

Government Alliance for Safe Communities

2026 POLICY BRIEF 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).

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 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.



Policy Brief Findings

Since 2022, the GASC has supported over 100 CVI-SO organizations providing an array of services 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 provided wraparound services to participants, including basic needs support, case management, education, employment, mental health, and victim advocacy.

ARPA funding represented a massive influx of public dollars into the CVI-SO field, most of which has been sustained through the GASC's continued collaboration.

The GASC shepherded more than \$260 million in ARPA and ARPA replacement funding to CVI-SO organizations between 2022 and 2025. In 2025, nearly one third of GASC awards to CVI-SO organizations were funded through ARPA replacement dollars. State entities led these investments, with substantial contributions from the county and city. As ARPA funding reaches its predetermined end date in 2026, the GASC is pursuing sustainable funding sources.

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 on Chicago's South and West Sides, in communities with the highest level of need for CVI services as measured by rates of shootings and homicides. Likewise, CVI participants are also concentrated most heavily in these same communities.

Shootings and homicides decreased in GASC-funded communities, and communities receiving its largest CVI-SO investments saw the steepest declines.

Between 2022 and 2025, Chicago's South and West Sides (which received concentrated GASC funding) saw the greatest declines in gun violence. Comparison of gun victimization trends indicates that post-pandemic declines, relative to pandemic-era violence spikes, were largest in communities receiving the greatest GASC investments. While CORNERS cannot assert causality in this case, the GASC's coordinated dispersal of CVI-SO investments may have contributed to Chicago's recent, dramatic declines in gun violence.

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

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