

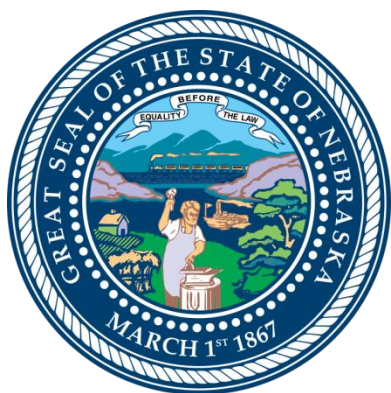
# Office of Violence Prevention

Annual Report to the Governor & Nebraska Legislature

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## **Introduction**

The Director of the Office of Violence Prevention of the Nebraska Commission of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is responsible for generating an annual report on the Office of Violence Prevention programs in Nebraska by Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-1450. This 2015 report is fulfilling this statutory duty.

The primary responsibility of the State Office of Violence Prevention is to help develop, foster, promote, and assess statewide violence prevention programs in the State of Nebraska.

The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) aids privately funded organizations, local government subdivisions, and other community groups in developing Prevention, Intervention, and Enforcement theories and techniques.

Through a competitive grants process administered by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission), the Office of Violence Prevention awards \$350,000 annually to organizations in Nebraska that have shown a history of documented success or new programs which show promise in helping to reduce violent crime in Nebraska.

The grant recipients are required to develop goals, objectives and performance indicators in order to help evaluate the success of the financial distribution. Upon awarding of the funds, grantees are required to submit quarterly activity and cash reports to the Office of Violence Prevention/Crime Commission. Also, grantees are required to provide an evaluation report and a portion of the grant funds can be used for a professional evaluator. The report must provide a comprehensive review of the program's overall effort, and measurable results during the grant cycle. Those results are provided to the Office of Violence Prevention.

## **The Office of Violence Prevention Advisory Council**

In May of 2009, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 63, establishing the Office of Violence Prevention within the Nebraska Crime Commission. A provision within LB 63 provided for the establishment of the Advisory Council to the Office of Violence Prevention. The Governor appointed Advisory Council is to meet quarterly and is directed to recommend – to the Crime Commission -- rules and regulation regarding fundraising, program evaluation, coordination of programs, and criteria used to assess and award funds to violence prevention programs.

## **Program Priority focus**

Priority for funding is given to communities and organizations seeking to implement violence prevention programs which appear to have the greatest benefit to the state and which have, as goals, the reduction of street and gang violence, and the reduction of homicides and injuries caused by firearms. In March of 2015, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 167 which also included the creation of youth employment opportunities in high-crime areas as an additional priority focus.

## **2014/2015 Grantees**

### **AA Empowerment Network- Omaha 360 Collaborative & Step up Omaha Program: \$181,956**

The Empowerment Network Spear heads the Omaha 360 Collaboration. The 360 Collaboration Identifies Omaha's emerging needs then creates strategies and develops plans to address the needed areas. Strategies and plans have been developed in a number of areas including: community engagement; job development and training; education and youth development; business development and entrepreneurship; housing and neighborhood development; violence intervention and prevention; voter registration and participation; arts, culture, and history revitalization; and, communications and media expansion and enhancement.

Step up Omaha is a summer youth job program that recruits, trains, and places prepared Omaha youth and young adults age 14 to 21, in mutually beneficial paid summer jobs and work experience opportunities.

The grant provides 2 full time employees to coordinate the 360 violence intervention and prevention collaboration and the coordination of the Step up Omaha program. The Grant will also provide the program to be extended pass the summer until the end of the fall.

### **Black Men United- Urban Pre-Vocational Training Program: \$81,179**

Black Men United created a Vocational training program that will certify 40 students in trade skills, employment training, general labor, and construction basics. Black Men United will also connect these students to unions, and companies in which will support transitioning the students to career opportunities

The Grant Provides the Coordination of this program, teachers, along with the student's supplies and testing materials.

### **Compassion in Action- Raw Dawg Youth Corps: \$30,695**

The RAWDAWGS after-school program starts with kids as young as 5, offering a safe place and teaching boys to become honorable young men by resisting gangs, bullying, drugs, alcohol, premarital sex, and other deviant behavior through education, mentoring, and community service.

The Grant will provide 2 part time employees to facilitate the program, funds for field trip travel, supplies and operation expenses.

### **Father Flanagan's (Boys Town) - SOVIP Job Readiness & Back 2 School Bash: \$8,000**

Boys Town will sponsor the South Omaha Violence Intervention Prevention Partnership which goal is to have a positive impact on youth and families by reducing the risk and resiliency factors related to violence through culturally competent strategies and through establishing responsive measurable outcomes as a part of city wide collaboration.

The grant will support the coordination of two Job readiness events for youth and adults. The events will utilize “Bring you’re a Game to Work” model. Also it will provide supplies and resources for the Back to school bash that is an annual event.

**Girls Inc. - Girls with Futures: \$27,305**

Girls Inc. goal is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold. They provided developmental support, opportunities and experiences they need to become confident, contributing citizens of our community.

The Grant will subsidize the violence prevention programs and activities focused on healthy productive futures. It will also provide education materials.

**Heartland Family Services- Victim Empathy Program: \$10,386**

The Victim Empathy Program is a restorative justice program whose goal is to help youth offenders repair the harm to the community and prevent future violent crime. VEP is comprised of two “tracks” that youth offenders can participate in during any time of their involvement in the justice system. Track One is a 3 or 6-week class that includes curriculum instruction, the generation of an apology letter, community service and discussions of victim rights, decision making, and the concept of empathy. Track Two is a professionally facilitated Victim Offender Meeting through the Concord Center.

**La Casa Del Pueblo- Omaha Youth Job Training Project: \$32,695**

The goal is to establish a pilot project with approximately 15 to 20 youth who will invest their time and effort in vocational training and on-the-job training through the rehabilitation of selected houses in disrepair. The project will offer vocational education offered by Metro Community College at their Express Classroom, on-the-job training through the rehabilitation of houses and supervised by experienced construction instructors, and job placement assistance or assistance in placing the participants in a trade school or in Metro’s expanding Construction department, or in jobs offered by local construction companies.

**Lancaster County- Operation Tipping Point: \$54,736**

Operation Tipping Point is a steering committee of community partners and justice stakeholders to address the increasing violent crimes associated with gangs in Lincoln, NE. A full-time Gang specialist will be hired to serve as the linkage between primary and secondary prevention/intervention efforts and engagement of community partners. The project will also assist in the training of LPD Gang Officers.

**NorthStar Foundation- Athletic Engagement and Outreach Program: \$67,390**

NorthStar Foundation deploys a comprehensive sequence of athletic engagement and outreach programming for low-income, at-risk young men in North Omaha. The NorthStar Athletic Engagement and Outreach Project engages the youth in enriching out-of-school time

programming, as well as serves as a vehicle to identify, recruit, and retain beneficiaries targeted for participation in the full complement of after school services throughout the school year.

**The City of Omaha Police Department Gang Unit- Intelligence-led Policing Project: \$82,017**

The Omaha Police Department Intelligence-led Gang Unit Policing Project will impact gang and gun crime in Omaha through targeted intervention, prevention, and enforcement efforts. The project will hire one full time Intelligence Analyst. This will allow the Gang Unit to be able to shift the center of balance away from reactive investigation after events, toward targeting active criminals on the basis of intelligence.

**The Hope Center for Kids- Village Basketball Alliance: \$19,875**

The efforts of Omaha 360 through the past four years have prompted youth-serving community organizations to work together to find creative ways to provide impactful activities for young people, particularly in North Omaha. The desire is for young people to be connected to youth-serving organizations where positive, healthy life-style principles are shared. Village Basketball Alliance (VBA) was created in 2011 to support this vision. Village Basketball Alliance youth will have a safe place to interact without fear of violence and learn positive social skills.

Up to 150 youth participate in each 10 week league. Along with the participants in the league, 50-100 peers and family members attend each week to watch the games. As many as 250 people have attended VBA on a weekly basis

**Urban League of NE- Youth Empowerment Series: Youthful Offender Re-entry: \$102,478**

The Urban League of Nebraska addresses violent and gang-related crime in Omaha by enhancing the Urban Youth Empowerment Series (U-YES), which includes: academic growth counseling, personal counseling, career advice, remedial and tutorial support, GED testing, computer classes, financial literacy courses, job readiness training (including resume writing, application completion, mock interviews and job searches), and Post-high school educational preparation.