

Gresham's Youth Services Program is a community-oriented approach to addressing the root causes of community violence. By providing ongoing outreach, investment and services, we can together, strengthen youth resilience and prevent gang involvement, violence and crime. The program is modeled on evidence-based best practices and is a comprehensive approach to providing support to at-risk Gresham youth.

BIENNIUM REQUEST: \$4,000,000

Purpose: Extend the East Multnomah Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention Program for an additional 2 years.

Investment: Culturally responsive outreach, prevention and intervention programming aids in preventing youth violence and empowers youth to be successful members of the community.

- State investment will create stability and certainty within East County to address the root causes of violence.
- Gresham has created a foundation of partnership with the state, county, schools, and community partners.
- Significant progress has been made since launch in March '22.

COMMUNITY



23%

Ethnically diverse

88+

Languages spoken

\$58k

Median family income

115k

Gresham Residents

30k

Under the age of 20

16%

Children in poverty

PROGRAM GOALS



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Within its first 6 months, Gresham's program set a foundation for the first Youth Violence Prevention program in East County - including 5 contracts with local CBOs and partnership with the State of Oregon Youth Development Division.

Community Engagement: 1,000+ youth and family have attended community events in partnership with local citizens, residential communities, and community organizations.

Youth Services: Developed ongoing education on violence reduction strategies, case management for de-escalation and awareness.

Opportunities: 17+ community events in summer of '22; regular sports programs. Street-level, bicultural outreach.

Violence Suppression: Working with community partners, monitoring "hot spots" of crime activity; in-home visits with families that have experienced or potential perpetrators.

Organizational Change & Development: Created sustained relationships between the City, community partners, and school districts.



PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The foundation of Gresham's program provides 4 pillars of comprehensive support to at-risk youth.

- 1 At-Risk Youth Services**

Creates positive support structures, relationships, and mentorship for youth pathways to adulthood by supplying valuable opportunities, programs, and services.
- 2 Life Skills**

Gives youth a chance to discover healthy interests, strengthen leadership skills, and participate in safe activities and environments away from violence or other negative influences.
- 3 Community Engagement**

Improves social-emotional well-being, self-empowerment, academic performance, and valuable skills with networks that provide personal success and economic mobility.
- 4 Community Based Partnerships**

Provides services for youth impacted by: violence, trauma, family inability to pay rent or utilities, lack of access to food or shelter, drug/alcohol abuse, human/sex trafficking, sexual orientation/gender identity or racial conflict, and negative social activities.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

- Ongoing youth/gang violence continues to be a challenge in Gresham/East Multnomah County.
- Gresham/East Multnomah County has historically been under-served, underfunded, and under-resourced.
- Gresham youth and families have suffered from a history of underinvestment in youth engagement, services, safety and access to violence prevention resources.

OPPORTUNITY

- Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on our communities of color. If youth are engaged early, they are less likely to participate in gangs.
- With such a diverse population, Gresham needs comprehensive, culturally-based direct and specific support to address challenges.
- Gresham's Program provides a foundation that provides long term support for historically disadvantaged and underserved communities most impacted by gun violence to help stop the cycle before it starts.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

— — — — —

“

It's hard to change and easy to follow others. Gresham's Youth Services program gives me an outlet to have a positive impact on my community.

”

MARIO
GRESHAM YOUTH SERVICES
PARTICIPANT



(Emon Ghassemi (Mario) & Marcell Frazier - GYS staff)



“

He's found something he's so passionate about and it has kept him off drugs and gives him that positive male role model interaction!! The Underground saved my son!

— — — — —

PARENT TESTIMONY

PARTNERS & SERVICES

The City is proud to currently partner with 5 Community Based Organizations and the State of Oregon Youth Development Division. Collectively, these partnerships provide a comprehensive structure of support services that aid in youth outreach, violence prevention and intervention.



Outreach

Prevention

Intervention

- Street-level engagement
- Events/recreation
- Mentorship

- Life/personal/professional skills education & training
- Internships
- Youth Advisory Council

- Family services/assistance
- Physical & mental health treatment
- Housing/shelter placement
- Ongoing case management