
Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Program

Evaluation Summary Report
American Academy of Pediatrics
February 2024

2023 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention (GSIVP) Community Grant Program

Evaluation Summary Report
February 2024

Prepared for
Allison Hanes, MPH
Program Manager, Child Safety, Health, and Wellness
American Academy of Pediatrics

Prepared by
RadeckiResearch LLC
radeckiresearch@gmail.com

Executive Summary

About the GSIVP Community Grant Program

Firearms are the leading cause of death among children and youth ages 1 to 19 years in the US. As a public health issue, gun violence and gun injuries are preventable using approaches that combine sensible policy, improved surveillance, research to identify best practices, and evidence-informed cross-sectoral primary prevention and intervention efforts.

As part of a multifaceted effort to improve resources and training, as well as identify and disseminate evidence-based and promising practices that promote gun safety and prevent gun violence, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) launched the Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Program (referred to as GSIVP throughout this report). The program provided small grants to organizations seeking to develop or expand gun safety, injury, and violence prevention initiatives through enhanced community partnerships.

About the GSIVP Grantees

In March 2023, the Academy awarded **\$15,000 grants to 10 sites** chosen through a competitive process; **132 applications were submitted**. The selection process prioritized locations experiencing disproportionately high rates of community violence, firearm-related deaths, and health inequities.

As a participation requirement, each site identified 1 to 4 SMART objectives and related project activities on which to work over the 9-month funding period.

About the GSIVP Evaluation

The GSIVP program evaluation plan incorporated a mixed-methods approach, gathering both quantitative and qualitative data from sites to assess implementation and outcomes/impacts. To gauge implementation success and site fidelity to their action plan, each grantee submitted a “check in” report at funding midpoint (August 2023) and program conclusion (December 2023). In January 2024, team members from each site participated in a site interview to discuss accomplishments, challenges, learnings, next steps, and GSIVP grant program improvement opportunities.

GSIVP Program Evaluation Results

WHAT CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE GSIVP PROGRAM

In less than one year, grantee sites amassed a set of achievements that impacted youth, families, local health systems, communities, counties, states, and regions in a multitude of ways. Accomplishments include distribution of >1,900 firearm safe storage devices; provision of gun safety training to 1,100+ pediatricians and other health professionals using an online module; and increased professional and community member awareness of and knowledge about firearm safety and safe storage through webinars/symposia, public service announcements and educational materials translated into numerous languages based on local need.

GRANTEE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Beyond individual grantee accomplishments, the GSIVP program fostered collective impacts such as normalizing inclusion of pediatricians – and a broader spectrum of health and public health professionals – in gun safety and gun violence prevention discussions and reframing gun violence as a child safety issue on which pediatricians universally and routinely counsel and provide anticipatory guidance to youth and families.

GRANTEE CHALLENGES

Grantees identified numerous challenges in their GSIVP work, some unique to the specific activities of an individual organization and others more universally applicable across sites.

The most commonly reported obstacles involved knowledge and information when discussing firearms and firearm injury prevention (eg, including lack of common language/terminology), programs/participants (eg, need for destigmatizing mental health service use among young people), and organizational/administrative (eg, navigating cross-entity collaborations).

THE POWER AND IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Integral to the accomplishments of each site were the partnerships – newly established or enhanced and strengthened – over the grant period. These collaborations extend program reach and promote sustainability. Key partners across GSIVP grantee organizations included:

- ▶ Community members – including firearm owners, youth, and families
- ▶ Education sector
- ▶ Health systems
- ▶ Community-based organizations and businesses
- ▶ National organizations

LEVERAGING LEARNINGS TO INFORM NEXT STEPS

GSIVP program activities affirmed important lessons and generated new learnings that grantees are using to inform their future plans and next steps. All grantees planned to continue their efforts despite the conclusion of the GSIVP grant program. Several sites had or planned to leverage AAP funding to support future activities.

GSIVP PROGRAM STRENGTHS AND IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Participants identified several positive aspects of the GSIVP grant experience including grant administration processes. Suggestions to improve the grant program included a longer project period, increased award amount, and additional AAP resources (eg, template educational materials customizable at community, state, and regional levels).

Conclusions and Action Step Recommendations

With an investment of \$150,000 across 10 grantee sites, the American Academy of Pediatrics fostered individual, family, community, state, and regional level accomplishments and impacts addressing multiple issues related to gun safety, injury, and violence prevention.

The need for prevention and intervention is urgent. Over the brief 9-month funding period, several GSIVP grantee sites were impacted by gun violence in the form of a hospital system-based shooting, a shelter-in-place order in response to an active shooter incident near program offices, firearm-related deaths of a program participant and program participants' friend, a local suicide cluster, and a university-based mass shooting.

Pediatricians are and will remain an essential voice in the gun safety and gun violence prevention discussion. Normalizing the role of individual pediatricians, AAP chapters, hospitals, health departments, and community based organizations in this work is imperative as is ensuring that all partners have the appropriate tools and resources needed. Together, 10 GSIVP-funded projects have made valuable contributions in these areas with grantee organizations leading the way in their communities.

Action step recommendations include:

- ▶ **Publicizing** existing AAP resources such as the [Gun Safety Campaign Toolkit](#) and [Firearm Injury Prevention Special Interest Group](#).
- ▶ **Developing** additional educational resources and materials for professional and family audiences to support both prevention and intervention in languages and formats that meet the needs of diverse communities and support provision of easy access to safety devices.
- ▶ **Promoting** the power and potential of cross-sector and multidisciplinary collaborations to address gun safety and injury prevention, focusing on collaborations that are deeply embedded in the communities they serve.
- ▶ **Identifying** funding sources within the Academy and/or in collaboration with other organizations and institutions to continue and expand the GSIVP grant program.

Table of Contents

About the GSIVP Community Grant Program	1
About the GSIVP Grantees	2
About the GSIVP Evaluation	2
GSIVP Program Evaluation Results	3
What's Different as a Result of GSIVP?	3
Grantee Program Implementation and Collective Achievements	5
Grantee Challenges	6
The Power and Impacts of Community Collaborations	8
Leveraging Learnings to Inform Next Steps	10
GSIVP Program Strengths and Improvement Opportunities	14
Conclusions and Action Step Recommendations	17
Summary	17
Action Step Recommendations	18
Acknowledgements	19
Appendices	19
Appendix A – AAP GSIVP Request for Applications Program Promotion	
Appendix B – GSIVP Grantee Site Interview Discussion Guide	
Appendix C – Stories of GSIVP Community Partnerships at Work	

About the GSIVP Community Grant Program

Firearms are the number one cause of death in children and youth ages 1 to 19 years in the US. In 2021 alone, there were [4,752 firearm deaths](#) among children and youth age birth to 19 years. The majority of children and adolescents who are shot, however, survive. Survivors and their families often face [long-term physical, psychological, and financial consequences](#). As a public health issue, gun violence and gun injuries are preventable using approaches that combine sensible policy, improved surveillance, research to identify best practices, and evidence-informed cross-sectoral primary prevention and intervention efforts.

For over 30 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has developed and published position statements with recommended public policy and clinical approaches to reduce the incidence of firearm injuries in children and adolescents and to reduce the effects of gun violence. The Gun Safety and Injury Prevention Initiative (GSIVI), funded in 2018 by the AAP Friends of Children Fund, is a multi-faceted effort that focuses on improving resources, training, and implementation supports for the AAP membership as well as identifying and disseminating evidence-based and promising practices that promote gun safety and prevent gun violence.

With support from the AAP Friends of Children Fund, the Academy launched the Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Program (referred to as GSIVP throughout this report). The program provided small grants over a nine-month project period (April-December 2023) to help organizations plan and implement new projects or expand existing efforts to advance gun safety, injury, and violence prevention initiatives. GSIVP sought to enhance community partnerships in areas where violence and the effects of firearm injury and deaths disproportionately impact children, adolescents, young adults, and families.

AAP publicized the grant opportunity through various internal and external communication channels. See Appendix A for the Request for Applications and a complete list of organizations and entities to whom the program was promoted. Applicants could include community-based organizations, health departments, AAP Chapters, and individual pediatricians; cross-sector collaborations (eg, a community-based organization working with a local pediatrician or a health department working with a local community-based organization) were encouraged. See Figure 1 for a list of funding-eligible project types and topics.

Figure 1. GSIVP Program Eligibility

Eligible programs included but were not limited to:

- Violence intervention programs
 - Street outreach
 - Group violence intervention/interruption programs
 - Hospital-based violence intervention programs
- Firearm safety programs
 - Firearm storage distribution
 - Firearm storage training for healthcare and community outreach professionals

Eligible topic areas included but were not limited to:

- Urban/domestic gun violence
- Firearm suicide prevention
- Child and teen gun safety
- Responsible gun ownership
- Translating policy into practice

No GSIVP funds could be used to support research, propaganda, or attempts to influence legislation.

About the GSIVP Grantees

In March 2023, the Academy awarded **\$15,000 grants** to **10 sites** chosen through a competitive process; **132 applications were submitted**. Priority project locations emphasized areas experiencing disproportionately high rates of community violence, firearm-related deaths, and health inequities. The selected sites represented nine states and a diverse set of organizations/entities:

- ▶ Community-based organizations (4)
- ▶ Health departments (3)
- ▶ AAP Chapters (2)
- ▶ Hospital-based violence intervention program(1)

Seven grantee projects were housed in urban communities; rural (1) and suburban (2) efforts were also included. Two sites represented AAP chapters.

As a participation requirement, each site identified 1 to 4 SMART objectives and related project activities on which to work over the 9-month funding period.

A SMART objective is...

- S – Specific
- M – Measurable
- A – Achievable
- R – Realistic
- T – Time-bound

About the GSIVP Evaluation

The GSIVP program evaluation plan incorporated a mixed-methods approach, gathering both quantitative and qualitative data from sites to assess implementation and outcomes/impacts.

To help the AAP gauge implementation success and site fidelity to their action plan, each grantee submitted a “check in” report via SurveyMonkey at funding midpoint (August 2023) and program conclusion (December 2023). Customized reports allowed sites to communicate progress toward achieving their own unique set of objectives and goals and document obstacles encountered.

In January 2024, team members from each site participated in a site interview (see Appendix B for site interview guide) to debrief, in greater depth, about their GSIVP-related accomplishments, challenges, learnings, and next steps. Discussions also focused on experience as a GSIVP grantee and program improvement suggestions.

The evaluation results summarized below explore:

- What changed as a result of the GSIVP Program
- Grantee program implementation and collective achievements
- Grantee challenges
- The power and impact of community collaborations
- How grantees are leveraging learnings to inform next steps
- GSIVP program strengths and improvement opportunities

Recognizing the value and significant contribution of grantee voices, participant comments are highlighted throughout the results section. In some instances, quotes have been lightly edited for readability and/or to preserve confidentiality.

GSIVP Program Evaluation Results

WHAT'S DIFFERENT AS A RESULT OF THE GSIVP PROGRAM?

In less than one year, grantee sites amassed a set of achievements that impacted youth, families, local health systems, communities, counties, states, and regions in a multitude of ways.

- ▶ **>1,900** firearm safe storage devices were distributed across six GSIVP-funded sites; devices (including trigger locks, cable locks, lock boxes, and biometric lock boxes) were accompanied by companion educational materials provided in multiple languages in response to community need
- ▶ **1,100+** pediatricians and other physicians, nonphysician clinicians, social workers, and support staff were educated on gun safety using an Epic-based training module
- ▶ **900+** *Store it Safe*-shirts were distributed to healthcare system physicians, other nonphysician clinicians, ancillary staff, and administration; recipients continue to wear their shirts, increasing topic awareness and creating a sense of camaraderie
- ▶ **706** 30- to 60-second public service announcements (PSA) aired across four local radio stations from September 2023 to December 2023; messaging focused on youth lethal means safety and suicide prevention; available statistics from one participating radio station estimated ~20,000 weekly listeners
- ▶ **100+** pediatricians, other health care professionals, and community members attended a series of two *Rx for Gun Safety* webinars titled “California Law and Practical Strategies for Safe Storage” and “Pediatric Firearm Injuries and Fatalities: The Clinician’s Guide to Policies and Approaches to Firearm Harm Prevention”; archived webinar recordings allow for asynchronous viewing
- ▶ **100+** pediatricians and community partners engaged in the Continuing Medical Education (CME)-bearing *Firearm Injury Prevention Symposium* that included a panel discussion with firearm owners; the archived symposium recording facilitates asynchronous viewing
- ▶ **108** participants completed a concealed carry weapon training course
- ▶ **100** youth/families were screened in a pilot project to identify primary care connections and insurance access; learnings fostered a greater understanding of the organization’s patient population and informed plans for wider community-based engagement and assessment
- ▶ **6** pediatric practices participated in a multi-month quality improvement learning collaborative to enhance counseling/anticipatory guidance regarding safe firearm storage; strategies included use of motivational interviewing to promote behavior change

If somebody is in need of a lockbox and they find out about this program, it's immediately available to them. They just scan the QR code, takes them straight to the website, and they can order the lockbox from us.

GSIVP grantee

- ▶ 5 families with a child recovering from gun violence were provided with social care supports including grocery gift cards, transportation stipends, and pre-paid mobile phones enabling families to meet basic needs and stay connected with each other and their case managers
- ▶ 5 project-related trainings (eg, [Talk Saves Lives](#), [Question.Persuade.Refer \[QPR\]](#), Trauma Informed Care) offered by one site and their partners educated over 50 community members including seniors, first responders, health department staff; GSIVP dollars additionally supported purchase of 30 QPR training vouchers, Stop the Bleed training supplies, and prepared a public health nurse to become a Stop the Bleed trainer who can deliver the program to any community organization
- ▶ 2 GSIVP-funded sites involved pediatric residents in their activities; one grantee included tomorrow's pediatricians in their organization's QI initiative while another grantee provided residents with trigger/cable locks and lock boxes to examine in conjunction with supportive education materials
- ▶ 1 grantee site was instrumental in getting a gun safety education training module link posted for Epic users nationally; GSIVP team members were asked to present their firearm safety training/screening work at a future Epic conference
- ▶ 1 city-wide, pediatric-focused gun safety campaign was developed and implemented with assets including: a website, an informational community mailing that prioritized households with children, multilingual print materials, radio and television PSAs aired during Gun Safety Awareness Month (June 2023), video ads, and digital safe gun storage messages created for social media and recorded by recognizable community leaders
- ▶ 1 partnership was forged between a health department, local/regional veteran organizations, and a newly opened community sports range resulting in distribution of educational resources to range staff and members as well as at safe firearm ownership classes and safe gun storage trainings
- ▶ 1 case management software program was purchased with GSIVP funds, allowing a grantee organization to better track service provision – including newly expanded mental/behavioral health supports – at individual client/family and organizational levels
- ▶ 1 neighborhood health fair combined fellowship and fun to extend information, screenings, and social care beyond the grantee organization's client population to the larger community
- ▶ Multiple groups of 6 to 8 incarcerated youth received the [Seeking Safety for Adolescents](#) program; offered every 3 weeks by a cadre of dedicated college-age volunteers, the program also incorporated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-based learning activities
- ▶ Numbers of grantee organization staff were trained in relevant programs and on topics such as:
 - [Stop the Bleed](#)
 - [Talk Saves Lives](#)
 - [Seeking Safety](#)
 - Social emotional learning (SEL)
 - Restorative justice, healing, and conversations
 - Trauma, trauma-informed care and service provision
 - Peace

Most pediatric residents have never seen a gun lock.

...Allowing them to have that hands-on was really, really great for them. There's very little branded educational material about how to use a gun lock. We also bring out the gun locks and gun safe on Wear Orange Day, which is part of June's Firearm Awareness Month. That's been helpful in allowing families and patients to be able to investigate gun safety tools that are available to them.

GSIVP grantee

- ▶ Development and widespread distribution of multi partner-branded materials and resources in several languages supported health, education, and community sectors in the implementation of [CA Assembly Bill #452 – Pupil safety: parental notification: firearm safety laws](#); additionally, a social media campaign through X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Facebook prompted expanded user engagement including a Facebook post with an estimated digital reach of >19,700
- ▶ Suicide prevention and safe firearm storage education and information created for youth and their community, by youth, were distributed; appealing “swag” resource giveaways included water bottles, notebooks and Bluetooth speakers printed with co-branded program logos and a QR code linking recipients to a GSIVP grantee webpage for straightforward firearm lock box ordering

GRANTEE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Program Implementation

Based on final check in reports, all grantees either **met** or **partially met** their program-specific objectives during the 9-month funding period (Figure 2). Sites that designated an objective as “partially met” were often continuing material and resource distribution or analyzing program data.

Figure 2. GSIVP Site Objective Completion Status

Objective	<i>Final</i> Check-In Status	<i>Mid-Point</i> Check-In Status
Objective #1 (10 sites)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - Not started	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 7 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Not started
Objective #2 (9 sites)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - Not started	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 7 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Not started
Objective #3 (8 sites)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - Not started	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Not started
Objective #4 (4 sites)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - Not started	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 - Met <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Not started

See **Appendix C**, *Stories of GSIVP Community Partnerships at Work*, for examples of how each grantee met their program-specific objectives.

In several instances, early program learnings (eg, findings from site-led, data-driven examinations of the most appropriate and likely-to-be-used safe firearm storage devices for their community; fewer resource needs based on client screening results) prompted grantees to rethink their original objectives and revise their initial plans. With AAP-approved redirections, these sites were better able to address community needs.

Collective Achievements

Beyond the individual grantee accomplishments highlighted [above](#), the GSIVP program fostered collective achievements in numerous areas:

- ▶ Normalizing inclusion of pediatricians (and a broader spectrum of health and public health professionals) in gun safety and gun violence prevention discussions including firearm safety and safe storage practices
- ▶ Reframing gun violence as a child safety issue on which pediatricians universally and routinely counsel and provide anticipatory guidance to youth and families
- ▶ Building confidence among grantees in their ability to lead and position themselves within their communities as trusted sources of firearm safety information and resources
- ▶ Fostering community recognition of pediatricians and public health professionals as a trusted partner/voice on the topics of firearm safety and firearm injury prevention
- ▶ Identifying shared language and messaging that is comfortable and respectful to firearm owners and non-owners alike
- ▶ Intervening with youth in primary or secondary prevention efforts to interrupt the cycle(s) of violence, and from a strengths-based framework, acknowledging trauma and teaching coping skills, self-regulation strategies, and art to promote healing, restorative growth, and resilience
- ▶ Co-branding materials and resources with community partners (some of whom may not have collaborated in the past) to “speak” in unison to share consistent and cohesive messaging
- ▶ Distributing firearm safety locking and storage devices with “no questions asked” to remove barriers to acceptance such as stigma or admission of an illegal gun in the home

GRANTEE CHALLENGES

Grantees identified numerous challenges in their GSIVP work, some unique to the specific activities of an individual organization and others more universally applicable across sites.

The most commonly reported obstacles involved:

- ▶ Knowledge and Information
 - Lack of common language/terminology when discussing firearms and firearm injury prevention
 - Pediatrician discomfort and lack of confidence when counseling patients and families about firearm safety
 - Difficulties understanding specific and complex state gun laws; grantees noted that knowledge of state gun laws is imperative when developing messaging and in responding to questions from the public
 - Condensing voluminous amounts of relevant information into right-sized, manageable content when developing educational materials, webinars, and programming
 - Data – including data access, data collection mechanisms, and obtaining high quality data

- ▶ Programs/Participants
 - Maximizing physical and psychological safety of participants – leaders and youth/community members – when engaged in program activities
 - Further destigmatizing mental health service use among young people
 - Addressing youth and family resistance to sharing personal/private information (eg, contact information, insurance status)
 - Implementing harm reduction strategies on a broader scale, beyond the grantee's patient/client population; scaling project activities from local to state/regional levels

- ▶ Organizational/Grants Administration
 - Navigating the terrain of internal and cross-organizational collaborations when partners may be constrained in
 - Language/terminology used
 - Internal and external perceptions about an organization's role in the firearm safety space
 - Translation needs/methodologies
 - Legal approvals
 - Time required for grant set up and fund acceptance/disbursement within an organization
 - Time and resources required to implement systems-level change (eg, incorporating new gun safety screening in a hospital Emergency Department setting)
 - Limited administrative support for implementing complex and multifaceted projects

It was initially, internally, trying to figure out the **messaging that we all agreed on** and really remembering that this has to come from a public health, a best practice, a science-based approach.
GSIVP grantee

We had to have a **conversation with our legal and compliance department** to discuss handing out the locks. And knowing things that we have to do like, "Hey, we have to have these lock labels that have a liability statement on it as well as where they're from." It can't be said that it's a gift. It has to be less than a certain cost.
GSIVP grantee

THE POWER AND IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Integral to the accomplishments of each site were the partnerships – newly built or enhanced and strengthened – over the grant period. These collaborations extend program reach and promote sustainability.



Community members, including firearm owners

GSIVP created new opportunities for direct community outreach and engagement – including to gun owners – that fostered frank, nonjudgmental conversations and respect for differing viewpoints.



Youth and Families

Grantees explained how partnering with youth on issues such as mental health, restorative healing, and firearm safety messaging/injury prevention strategies cultivated a greater understanding of young people's needs. Meeting families where they are regarding social care needs, information, and resources for firearm safe storage helped organizations better understand, serve, and care for their client/patient populations.

The importance of having youth inform what we're doing and what the branding and the language and the imagery that we're using is another really important takeaway from this because doing that really made it feel like we're not only partnering with youth-serving agencies, **we're partnering with youth** to make sure that we're going to be speaking in a way that reaches them, and we're going to be providing the kind of resources and the kind of stuff that they're actually going to be interested in and want to pay attention to, that they're actually going to want to use. ...the importance of **taking our guidance from them** in how we're presenting the campaign for lethal means safety here, it's another really important thing that will **continue to inform our future efforts**.

GSIVP grantee



Education Sector

School partnerships aided grantees' understanding of the environment where youth spend the majority of their day. As a result of these relationships, grantees were invited to provide direct services (eg, trainings) in educational settings and collaboratively address issues such as on-site mental health services and school response to active shooter situations. Through collaboration with partners in higher education settings, students volunteering with GSIVP grantee programs were introduced to behavioral/mental health career opportunities.

I think it's been really important over the last especially the last six months to establish partnerships with local universities to [participant's] point around schools of social work and public health, but also some of the local medical schools here and also just some of the local university students that are interested in data analysis and data collection work.

GSIVP grantee

...they're the best academic institutions in our area. If we can leverage their knowledge, expertise, and the energy that those students have, it allows us to **scale up this kind of work** in a way that we couldn't on our own. ...they get to have a community experience that they would never have in any of their rotations in medical school or in public health school. We are a vehicle for teaching them about social determinants of health and what they look like in real life...to see how that plays out in people's lives.

GSIVP grantee



Health systems

Grantees' work within and across health systems promoted training, screening, and messaging uniformity and consistency about firearm safety and injury prevention; team members noted the importance of patients, families, and community members receiving information from unified voices.

Leadership support made people be like, "Oh, this is important. Let's talk about this. Let's be educated on this." And I think one of the surprising things was on National Gun Violence Awareness Day, 250 or so locks were distributed here within our own hospital. ...And that included to our staff that weren't necessarily storing their guns safely. Or they had family members that were [saying], "Oh, my child goes to their home." And so it really **started conversations**.

GSIVP grantee

We were fortunate enough to have relationships that were started but I feel like this topic has really **solidified** those **relationships**. And it was the first test out of the pandemic and outside of anything COVID-related that we could really test the waters and see how those relationships worked. And they worked incredibly well. And I feel like this is the difference moving forward between a timestamped QI project versus something that is both sustainable and really **changes the way we think about community projects** in general, hopefully forever in our organization from here forward.

GSIVP grantee



Community-based organizations (CBO) and businesses

Collaborations with a variety of community-based organizations and businesses heightened cross-visibility and elevated the profile of those involved. GSIVP program activities resulted in unexpected partnerships (eg, local youth organization and firearms retailer; health department and state Bar Association) and uplifted grantees as a resource to whom other organizations reach out for assistance and guidance. CBO partner representatives began serving on grantee organization committees and coalitions, furthering program spread and sustainability.

We've made some tremendous headway in identifying champions that have not always been able to speak out against gun violence in a way that made sense for them, politically, given the climate of our location and we've been able to come together on a more **cohesive messaging** system **around gun safety** that made sense for everyone involved, including our governmental agencies and our police and sheriff's departments.

GSIVP grantee

It was a really cool opportunity for us to work on a project where we were **connecting community partners** from different arenas, different communities that they serve, different age levels. It was really nice to feel like you're **connecting a broader community**. We often focus on specificities in terms of the community that we serve, but being able to put parts together like that is a really nice aspect of this project.

GSIVP grantee

Because we were able to get this grant and be able to, on a larger scale, start pushing education and providing resources, **other agencies have reached out to us** as to how they can get this started in their organization. ... it's brought a lot of people out of the

woodwork, they've reached out to us, and we've been able to communicate, and then it spreads further.

GSIVP grantee

I've done some research about gun safety campaigns around the country, and a lot of places use [a] criminal justice partnership route in talking about guns and gun safety. And we've intentionally wanted to move away from that and really **partner with healthcare community groups**. Just given the history of our community's relationship with the police department, we're feeling like that's going to be most effective.

GSIVP grantee



National organizations

GSIVP-funded sites synergistically amplified their own work and that of others by collaborating with numerous national organizations including:

- [BeSmart](#)
- [Everytown for Gun Safety](#)
- [The Gifford Foundation](#)
- [Moms Demand Action](#)
- [My Brother's Keeper Alliance \(Obama Foundation\)](#)
- Tribal agencies
- [United Way](#)
- Veterans Affairs/Local VA Administration

Grantees expected that all partnerships forged or strengthened during the project would endure after GSIVP conclusion.

LEVERAGING LEARNINGS TO INFORM NEXT STEPS

GSIVP program activities reinforced important lessons and generated new learnings that grantees are using to inform their future plans and next steps.



Firearm Safety Promotion and Gun Violence Prevention *IS* the Work of Pediatricians

Pediatricians involved in GSIVP-funded project teams recognized that educating and counseling patients and families about firearm safety is as much within the purview of pediatrics as immunizations and bicycle helmets. Pediatricians are *in their lane* when talking about gun violence prevention. They also acknowledged among their colleagues a persistent discomfort and lack of confidence to make gun violence and safe gun ownership a part of universal anticipatory guidance. Within and beyond their respective organizations, GSIVP pediatrician leaders committed to continue speaking with other pediatricians one-on-one and training physicians en masse to ensure that each has the tools and self-efficacy needed to conduct effective, efficient screening and provide brief but meaningful counseling about firearms, safe storage, and injury prevention.

Further, pediatrician champions pledged to continue working with organizational leaders and their state lawmakers to secure buy-in for program continuation and expansion, include the purchase and distribution of firearm safe storage devices as well as to help pediatricians “connect the dots” between laws and the issues they care about in practice.

The grant gave us the traction to or maybe gave us the push and gave our leadership the push to say, “Okay, we are going to actually get behind this and help you move this forward. ... the grant really helped push us forward in terms of just our **leadership being more supportive and engaged** and hopefully will help us to move this forward even more.

GSIVP grantee

One of the docs in our office, when I first brought this up to him years ago, said to me, “I’m actually scared to bring this up in our community. It’s just intimidating for me. I don’t think I can do this.” We work in a really conservative community, and he happens to be a person of color. So he has now completed the AMA training, and he did the AAP one as well, and he said it was fantastic. He feels way more comfortable, and he is now screening.

GSIVP grantee

The ability to **place pediatricians in this dialogue** publicly, globally, has allowed pediatricians to be a part of the conversation. And it felt to me that we really hadn’t been up to that point. Nationally, people have been seeing more physicians be involved, and ‘this is my lane’ kind of thing. But locally, we were bringing experts together...**we’re talking about prevention, just like we would be talking about vaccines** and making it something to dialogue about and getting people comfortable to be in that space.

GSIVP grantee

Lead with Data

All grantees described ways in which data – collected through GSIVP activities and anecdotally – directed and would continue to guide their work going forward.

- ▶ Lessons learned about firearm ownership and firearm storage devices are prompting state-level discussions about the purchase of more effective means of safe storage (eg, lock boxes versus cable locks)
- ▶ GSIVP-related challenges associated with data collection led one team to identify new data collection strategies, particularly to ensure that pediatric practices located in zip codes experiencing higher rates of gun-related violence will receive program-related training and safe gun storage resources
- ▶ The results of screening data collected from their own patient population prompted one grantee to plan for expanded screening beyond their program population and to build new relationships with organizations that can assist individuals to “activate and navigate” their health insurance and utilize the full complement of resources (eg, physical, behavioral, mental health) that their insurance provides
- ▶ One site expressed interest in collecting additional data to show the cost effectiveness of interventions that include direct assistance and supports to families with a goal of sharing their findings with Medicare/Medicaid with a request to continue similar investments

- ▶ Several grantee organizations are using data to document services provided and impact of service provision to share with current and potential funders; for example, one team described how they will continue to assess website traffic regarding community access to lethal means safety resources

We want to be able to look at, are there disparities within race and ethnicities regarding the discussions around, say, firearms storage.

GSIVP grantee

There's kind of momentum around this project and other healthcare organizations interested in finding out more. ... They wanted to know, can we prove that this was do we have measurable data saying that, yes, this was efficacious? And we don't at this point, but I believe we will.

GSIVP grantee

Firearm Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Is Work Of vs In the Community

GSIVP grantee achievements were deeply rooted in their community connections. Grantee organizations and their team members are embedded within the areas they serve and committed to the safety and well-being of their neighbors.

Grantees described being inspired and in some instances, surprised, as their GSIVP activities brought people together over a shared concern and unified community members across a broad spectrum of ideologies and experiences. Team members attributed much of this success to partnering with and utilizing community voices – particularly firearm owners – in developing and delivering gun safety and safe storage messaging.

Team members emphasized the need to build in additional time and effort when seeking to establish new relationships and build trust, whether working with individual families or new partners. Grantees continued to contemplate how to scale harm reduction strategies to the larger community and how to reframe a narrative that normalizes young people carrying guns.

Next Steps for GSIVP Grantees

Despite conclusion of the formal GSIVP program, grantees' work is ongoing. Goals and objectives established and met during the grant period have already generated new ideas and activities that sites are working on or plan to work on in the coming months. These include:

- ▶ A second annual firearm injury prevention symposium
- ▶ Expansion of PSA programming to provide an even broader segment of the community with education and information
- ▶ Teaching suicide prevention classes in community schools

- ▶ Model enhancements for providing program clients with mental health supports in a safe space
- ▶ Development of youth-focused, youth-friendly materials for distribution through local program partners that offer hunter safety classes, firearms training, and concealed carry weapon training
- ▶ Embedding youth suicide prevention work in a county community health improvement plan's strategic plan
- ▶ Provision of trauma-related materials and educational programming to school staff and other agencies
- ▶ Continued data collection efforts to illustrate the efficacy of primary care provider education on family behaviors regarding safe gun storage
- ▶ Continued data collection efforts and follow-up with GSIVP-purchased lock box recipients to assess use and address recipient questions
- ▶ Facilitation of small group discussion sessions at a national 2-day violence prevention symposium during which team members will have opportunities to share their site's GSIVP accomplishments and lessons learned
- ▶ Ongoing fundraising and grant writing to secure dollars for additional safe storage devices and social care supports
- ▶ Expanding relationships with local universities' schools of social work and creating opportunities for social work interns – a win-win strategy for both grantee and universities
- ▶ Identifying creative strategies such as use of CB radio to meet families where they are and expand gun safety messaging exposure, particularly in remote and sparsely populated areas

We all agree that **we're just getting started**. We have other safety campaigns for the organization that are long-serving and I think we envision this becoming one of our long-serving campaigns.

GSIVP grantee

It was just like, 'Okay, we're only going to do this one thing for 12 months and then we're done.' It sets us up now so we're good to go and in a good place. If additional funding from other organizations comes up, we can now demonstrate, 'Hey, this is what we did through this funding. **We're ready to do more.**'

GSIVP grantee

We had a couple of instances where we had our banner around gun safety, and I don't want to use the word trigger, but I think people were sort of caught off guard. They were like, "Well, what's the health department doing with gun safety, with gun-related material?" So I still think there's a really big **opportunity to work with the community to destigmatize** and say, "Look, we're not here to tell you you shouldn't have your guns. We're here to help you understand what you can do to keep yourself, your loved ones, your children, your elderly loved ones safe." So I think that **we're in a really good place** to continue that work as the health department and with our long-term and some of our newer partners as well.

GSIVP grantee

GSIVP PROGRAM STRENGTHS AND IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Grantee Experience – Program Strengths

Participants identified several positive aspects of the GSIVP grant experience including:

- ▶ Grant administration and logistics – timely disbursement of funds; few funding restrictions; limited reporting requirements; flexibility to revise site objectives and work plans, as needed
 - Ability to purchase otherwise unattainable resources (eg, trainings, lock boxes, social care)
 - Increased capacity to respond to families' immediate needs without imposing barriers such as exhaustive paperwork and tracking requirements
 - AAP trust in grantees to know their communities and how best to allocate funds

I work with other types of federal grants, and I just really **appreciated how easy this was.**

GSIVP grantee

The great part is we were able to give so much of the grant funds to our patients and their families ...was really wonderful and not something you see a whole bunch.

GSIVP grantee

For the AAP as the grantor to trust that we were going to make the best decision around where to put those dollars that would best meet the needs of the grant and help us meet our goals and objectives and ultimately to best support the community.

GSIVP grantee

- ▶ AAP staff support – clear communication regarding grantee requirements and responsiveness to questions; even those who did not reach out for support perceived that assistance was available, if needed
- ▶ Opportunities to braid AAP support with other funds to maximize program impact and grow existing efforts
- ▶ Opportunity to assemble a team (often multidisciplinary), singularly focused on gun safety, injury, and violence prevention
- ▶ AAP topical resources (eg, tools, messaging) shared at the start of the grant period
- ▶ Opportunities to support staff education, training, and mental health

[GSIVP] has allowed us to **put more of a focus on mental health** and understanding that mental health is something that's important because you don't want too much of a weight to be put on the staff where they are now pouring from an empty glass. ...And that started with the funds that we received and kind of really kind of open it up to say, 'Okay. We need to make sure that we provide the same type of support for the staff that services the clients that we work with as well.'

GSIVP grantee

[The grant] provided an opportunity for our frontline staff to flex and develop and use different skill sets that are outside of the day-to-day, which is important because you want folks in the organization to have opportunity to grow, do new things, and try on different paths within an organization.

GSIVP grantee

Participants frequently acknowledged that the prestige of being an Academy grantee increased their project's legitimacy, placing their organization in a stronger position to seek support from other funders. Additionally, grantees expressed hope that the GSIVP program will continue with opportunities for the originally funded sites to compete for future AAP awards.

Utilizing and saying the phrase, "We've received a \$15,000 grant from the AAP," it kind of opened the door and made it more of a priority because it gave it purpose because we had this timeline and we had to report back to AAP as to what we were doing. And so I think there were certain things that it kind of opened the door. ...So being that it went from a, "Hey, we're going to try to pilot something in a couple of offices to really going right past that very quickly into several offices and then other physicians asking, "How can we do this in our office?" And I think it opened kind of our eyes to several things that we need to do and look at and what is going to be the most sustainable way to do it, the most efficient way to do it, and how can it best be managed.

GSIVP grantee

The [AAP's] interest in this work is huge. Just the fact that pediatric professionals see that there may be a potential between the work that they do or the audience that they engage and gun violence helps heighten and strengthen what organizations like ours are saying to policymakers, to foundations, to each other around how to approach gun violence.

GSIVP grantee

Grantee Experience – Program Improvement Opportunities

The inaugural grantees identified several ways in which the GSIVP program could be improved or enhanced if offered again.



9-Month Project Period / Timeline (5 sites)

Participants proposed a longer grant period (recommended 12-18 months) allowing extra time for activities such as institutional grant set up, project recruitment (participants, speakers/faculty), and data collection.



Budget/Award Amount (4 sites)

Several sites suggested increasing the amount of the funding award (recommendations ranged from \$25,000 to \$90,000, the higher amount to support dedicated program staff) or increasing funding to a consortium of sites focused on a single issue (eg, resident education).

Accomplishing their GSIVP objectives required in-kind contributions from all sites.



Additional AAP Resources and Supports Requested (4 sites)

- Comprehensive, accessible, and easy-to-understand information on state firearm-related laws
- “Guns 101” educational information including firearms-related terminology guides for pediatricians and the public
- Slide decks and news articles, customizable by state/region to promote the sharing of consistent AAP messaging regarding gun safety/injury prevention; non-stigmatizing messaging that frames gun safety and firearm injury prevention as a public health issue
- An AAP statement on the effectiveness of hospital-based violence intervention programs
- Opportunities to co-brand project materials and resources with the AAP to foster pediatrician interest and buy-in
- Information on opportunities within the AAP for greater pediatrician (and other health care professional/public health professional) engagement on the topics of gun safety, injury, and violence prevention
- Guidance on inviting local and state lawmakers to the table to discuss their views on gun safety and gun violence
- Research & data – access to relevant research; advocacy for better national data on firearm-related suicides; data collection assistance

We're trying to get training to clinicians through some of our other grants and it's hard work to get their attention. They're very busy. And I feel like we're **always trying to sell lethal means safety to clinical audiences**. So that carrot of like, 'Oh, here's the AAP-backed information we're trying to offer you would have been just fantastic.'

GSIVP grantee

AAP has key messages. Let's make sure that every time we have a grant focused on a child health issue, we're getting the key messages from national and maybe the template or outline talking points that we should put in our PowerPoints.

GSIVP grantee

I would actually be interested as a pediatrician and an AAP member to understand **how I can get involved with gun violence prevention work at a more national level through the AAP** and how to potentially share this work with other pediatricians through the AAP. To be able to say, 'Hey, within your systems, wherever you work, how can we collaborate and share and share resources?'

GSIVP grantee

To minimize implementation burden, AAP organized no all-grantee meetings or events during the GSIVP funding period. Grantees, however, welcomed the opportunity to connect with and learn from others working on similar issues. Participants agreed that attendance at 1-2 virtual community meetings over the grant period would be a reasonable expectation and several suggested scheduling a post-program virtual gathering during which grantees could share accomplishments, experiences, and resources. Participants from multiple sites were unaware that a list of grantees existed. Funded sites that had not already connected with their local AAP chapter expressed interest in a facilitated introduction through GSIVP program staff.

No grantees suggested improvements to the program's application procedures, onboarding process, or reporting requirements.

Conclusions and Action Step Recommendations

SUMMARY

With an investment of \$150,000 across 10 grantee sites, the American Academy of Pediatrics fostered individual, family, community, state, and regional level impacts addressing issues of gun safety, injury, and violence prevention. Collectively, grantees

- provided youth with mental health services and fostered restorative healing;
- assessed youth and family health care utilization and access to health insurance;
- furnished social supports to families of young people impacted by community violence;
- distributed firearm safe storage devices paired with educational materials and messaging in the languages used by community members;
- educated physicians and nonphysician healthcare professionals on gun safety and firearm safety laws;

- supported pediatricians and other physicians in the provision of clinical screening and anticipatory guidance regarding gun safety and injury prevention

The need for prevention and intervention is urgent. In the brief 9-month funding period, several GSIVP grantee sites were impacted by gun violence in the form of a hospital system-based shooting, a shelter-in-place order in response to an active shooter incident near program offices, firearm-related deaths of a program participant and program participants' friend, a local suicide cluster, and a university-based mass shooting.

Just the fact that AAP's hat is in the ring in this way is huge.

GSIVP grantee

Pediatricians are and will remain an essential voice in the gun safety and gun violence prevention discussion. Normalizing the role of individual pediatricians, AAP chapters, hospitals, health departments, and community-based organizations in this work is imperative as is ensuring that all partners have the appropriate tools and resources needed. Together, 10 GSIVP-funded projects have made valuable contributions in these areas with grantee organizations leading the way in their communities.

ACTION STEP RECOMMENDATIONS

GSIVP program evaluation findings support the following action step recommendations:



► Publicize existing AAP resources.

The [Gun Safety Campaign Toolkit](#), for example, features information in a variety of formats including videos, social media assets, blog posts, and HealthyChildren.org family-focused materials. Pediatricians and those outside of the Academy may lack familiarity with these resources. Publicize opportunities for pediatrician and other health care professional involvement in AAP educational and advocacy efforts, including the newly established [Firearm Injury Prevention Special Interest Group](#).

- **Develop additional educational resources and materials for professional and family audiences to support both prevention and intervention in languages and formats that meet the needs of diverse communities and support the provision of easy access to safety devices.**
 - Pairing tangible safe storage resources (eg, biometric lock boxes, cable locks) with neutrally messaged safety educational materials benefits the distributor and recipient; the ability to offer safe storage devices with low to no barriers encourages uptake
 - One grantee suggested that the AAP develop tailored strategies and programs based on child and adolescent developmental stages

- Utilize the knowledge and expertise of AAP State Government Affairs staff to create a website with comprehensive, easily accessible information on state gun law (see the Guttmacher Institute's [State Policies for Teens](#) webpage as an exemplar)
 - Incorporate the voices of firearm owners when developing messaging and educational resources
 - Grantees welcomed AAP partnership in creating locally resonant materials on violence in general, violence as a public health issue, intergenerational trauma, and the intersection of violence and mental health
- ▶ **Promote the power and potential of cross-sector and multidisciplinary collaborations** to address gun safety and injury prevention, focusing on collaborations that are deeply embedded in the communities they serve.

Achievements of the 10 inaugural GSIVP grantees reinforce the value of collaborative approaches and the importance of putting resources, including mental health services and social care supports, directly in the hands of those who need them. **Consider inviting GSIVP grantees to share their experiences with AAP leaders and relevant AAP committees, councils, and sections** and consider partnering with GSIVP grantees to scale projects to state, regional, and national levels as appropriate.

- ▶ **Identify funding sources** within the Academy and/or in collaboration with other organizations and institutions to continue and expand the GSIVP program.

Leverage learnings from the originally funded sites to identify and support a new cadre of GSIVP grantees.

Acknowledgments

The AAP Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Program was supported by the Friends of Children Fund, a charitable fund of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Gratitude to the ten GSIVP grantee sites for relentless commitment and dedication to their work and their communities and for their active engagement in the program's evaluation components. We also value the community partners, including youth and families, who were integral collaborators in GSIVP activities and recipients of GSIVP-related services and supports.

[#EndGunViolence](#)

Appendices

- Appendix A** AAP GSIVP Request for Applications | Program Promotion
- Appendix B** GSIVP Grantee Site Interview Discussion Guide
- Appendix C** Stories of GSIVP Community Partnerships at Work



**AAP Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Opportunity
Request for Applications**

Submission Deadline: March 10 at 2:00 pm CST

Background

Firearms are the number one cause of death in children and youth 1-19 years old in the U.S. In 2020 alone, there were 10,197 deaths from firearms among children and youth 0-24 years old. As a public health issue, gun injury and violence are preventable using clinical and public health approaches that combine sensible policy, improved surveillance, research to identify best practices, and evidence-informed cross-sectoral primary prevention and intervention efforts.

For over 30 years, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has developed and published position statements with recommended public policy and clinical approaches to reduce the incidence of firearm injuries in children and adolescents and to reduce the effects of gun violence. The Gun Safety and Injury Prevention Initiative (GSIPI), funded in 2018 by the AAP Friends of Children Fund, is a multi-pronged effort to focus on improving resources, training, and implementation supports for AAP membership as well as identifying and disseminating evidence-based and promising practices that promote gun safety and prevent gun violence.

Details

With funding made possible through the AAP Friends of Children Fund, the Academy will launch a Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention (GSIVP) Community Grant Program. Up to 10 community grants, each worth up to \$15,000, are available to qualified applicants. Grantees will be funded for a 9-month project period, April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. This program will provide small grants to plan, implement new, and/or expand existing projects to advance gun safety, injury, and violence prevention initiatives.

The GSIVP grant program will focus on building strong community partnerships, serving historically and intentionally disinvested communities impacted by violence, and addressing the effect of firearm injury and deaths on children, adolescents, young adults, and families. Funded projects will be asked to develop or document existing measurable outcomes and plan for sustainability in a report to be submitted to the Academy at the end of the grant period.

Projects funded include but are not limited to:

- Violence intervention programs
 - Street outreach
 - Group violence intervention/interruption programs
 - Hospital-based violence intervention programs
- Firearm safety programs
 - Firearm storage distribution
 - Firearm storage training for healthcare and community outreach professionals

Project topics areas include but are not limited to:

- Urban/domestic gun violence
 - Prevention of firearm suicide
 - Child and teen gun safety
 - Responsible gun ownership
 - Translating policy into practice
- Please see the [AAP Policy Statement: Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth: Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction](#)*

No portion of this grant may be used for research, propaganda, or to attempt to influence legislation.



Those applicants who are eligible for funding include:

- Community-based organizations
- Health departments
- AAP Chapters
- General pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, pediatric surgical subspecialists, and/or pediatric residents

For additional eligibility information, please see the associated grant application below.

It is highly encouraged that applicants have collaborators from a different sector advising and/or supporting project activities – i.e., a community-based organization working with a local pediatrician or a health department working with a local community-based organization. Priority will be given to applicants currently working on gun safety, injury, and violence prevention interventions and can demonstrate a clear plan for successful implementation in a 9-month period, working in areas experiencing disproportionately high rates of community violence, firearm deaths, and health inequities.

Project Timeline

Date	Application Activity
February 13, 2023	Request for applications opens
March 10, 2023	Application submission deadline by 2:00 pm CT
March 17, 2023	Notification of award <i>All applicants will be notified</i>
Month	Project Activity
April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	Grant period
July/August 2023	Mid-point check-in with AAP
January 2024	Final report due to AAP Final check-in with AAP

Deadline

Applications, including a detailed budget, must be submitted by e-mail to ahanes@aap.org by 2:00 pm Central Time on Friday, March 10, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Hanes, MPH, Program Manager, Child Safety, Health, and Wellness, at ahanes@aap.org.



Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention Community Grant Application

This application has 4 sections. Please complete all sections to the best of your ability. Applications with missing information will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated. Applications, including a detailed budget, must be submitted by e-mail to ahanes@aap.org by 2:00 pm Central Time, on Friday, March 10, 2023.

Applicant Information

Please check the appropriate box for the primary point of contact and fiscal agent for this community grant. *Please check the corresponding box.*

- Community-Based Organization
- Health Department
- Pediatrician/AAP Chapter

Eligibility Stipulation: Under the Model Grant Award Agreement the AAP can only allow eligibility to tax exempt organizations, which includes 501c3, 501c4, 501c6 and government organizations. Individuals applying will require a fiscal agent that is a tax-exempt entity. Proof of tax-exempt status will be required upon being selected for a GSIVP community grant.

Community-Based Organization/Health Department Contact

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please indicate if you would like AAP's assistance in connecting you with your state's AAP Chapter.

Yes No

Pediatrician/AAP Chapter

Name _____

Title _____



Institution/
Chapter _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Additional Contacts

Name _____

Title _____

Organization/
Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Community Overview

This section will provide the reviewers with an overview of the community you serve and the children, adolescents, and families you propose to help with this work. ***All questions should be answered in 500 words or less.***

1. Describe key features of the children, adolescents, and community you serve, as it relates to your proposed project (e.g., demographics, education level, health statistics, socio-economic, environmental data, etc.).

2. List your existing partners you currently work with and/or refer individuals and families to related to gun safety, injury and violence prevention?



Prior Experience

This section will provide reviewers with an overview of your prior experience addressing gun safety, injury, and violence prevention. *All questions should be answered in 500 words or less.*

1. How has your organization been involved in working on gun safety, injury, and violence prevention strategies in your community? What about this work are you most proud of? Please highlight your previous and relevant successes.
2. What challenges or barriers have you faced in addressing this issue?
3. What gap in your prevention strategies will this funding help to alleviate?



GSIVP Funding Opportunity Promotion

AAP program staff promoted the GSIVP funding opportunity to contacts at the following institutions and organizations:

- Everytown for Gun Safety/MDA
- ASTHO
- Safe Kids Worldwide
- Big Cities Health Coalition
- Northwell Health Center for Gun Violence Prevention
- Family Focus (Chicago, IL)
- Cities United
- Children's Safety Network
- Cure Violence
- NACCHO
- CDC Stryve Action Council Listserv

Internally, program staff communicated the GSIVP funding opportunity through these AAP channels:

- Chapter Level Committee Members: Injury & Violence Prevention
- AAP CCS Listservs
- AAP News
- Chapter Leader Link

Appendix B

Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention (GSIVP) Site Interview Discussion Guide January 2024

WELCOME, HOUSEKEEPING, AND INTRODUCTIONS

GSIVP ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS

We'll begin by talking about the primary focus of this project – gun safety, injury, and violence prevention.

1. What are your site's 1-2 most important accomplishments as a result of GSIVP participation?
2. To what extent do you expect program-related changes or achievements to endure after GSIVP concludes?
 - a. How have you planned for sustainability?
3. In your original project application, you identified several gaps in existing prevention strategies – those were [*site-specific gaps*]. Please tell me about any progress you've made towards narrowing or closing one or more of those gaps as a result of GSIVP funding.
4. What, if any, challenges did you encounter as you implemented your GSIVP work?
5. In what ways, if any, will what you've learned through GSIVP activities inform or guide next steps associated with your work?

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

6. The AAP's original GSIVP Request for Proposals encouraged applicants to “have collaborators from a different sector advising and/or supporting project activities – i.e., a community-based organization working with a local pediatrician or a health department working with a local community-based organization.” Please tell me more about the collaborations or partnerships associated with your GSIVP project. In your comments, please speak to the benefits as well as any challenges associated with working across organizations or entities.
7. What plans, if any, does your team have to continue working together after GSIVP ends?

GSIVP GRANTEE EXPERIENCE

Now let's talk about your experience with the GSIVP program.

1. What was the best or most positive aspect of the GSIVP program?
2. AAP is interested in improving the GSIVP program. In your site's final check in report, you noted the need for improvements in the following areas [*list areas for suggested improvement from individual site*]

Appendix B

reports]. Please tell me more what could be improved about this/these area(s) as well as any other improvement suggestions you have.

Potential program aspects of improvement (from final report):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>a. Application process</i> | <i>f. Reporting requirements</i> |
| <i>b. Onboarding process</i> | <i>g. Budget / award amount</i> |
| <i>c. Project period (9 months) / timeline</i> | <i>h. Any additional supports needed from AAP but not provided</i> |
| <i>d. Staff support</i> | |
| <i>e. AAP resources</i> | |
3. Going forward, in what ways could the AAP support your efforts regarding gun safety, injury, and violence prevention?

WRAP UP

We're coming to the end of our time together. What would you like to share about the project or your GSIVP experience that we haven't discussed today?

Thank you! Those are all the questions that I have. If you have additional thoughts about any of the topics that we discussed, please feel free to reach out by email or phone. On behalf of the AAP, we greatly appreciate your time and commitment to gun safety, injury, and violence prevention in your community!

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
Gun Safety, Injury, and Violence Prevention (GSIVP) Community Grant Program
Stories of GSIVP Community Partnerships At Work



AAP California Chapter 4 (Orange County Chapter) Newport Beach CA

When California enacted [Assembly Bill #452](#) requiring schools to notify their students' parents of state safe firearm storage laws, the [Orange County Chapter](#) saw an opportunity. Recognizing that schools – and pediatricians – would need supportive resources to meet the new law's requirements, they convened a multi-agency, multidisciplinary team of experts and champions within and beyond their chapter and got to work.

With GSIVP funding, the chapter led efforts to develop co-branded educational materials about gun safety and safe gun storage with children's hospitals in the region. In addition to webpages and social media assets, printable materials in 8 languages were designed to meet community needs. The team's collaborative approach and tenacity resulted in the first ever resources to include the logos of all three local children's hospitals, demonstrating unified and consistent messaging about safe firearm storage recommendations.

Over the 9-month GSIVP program period, the chapter also planned and implemented a 2-part webinar series, *California Law and Practical Strategies for Safe Storage* and *Pediatric Firearm Injuries and Fatalities: The Clinician's Guide to Policies and Approaches to Firearm Harm Prevention*.

Their GSIVP-related accomplishments and longstanding commitment to child injury prevention have resulted in the chapter being identified as an Orange County lead in addressing gun safety as a medical and public health issue.



...being able to work with the police department, the Giffords organization, the schools, the hospitals, the public health agency just really reinforces to me why I love pediatrics, which is really that it takes a village, right? It takes all of us to work together to try to make this change and reduce gun violence and gun injuries.

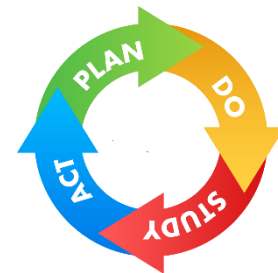
Orange County Chapter Team Member

For more information, contact **Jamie S. McDonald, MPH**
Executive Director, AAP Orange County Chapter
jamie@aap-oc.org



AAP Georgia Chapter Atlanta GA

Quality improvement (QI) initiatives in healthcare settings often result in better patient care. The GSIVP-funded QI initiative implemented by the AAP [Georgia Chapter](#) has the potential to save lives. Noting concerns about pediatrician education regarding AAP firearm-related policies and a lack of financial incentive to distribute firearm safe storage devices through pediatric practices, the chapter developed the Georgia Firearm Injury Prevention Quality Improvement Project to support the state’s pediatricians. Six pediatric practices took part, gaining strategies for sharing politically neutral messaging, counseling, and anticipatory guidance about firearm safety and safe storage. Across the 6 practices, the chapter also distributed 60 gun safes to help pediatricians meet the needs of families opting for safer firearm storage. Participating pediatricians provided positive feedback regarding their experiences in carrying out the initiative and desire to continue outside of the program.



...our hope is that showing how quick and how easy it is to navigate these conversations, that the practice leaders that participated in the project will go back to their individual practices and develop more formalized pathways that work within their EMR.

Georgia Chapter Team Member

1st Annual Prevention of Firearm Injury Symposium Georgia Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics Agenda	
Saturday, August 26, 2023 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Welcome & Introduction <i>Angela Higbang-Battle, MD</i> <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD</i>
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children & Youth: Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction: An AAP Update <i>Kiesha Fraser-Doh, MD</i>
10:30 am – 11:15 am	History Firearms Regulation & Legislation <i>David Puccio</i>
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Break
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Firearm 101 and Secure Storage <i>Jason Boren</i>
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Grab Your Lunch
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Protective Factors in Firearm Injury Prevention <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD, Moderator</i> <i>Nissa Agostini, MD</i> <i>Judy Baumstein, LCSW</i> <i>Kenneth Gilstrap</i> <i>Major Watne Puckney</i>
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Break
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Perspectives from Responsible Gun Owners <i>Claudia Frain, MD, Moderator</i> <i>Jason Boren</i> <i>Jaqueline Seay</i> <i>Jim Johnson, RN</i> <i>Jahnae White</i>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Firearm Secure Storage: A Pediatric Practice Quality Improvement Project <i>Sofia Chandhary, MD</i> <i>Claudia Frain, MD</i>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Call to Action - Next Steps <i>Kiesha Fraser, MD</i>
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Amplifying the reach of their GSIVP grant, the chapter also sponsored the **1st Annual Prevention of Firearm Injury Symposium**. Among the day’s highlights was a panel discussion, *Perspectives from Responsible Gun Owners*, that fostered candid and respectful dialogue between the audience and panel members. The gun-owning panelists shared their thoughts on appropriate terminology and nonconfrontational messaging. Over 100 attendees participated in the live event and the symposium recording is available on the chapter’s website as an enduring program resource. GSIVP team members are already planning next year’s symposium!

For more information, contact [Fozia Eskew](#)
Director of Child Health, AAP Georgia
Chapter feskw@gaaap.org



Antifragility Initiative University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Cleveland OH

At the heart of University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's [Antifragility Initiative](#) (AI) is the conviction that children who experience community violence can heal and recover to be even stronger than before their injury or trauma. Using evidence-based practices, AI has long provided coordinated, case management services and individual counseling to youth and family survivors of violence in the Cleveland area.

The GSIVP grant created opportunities for AI to expand their focus and reach. In collaboration with [Case Cares](#), a student-led volunteer organization at Case Western Reserve University, AI took their programming to young men in the Cleveland Juvenile Detention Center. Working with small groups, Case Cares volunteers implemented the [Seeking Safety](#) curriculum along with STEM-based learning activities. Based on the success of these partnerships, AI is exploring opportunities to pilot a similar program with female youth and implement evaluation activities to assess program impacts.



Further enhancing the capacities of the AI team to meet community needs, AI staff utilized GSIVP support to complete specialized Seeking Safety training adapted specifically for adolescents. This additional training is allowing the AI team to introduce Seeking Safety content to other child-serving community organizations. Invited to educate the faculty and staff of an all-male public high school in Cleveland about Seeking Safety, the AI team's expertise is already being recognized.

One of the biggest takeaways from this program was that we saw the youth really benefit from it. It gave them an avenue to open up, to share. And I can see them applying the information that they've learned in the long term.

Antifragility Initiative Team Member

For more information, contact [Matthew Krock, MSSA, LISW-S](#)
Antifragility Initiative Coordinator
Matthew.Krock@uhhospitals.org



Youth Violence Intervention Program Children's National Medical Center Washington DC

When the unthinkable happens and a young person is a victim of gun violence, a parent's last worry should be transportation to visit their hospitalized child, but this is the reality for many families. Mindful that social care needs are often inextricably linked with health care needs, the [Youth Violence Intervention Program](#) at [Children's National Medical Center](#) led by Medical Director, Katie Donnelly, MD, MPH, sought to support families at a critical and stressful time.

With GSIVP funding, the team purchased grocery gift cards and transportation vouchers and distributed these resources to families with a child impacted by community violence. The project also purchased prepaid mobile phones for families that resulted in multiple positive impacts – helping families stay in contact with each other, allowing case workers to connect with youth and families, and facilitating youth receipt of tele-mental health services.



Getting to and from places is a real struggle. We had one mom who burned through \$200 worth of Uber gift cards to see her son multiple days while he was in-house with a gunshot wound over a weekend. It really was a blessing to be able to kind of take that worry off their shoulders for a little bit.

Children's National Medical
Center Team Member

Reflecting on ways to prevent firearm injuries in their community led the team to pivot from purchasing cable locks to trigger locks and lock boxes with GSIVP program dollars. Over the project period, 50 trigger locks were distributed – at no cost and with no questions asked – to individuals and families.

Bringing the topics of firearm safety and injury prevention to the classroom, Dr Donnelly provided pediatric residents with opportunities for hands-on learning about gun locks and lock boxes.

In August 2023, members of the Children's National Medical Center GSIVP team were featured in a [BBC story](#) about breaking the cycles of violence.

For more information, contact [Katie Donnelly, MD, MPH](#)
Medical Director, Children's National Hospital-based
Violence Intervention Program
kdonnell@childrensnational.org



City of New Orleans Health Department New Orleans LA

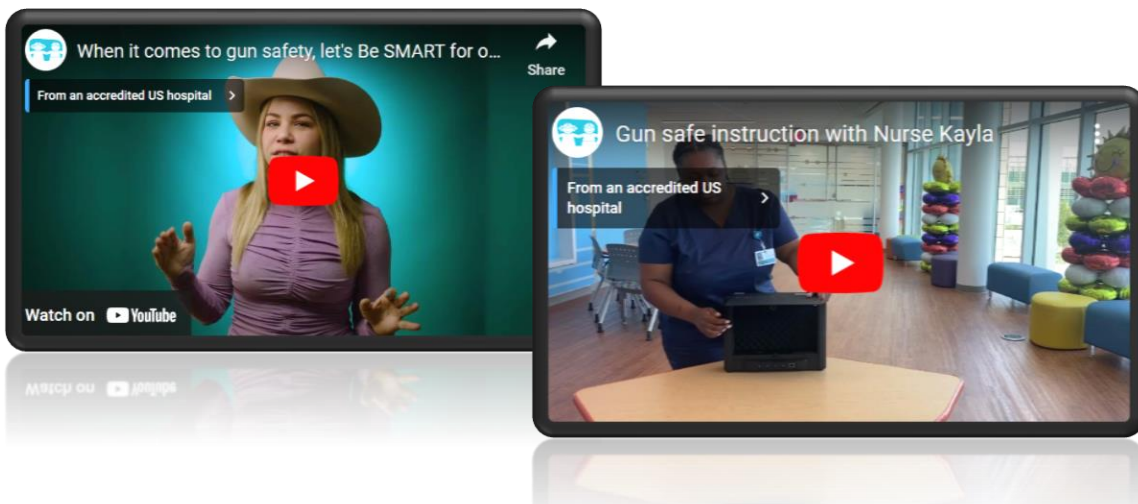
The [City of New Orleans Health Department](#) used their GSIVP grant to start a city-wide, child-focused gun safety campaign. No small task in a diverse metropolitan area of over 1 million residents! Working collaboratively with their hospital-based partners, families of children under age 18 seen in the Emergency Departments at local LCMC hospitals are screened for interest in learning more about gun safety. A positive screen prompts distribution of educational materials about gun safety and safe storage. Resources have been translated into Spanish and Vietnamese in response to community need.

I know that gun ownership is not going to go away anytime soon and so I think this will just be a constant beat-the-drum effort that we continue moving forward.

City of New Orleans Health
Department & Children's
Hospital New Orleans Team
Member

To expand project reach and enhance campaign promotion, the team adopted a multifaceted approach, working with local and national organizations to develop print materials, a [webpage](#) housed on the Children's Hospital New Orleans website, social media assets, as well as radio, television, and digital advertisements. Local celebrities and community leaders recorded video messages about gun safety and the importance of safe gun storage. A community mailing about the campaign prioritized households with children.

Over the program period, the team leveraged their AAP grant funds to secure additional biometric lock boxes for community distribution. By December 2023, over 800 gun safes/lock boxes had been distributed, 100 of those purchased with GSIVP dollars. To gather data on use of safe storage devices, project team members contact recipients at regular intervals with a short survey. These touchpoints result in valuable program data while creating opportunities for lock box recipients to ask questions about gun storage and receive additional instruction about correct lock box use.



For more information, contact [Jocelyn Pinkerton LCSW-BACS](#)
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Director
Jocelyn.Pinkerton@nola.gov



Cudahy Health Department Cudahy WI

In 2023, the [Cudahy Health Department](#) faced a new challenge. An indoor shooting range, offering the sale of firearms, was opening in their community – a community already experiencing complex needs and medium to high levels of social vulnerability.

Putting GSIVP funds into action, the Cudahy team developed a gun safety awareness campaign – the components of which included social media content and a toolkit available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Pairing education with gun safety devices, the group created and distributed 136 gun safety kits (containing key resources and a cable lock); additionally, 27 trigger locks and 3 biometric gun safes were provided to community members over the 9-month program period. The gun safety kits are now standard in Cudahy Health Department outreach and a kit was displayed at Cudahy City Hall throughout the latter half of 2023 to raise awareness.



Thanks to the efforts of the Cudahy grantee team, the impacts of GSIVP support will continue long after the project concludes. Health department staff and partners provided community members with suicide prevention training using the [Talk Saves Lives](#) program and offered trauma-informed care training to other health department staff and first responders. Talk Saves Lives training has also been provided to employees of the new shooting range as part of their onboarding process. Additionally, the team purchased supplies for local first responders to support lifesaving [Stop the Bleed](#) program implementation.

Among the Cudahy Health Department’s GSIVP activities with the greatest potential for an enduring legacy may be those accomplished in partnership with community youth. Understanding the valuable insights that youth contribute when addressing issues such as violence, suicide prevention, and mental health, Cudahy Health Department along with student leaders from Cudahy High School held a community event centered on restorative practices. Furthering their engagement with young people, the team worked with a group of students to review results from their most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#). The teens identified three issues on which to focus – adverse mental health, violence and bullying, and nutrition – and created a community event including a **data walk** during which youth interacted with community members and sought additional input on the issues.

For more information, contact **Teresa Ortiz, MPH**
Public Health Manager
teresao@cudahy-wi.gov



Humboldt County Public Health Eureka CA

[Humboldt County Public Health](#) serves a largely rural population of over 136,000 residents in northwest California. While their Health Communities Division programming already included suicide and violence prevention, staff and leaders identified a need for messaging and resources tailored for youth audiences.

With GSIVP funding, Humboldt County Public Health partnered with local youth serving organizations who queried young people about the types of resources and messages that would resonate. Those same organizations are now distributing the for-youth-by-youth resources, as are Gun Shop Project partner members. A QR code on program materials links to the county's [Keep it Safe](#) webpage where users can request a free lockbox and community partners can sign on to become a lockbox distributor.

To expand the reach of their messaging, Humboldt County Public Health also used GSIVP funds to develop and broadcast suicide prevention and firearm safe storage-related public services announcements (PSAs) on local radio stations. Over 700 PSAs aired between September-December 2023, some recorded by individuals and voices familiar to firearm owners in the community.

This project really highlighted how great our community partnerships are and how committed our community partners are to suicide prevention, especially to taking care of our youths. It was really great for the visibility and connections and recognition of our program. The inclusion of the campaign materials in the classes offered by our Gun Shop Project partners and distribution of those materials through youth serving agencies increased the knowledge about the existence of our free lockbox program. It strengthened ties with our community partners because we were able to offer these free resources which they were, of course, really grateful for. We received a lot of positive feedback. I even got a handwritten card! ...Whenever you can do something that shows a little love to your community partners...it really lets them know that they're valued as a partner.

Humboldt County Public Health Team
Member

Keep It Safe

Handguns are the type of firearm most likely to cause unintentional death or injury. Children are the group at highest risk for unintentional firearm death and injury.

Handguns can be stored safely in lockboxes.

Despite common misconceptions, rifles and shotguns can be used for suicide. They are disproportionately used in youth suicides.

Rifles and Shotguns can be stored safely with cable locks or trigger locks.

FREE lockboxes, cable locks, and trigger locks are available through Humboldt County Public Health's Keep it Safe campaign. To request a lockbox or more information, please call 707-268-2132 or email keepitsafe@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Source: <https://bulletpoints.org>

For more information, contact
publichealthsvp@co.humboldt.ca.us



Kings Against Violence Initiative Brooklyn NY

The [Kings Against Violence Initiative](#) (KAVI) addresses violence through a public health lens. Partnering in community schools and hospital settings, the organization seeks to prevent and disrupt violence through advocacy, peer leadership, community mobilization, and social justice.

With their holistic approach to serving youth, KAVI planned to use their GSIVP grant to better understand and support client healthcare needs. The team developed a pilot project with an ambitious goal to **screen the parents of 100 KAVI participants** regarding use of pediatric health care and access to health insurance. While meeting their screening goals, the team discovered some surprising findings. Not only did youth/families report having health insurance, 95% had a doctor whom they saw in the past year and no client reported using the Emergency Department in the past 12 months due to lack of primary care access. Further, no client/family reported difficulty obtaining or activating health insurance. From the pilot, the KAVI team took away other important learnings, including the value of administering their screener in person rather than electronically and skills to navigate the reluctance of some families to share personal information. KAVI now has plans to expand their healthcare service/insurance screening efforts in the larger community to explore needs among youth not affiliated with KAVI programs.

When KAVI realized surplus GSIVP funds, the team quickly identified an opportunity to benefit the community. On a winter Saturday, KAVI brought together a variety of organizations for an intergenerational Gowanus Houses Health Fair. In addition to health-related screenings, partners offered other information, resources, and trainings in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship.



Gowanus Houses Health Fair photos used with permission

For more information, contact
Ramik Jamar Williams, MPA
Co-Executive Director
ramik@kavibrooklyn.org
and
Anthony Buissereth
Co-Executive Director
anthony@kavibrooklyn.org



Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids of Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Grand Rapids MI

The color orange is associated with gun violence prevention. The [Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids / Corewell Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital](#) GSIVP team made an orange statement that could not be missed by **distributing 917 "Store It Safe" t-shirts** to their colleagues. On National Gun Violence Awareness Day, hospital leaders and staff wore their shirts promoting camaraderie and awareness. On that same day, ~250 gun locks were distributed with no questions asked to hospital staff and community members.

Over the 9-month GSIVP funding period, the team also ensured that 1,100+ physicians, advanced practice providers, social workers, and support staff were educated on gun safety, screening, and counseling through an Epic-based training module. Practices received a supply of cable locks and other resources as an incentive for physician training. Exceeding the team's goal of 75%, **86% (n=90) of physicians in zip codes with the highest rates of firearm injuries completed the training**. The group leveraged GSIVP funding to obtain additional support to purchase even more safe storage devices.



Team members Harland Holman MD and
Jodie Westra CPST, CFLE, CCLS
Photo used with permission



Injury prevention team members with Helen DeVos
Children's Hospital President, Robert Fitzgerald MD, MBA
Photo used with permission

A physician workgroup is currently evaluating if a firearms-related screening tool should be proposed to hospital leadership as a best practice alert and a study is planned to examine whether screening tool use results in increased physician engagement with firearm safety education.

In June 2023, the team's gun violence prevention efforts were featured in a [local television story](#).

This grant helped us realize the power of simple tools to help educate and spread awareness around the topic of gun safety.

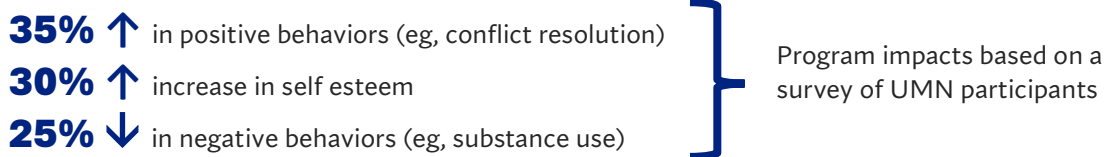
Corewell Health Team Member



Urban Male Network Chicago IL

[Urban Male Network](#) (UMN) serves Chicago neighborhoods long impacted by structural racism and income inequalities but also known for family resilience and community engagement. UMN's mentorship mission takes a holistic approach, focusing on youth personal and professional development as well as community service. Understanding the pervasive effects of violence and associated trauma, UMN leaders wanted to do even more.

Plans to provide their client population with mental health services and social emotional learning supports were in place when multiple tragedies occurred in the UMN community. During the GSIVP program period, a young mentee was killed in an act of gun violence and a friend of UMN participants was murdered, the victim of a carjacking incident. With GSIVP support, UMN mobilized mental health professionals from the community to provide individual and group services to program participants including counseling, journaling, meditation, and breathwork. Small group therapy and mentoring sessions continued throughout the school year and summer. While initially met with resistance from some participants, most came to value these activities and requested additional opportunities to engage with mental health professionals as individuals and groups.



In addition to providing new and expanded mental health services to their clients, UMN utilized their GSIVP funds to purchase case management software, an enduring resource that will allow the organization to better track and monitor the services they provide to individual youth and as an organization.

UMN leaders and program staff are dismantling the stigma of mental health supports, one young person at a time – an outcome that will have ripple effects within individuals and across communities.

The way that they [program youth] typically learn how to deal with a problem is being combative. They're ready to fight. So it's teaching them about how do you not be so quick to react. And that comes, too, from having, I feel, unresolved trauma that you haven't dealt with. So teaching them the proper way and how to deal with that, that it doesn't always have to resolve to violence.

UMN Team Member