

Safer Summer PDX – Focused Investment

BACKGROUND / PURPOSE

The Safer Summer PDX program focuses on the short-term task of reducing gun murders and shootings and creates a foundation from which longer-term gun violence prevention work can be built. While Safer Summer PDX nests its work in the important longer-term work of upstream violence prevention and community equity transformation, the focus of this effort is to direct resources to garner near-term results.

Safer Summer PDX addresses Portland’s gun violence with a three-pronged approach:

- **Focused Intervention**, comprised of law enforcement partners tasked with investigating gun violence incidents, including the Focused Intervention Team (FIT) and its oversight group (FITCOG), and the Enhanced Community Safety Team.
- **Focused Impact Reduction**, working with the Street Services Coordination Center (SSCC) to coordinate outreach tailored to houseless individuals who are at high-risk for perpetrating or being victimized by gun violence.
- **Focused Investment**, funded \$2.4 million invested by the City to combat gun violence specifically over the summer months, complimenting the efforts of the Office of Violence Prevention through strategically targeted investments .

This report covers only the activities of **Focused Investment**.

GOAL

To prevent a spike in gun deaths during the summer months of 2022.

OBJECTIVES

1. To compliment the efforts of OVP to persuade those at highest risk of shooting not to shoot
2. To engage at-risk youth in the highest impacted areas in pro-social activities
3. To make place-based investments in the most impacted neighborhoods to address environmental factors conducive to gun violence
4. Build confidence among Portland residents that the City is committed to reducing gun violence this summer

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Awardee:	REAP
Dates of Award:	June 21, 2022 – September 15, 2022
Objective Supported:	2 - To engage youth in areas most impacted by gun violence in pro-social activities

REAP utilized SSPDX-FI funding to add 100 places to their summer program, which aims to generate a sense of belonging and positivity among at risk youth in the summer months. REAP provided eight weeks of full day (9am-4pm), weeklong enrichment activities that included academic learning, social-emotional learning, physical activity, and leadership development

activities; recruiting students from Centennial, North Clackamas, David Douglas, and Portland Public School Districts.

During the week of 25 July, REAP hosted 10 students on a one-week trip to Silicon Valley, CA, following an industry-based career and entrepreneur-focused curriculum, career mentoring, and job training, and 4-day leadership conference aimed at developing individual and collective skills and innovation. Students got personal tours at Flexport, VISA, and Wells Fargo and had the opportunity to network with key staff from those companies. Each student also participated in a *Shark Tank* mock-exercise to practice their elevator pitch, and learned how to promote and request financial support for their business. While in San Francisco, they also visited several cultural and historical sights.

At the mid-point of the activity on July 25, REAP had engaged a total of 306 students with at least 1 day of programming. Average daily attendance was 136 per day. Photos, videos, and social media posts of the program show academic sessions, dialogues, community-building, and student led activities: <https://www.facebook.com/reapinc>, https://www.instagram.com/reap_inc/ tagged with #SaferSummerPDX.

Awardee:	Multnomah County Education School District / Helensview High & Beaumont Middle Schools
Dates of Award:	July 5, 2022 – September 30, 2022
Objective Supported:	2 - To engage youth in areas most impacted by gun violence in pro-social activities

MESD, through its programs at Helensview High School and Beaumont Middle School have, used SSPDX-FI funding to support its summer programs: running a concurrent series of activity and mentorship sessions for 6 weeks during summer, actively recruiting students and youth between the ages of 12 and 24 from Portland's non-traditional high schools and alternative programs. Mentorship has been provided by [STARS Mentoring](#) based on the "Boys to Men" and "Coaching Boys into Men" curricula, adapted to an all-gender cohort.

Students volunteered at summer community events, including "Reclaiming Black Joy," and spoke publicly about STARS and their stand against gun violence. Their basketball league grew, holding games at different parks and establishing relationships with new participants. Students led "Spread da love Tour" campaign to get peers interested in sports. Their "Men's Group" focused on self-awareness, self-worth and navigating society, with the success of an alumni student securing a job working with youth. Cheer and Dance groups also focused on mentoring and discussion. STARS also provided positive community service options for students with prior court obligations.

Students' work is building up to the last day of the summer program in a "showcase" event, scheduled for 21 August, for students to display their progress and enrichment to peers, community, family and friends. Below are some participant comments:

Youth Mentor Volunteer: *"...I feel like the STARS program helps keep students out of trouble especially with everything going on right now. This program gets them out the street, and helps motivate them to be positive and successful."*

Student Participant - *"The basketball league helped me stay positive, and out of the streets this summer. I'm hoping to return in the fall and play on a team. Thank you to coach Tae, and*

Bi-Weekly Report
August 15, 2022

STARS for giving us the opportunity to hoop, and meet new people. They motivate us to be successful, and set goals , and follow our dreams.”

UPCOMING EVENTS / CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION

Global Movement’s “Fathers We Need You March Against Gun Violence and Gangs”
August 20, 2022

Contact for attendance and participation: Jerry “Love” Manns, Global Movement Network,
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