

## Promising Practices

### Aim4Peace: A Promising Violence Prevention Program

The [Aim4Peace Violence Prevention Program](#) is an evidence-informed violence prevention program modeled after [Cure Violence](#). The program treats gun violence as a public health matter and deploys violence interrupters to de-escalate conflicts and mobilize the community.

Aim4Peace was launched in 2008 following a 2006 report from Missouri's Kansas City Commission on Violent Crime which advocated for creating a strategic community-based public health strategy to address gun violence in the city. The program was launched in sector 330, which is contained within the East Patrol Division of Kansas City, Missouri. This is a neighborhood that historically has been disproportionately impacted by violence. The main intention of the program is to identify and interrupt conflicts and rally the community to respond, prevent and ultimately reduce gun violence.

#### Program Overview and Key Tenets



The four primary components of both the Cure Violence model and the Aim4Peace program include detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and supporting high-risk individuals, mobilizing the community to change and reducing violence in the community.

These key components are achieved through a variety of Aim4Peace program offerings, including street outreach, hospital intervention programming and community-based events. After an incident of violence, the program responds within 48 to 72 hours to offer services, support and a message of nonviolence.

Additionally, for incidents of violence resulting in hospitalization, Aim4Peace partners with University Health and Research Medical Center to operate a hospital-based violence intervention program that offers support to survivors of violence-related intentional injury by coaching and guiding survivors and their families through the hospital system. Support, services and referrals continue after an individual's discharge from the hospital and extend to family members as well.

In terms of community mobilization, Aim4Peace partners with a range of organizations and coordinates activities such as neighborhood clean-ups, gardening events and distribution of school supplies, clothing, food and other resources. A key priority of this program is to identify and mediate conflicts between individuals and groups to avoid future violence. When the program becomes aware that a community member may be at risk for future violence, contact is made and support services are offered.

### Program Successes

The University of Kansas' Center for Community Health and Development completed an evaluation of Aim4Peace and released findings of key successes for the program occurring between [2018-2020](#).

### Program successes include the following:

- During this time, the frequency of youth homicides decreased significantly, and in 2020 there were zero youth homicides in sector 330, compared to an increase in homicides, in general, for the city as a whole.
- From 2019-2020, sector 330 saw a 36 percent decrease in homicides compared to a 20 percent increase for the entire East Patrol Division and a 19 percent increase for Kansas City.
- Aim4Peace successfully mediated 84 percent of conflicts.
- The program facilitated 598 community activities, serving over 31,000 residents, with over 50 percent of these activities supported through community collaboration.

### Funding Challenges and Successes

Over the 15 years Aim4Peace has operated, the program has received several federal grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, including from the Office for Victims of Crime, to support and expand this work.

However, funding has served as a major barrier for the program. From 2019-2021, due to a lack of funds and the COVID-19 pandemic, Aim4Peace shuttered the street outreach team.

In 2022, the program received a \$2 million grant from the Department of Justice's [Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative](#) grant. The [program plans to use this funding](#) to reinstate the street outreach team. Additionally, a portion of city tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales, [which passed in April of 2023](#), will be devoted to violence prevention efforts, including this program.



### In Conclusion

Missouri's Aim4Peace program, based upon the evidence-informed Cure Violence program, has shown promising results. Despite struggling with funding, fortunately, the program has persevered for over a decade and is poised to continue previously discontinued offerings for community members in Kansas City's sector 330.

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