

Office of Justice Programs  
**VIOLENT CRIME  
REDUCTION  
ROADMAP**

*U.S. Department of Justice  
Resources for Safer Communities*

VCRR | FACT SHEET



In recent years, many cities, towns, and counties across the country have experienced substantial increases in community gun violence. While some localities have made progress in reducing violence, pressing concerns remain for residents, community and business leaders, law enforcement officials, public health providers, and more.

In response to these concerns, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has launched the [Violent Crime Reduction Roadmap](#) (the Roadmap) as a one-stop-shop to assist local jurisdictions in developing, implementing, and evaluating the right set of strategies to prevent, intervene in, and respond to acts of community gun violence.

Organized around 10 essential actions to reduce community gun violence identified in [Saving Lives: Ten Essential Actions Cities Can Take to Reduce Violence Now](#) from the Council on Criminal Justice's [Violent Crime Working Group](#), the Roadmap outlines how DOJ resources can support jurisdictions in reducing violence.

PERF is funded by the U.S. DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance to provide no-cost training and technical assistance (TTA) to support jurisdictions in using strategies that meet their community's specific crime reduction needs. To request technical assistance, visit [PERF's Violent Crime Reduction TTA Webpage](#) or email [crimereductionTTA@policeforum.org](mailto:crimereductionTTA@policeforum.org).

The following are the ten essential actions, as well as examples of the TTA PERF may be able to provide for each action.



## 1. SET A CLEAR GOAL: COMMIT TO SAVING LIVES BY STOPPING VIOLENCE



***Have all stakeholders in your jurisdiction committed to a clear, attainable, and measurable goal spelled out in concrete terms?*** Setting a clear goal enables progress to be measured against this goal. Stakeholders can align their expectations and be accountable to each other and their community in reaching this goal – reducing the number of lives taken by violence.

**TTA Could Include:** Comprehensive evaluation and assessment by experts of a jurisdiction’s historical and current data to inform the development of realistic and reachable goals.

## 2. IDENTIFY THE KEY PEOPLE AND PLACES DRIVING THE VIOLENCE



***Does your jurisdiction use multi-source data analysis to identify the people and places driving violent crime?*** Data sources should include criminal justice agency data from traditional (e.g., social network mapping), and non-traditional (e.g., probation and parole information) sources; governmental data from outside the criminal justice sphere (e.g., building code violations; school data on absenteeism); and community data (e.g., information on social support services used). Analytical findings should be reviewed by non-sworn individuals such as street outreach workers.

**TTA Could Include:** Evaluation of whether the current analytic models conform with best practice models, free training, introductions to national expert crime analysts, and/or peer-to-peer learning with departments using innovative models.

## 3. CREATE A CITYWIDE PLAN FOR ENGAGING KEY PEOPLE AND PLACES



***Does your jurisdiction coordinate with all stakeholders to implement data-driven strategies?*** Stakeholders should not be limited to criminal justice system agencies; they should represent the full range of organizations serving the community, including the mayor’s and/or county executive’s office, health department officials, emergency services, community-based organizations, and community violence intervention programs. Plans must concretely address how each stakeholder will engage with the highest-risk people and places, as well as what will be done, by whom, and when.

**TTA Could Include:** Gap analysis assessment of a community’s current violence reduction strategy and assistance in the development of a strategic plan to address these gaps. Facilitation of meetings with all stakeholders to develop a plan for a joint strategy. Facilitation of meetings with jurisdictions that have successfully implemented a city/countywide approach to share the concrete plans that guided their success.

#### 4. ENGAGE KEY PEOPLE WITH EMPATHY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



***Does your community prioritize engagement with those at highest risk of being affected by violence?*** Successful programs ensure that those most at risk are aware of the dangers they face (being killed, injured, arrested, incarcerated, etc.) in a way that is empathetic but makes clear that further violence will not be tolerated.

**TTA Could Include:** Facilitation of meetings with successful community or hospital-based violence interrupters who can help with planning and implementation of a program. Provision of resources and/or training on violence intervention approaches. Provision of resources and recommendations on focused deterrence strategies and plans.

#### 5. ADDRESS KEY LOCATIONS USING PLACE-BASED POLICING AND INVESTMENT



***Is your community using data-driven practices to determine the precise locations to concentrate policing and investment?*** Police intervention is often needed in the short-term to disrupt cycles of violence, but it must be supplemented by place-based interventions and investments to address violent micro-locations long-term.

**TTA Could Include:** Evaluation of jurisdiction's current hot-spot analysis data and practices. Provision of resources and training to enable best-practice analysis (e.g. risk terrain modeling). Assessment of resource allocation and potential investment in addressing key locations (e.g. traffic lights, traffic patterns, blight, public facilities etc.). Facilitation of peer-to-peer learning with jurisdictions using models that work.

#### 6. PLACE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION EFFORTS AT THE TOP



***Does your jurisdiction have a permanent violence reduction office that can administer funding and act as a 'hub' for all anti-violence efforts?*** These units, sometimes called the "Department of Gun Violence" or "Office of Violence Prevention," should operate out of the mayor's or county executive's office. In police agencies, violence reduction efforts should also be led by the chief executive.

**TTA Could Include:** Facilitation of meetings with jurisdictions implementing these offices successfully and resources on how to better focus on anti-violence outcomes across city organizations and stakeholders. Provision of resources, such as model city blueprints, for violence prevention.



## 7. COMMUNITIES SHOULD PRIORITIZE HEALING WITH TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES



***Do the entities working to combat violence acknowledge the effects of trauma and deliver services in a way that does not retraumatize victims or those trying to help those victims?*** Chronic exposure to violence – which disproportionately impacts poor communities – causes trauma which can contribute both to revictimization and perpetration of violence. Police officers, violence interrupters, and other front-line workers also often experience trauma and can benefit from these approaches.

**TTA Could Include:** Free training and resources on implementing trauma-informed approaches and programs, including best practices to address first responders' repeated exposure to violence.

## 8. INVEST IN ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



***Does your city / county invest in staff for anti-violence initiatives?*** Communities should provide all staff working to reduce violence, including community violence interrupters and police officers, with support to address safety concerns and adequate salary, benefits, and opportunities for advancement through training and education.

**TTA Could Include:** Free training on identifying funding for programs to support staff. Information on joint police/violence interrupter academies and training.

## 9. SET ASIDE FUNDING FOR NEW STAKEHOLDERS AND STRATEGIES



***Is your community fully aware of the vast array of resources, funding opportunities, free training, etc. that can supplement your anti-violence initiatives or serve as startup funds?*** Most funding should be reserved for proven strategies, but a portion should be set aside to support new and innovative programs. This might include funding for new anti-violence strategies to establish proof of concept.

**TTA Could Include:** Identification of available DOJ funding opportunities and training and support on grant writing. Assessment of budgets to align resource allocation with strategic priorities and invest in promising programs as part of a long-term strategy.

## 10. COMMIT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT BASED ON DATA, EVIDENCE, AND PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING



***Do all leaders embrace a culture of learning that allows strategies and plans to change based on new information?*** Stakeholders should commit to evaluating the impact of violence reduction strategies by collecting data, gathering input from community members and, when possible, partnering with researchers to collect data and conduct assessments. Stakeholders should also seek to stay informed about current best practices.

**TTA Could Include:** Provision of resources on information-sharing networks and current best practices. Introductions to peer agencies that can provide mentorship on strategy implementation. Information on how to form mutually beneficial partnerships with researchers.