



YEF Institute Technical Assistance Project: MetLife City-Schools Youth Planning Initiative

- ✓ Fourteen cities were invited to attend a Leadership Academy on City-Schools Youth Planning in Baltimore, MD, and to apply for participation in the project:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ✓ Charleston, SC | ✓ Minneapolis, MN |
| ✓ Des Moines, IA | ✓ Nampa, ID |
| ✓ Diamond Bar, CA | ✓ Santa Fe, NM |
| ✓ Edmond, OK | ✓ Spokane, WA |
| ✓ Indio, CA | ✓ Tampa, FL |
| ✓ Kansas City, MO | ✓ University City, MO |
| ✓ Lakewood, OH | ✓ Savannah, GA |

- ✓ Six cities were competitively selected to participate:

- ✓ Charleston, SC
- ✓ Des Moines, IA
- ✓ Diamond Bar, CA
- ✓ Edmond, OK
- ✓ Minneapolis, MN
- ✓ Lakewood, OH



Cities Creating Children & Youth Agendas

- ✓ Austin, Tex.
- ✓ Baltimore, Md.
- ✓ Boston, Mass.
- ✓ Charlotte, N.C.
- ✓ Claremont, Calif.
- ✓ Colorado Springs, Colo.
- ✓ Columbus, Ind.
- ✓ Detroit, Mich.
- ✓ Hampton, Va.
- ✓ Kansas City, Mo.
- ✓ Leatherstocking, N.Y.
- ✓ Los Angeles, Calif.
- ✓ Newport News, Va.
- ✓ Philadelphia, Pa.
- ✓ Sacramento, Calif.
- ✓ San Francisco, Calif.
- ✓ San Jose, Calif.
- ✓ Santa Clarita, Calif.
- ✓ Savannah, Ga.
- ✓ Thousand Oaks, Calif.



Cities Response to Challenge: Youth Violence

- ✓ Boston, MA
- ✓ Denver, CO
- ✓ Forth Worth, TX
- ✓ Hartford, CT
- ✓ Kansas City, MO
- ✓ Los Angeles, CA
- ✓ Mt. Vernon, NY
- ✓ New York, NY
- ✓ Philadelphia, PA
- ✓ San Diego, CA
- ✓ San Jose, CA
- ✓ Worcester, MA



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Motivation

- ✓ Becoming the safest major city
- ✓ Shocking series of violent events taking place during a brief time period
- ✓ One event that draws immediate public outrage
- ✓ Pleas of outspoken parents for city to respond

Motivation in Boston :

- Shootout in a local church over the casket of a teen victim
- Community, including local ministers, met with mayor and police to convey the urgency that something needs to be done ***now!!***



Cities Response to Youth Violence: Making a Commitment

- ✓ Police and city commit to do whatever it takes to stop the violence and protect and support children and families
- ✓ Mayor establishes a coalition or task force
- ✓ Unified citywide voice delivering a balanced and consistent message – “No Violence”

Five Tactical Points:

- 1) The mayor must lead, chair meetings and hold the bureaucracy accountable.
- 2) Cross-system collaboration is a necessity.
- 3) City department or designated organization to serve as an intermediary.
- 4) Good data systems, data sharing and tracking of progress.
- 5) A campaign that doesn't let anyone off the hook.



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Challenges

- ✓ The Boston Police Department analyzed the work of multiple agencies in violent crime “hot spot” neighborhoods, and found:
- 1) **Many public agencies expend a disproportionate amount of resources on a small percentage of the population.**
 - 2) **Agencies work *alongside* each other, but rarely work together.**
 - 3) **Agencies don’t achieve internal goals when working with the hardest-to-reach populations.**

Results of a Boston program gaps analysis for disconnected youth:

1. Programs vary greatly.
2. Demand outpaces supply.
3. Coordination is not a strength.
4. Outreach to dropouts is virtually nonexistent.



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Strategy

- ✓ Five proven strategies for lowering crime and increasing youth engagement:
 - 1) Frequent, intensive personal contact
 - 2) City-wide strategies with a focus on “hot spots”
 - 3) Develop social norms of civic behavior
 - 4) Engage young people in transition
 - 5) Reduce availability of instruments of violence

Boston’s Operation CeaseFire:

- 1. Focused intervention**
- 2. Fair and balanced message**
- 3. Consistent follow-through**
- 4. Strategic collaboration**



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Strategy

Philadelphia's Youth Violence Reduction Partnership:

- ✓ multi-agency effort aimed at reducing youth homicides by focusing on youth ages 7-24 who are most at-risk to “kill or be killed”

Five Strategy Elements

- 1) Identification
- 2) Positive Supports
- 3) Surveillance
- 4) Graduated Sanctions
- 5) Gun Suppression



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Strategy

Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force in San Jose:

- ✓ City-wide initiative initially driven by fear and focused primarily on restrictive prevention and enforcement strategies. “Project Neighborhood Crackdown” evolved into a youth reinvestment strategy, appropriately named, “Reclaiming our Youth.”

Five Strategy Goals

1. Well-coordinated “asset-based” service delivery system
2. Enhanced crisis response protocol, emphasizing prevention and after-care services
3. Capacity-building and fund development strategy
4. Public education and awareness campaign
5. Formalized partnerships with related local, state, and national initiatives



Cities Response to Youth Violence: The Strategy

El Paso, Texas:

- ✓ Redefined policing from arrests to solving the problem
- ✓ Increased presence in schools
- ✓ Attended sports events
- ✓ Staffed summer camps and coached teams
- ✓ Created a Youth Incentive Program
 - ✓ Collaborative of 205 agencies focused on service gaps, duplication, and outcomes

“...from tattoo removal, truancy reduction to after school programs, teen health and family support...doing whatever it takes...maybe all it takes is getting the family a refrigerator.”



Cities Response to Youth Violence: Outcomes

“What happens if we work outside the silos of our agency missions and jointly analyze problems and craft solutions?”

- ✓ In *Boston*, recorded zero youth homicides for 2 years
- ✓ In *Philadelphia*, reduced significantly youth homicides in the targeted “hot spot” districts
- ✓ In *El Paso*, recorded one of the lowest crimes rates in the nation for a city its size
- ✓ In *San Jose*, maintained its status as the nation’s safest large city with significant reduction in violent crime and juvenile hall admits



Cities Response to Youth Violence: 6 Tips for Getting Started

- 1) Create an Executive-level “advisory group” and staff-level “technical team”
- 2) Gather data to understand trends
- 3) Assess strengths, resources, and needs
- 4) Draw media support/attention
- 5) Involve community entities
- 6) Celebrate successes



Creating a Children & Youth Agenda (CYA): Five Key Components

