributor to Chicago’s historic declines in gun violence between 2022 and 2025, though CORNERS’ analyses cannot attribute any causal claims to the effect.¹⁰

Building on finding 3, we assessed year-over-year trends in non-fatal shooting and homicide victimization to compare relative GASC funding by community area with rates of decline in gun violence across Chicago. Notably, the greatest declines in shooting victimizations relative to 2025 were found in communities on the South and West sides of the city, where GASC funding is most concentrated and where street outreach organizations engaged the largest number of participants (Figure 6).

Gun Violence Declined Substantially in ARPA-Invested Areas Between 2022 and 2025

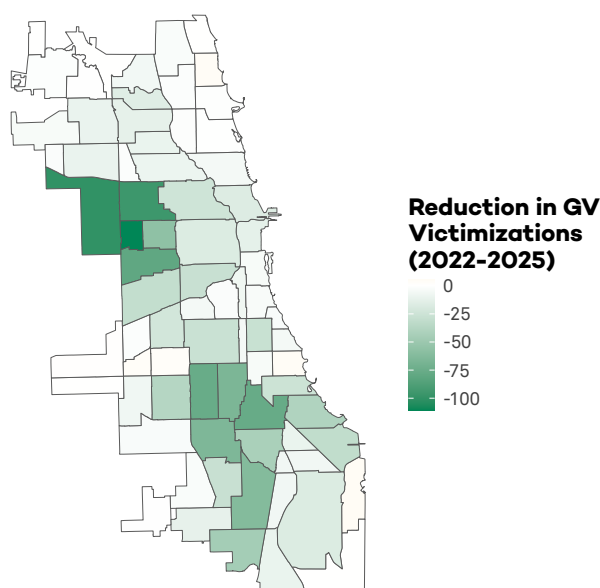


Figure 6. Gun Violence Declined Substantially in ARPA-Invested Community Areas Between 2022 and 2025.

The GASC’s coordinated dispersal of ARPA investments in CVI-SO may have been an important contributor to Chicago’s historic declines in gun violence between 2022 and 2025.

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For more information on limitations related to data analysis and causation, refer to page 24 in CORNERS’ [2025 GASC Impact Report](#).

High Investment Communities Experienced Steepest Declines from Pandemic-Era Violence Peaks

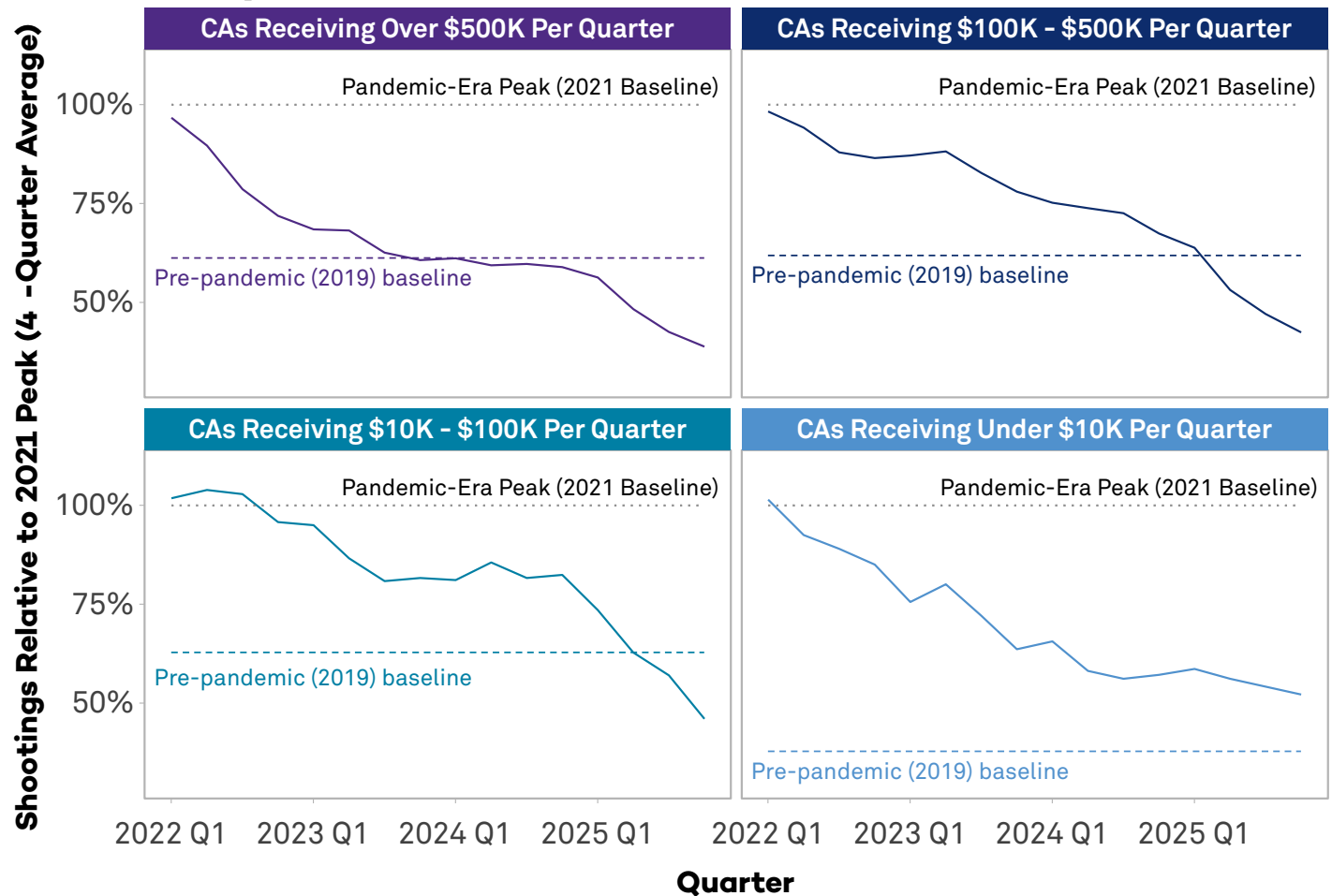


Figure 7. High Investment Communities Experienced Steepest Declines from Pandemic-Era Violence Peaks

Comparing violence rates among groups of communities receiving different levels of GASC funding to past trends in those same areas suggests that post-pandemic reductions in violence were greatest in those communities where the GASC invested more funding. As shown in Figure 7, violence rates returned to pre-pandemic levels of gun violence most rapidly among the communities that received the largest levels of quarterly CVI-SO grant investments from GASC funders.

In CORNERS' [2025 GASC Impact Report](#), the highest investment areas were the only geographies to end 2024 below their pre-pandemic levels of gun violence. In 2025, this trend extends across middle-range (\$10k - \$100k and \$100k - \$500k quarterly investment) investment groups with those groups experiencing subsequent, although slower, returns to pre-pandemic levels of violence. Although these trends are not causal and cannot necessarily be attributed specifically to GASC funding, this analysis suggests a descriptive relationship between levels of violence and funding for CVI-SO programming. Communities receiving the highest amounts of public funding for CVI-SO also saw the steepest declines in violence compared to their own pandemic-era peaks.

Conclusion

Historic declines in gunshot victimizations across cities and states nationwide have contributed to the lowest levels of shootings and homicides observed in decades. Since 2022, GASC funding for CVI-Street Outreach services has been an important contributor in expanding Community Violence Intervention efforts across the state, while Chicago has experienced reductions in violence over the same period, particularly in communities receiving the highest amounts of GASC funding for CVI-SO. Over a four-year period, GASC-funded CVI-SO organizations engaged more than 40,000 individuals most proximate to violence across the state, providing wraparound services that extend beyond traditional violence intervention.

In Chicago, GASC-funded CVI-SO organizations predominantly serve West and South side communities that have historically been most impacted by violence. These communities, which received the highest levels of CVI-SO funding from the GASC, experienced the largest declines in gun violence relative to their pandemic-era peaks and returned to pre-pandemic violence levels more quickly than lower-funded communities. These findings suggest an association between greater public investment in CVI-SO programming and larger reductions in violence.

While the ARPA cliff poses a substantial challenge to the sustainability of publicly funded CVI-SO programming across Chicagoland and Greater Illinois, GASC entities have identified alternative funding sources to replace expiring federal funds, with additional funding still required to ameliorate the continued effects of the ARPA cliff and sustain CVI programming long-term. In 2025, the GASC sourced \$23 million in replacement funding – almost a third of its total annual funding for CVI-SO organizations – from sources outside of ARPA.

Understanding how street outreach programming and gun violence have evolved over the past four years can provide insight into changing conditions and needs that may be relevant to future CVI and GASC investments. While the immediate post-pandemic period was marked by efforts to stabilize communities amid elevated levels of violence, recent declines in gun victimization raise questions about how demand for CVI services and community needs may be evolving. As ARPA funding sunsets, examining these trends can help inform how future investments might sustain community violence intervention while remaining responsive to changing conditions and locally identified priorities.