

# Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

*The Cornerstone of New York's Youth Development!*



## Positive Gun & Violence Prevention Outcomes through NYS Youth Bureau System

### ANYSYB BUDGET PRIORITIES

#### Office of Gun Violence Prevention

ANYSYB supports the creation for the authority of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the Department of Health. ANYSYB hopes to work in collaboration with the DOH to assist with initiatives.

#### Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE)

ANYSYB supports the SFY Executive Budget proposal to increase funding to \$18.2 million for the GIVE initiative which supports local law enforcement efforts to stop gun violence. Youth Bureaus can assist in providing youth-centered community programming.

#### SNUG Street Outreach Program

ANYSYB supports this initiative sustains last year's emergency increase of \$24.9 million. Youth bureaus are positioned to assist with any initiatives that provide wrap-around services for youth, job-readiness and work placement training.

#### Regional Needs in the Aftermath of Gun Violence

ANYSYB supports the proposed \$20 million in new funding to support individuals and communities that have been most impacted by the spike in gun violence. Youth Bureaus and their sub-contract agencies have proven outcomes in innovative community empowerment and crime-reduction programming in high-need areas.

#### Youth Bureau Outcomes from Safe Summer Youth Engagement and Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives

NYS Youth Bureaus received funding to promote creative initiatives with community-based organizations in identified communities with high gun violence. Examples of successful initiatives include:

#### Orange County Youth Bureau

**City of Middletown Police and Recreation Departments:** Offers fitness activities aimed at building self-esteem, better body image and positive interaction with police officers. Offered programs on police and youth relations including tips for police encounters – traffic and at home, and other topics.

**Beat the Streets Program:** Offers youth opportunities to participate in fun, safe, productive activities and educational programs focused on risks of addiction, gun violence prevention, gang affiliation, and more.

**Boys & Girls Club of Newburgh and City of Newburgh:** STAR Project (Support Teens at Risk) was offered and includes a variety of suppression strategies aligned with principles of Suppression Core Strategy in OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model. This focuses on reducing violent crime, sports and recreation, performing and visual arts, and community service projects.

**Gun Prevention Initiative:** Programs in the City of Newburgh focus primarily on work readiness and after school sports and the Middletown programs isolate youth by gender identification and focus on the physical and emotional well-being of men and women of color. Youth referred to the program have the opportunity to build their relationships with members of the local police department as mentors and attend the local YMCA, its amenities, and youth programs, free of charge.

#### Rensselaer County Youth Bureau

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Capital Area, Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Clubs, South**

**Rensselaer Boys & Girls Clubs:** Offers educational tutoring, mentoring and homework assistance; Health and Life-Skills & Character Building and Anti-Bullying Programs.

**Rensselaer County Probation Employment Program:** Assists high-risk youth on probation/diversion with career assistance, interviewing, independent living skills and job search/placement.

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## Examples of Youth Bureau initiatives continued:

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### Syracuse - Onondaga County Youth Bureau

**Street Addiction Institute, Inc.:** I AM (Intelligent, Ambitious, Mindful) program offered stipend internships between December 2021 and March 2022 for youth ages 14-19, 80% live in high gunshot cluster neighborhoods. The program includes an apprenticeship and certificate of completion (administered by SAIL).

**Boys & Girls Club of Syracuse:** Offers programs to engage in discussion and role-playing, practicing resilience and refusal skills, developing assertiveness, strengthening decision-making skills and analyzing media and peer influence. The ultimate goal is to promote abstinence from substance abuse, sexual involvement, and violence.

**Faith Hope Community Center - Summer Boxing Clinic:** Through physical training and personal mentoring, it is the shared goal of the staff to promote and foster conflict resolution, character development, anger management and life skills. The center's sustained popularity is a testament to its co-founders' highly respected community standings as mentors and coaches and to the "safe space" they've been able to create - a space that is dominated by community members of color who constructively transform anger and aggression into positive team-building and healthy, self-directed competition.

### Broome County Youth Bureau

**Binghamton City School District:** Youth Advocate positions were hired to work with gun and gang involved youth.

**Binghamton Bulldogs Basketball:** Provides positive, alternative activities for youth and young adults that are at-risk of gun violence in the City of Binghamton.

**Broome County YMCA Binghamton Branch:** Work with at risk youth and young adults to participate in various activities that will engage them in positive health and fitness orientated activities while providing mentorship and resources.

### Nassau County Youth Bureau

**New Hour for Women & Children:** Provides training to gun and gang involved women in Nassau County jail and worked with them on re-entry into the community.

**Strong Youth Inc. & ABBA Leadership Center:** Utilizing the Credible Messenger Model, they engaged Gun and Gang involved youth to participate in positive youth development programs and skill building.

**Barber & Beauty Institute:** Offers free haircuts for gun and gang involved youth and provided training and discussion on gang and gun violence and how to reduce incidents.

### Westchester County Youth Bureau

**Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon:** WhyTry, a program that teaches kids important life skills, including conflict resolution and anger management, uses visual and auditory metaphors and a variety of strengths-based therapeutic approaches. Also, initiating a new program to educate juvenile offenders and for the youth who volunteer to serve on youth courts. In addition, a basketball tournament providing executive functioning skills, self-esteem and self-confidence was coordinated to raise awareness about the negative impact of gun violence.

**Youth Shelter Program of Westchester Inc.:** The Youth Cred program serves justice involved youth through a newly created hybrid of the NYS DCJS SNUG curriculum and MV SNUG program with the aim of creating a pipeline of youth credible messengers. The youth who are in the shelter as an alternative to prison, receive training to become prospective outreach workers.

**Soulful Synergy, LLC:** The Urban Handyperson program delivers workforce readiness training and hands on experience necessary to successfully pursue certifications and careers in construction and masonry.

**914United, Inc.:** Leaders Build Leaders is led by credible messengers that offer vocational mentorship and restorative justice to formerly incarcerated youth and adolescents who are involved in the courts, or who may have had gun charges. Three key areas of development are manhood training, financial literacy, civic engagement, which help participants self-reflect and analyze their decision-making process regarding their personal, financial and community affairs.

**YMCA of Yonkers:** This Sports and Arts at the Y program collaborates with local organizations to provide an outlet to express themselves through art and develop critical skills; increased knowledge of STEAM careers, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and property ownership. In addition, the YMCA's Teen Center extended hours to engage youth in evening activities, clinics and basketball tournaments.



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