

Youth Violence Prevention

City of Minneapolis FY2013 Federal Agenda

In response to an increase in youth violence in 2006 the Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution that declared youth violence to be a public health concern. The city subsequently developed the "Blueprint for Action," a comprehensive, multifaceted, community-based plan to prevent youth violence. The Blueprint emphasizes the need for an array of community-based prevention programs, along with increased law enforcement efforts to prevent youth violence in Minneapolis.

In 2012, Minneapolis became one of 10 member cities of the National Forum on Youth Violence. The forum is coordinated by the Department of Justice. It is a cross agency initiative that was initiated by the White House. Along with designation as a Forum City, comes the potential for technical assistance, increased national visibility and the availability of federal resources from a number of Federal agencies. Minneapolis, with its five year history of working to prevent youth violence as outlined in its Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence, is considered a leader among other Forum cities. As a member of the Forum, Minneapolis will be refreshing the Blueprint in early 2013 and expects to receive some Federal financial support for implementing the new plan.

Recommendation: The City recommends that federal resources be directed to Forum cities to support implementation of local plans to prevent youth violence. The City also recommends that the CDC continue to be funded for its efforts to address youth violence as a public health issue including its support of the UNITY network which serves as a convener of local communities addressing youth violence as a public health issues beyond those cities designated as Forum Cities.