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## Ensuring safer communities through effective collaborations

**Gun violence continues to be a public health crisis throughout America**, and a top priority for many Chicagoans who are pressing local governments to do more to increase public safety. As we've [reported in the past](#), the City, County, and State are leveraging America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to invest in sustainable violence reduction. In 2023, it is estimated that approximately \$175M in public funding will go to violence prevention and intervention, a significant leap from the \$10M spent in 2017.

**This increase in funding over a short period of time has created monumental shifts in the violence prevention and intervention ecosystem** for both grantmakers, and those who are delivering services at the ground-level. To meet this challenge, Civic Consulting Alliance is supporting multiple, interconnected clients to ensure quick and effective scaling of these concerted violence reduction efforts.

[Read our latest blog post](#) for updates on recent client projects that working to reduce violence across sectors and levels of government.

## Featured client projects:

- **Standing up the new Illinois Office of Firearm Violence Prevention**
- **Coordinating data alignment for the Intergovernmental Violence Prevention Partnership**
- **Enhancing the sustainability of violence prevention funding**
- **Building a Public Safety Task Force for the business community**

[Read more](#)

**“Civic Consulting Alliance has been a true partner in supporting the foundational work of the Office of Firearm Prevention. They ensured that our office was set up to achieve the goals of the Reimagine Public Safety Act, and brought critical capabilities in data analysis to support our ongoing efforts to ensure funding is distributed in the communities most impacted by gun violence.”**

**– Chris Patterson, Assistant Secretary at the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention, Illinois Department of Human Services**

## What we're reading



Amid the violence crisis in America, community-based solutions have received a flood of funding. The funding has created an opportunity for community violence intervention to become a significant feature of the public-safety landscape. [“When Law Enforcement Alone Can’t Stop the Violence”](#) (New Yorker, January 30, 2023) highlights the challenges that these violence intervention organizations face as their scale their efforts.



West Side United, a racial equity collaborative that aims to reduce the life expectancy gap on the West Side, recently published an article, [“The Anchor Strategy – A Place-Based Business Approach for Health Equity”](#) (The New England Journal of Medicine, January 12, 2023). The article is authored by Rush University System for Health staff and makes a case for place-based population health investments.

## Civic engagement opportunities with our clients and partners



### Strategic thinkers are invited to reimagine the traveler experience at Chicago's airports

Join us virtually for the next session of Innovation In Action, a convening of the region's innovators to ideate against the city's biggest challenges.

This session is co-sponsored by Civic Consulting Alliance and hosted in partnership with the Chicago Department of Aviation. Together we will focus on reimagining the traveler experience at Chicago's airports.

[Register](#) for the Innovation in Action virtual session on April 14th

**PSPC** PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE AND PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

### Now Hiring: Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities is seeking an Associate Director

The Associate Director will serve as a thought partner and be at the center of the day-to-day work to help lead and manage the coalition of 50 funders, engage with community partners, and grow the field of violence reduction.

[Learn more and apply](#)



## 2-1-1 Metro Chicago social services support line is now live!

2-1-1 is the new go-to resource to connect people to any essential health and social service needs, using comprehensive, accurate information, and delivering a user-friendly experience.

Read about our project to support 2-1-1 Metro Chicago in our latest [Impact Report](#).

Help spread the news to your networks by [sharing our LinkedIn announcement](#)

## Fellowship spotlights: Mayur Bajaj & Amber Rahman



*Mayur Baja joined us as an Undergraduate Fellow in summer of 2022*



*Amber Rahman joined us as an Undergraduate Fellow in summer of 2022*

### What will you take away from your time at Civic Consulting Alliance?

**MB:** I am glad that I had the opportunity to create a visible impact on Chicago's disinvested neighborhoods. It's fulfilling to see the client implement our recommendations real time. I am also leaving Civic Consulting Alliance with a strong network of like-minded professionals. Everyone is incredibly supportive and willing to chat, a culture that doesn't come by all that often.

**AR:** I now deeply understand the importance of the work Civic Consulting Alliance is doing to facilitate, build up, and change critical government processes to serve Chicagoans. Without this work, change that many Chicagoans, especially marginalized folks, are fighting for, may not be realized.

### How has your time at Civic Consulting Alliance helped you develop professionally?

**MB:** Civic Consulting Alliance was committed to my professional growth from the outset. During my first week, I submitted a list of professional goals, and my supervisor tailored my work streams to those goals throughout my internship. I have significantly developed

my quantitative analysis, presentation, and, most importantly, my project management skills. The training sessions also equipped me with equally relevant skillsets such as error-proofing, story-lining, and meeting management. I can distinctly see my professional advancement, which makes this fellowships so much more valuable.

**AR:** I developed critical skills in sharing my perspectives with my team and getting ideas across through slide decks and presentations. I learned about the importance of narrative in presenting to clients to help facilitate change.

*Civic Consulting Alliance Fellowships are full-time positions that typically last between three months and a year. Fellows are integrated into project teams for a unique professional development opportunity. Please visit our [Fellowships](#) page to learn more about our range of fellowship opportunities.*

## Thank you to our funders!

Civic Consulting Alliance is grateful for the critical support of all of our funders. Since our last newsletter, we were thrilled to receive philanthropic commitments from the following corporations and foundations:

### General operating funders



### Project and platform funders



Support for the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities from AT&T's Believe Chicago® initiative — an employee-driven initiative designed to improve lives and lift 19 Chicago neighborhoods on the city's south and west sides.



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST  
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

Support for our work with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning on its Plan of Action for Regional Transit which will produce recommendations to help the region invest in a stronger and more financially secure transit system.

Support for our work with the State of Illinois to meet the urgent needs of recently-arrived asylum seekers in coordination with the City of Chicago and other social service providers.

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Support to achieve our [Safety & Justice platform vision for impact](#).

Questions? Comments? Contact [Nikki Way](#)

