


Date: September 3, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Investing in Children, Youth, and Families is Violence Prevention**

The City's investment in youth programming, along with a focus on supporting children and their families, is crucial to advancing peace and preventing violence. By providing resources, support, and opportunities early in life, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of young people engaging in or becoming victims of violent behaviors. Early investments lead to better outcomes across the lifespan, fostering safer communities in the long term. This memo outlines efforts by City Manager-directed departments to engage youth, support children and their families, and promote safe communities.

Background and Framing: A Public Health Approach

To achieve optimal health outcomes and safe communities for all, addressing violence requires a comprehensive, multifaceted approach that recognizes its complexity and engages partners from every sector in the city. In Long Beach, the City team employs the Advancing Peace Public Health Framework (Attachment A) to collectively address the systemic issues that perpetuate harm, which directly link to violence in homes and on the streets. This robust public health strategy delves into the root causes of violence, such as systemic racism, economic disparities, poverty, and access to weapons, while also addressing generational trauma. This public health approach to violence and advancing peace is grounded in collective impact, recognizing that everyone, every department, and every sector has a role to play. Taking a community-focused approach and fostering partnerships are essential for success. Alongside this collaborative approach, the model emphasizes upstream prevention, intervention/violence interruption, and aftercare and healing strategies that must work simultaneously to create sustainable, lasting change.

Prevention, Intervention, and Aftercare

Across City departments, there are numerous strategies, programs and initiatives that foster safe communities and invest in the wellbeing of Long Beach's youth. In the context of fostering safe communities from a holistic public health perspective, the City identifies a spectrum of activities that contribute to addressing violence and its root causes. Definitions are highlighted below:

- *Prevention*: addresses the root causes of violence (getting to violence before it occurs). This looks like promoting positive development for young children, youth,

and their families, strengthening family support systems, and improving access to education and employment opportunities.

- *Intervention*: involves focused efforts to provide youth who may be on the cusp of becoming perpetrators or victims of violence, with resources, mentorship, and support to redirect their paths towards peace and safety.
- *Aftercare*: focuses on supporting youth who have already been involved in harmful behavior and helping them connect to their communities through rehabilitation, counseling, and continued guidance to prevent recidivism and promote long-term positive outcomes.

Investments Made by the City

Data was gathered from multiple departments to assess the City’s allocation of resources in accordance with the public health approach to violence. City departments were asked to provide financial information on various programming and activities that contribute to prevention, intervention, and aftercare for children, youth, and their families.

In Fiscal Year 2024, the City’s investments in this programming totaled just over \$26.1 million citywide. Of this total funding, \$18.9 million was focused on prevention, \$4.1 million was geared towards intervention, and approximately \$3 million in programming touched on multiple forms of prevention, intervention, and aftercare. Of the total \$26.1 million in funding, approximately two-thirds (66.1 percent) was grant-funded, 28.3 percent was structurally funded, and 5.6 percent was one-time funding.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the City anticipates an increase in these investments, with more than \$37 million projected to be spent on prevention, intervention, and aftercare efforts. The vast majority (89.6 percent) of the total funding is dedicated towards prevention efforts, highlighting a significant gap in intervention and aftercare. In both FY 24 and FY 25, most of the investments and programming are supported by grants. The tables below detail information on these investments.

Activity Type	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	Total (\$)	Percent (%)	Total (\$)	Percent (%)
Prevention	18,931,198	72.4%	33,559,508	89.6%
Intervention	4,153,862	15.9%	3,004,522	8.0%
Multiple	3,062,388	11.7%	888,091	2.4%
Grand Total	26,147,448	100.0%	37,452,121	100.0%

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Funding Source	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	Total (\$)	Percent (%)	Total (\$)	Percent (%)
Ongoing	7,408,082	28.3	12,261,214	32.7
Grant	17,289,367	66.1	25,000,907	66.8
One-Time	1,450,000	5.6	190,000	0.5
Grand Total	26,147,448	100.0	37,452,121	100.0

The following chart organizes this data by department and demonstrates the program activity type and number of programs.

Department/Activity Type	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	Number of Programs	Total (\$)	Number of Programs	Total (\$)
Airport	5	63,000	6	87,000
Prevention	5	63,000	6	87,000
City Manager	2	185,573	2	142,689
Multiple	2	185,573	1	142,689
Economic Development	1	178,596	4	4,716,710
Prevention	1	178,596	4	4,716,710
Fire	6	1,180,721	6	1,180,721
Prevention	6	1,180,721	6	1,180,721
Health & Human Services	13	18,167,368	16	18,719,129
Prevention	7	12,260,845	11	14,969,205
Intervention	3	4,153,862	3	3,004,522
Multiple	3	1,752,661	2	745,402
Library Services	6	4,908,036	6	5,037,035
Prevention	6	4,908,036	6	5,037,035
Police	3	908,154	0	0
Multiple	3	908,154	0	0
Parks, Recreation & Marine	4	556,000	15	7,185,837
Prevention	3	340,000	15	7,185,837
Multiple	1	216,000	0	0
Technology & Innovation	0	0	2	383,000
Prevention	0	0	2	383,000
Grand Total of Programs	40	26,147,448	58	37,452,121

Not included in the amounts for FY 25 is one-time funding proposed in the City's budget. The City Manager has proposed funding in the amount of \$200,000 to go towards violence prevention and intervention efforts. Further, the Mayor's proposed budget adds \$100,000 to these efforts and \$250,000 for early childhood initiatives.

Next Steps

The community has voiced concerns in Council meetings, Budget Oversight Committee meetings, community budget meetings, and advisory spaces, expressing a desire for greater investments in violence prevention and intervention programs. As the data shown above indicates, most of the funding in FY 24 and FY 25 is funded by grants and focused on prevention. However, sustainable investments in all three components of the public health approach to violence (prevention, intervention, and aftercare) are equally as important and must work simultaneously for these initiatives to achieve their fullest potential to foster safe communities. If approved, the one-time funding in the proposed FY 25 budget for violence prevention and intervention efforts could address some of this gap. The City recognizes the urgency of addressing violence throughout the community and through the newly established S.T.R.O.N.G. Beach Initiative is fully committed to finding comprehensive solutions to advancing peace for lasting change.

For more information, please contact Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager, at Teresa.chandler@longbeach.gov at (562) 570-5116.

ATTACHMENT

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ADVANCING PEACE

A public health model*

Intervention/Violence Interruption

Redirect and invest in individuals who are at highest risk of engaging in violence

Create support for and invest in those at highest risk of being victimized by violence

Detect, anticipate, and interrupt multiple forms of violence

Remove graffiti or other symbols that encourage violence or deter social activity

Respond to incidents to prevent or lessen further violence from occurring

**Adaptation of Cure the Violence Model*

CITY OF
LONG BEACH



ADVANCING PEACE

A public health model*

Prevention

Coordinate collaboration to reallocate resources and investments that improve the quality of life

Create clear communication for all entities involved in violence prevention work in the community

Engage community in activities that create social connectedness

Focus on upstream approaches to improve environment

Increase opportunities for stable social, economic, and emotional development to increase pathways over the life course

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Accountability and Healing

Promotion and Education

Collective Work

Continuous Improvement

Safe spaces for victims of violence and vicarious trauma

*Adaptation of Cure the Violence Model