

THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

PARTNER AGENCIES & OFFICES

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF), also referred to as the Task Force, established in June 2022, is tasked with stopping the rise in gun violence by using a public health and community-development approach to address its root cause: long-term disinvestment in the programs and services that make and keep New York City's neighborhoods safe. From housing to jobs, mental health, policing, vibrant public spaces, and opportunities for the youngest New Yorkers to thrive, the Task Force's goal is to prevent gun violence now and into the future. Since its inception, GVPTF has operated under the belief that gun violence is a symptom of a lack of access to economic, social, educational, and healthcare resources. To that end, GVPTF sets an ambitious vision and mission for New York City:

Vision: All New Yorkers live in safe communities and are free from gun violence.

Mission: Address the upstream causes of violence in impacted communities to reduce shooting incidents and ensure that children and their families, young adults, and formerly incarcerated New Yorkers have full access to the opportunities that help them thrive.

In July 2023, GVPTF launched its Blueprint for Community Safety, which focuses on strategies to address the root social determinants of gun violence. Certain neighborhoods face a disproportionate amount of social and economic challenges that impair residents' health and produce trauma. Left unaddressed, this trauma can yield violence that spurs more trauma and perpetuates a lethal cycle. Since the GVPTF first launched, it has continued to work with the six precincts that had the highest rates of gun violence in 2022; Brownsville and Ocean Hill in Brooklyn (the 73rd), East New York and Cypress Hill in Brooklyn (the 75th), Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose in the Bronx (the 40th), Morrisania, Claremont and Crotona Park in the Bronx (the 42nd), Grand Concourse, Bronx Terminal Market and Yankee Stadium in the Bronx (the 44th), Wakefield, Woodlawn, Baychester and Williamsbridge in the Bronx (the 47th.) The neighborhoods these precincts service, reflect the historic disinvestment and quality of life challenges that GVPTF seeks to address. The Task Force has implemented a holistic approach to healing, prevention, and care tailored to each neighborhood, reversing disinvestment by bringing resources into communities through public-private partnerships. GVPTF is responsible for coordination and collaboration among federal agencies and between City agencies, elected officials, community-based organizations and key community stakeholders to deliver on this goal.

GVPTF and its partner agencies work towards this holistic strategy for gun violence reduction across seven focus areas named in the Blueprint: early intervention, housing, employment and entrepreneurship, trauma-informed care, community and police relations, navigation and benefits, and community vitality. Beginning with its first year of implementation, the GVPTF has demonstrated the value of robust and deep collaboration between City agencies and community partners. Through intentional and consistent communication, the Task Force has aligned multi-agency, cross-sector stakeholders towards the unified goal of reducing gun violence.



Mayor's Office
of Criminal
Justice

New York City
Public Schools

Mayor's Office
for Economic
Opportunity

Mayor's Office
to End Domestic
and Gender-
Based Violence

Mayor's Office
of Equity and
Racial Justice

Mayor's Office
of Food Policy

NYC Talent

In Fiscal 2025, there was an overall downward trend in gun violence citywide. Notably, incidences of gun violence reached a record low in Brooklyn during this fiscal year, and August 2024 had the fewest number of shootings ever reported for any August since the launch of CompStat in 1994. CompStat is a data-driven policing strategy developed by the New York Police Department (NYPD) that involves the collection and analysis of crime data to inform policing decisions and drive crime reduction initiatives. These statistics reflect a significant stride towards the goal of reducing gun violence and enhancing community safety. Despite these important achievements, there is still work to be done.

In February 2025, the GVPTF moved from the office of the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives to the Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) but the Deputy Mayor remains the co-chair of the Task Force. The move to DYCD demonstrates the continued commitment to a community-based approach to gun violence reduction and public safety improvements across New York City communities experiencing the highest levels of gun violence.

EARLY INTERVENTION

The Early Intervention strategy involves providing timely and targeted support to individuals, especially young children, to address developmental delays, disabilities, or other risks of poor outcomes before they become more severe. Low attendance rates, poor educational attainment, and lack of access to training programs can impact a student's sense of safety and belonging. Interventions to mitigate these impacts include improving educational opportunities, providing better support in schools and ensuring that young people have positive mentors and networks.

Average daily school attendance measures the outcome of the Task Force's work to engage students more deeply in career and education services. In Fiscal 2025, the GVPTF worked closely with NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) and DYCD to ensure programming was focused on the six priority neighborhoods. Although the average daily attendance in public schools citywide remained relatively constant, 89.6 percent, for the school-year 2024 to 2025 as it was for the previous school-year, it remains two percent below the Department of Education's target of 92.0 percent.

Beacon and Cornerstone programming, though not inclusive of all GVPTF activity, demonstrate the City's commitment to providing opportunities for increased early educational opportunities, offering better support in schools, and providing mentors and positive networks for youth. This type of support and engagement helps prevent youth from becoming involved in gun violence and consequently increases community safety. Beacon programs, which offer a range of services during after-school, evening, and Saturday hours, enrolled 62,292 youth participants and 17,353 adults in Fiscal 2025, representing increases of 10 percent and four percent respectively compared to Fiscal 2024, as programs offered increased opportunities for family-focused experiences. Cornerstone programs, which provide academic, extracurricular, and skill development programming year-round for all ages, operated in 99 community centers located in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, served 21,122 young people, an increase of 11 percent, as youth engaged with strategic partnership opportunities such as basketball tournaments and community service projects. Cornerstone programs served 6,725 adults in Fiscal 2025, a decrease of five percent from Fiscal 2024. The Beacon and Cornerstone programs continue to be successful, for not only the youths, but for adults as well. For each group of people, the targeted number of participants for the full fiscal year was easily surpassed by the actual number of participants of youths and adults. These programs continue to offer many activities including life skills, civic engagement and recreation just to name a few.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Average daily attendance in public schools (%)	DOE	89.5%	88.1%	89.4%	89.6%	89.8%	92.0%	92.0%	Neutral	Up
– Elementary/middle	DOE	91.7%	89.7%	90.5%	90.8%	91.1%	92.6%	92.1%	Neutral	Up
– High school	DOE	85.2%	84.6%	86.8%	87.0%	87.1%	87.7%	87.7%	Neutral	Up
Youth participants at Beacon programs - Full fiscal year	DYCD	15,510	29,706	49,210	56,525	62,292	55,200	55,200	Up	*
Youth attendance at Beacon program events – Full fiscal year	DYCD	14,248	34,255	33,363	49,005	57,561	*	*	Up	*
Youth participants in Beacon programs - Summer	DYCD	2,701	10,295	12,450	14,084	18,730	9,200	9,200	Up	Up
Adult participants in Beacon programs - Full fiscal year	DYCD	4,617	9,417	13,043	16,712	17,353	9,200	9,200	Up	*
Adult attendance in Beacon program events - Full fiscal year	DYCD	27,068	31,084	36,623	65,992	68,612	*	*	Up	*
Youth participants in Cornerstone programs - Full fiscal year	DYCD	13,488	15,991	17,895	19,065	21,122	15,704	15,796	Up	Up
Adult participants in Cornerstone programs - Full fiscal year	DYCD	5,304	6,337	7,471	7,074	6,725	3,565	3,582	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	✳ Equity Indicator	“NA” Not Available		↕↘ Directional Target		* None				

HOUSING

The Housing strategy aims to increase the availability of housing and improve the quality of existing housing for residents of the six priority precinct areas, as well as providing access to economic opportunities for residents and local vendors. Within this strategy, the Task Force and its partners seek to address the lack of affordable housing units, the poor condition of NYCHA housing stock, and the lack of economic opportunities related to housing development for local vendors.

The total number of affordable housing starts increased in Fiscal 2025 to 28,281 units. This number exceeded the target set by the Department of Housing and Development (HPD) by 41 percent, or more than 8,000 units. The City plans to build upon this success in Fiscal 2026 with projects like the Jamaica Neighborhood Plan in Queens. This plan would update the area’s zoning code to create over 12,000 new homes across 230 City blocks.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
★ Total affordable housing starts (units)	HPD	29,826	17,022	24,689	25,552	28,281	20,000	20,000	Neutral	*
★ Critical Indicator	✳ Equity Indicator	“NA” Not Available		↕↘ Directional Target		* None				

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Employment and Entrepreneurship strategy improves access to employment programs, thus reducing the impact economic insecurity has on youth and justice-involved individuals. The strategy provides youth job training and entrepreneurship classes while encouraging local hiring. DYCD’s youth workforce development programs have experienced tremendous growth during the last four years, recognizing the need to engage youth at the tail-end of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as strengthening the pipeline of local talent to support New York City’s economic recovery. As a member of the Task Force, DYCD has committed to growing outreach and recruitment strategies in the six priority precincts to better serve young New Yorkers residing or going to school in these areas.

The Summer Youth Employment Program continues to demonstrate its success by increasing the number of participants each and every year. The number of participants in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) increased for a fourth consecutive year to 97,004 participants in Fiscal 2025, one percent more than last year to another record high—nearly triple the amount from Fiscal 2021. The amount of SYEP stipends and wages paid increased 12 percent, nearly six times the amount in Fiscal 2021.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Eligible Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) applicants placed in compensated internships (%)	DYCD	26%	49%	55%	54%	53%	*	*	Up	Up
★ Participants in Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)	DYCD	35,198	74,884	91,270	95,563	97,004	95,000	95,000	Up	Up
Total SYEP stipends and wages paid (\$000,000)	DYCD	\$24.7	\$97.4	\$117.6	\$124.6	\$139.9	\$124.6	\$124.6	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↗ Directional Target		* None				

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

The Trauma-Informed Care strategy was created to enhance mental health support for youth and individuals with diagnosed mental illnesses and ensure appropriate health crisis responses. Within this strategy, the Task Force and its partners seek to address the need for comprehensive mental health services and crisis interventions citywide to reduce the reliance on law enforcement for care, the lack of trauma-informed programming for justice-involved individuals, the need for support for victims of community violence in hospitals, and extended hours for community and health services.

One way the City seeks to address trauma is through hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP). These programs provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care and social support to individuals injured by violence, aiming to reduce the cycle of violence by offering safety planning, crisis support, and connections to resources like job training and housing assistance, extending care beyond the hospital walls. In Fiscal 2025, the number of eligible HVIP patients who received conflict mediation services increased 12 percent compared to Fiscal 2024 to 1,784 patients. This increase can be attributed to a multitude of factors. During Fiscal 2025, all HVIP programs continued to build out and refine their response protocols which resulted in more coverage. The team at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that runs the City’s HVIP programming both increased the frequency of trainings offered to Hospital Responders to meet their needs, and continued to provide regular technical assistance to HIVP programs to ensure the effective implementation of their protocols. The HVIP trainings increased by four sessions this fiscal year to 14 sessions, and the number of participants increased by 48 percent, going from 120 in Fiscal 2024 to 178 in Fiscal 2025. Additionally, there was a 22 percent increase in the health-led crisis response and community-based de-escalations year over year.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene runs the program Vibrant Emotional Health, NYC 988. If someone dials the toll-free number, 988, they get connected to free confidential crisis counseling, mental health and substance use support, information and referrals. Having originally launched in 2016 as NYC Well, it transitioned into Vibrant Emotional Health in September 2023 and continues to be a resource New Yorkers can count on.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services	DOHMH	1,330	1,202	1,220	1,600	1,784	*	*	Up	Up
Eligible hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP) patients who received conflict mediation services at partner hospitals (%)	DOHMH	76%	83%	69%	64%	66%	*	*	Down	Up
Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) trainings	DOHMH	4	4	8	10	14	*	*	Up	Up
Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP) training participants	DOHMH	65	72	316	120	178	*	*	Up	Up
Youth served by Atlas	DYCD	171	373	653	884	1,137	1,225	1,225	Up	Up
Health-led crisis response and community-based de-escalations	DOHMH	NA	NA	NA	8,145	9,970	*	*	NA	*
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None										

COMMUNITY AND POLICE RELATIONS

The Community and Police Relations strategy is to cultivate strong relationships of mutual trust between law-enforcement agencies, primarily the New York Police Department (NYPD), and communities to maintain public safety and ensure effective policing so that neighborhoods are safe, thriving and free of gun violence. The Task force recognized how important and critical to the safety of neighbors was improving the relationship between the NYPD and the communities, especially among young people, and to create spaces for the community to discuss and create collaborative solutions with the NYPD.

In April 2025, GVPTF released a negotiated acquisition solicitation for GVPTF's Neighborhood Safety Councils (NSCs). DYCD sought to identify Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide services for the Task Force's Neighborhood Safety Councils in seven high-need precincts across the City (67th, 73rd, 75th, 40th, 42nd, 44th, 47th). The 67th precinct, East Flatbush and Remsen Village in Brooklyn, was added to the original six priority precincts due to the high number of gun incidents in Fiscal 2024. GVPTF will use the Neighborhood Safety Councils to mobilize strategic partnerships and resources to address the upstream root causes of neighborhood gun violence. The NSCs will empower community leaders to co-design, implement, and monitor safety initiatives.

NAVIGATION AND BENEFITS

The Navigation and Benefits strategy seeks to provide effective support for justice-involved families, increasing their access to government benefits and helping them navigate government programs which improves the lives of City residents and reduces gun violence.

The Administration for Children Services' Fair Future partnership seeks to provide dedicated coaches and tutors, employment and housing specialists for youth in foster care ages 11 to 21. Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services increased five percent to 4,330 between Fiscal 2024 and Fiscal 2025. This increase in youth engagement can be attributed to a steadily growing number of coaches serving young people in foster care as well as strong youth engagement and messaging strategies.

Engaging residents in recreation programming is a great way to foster safe communities, and the Department of Parks and Recreation has been doing public outreach about their offerings for years. As such, recreation memberships increased 10 percent in Fiscal 2025 from Fiscal 2024 to 156,078 memberships, up for a third consecutive year.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Youth in foster care receiving Fair Futures services	ACS	2,946	3,172	3,932	4,115	4,330	*	4,686	Up	Up
★ Recreation center memberships	DPR	142,915	100,385	117,116	141,486	156,078	↑	↑	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↑↓ Directional Target		* None				

COMMUNITY VITALITY

The Community Vitality strategy was created to generate more vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, free from gun violence through the creation and improvement of community centers, parks, playgrounds, and other physical infrastructure and programs. The Task Force identified the need to improve and maintain infrastructure and programming in public spaces, the lack of resources for community gardens in priority neighborhoods, and the lack of capacity and budget constraints community-based development organizations and business improvement districts face in implementing new public projects.

The Department of Parks and Recreation invests a lot into increasing community vitality by expanding green space citywide. The number of new or renovation green space construction projects initiated in priority neighborhoods increased from seven in Fiscal 2024 to 12 in Fiscal 2025. The construction occurred in five of the original six high priority neighborhoods. At least half of the projects were completed this fiscal year, and these spaces are currently being enjoyed by the public.

Performance Indicators	Agency	Actual					Target		Trend	
		FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
New or renovation green space construction projects initiated in priority neighborhoods	DPR	NA	NA	NA	7	12	7	7	NA	*
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↑↓ Directional Target		* None				

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- Previously published Fiscal 2023 data for school attendance indicators in Goal 1a were revised after routine data review. 'Elementary/Middle School attendance (%)' was changed from 90.6 to 90.5; 'High School attendance (%)' was changed from 86.9 to 86.8;
- The values for the indicator 'Total affordable housing starts (units)' have been revised up for Fiscal 2021 from 29,447 to 29,826, for Fiscal 2022 from 16,960 to 17,022, for Fiscal 2023 from 24,273 to 24,689, for Fiscal 2024 from 25,266 to 25,552.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- Blueprint for Community Safety:
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2023/Blueprint-Community-Safety.pdf>
- Recreation Centers: NYC Parks:
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/recreationcenters>
- Atlas—NYC—Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice:
<https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/programs/atlas/>
- Violence: A Health Issue:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/neighborhood-health/anti-violence.page>
- SYEP—DYCD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/summer-youth-employment-program-syep.page>
- 911 Mental Health Response—Mayor’s Office of Community Mental Health:
<https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us/b-heard>
- 988—NYC Health:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/nyc-well.page>
- Vital Parks for All: NYC Parks:
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/vital-parks/>
- Neighborhood Opportunity Network:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/neon/index.page>
- Jobs NYC:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/wkdev/recent-initiatives/jobs-nyc.page>
- Project PIVOT:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/school-environment/project-pivot>
- Beacon Programs—DYCD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/beacon.page>
- Cornerstone—DYCD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/after-school/cornerstone.page>
- Work, Learn & Grow Employment Program—DYCD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/work-learn-grow-employment-program.page>
- Brownsville Plan—HPD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/brownsville.page>
- Office of Neighborhood Safety:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/office-of-neighborhood-safety.page>

