

# INDY CAPS IMPACT REPORT

## COALITION TO ADVANCE PUBLIC SAFETY



THE  
HEALTH ALLIANCE  
for VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION



April 2025



COMMUNITY  
ACTION OF GREATER  
INDIANAPOLIS



# INDY CAPS IMPACT REPORT

In a compliment to the City of Indianapolis' Gun Violence Reduction Strategy and Elevation grant program, the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) supported the development of the Indy Coalition to Advance Public Safety (CAPS).

Indy CAPS is a part of the national [CAPS](#) initiative—a collaborative effort of four national, Black-led TA providers focused on reducing near-term violence by expanding and strengthening local community violence intervention (CVI) ecosystems. Through CAPS, NICJR, Cities United, the Community Based Public Safety Collective, and the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention are providing technical assistance and training to local CVI efforts in 12 cities, including Indianapolis, over the course of five years. The CAPS Local Capacity Building Fund also provides direct grant funding of up to \$500,000 per jurisdiction for community-based organizations focused on community violence intervention.

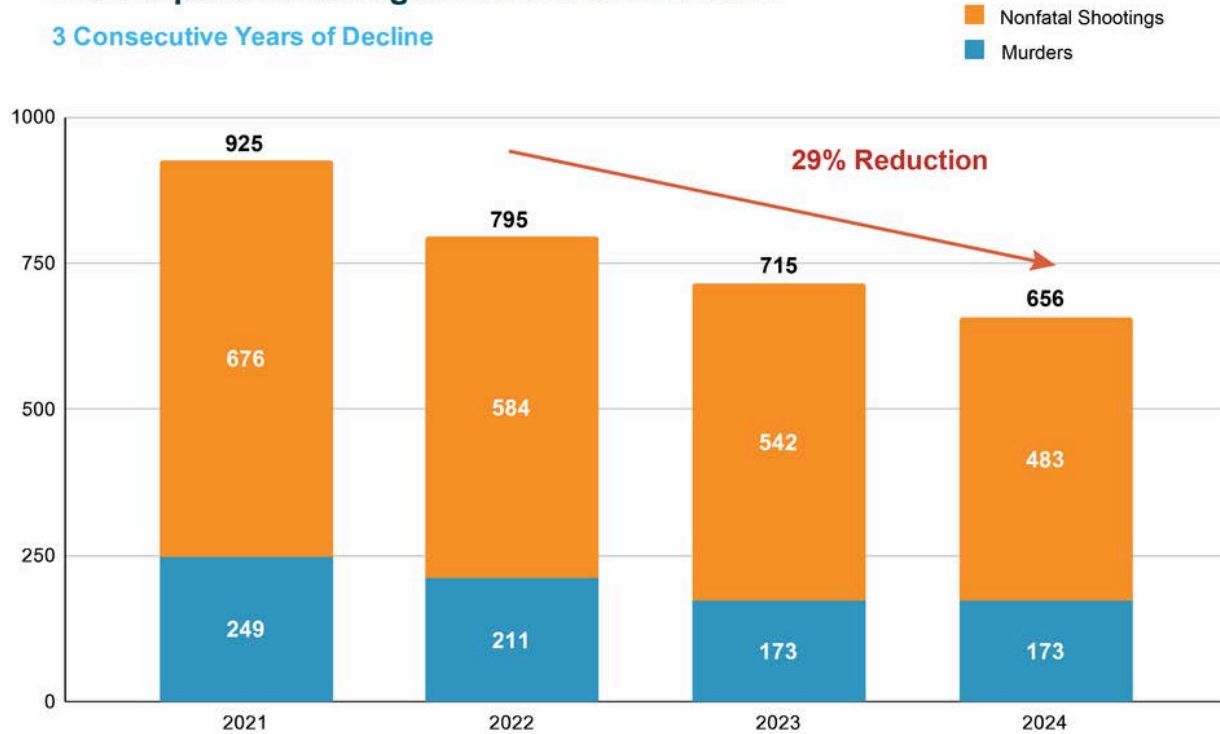
Through CAPS and other partnerships, NICJR was able to support coordination with five local community-based organizations that are leaders in community violence intervention in Indianapolis. Additionally, with support from the Ballmer Group, Schusterman Family Philanthropies, and Langeloth Foundation, the [NICJR Giving Initiative](#) has awarded \$610,000 to CVI organizations in Indianapolis.

Since implementing a comprehensive Gun Violence Reduction Strategy in January 2022, the City of Indianapolis has seen a combined 29% reduction in homicides and nonfatal shootings, with decreases each of the last three years—the first time in 15 years the city has achieved this consistent reduction in gun violence.

This progress is the fruit of sustained effort from many partners, including the administration of Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Indianapolis Office of Public Health and Safety, Indianapolis Public Safety Foundation, and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

## Indianapolis Shootings & Murders 2021-2024

3 Consecutive Years of Decline



This progress is the fruit of sustained effort from many partners, including the administration of Mayor Joe Hogsett and the Indianapolis Office of Public Health and Safety, Indianapolis Public Safety Foundation, and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Equally important are the community-based organizations on the frontlines of violence in Indianapolis. In particular, the Brightwood – Forest Manor Community Center, Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, New BOY, RecycleForce, Thomas Ridley's 1 Like Me, and VOICES work tirelessly to save lives and create brighter futures.

Given their crucial role, this report provides an overview of each organization's violence reduction work and highlights their accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2023–2024 (FY24).



# BRIGHTWOOD – FOREST MANOR COMMUNITY CENTER



Brightwood – Forest Manor Community Center's (BWCC) mission is to become a beacon of holistic growth and development for residents through community empowerment. BWCC serves the greater Indianapolis community, with a focus on the Martindale-Brightwood, Oxford, Hillside, and Forest Manor neighborhoods. These communities face high rates violent crime, poverty, education disinvestment, blight, unemployment, and physical and mental health issues.

BWCC serves low-income families, children, teens and young adults, unemployed/under-employed individuals, returning citizens, and seniors. The organization operates healing circles, intimate partner violence victim/survivor services, and a workforce development program. BWCC's efforts also include an in-school teen dating violence program, summer youth camp, afterschool program, and Parent RETREAT program (Renew spiritually, Expressions of concerns, Time for self-care, Reflections of life lessons, Enjoyment of others, Adjustment of harmful patterns, Trauma recovery). Additionally, BWCC provides voter registration, a food pantry, and neighborhood CORE services to meet community needs. By addressing unmet needs that drive violence, BWCC plays an important role in increasing public safety.



# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**3,814**

individuals served  
(all ages)

**72%**



percentage of individuals served **under 18** (2,756)



**956**

young people  
graduating from  
youth programming



**10<sup>1</sup>**

individuals receiving  
job training and job  
readiness services



**200**

individuals served  
through driver's  
license clinics



**15**

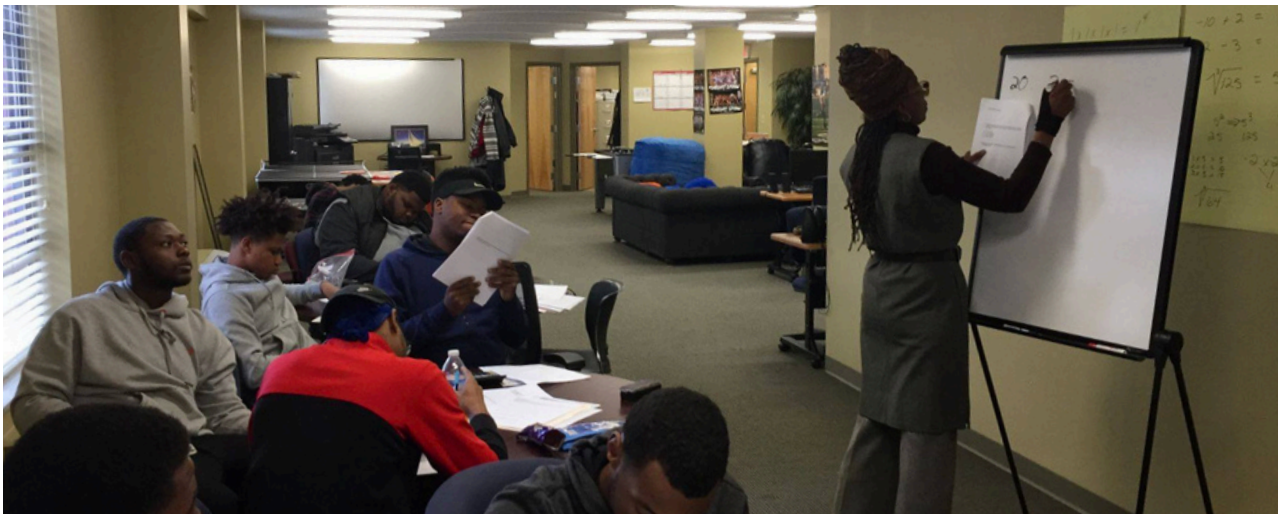
individuals supported with  
basic needs (clothing, home  
goods, etc.)

<sup>1</sup> Programming began toward the end of FY24.

# COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the reduction and, ultimately, elimination of poverty among the clients in its service area. CAGI's services are focused in the 46205, 46208, 46218, 46226, and 46235 zip codes.

CAGI's We CANN (Community Action Neighborhood Network) Champions program empowers young adults ages 18–35 who are at high risk for violent crime involvement. Tailored to high-crime neighborhoods, We CANN Champions addresses critical issues like trauma, criminogenic thinking, and resource disparities through a comprehensive approach that includes job readiness and life skills training, cognitive behavioral therapy (specifically Moral Reconation Therapy), recovery support, case management, community building, life coaching, and transformative travel.



Through trauma-informed, asset-based approaches, We CANN Champions fosters both personal growth and community transformation as participants gain education and certifications within a supportive, pro-social environment. While the program has a six-month graduation timeline, opportunities for continued engagement remain available beyond completion. For example, CAGI holds weekly meetups that offer We CANN Champions participants a structured, supportive space to share their progress, challenges, and goals. These sessions provide peer support, mentorship, and resources while reinforcing skills learned in the program. These regular meetups help participants build accountability, develop healthy relationships, and stay connected to their goals, serving as a vital component of their long-term success and continued community engagement.



# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



COMMUNITY  
ACTION OF GREATER  
INDIANAPOLIS

35

individuals served

88%



individuals receiving employment services job readiness (31)



22

individuals receiving  
employment services  
(job placement)



35

individuals supported  
with basic needs



4

individuals receiving  
support to obtain  
driver's permit



12

individuals receiving support with driver's license reinstatement

# NEW BOY

The New BOY (Breed of Youth) Mentoring Program is designed to inspire, educate, and guide young men on their journey to success. The program focuses on fostering leadership, increasing social-emotional awareness, teaching positive conflict resolution, and encouraging personal growth through robust programming that includes the following:

**Youth Sports Program:** Monday nights at “The Spot” are packed with youth ages 9–17 as they engage in the New BOY Sports Program, which features an open basketball court, a weight room for workouts, and a supervised boxing gym. On any given Monday, there are 25 to 30 youth in the building taking advantage of “The Spot” and all the space afforded to New BOY to engage, nurture, and cultivate young men.

**Youth Sports Leagues:** Throughout the year, New BOY hosts a variety of Saturday youth sports leagues that serve young men ages 6–18, including a “Playing For Peace” Youth Flag Football League, a “Guns Down-Gloves Up” Youth Boxing League, and more. As a part of the Youth Flag Football League, a parent volunteer team makes sure all families are fed free of charge, which contributes to a positive, fun, family friendly atmosphere.





**Youth and Family Martial Arts Class:** The New BOY Youth and Family Martial Arts Class is a high-octane experience where participants not only progress in their physical abilities, but grow mentally and emotionally as well. The program focuses heavily on conflict resolution and social-emotional well-being, and caregivers have shared positive feedback about how their children incorporate the training into their daily routine at home and in school. The class welcomes caregivers and siblings, creating opportunities to positively affect the entire family unit.

**Leaders Circle:** On Wednesday nights, the New BOY Leaders Circle hosts raw, transparent, powerful, and engaging themed conversations for young men on a wide range of topics. The Circle has grown over time, and it is not unusual to see community stakeholders, grandmothers, mothers, fathers, aunts, brothers, and even some sisters of the young men joining these conversations.

**Night Lights Mentoring Program:** Every Friday, New BOY convenes youth in three different program areas focused on creative and expressive arts for the Night Lights Mentoring Program. Whether the boys are taping their weekly “Chess NOT Checkers” Community podcast episode, making music in the recording studio, or engaging in the Young Entrepreneurs workshop held every other Friday, there is always an area of activity focused on stimulating young men and amplifying their voices during Friday night programming.

**Children’s Policy Law Initiative (CPLI):**

In partnership with the Children’s Policy Law Initiative of Indiana, each year the CPLI program engages a cohort of young people in monthly meetings and periodic projects focused on local politics and social economics. Participants engage in special events such as recognition ceremonies, visits to the Statehouse, and informative panel discussions. Through interactions with local politicians, community stakeholders, law enforcement representatives, and more, these young people are educated, empowered, and motivated to learn how policies and laws affect their communities, schools, and homes.

**College and Historical Tour:**

Each year, New BOY takes a group of young men on a transformative trip to tour prestigious academic institutions like Howard University and Coastal Carolina University; visit historical sites such as the National Mall, the White House, and the Smithsonian Museum; and enjoy fun at destinations like Myrtle Beach in South Carolina. The College and Historical Tour is an immersive experience aimed at expanding the horizons of young people, exposing them to higher education, and igniting their dreams beyond what they see on a daily basis in their communities.

# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# 2024



275

individuals served  
(all ages)

92%



percentage of individuals served **under 18** (253)



65%

of individuals served  
receiving support with  
basic needs (clothing,  
food, hygiene supplies,  
housing assistance,  
and/or transportation)



5

individuals receiving  
support to obtain  
documentation  
(learner's permit, state  
ID, or driver's license)



70%

of individuals served who  
receive legal services  
(mentor participation at  
juvenile probation  
meetings, Indiana  
Department of Child  
Service Child and Family  
Team meetings, and  
court preparation prior  
to scheduled hearings)



45

individuals receiving  
employment services  
(resume support,  
mock interviews,  
and transportation to  
work and pre-hire  
interviews)



# RECYCLE FORCE

RecycleForce is a nonprofit employment social enterprise committed to reducing crime through employment and job training while improving the environment through electronics recycling. Since 2006, RecycleForce has safely recycled more than 65 million pounds of electronic waste while providing life-changing jobs and industry-recognized training to thousands of returning citizens in Marion County.

In partnership with Keys2Work, RecycleForce operates a trademarked ABC employment model for returning citizens:

**Any Job:** Returning citizens are employed in transitional jobs in the recycling enterprise.

**Better Job:** Workers progress to temporary or temporary-to-permanent jobs with employers across the city.

**Career:** Returning citizens, now trained and experienced workers, secure permanent jobs.

RecycleForce helps returning citizens break down barriers to employment by providing transitional jobs for up to six months, as well as comprehensive wraparound services. RecycleForce employees have access to professional and peer mentoring; high school equivalency and literacy tutoring; community college credits; assistance with housing and driver's license reinstatement; substance abuse and mental health counseling; and tax preparation, budgeting, and financial literacy training. This holistic approach greatly increases the chance of sustained future employment and decreases re-offending. The program also extends well beyond the six-month transitional job opportunity; by working with industry partners and employers committed to hiring returning citizens, RecycleForce helps facilitate the transition from temporary work to full-time, gainful employment. RecycleForce also works closely with the Indy Peace Fellowship for conflict mediation and longer-term mentorship of participants who are no longer considered high risk but who would still benefit from support.

In a randomized controlled trial of programs funded through the US Department of Labor Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration project, RecycleForce outperformed all others and was the only organization that warranted a cost-benefit analysis, with community benefits totaling \$13,297 per transitional worker at a cost of \$7,800.

# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



400

individuals served



400

individuals receiving  
employment services



300

individuals receiving  
support to obtain  
documentation



30

individuals supported  
with basic needs



150

individuals receiving legal services (attend court with participants  
to support system navigation)



# THOMAS RIDLEY'S 1 LIKE ME

Thomas Ridley's 1 Like Me (TR1LM) is dedicated to empowering justice-involved individuals through a range of supportive programs. The organization serves central Indiana with a focus on the 46201, 46208, 46218, 46219, 46222, 46226, and 46235 zip codes.

TR1LM serves participants across four key initiatives: Hope Hustler Outreach, Project 317, Peer Mentoring, and RAP. Each program is designed to address barriers faced by justice-involved individuals, facilitating their reintegration into society and reducing recidivism rates.



**Hope Hustler Outreach** provides driver's license reinstatement assistance to low-income and justice-involved individuals living in Marion County, where approximately 400,000 residents have suspended licenses. Participants receive personalized guidance on navigating the complexities of license reinstatement, thereby enhancing their ability to secure and maintain stable employment and access essential services. By addressing this critical need, Hope Hustler Outreach plays a vital role in fostering self-sufficiency and reducing recidivism.

**Project 317** is a targeted violence reduction program designed to support justice-involved individuals by addressing underlying issues contributing to violence while facilitating successful reintegration into the community. Recognizing that many justice-involved individuals face systemic challenges, Project 317 offers comprehensive, tailored case management and mentorship. The program emphasizes building trust and fostering relationships, which are essential for empowering participants to make positive life choices and avoid future criminal behavior. Participants also receive job readiness training, housing assistance, and access to mental health resources. As of July 2024, the program had successfully enrolled 30 individuals, all of whom identify as African American, reflecting TR1LM's commitment to serving communities disproportionately impacted by violence and systemic inequities.

The **Peer Mentoring** program assists justice-involved individuals in reintegrating into their communities after being released from jail or prison. Mentees are paired with a lived-experience Connect—someone directly impacted by the justice system or whose family or close friends have faced similar challenges. This program addresses barriers through job placement, resume writing support, and referrals to institutions that align with participants' personal needs. As of July 2024, the program had served 103 justice-involved individuals.

The **RAP (Resume, Application, Presentation, Probation, and Permanent Hire) Job Readiness Program** provides robust job readiness assistance to justice-involved individuals. The program's comprehensive job readiness support includes resume writing training, job search and application assistance, and mock interviews. RAP also provides tiered job placement services based on participants' skills and experience, as well as support to overcome challenges such as transportation and work attire. The program employs evidence-based methods, emphasizing prosocial modeling, collaborative problem-solving, and incremental skill-building.





# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**3080**

individuals served  
(all ages)

**99.97%**



percentage of individuals served **over 18** (3079)



**2,845**

driver's license  
and expungement  
assistance



**150**

received peer  
mentoring and  
critical needs support.



**90**

individuals receiving job  
readiness training and  
job placement services

# VOICES



VOICES is a Black-led organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of youth and families through the expression of self, community involvement, and providing options that will empower them to change their lives. For over a decade, VOICES has leveraged its expertise in juvenile justice, social work, and education to meet the needs of over 3,000 youth and adults from 36 zip codes across Marion County as well as from over 15 Indiana counties. Most VOICES participants are from low-income backgrounds, and the vast majority identify as BIPOC.

VOICES utilizes intensive, long-term relationship building as well as peer-to-peer structures to ensure participants feel a sense of belonging and ownership over their outcomes. Rooted in the belief that personal, joint, and systems change are all necessary to address systemic racism and generational poverty, VOICES also works with youth, practitioners, and systems leaders from across Indiana to prompt positive change that is led and informed by participants' perspectives and priorities—so that all Hoosier youth and families can thrive.

VOICES is housed in a 10,000-square-foot former school building situated on eight acres. This space has become a beacon for the community. Programming includes but is not limited to:



**Power and Promise:** Youth ages 12–24 participate in paid training programs that prepare them to become mentors, community organizers, policy change advocates, and professional consultants for youth-serving organizations.

**Family Liberation:** Families are paired with Life Coaches and Case Managers who work with them to identify goals; obtain advanced skills; and address basic needs such as transportation and stipends for work uniforms or equipment. Participants also have access to monthly family engagement activities.

**Healing Centered Reentry:** VOICES partners with the Indiana Department of Corrections and parole, probation, and community corrections agencies to provide wraparound support including, housing, case management, and social-emotional support to returning citizens and their families.

**Restorative Justice:** VOICES offers facilitator training and restitution program opportunities to local schools and organizations. This includes facilitation of restorative chats, circles, and conferences.

**After School/In School Programs:** This program introduces protective factors to youth and families that encourage success in peer/family relationships, health, school, and transitions to adulthood.

**Black Male Mental Health:** This monthly initiative provides safe spaces for men to process societal pressures and holistically embrace wellness with various local partners.

**Day Reporting:** This program provides 40 hours per week of intensive, community-based supervision that includes educational and workforce development programming, cognitive behavioral therapy, and creative arts workshops for court-ordered youth.

**Blossom House and Jake's Place:** The Blossom House (emergency shelter care for youth ages 14–17) and Jake's Place (transitional living units for young adults ages 18–22) provide housing for system-impacted and unhoused youth in Marion County. Residents can access onsite cognitive behavior programming, education, artistic expression opportunities, and workforce development.

**Legal services:** Case Managers for all programs attend participant court hearings and work closely with Marion County Juvenile Probation, the Marion County Public Defender's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office to coordinate services for youth and young adults. In FY24, VOICES also partnered with You Yes You! and SEND to host an Expungement Fair.

# 2024

## FISCAL YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1119

individuals served  
(all ages)

68%



percentage of individuals served under 18 (772)



298

young people  
graduating from  
youth programming



198

individuals supported with  
basic needs (clothing, closet,  
and, food pantry)



19

individuals supported  
with basic needs  
(home furnishings)



209

individuals receiving employment services (resume writing,  
mock interviews, mental health preparedness, paying fees for  
HSE/GED, and paying for advanced certifications)





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NICJR★  
National Institute for  
Criminal Justice Reform