



Introduction

Currently operational in the cities of Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury, Project Longevity's goal reduce gun violence, minimize harm to communities and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.

Project Longevity's framework includes, but is not limited to, elements of the Gun Violence Reduction (GVI) model promulgated by the National Network for Safe Communities at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

In July, 2022, The Justice Education Center, Inc. assumed responsibility for overseeing Project Longevity through the support of the Connecticut General Assembly. The Center is a 45-year-old non-profit organization focusing on preventing and reducing crime, strengthening communities and improving public safety. The Center's core belief is that these efforts cannot be waged by the justice system alone and require long-term working partnerships between state and municipal governments and the communities they serve. Its Board of Directors reflects this belief and includes leaders within Connecticut's juvenile and criminal justice system and the business, community and educational sectors.

Among its projects, The Justice Education Center, Inc. also serves as the fiduciary for Project Safe Neighborhoods, a federally-funded gun violence reduction project through the Office of the United States Attorneys Office, District of Connecticut. The Center is committed to working with is to help federal, state, and local gun violence partners to maximize collaboration and the sharing of resources.



Core Components

The core components of Project Longevity are the:

- Identification of those most at risk of committing or being victims of gun violence, using data and real time intelligence from police, probation, parole, DOC, and other community partners
- Provision of emergency services to offenders, families and victims who are most at risk; services which currently include housing, coordinated care and emergency services, pre-apprenticeship and career readiness training, mental health services, substance use disorder services, and driver's education through contracts with service providers in each city
- Provide outreach to those most at-risk to reduce initial incidences, de-escalate and mediate issues in order to help prevent further violence when violence occurs.
- Development and organization of community-wide collaborations with collaboration with law enforcement, service providers, and community leaders

Performance Measures

Project Longevity activities are intended to contribute to community efforts to reduce gun violence.

- At the population/community level, the key indicator of success include longitudinal tracking of the number of shooting incidents and homicides in the community, and the number and percent of these that are group or gang-involved
- At the program level, performance measures include the number of high-risk individuals identified who are attend call ins, receive custom notifications, and services. Of those participants receiving services, number who have no further justice involvement or, if re-arrested, demonstrate desistance from gun related violence or crime, as well as outcomes associated with specific services provided (e.g, entry into employment, entry into stable housing, obtaining occupational certification, obtaining driver's licenses, etc.).

