



OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Bryan Tuma, Executive Director
Chris Carlile, Director of Office of Violence Prevention
Nebraska Crime Commission

October 2025

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Service.

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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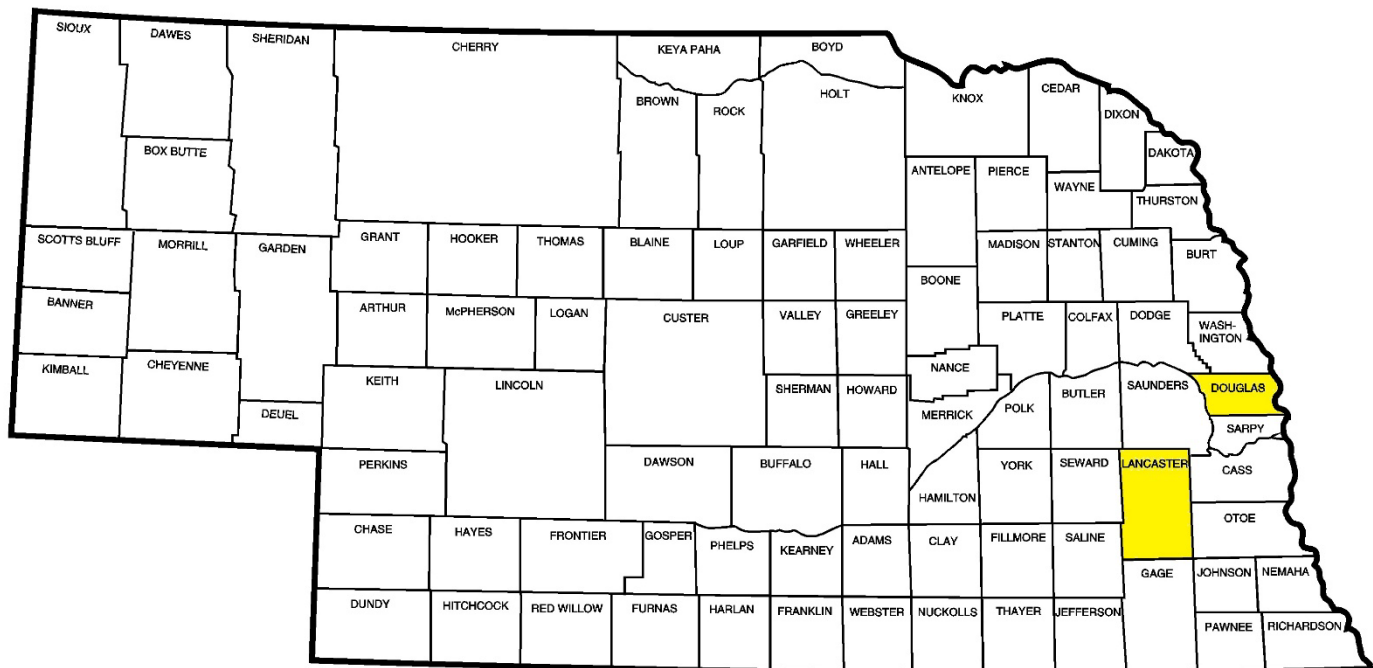
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Executive Summary

In fiscal year 2025, Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) funded 12 programs through 2 counties, awarding 10 grants for \$641,160.00 in total. The map below (figure 1) depicts counties with OVP funded programs during FY2025. There were no tribes seeking OVP grant funds in FY2025.

Office of Violence Prevention has seen a dramatic increase in applications for OVP funding. In FY 2025, 19 applications were received with \$1,854,233 in requests. For the upcoming FY 2026, 17 applications were received with \$2,206,948 in requests. Only \$616,160 of state grant funds could be awarded for FY 2026.

Figure 1. OVP Grant Recipients FY 2024-2025



Since April 2024, Chris Carlile assumed the responsibility of the role of the Director of the Office of Violence Prevention by the appointment from the Crime Commission Executive Director, Bryan Tuma. FY 2025 would be the first full year of the program's oversight by Chris Carlile which resulted in many changes to enhance the program. The introduction of the grantee's annual report was implemented with the idea to capture data to align with each grant-funded program's goals and the outcomes of the programs whether successful or not.

The 2023 – 2025 OVP Strategic Plan was implemented by Athena Sherman, previous OVP director before my predecessor with the idea of enhancing the Office of Violence Program but did not have a chance to fully implement the plan. The 2025 – 2027 OVP Strategic Plan is in the process of being updated to fit the needs of the state and recommendations from the OVP Advisory Council that will be implemented in the 2025 – 2027 biennium.

Introduction

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

History

In 2009, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB63 (N.R.S. §81-1447 through 1451, creating the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). The Legislature found that to effectively address these issues, communities must develop a multi-faceted approach that includes violence prevention activities, intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation. In March 2015, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 167 which also included the creation of youth employment opportunities in high-crime areas as an additional priority focus.

Office of Violence Prevention Grant Program

Office of Violence Prevention Grant is a competitive grant apportioned in aid in accordance with statute (N.R.S. § 81-1450) that appear to have the greatest benefit to the state, and which have as goals, the reduction of street and gang violence, the reduction of homicides and injuries caused by firearms, and the creation of youth employment opportunities in high-crime areas.

Funds Awarded

For project period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (FY2025), a total of \$641,160.00 of Office of Violence Prevention funding was awarded to 10 grantees, which encompassed 2 counties. On March 18, 2025, a grantee deobligated a portion of the award due to the agency's organizational transition among staff, a total of \$45,000.00 that was re-awarded in FY2025 to four grantees who were decided by the Director of Office Violence Prevention and the Advisory Council who would benefit from the additional funds to support their programs.

Types of Violence Prevention Programs Funded

There are three statutory categories to which a funded program or service classifies as:

- I. **Reduction in Street or Gang Violence:** Entities in this category are often programs; they generally meet with a youth multiple times over a specific period of time. Generally, the program relies on an educational or relationship-based component to invoke behavioral change within the client.
- II. **Reduction of Homicides and Injuries caused by Firearms:** Entities in this category are often agencies; they generally meet with a youth a few times to conduct a singular service. This could be to conduct an assessment or to help coordinate services. Very few entities in this category do not work with youth directly but support the initiatives that do the direct work.
- III. **Youth Employment in High-Crime Areas:** Entities in this category are often programs; they generally meet with a youth multiple times over a specific period of time. Generally, the program relies on an education or relationship-based component to invoke behavioral change within the client.

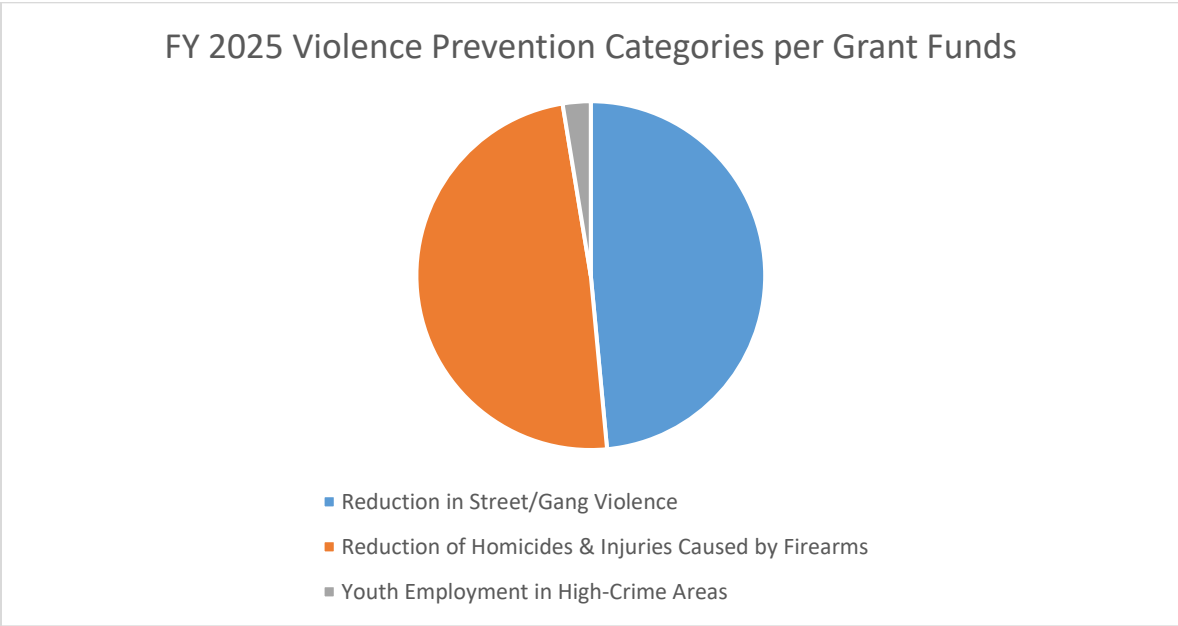


Chart 1 illustrates the breakdown of funded programs and the amount of funds for each statutory category in FY 2025.

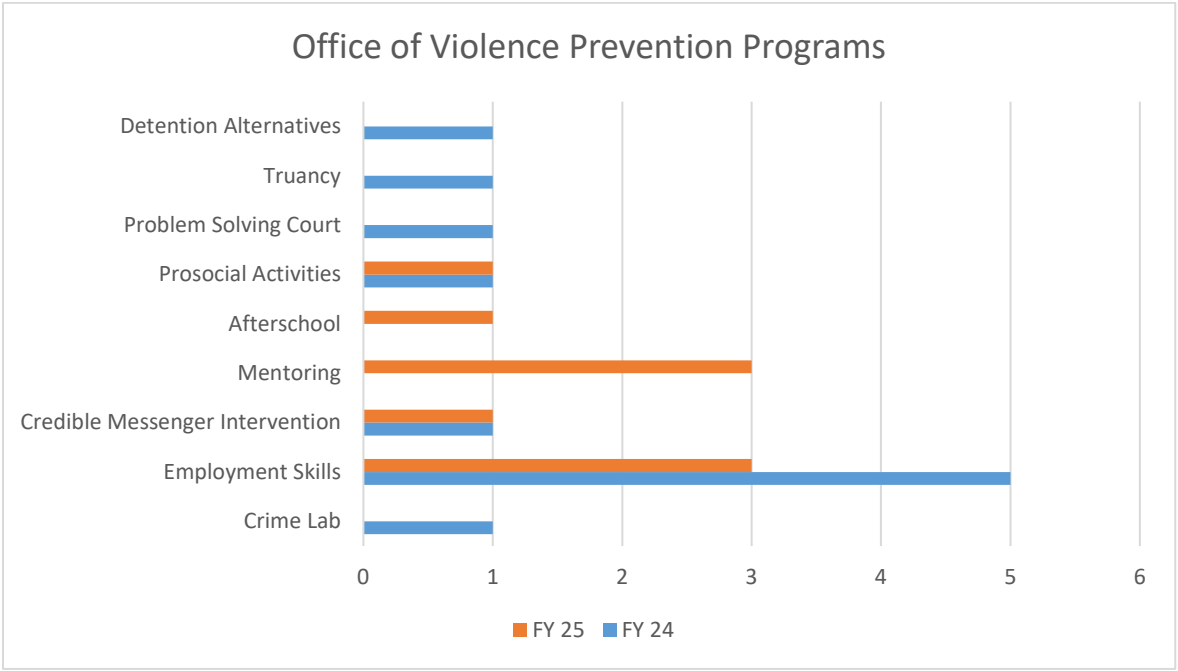


Chart 2 further breakdown the types of programs funded between FY 2024 and FY 2025

Program Evaluation

Pursuant to NRS §81-1450 and Title 73, Chapter 1, Section 012, a portion of grant funds may be set aside for an external third-party evaluation of the effectiveness of the Office of Violence Prevention Program. The program evaluations are submitted to the Director of Office of Violence Prevention no later than 45 days after the grant has ended. The Director and the Advisory Board will review the evaluations for the effectiveness and outcomes of the programs receiving funds through the Office of Violence Prevention Grant Program.

Evaluation of program effectiveness and future system involvement is conducted at least once every 4 years following the Office of Violence Prevention award to the organization.

Beginning of July 2024, the Office of Violence Prevention contracted with Board of Regents dba University of Nebraska – Lincoln, with the expertise of Dr. Richard Weiner, Professor at Department of Psychology, to evaluate two FY 2025 grantees.

The Office of Violence Prevention Director and Advisory Council approved in May 2025 to subaward to Board of Regents dba University of Nebraska – Omaha with the expertise of Dr. Scott Sasse, Dr. Tara Richards and Dr. Lane Gillespie, Professors at School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, to create a logic model, quarterly activity report and annual report for OVP grantees to use when being evaluated to determine the effectiveness and outcomes of the grant funded programs. These evaluation templates and tools will be used for all OVP grantees statewide for future fiscal years as a roadmap for evaluations.

Program Evaluations

The agencies provided their external evaluations to the Office of Violence Prevention to assess the overall success of their programs along with the goals of the Office of Violence Prevention. Only three agencies had their programs evaluated in the State FY25 grant year within the past 4 years. Two of those program evaluations were completed with a contract between Crime Commission and University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Dr. Richard Weiner. The program evaluation was a requirement enforced at the beginning of State FY24 and will continue to be enforced as it is a statutory requirement.

Per the Office of Violence Prevention rules and regulations, Title 73, Chapter 1, Section 012, stated that a plan for ongoing evaluation of programs shall be developed by an evaluation party and the Commission. The collaboration with University of Nebraska – Omaha, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice with the support of the Office of Violence Prevention Advisory Board have developed a plan for ongoing evaluations that will evaluate the use of the grant funds and the evidence of the effectiveness of the programs who have achieved successful outcomes.

Chicano Awareness Center dba Latino Center of the Midlands

The Chicano Awareness Center was evaluated in 2020 for the years 2020 – 2023 by University of Nebraska – Omaha: Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) and evaluated by University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Dr. Richard Weiner for the years 2022 - 2025.

Five outcomes were evaluated by JJI:

1. Whether programming matched the needs of youth enrolled
2. Number of hours the youth completed
3. Improvement on relevant risk and/or protective factors improved
4. Percentage of youth who participated in the program that had future system involvement (FSI) following discharge from the program

5. FSI comparisons between successfully and unsuccessfully/other discharged youth

The JJI evaluation had recommendations for Latino Center program enhancement including (but not limited to):

- Explore specific interventions to determine whether significance can be reached in some of the trauma domains
- Program should pay attention to the self-reported Cannabis use as trauma related increases may be related and should be explored

Girls Inc. of Omaha

The “Shaping Futures, Breaking Cycles” (SFBC) was evaluated by University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Dr. Richard Weiner for the years 2024 – 2025. This was the first year of the program.

The key findings were that the SFBC program at Girl’s Inc. of Omaha developed a sound program with consistency and reliability over the course of eight months. The program is educating young women about abusive relationships to protect them from street violence from gang members and other potential offenders who groom and coerce into abusive and violent relationships.

The evaluation had recommendations for SFBC Program enhancement including (but not limited to):

- Include the chatline component of the program or drop from the logic model
- Continue to collect additional outcome data using the Peer Relationship Scale.

Nebraska Medical Center

The Project Inspire program was evaluated in 2025 by Dr. Scott Sasse at University of Nebraska – Omaha, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The key findings were taken with caution due to a low sample size. Project Inspire did very well having an impact by effectively developing emotional intelligence and trauma resiliency.

The evaluation had recommendations for Project Inspire program’s enhancement including (but not limited to):

- Future programming to continue to emphasize trauma-informed care
- Expand practical financial education
- Further integrate mentorship opportunities as they become available
- Ongoing evaluations with larger cohorts will help validate and refine Project Inspire’s approach

The Office of Violence Prevention Advisory Council

Pursuant to NRS §81-1447, the Advisory Council to the Office of Violence Prevention was established and shall consist of six members of each congressional district with at least one member of each congressional district on the council. The Governor appoints the members of the council representing the following areas, if practicable: two members representing local government, two members representing law enforcement, one member representing community advocacy and one member representing education with some expertise in law enforcement and juvenile crime.

Each member shall serve a four-year term and may be reappointed at the expiration of their term. The Advisory Council shall meet at least quarterly. Among the Advisory Council's responsibilities, the council is directed to recommend to the Crime Commission the rules and regulations regarding program fundraising, program evaluation, coordination of programs, and the criteria used to assess and award funds to violence prevention programs.

The additional duties of the Advisory Council shall include, but not limited to, receiving applications for violence prevention funds, evaluating such applications, and making recommendations to the Crime Commission regarding the merits of each application with the recommended amount of any funds that should be awarded. The Advisory Council shall continuously monitor how such funds are being used by the program, conduct periodic evaluations of programs, assess the progress and success regarding the Office of Violence Prevention goals of each program's awarded funds. The Advisory Council shall recommend to the Crime Commission any modification, continuation, or discontinuation of funding.

The **Advisory Council** consists of the following members:

Brenda Beadle representing local government

Karen Bredthauer representing local government

Royal "Dean" Kottwitz representing law enforcement

Eric Sellers representing law enforcement; Vice-Chair

Scott Sasse representing education with some expertise in law enforcement and juvenile crime; Chair

Micaela Wuehler representing community advocacy

Data Regarding the Three Goals of Office of Violence Prevention

According to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data has only been reported by eight counties in Nebraska. Those counties are Cheyenne County, Custer County, Dodge County, Douglas County, Red Willow County, Sarpy County, Saunders County and Scotts Bluff County.

According to NIBRS, the locations of the gang related offenses have been determined to be in the residence, in a corrections facility, in schools with a majority in elementary/secondary, on the road, in a public building and unknown areas.

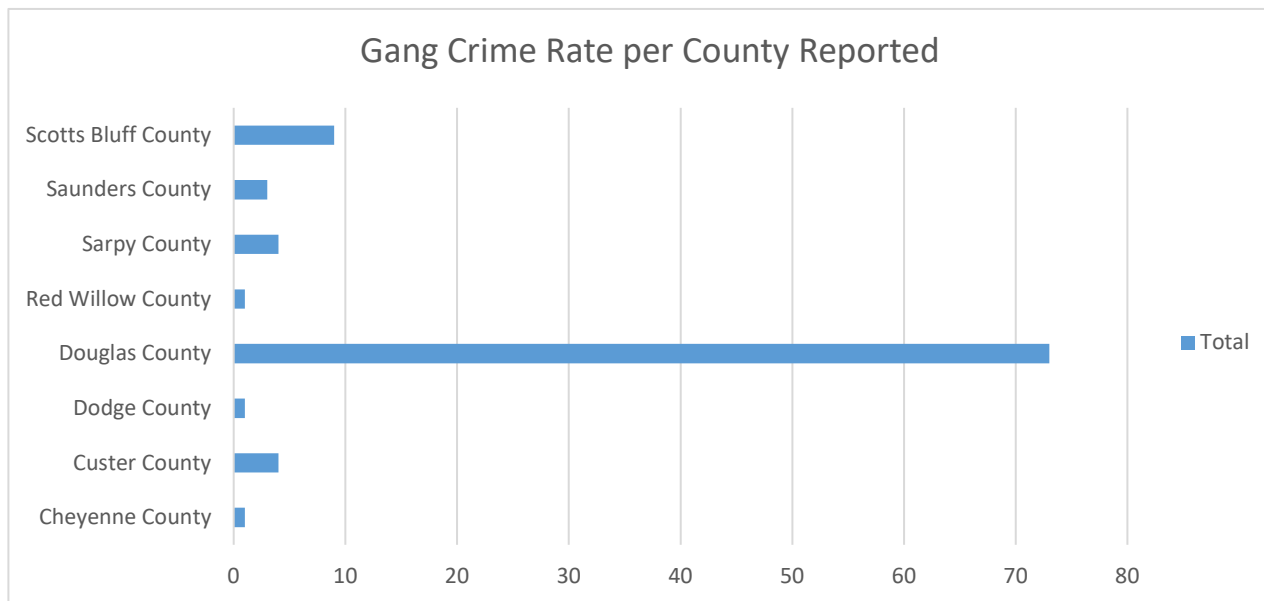


Chart 3 illustrates the breakdown of the counties who reported gang related offenses in FY 23-25 biennium

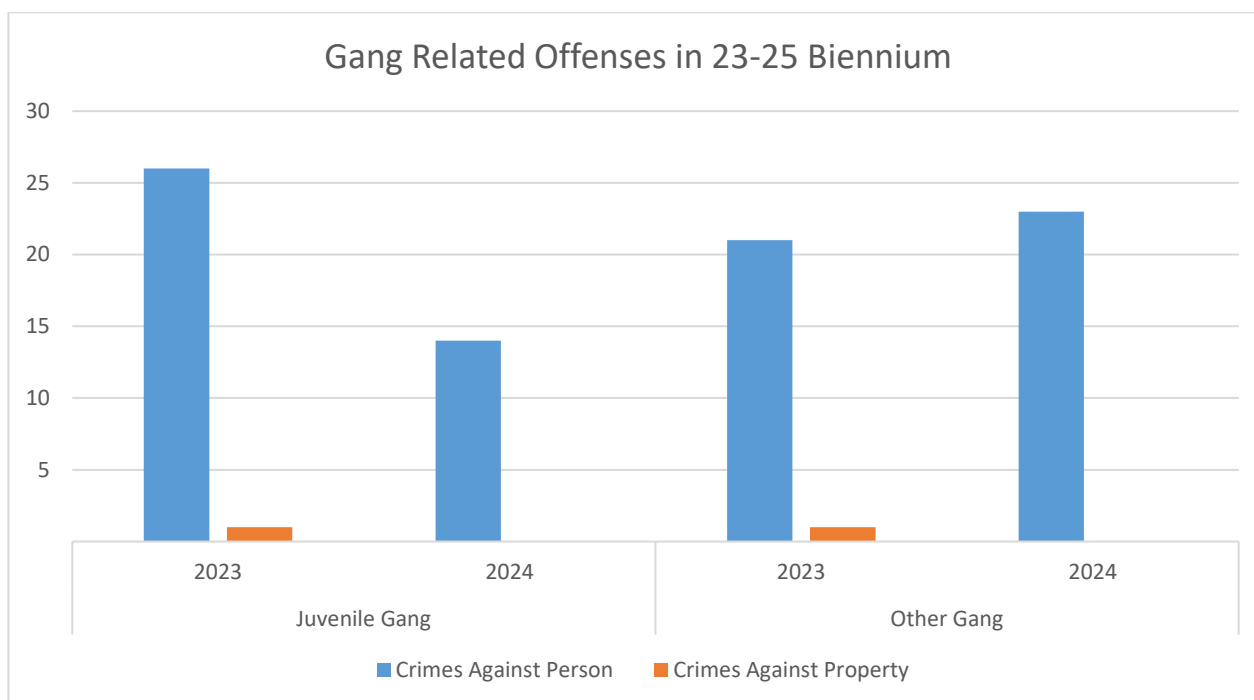


Chart 4 illustrates the breakdown of gang related offenses in Nebraska in the FY 23 - 25 biennium.

Reduction in street and/or gang violence

The state FY 2025 OVP Grantees who align within the reduction of street and/or gang violence have seen small but measurable improvements with the community. In Douglas County, six grantees have expressed an increase in participation with the youth and historic lows in violent crime within the grant-funded programs. Lancaster County has seen a 25% reduction in recidivism and success of disbanding local gangs with the youth placed into more positive activities.

Reduction in homicides and/or injuries by firearms

The state FY 2025 OVP Grantees have seen a significant decrease in homicides within the communities of Nebraska. According to the FBI's UCR data, the homicides have been on a downward trend. In Douglas County, Omaha has seen a 35-year low of 19 homicides and achieved, for the second year in a row, a 100% homicide clearance rate.

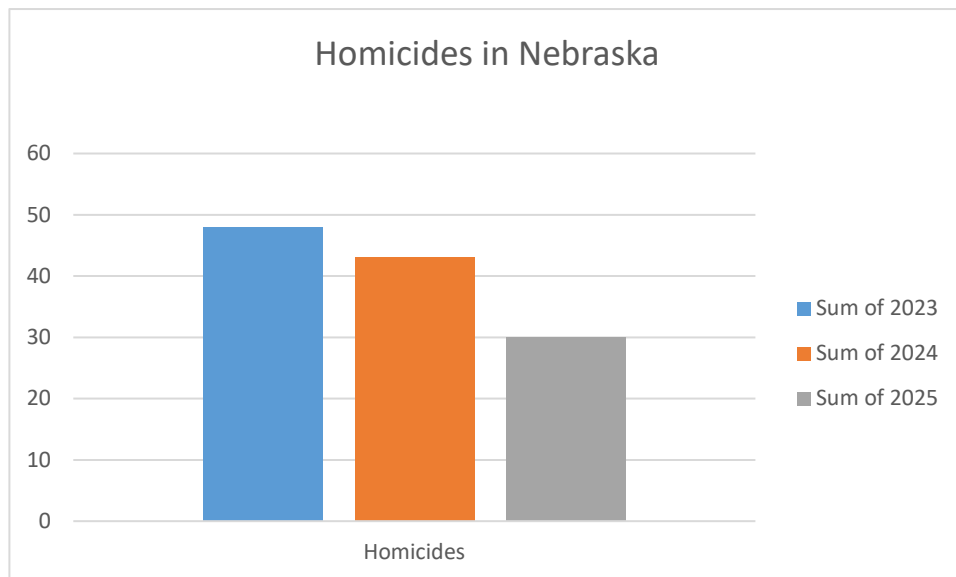


Chart 5 illustrates the breakdown of homicides in Nebraska in the FY 23 - 25 biennium.

Employment of youth in high-crime areas

The state FY 2025 OVP Grantees have seen direct engagement with the youth in the high-crime communities with active participation in employment skills programs, athletic events and mentoring programs that have shown successful outcomes within the grant-funded programs.

FY 2025 Office of Violence Prevention Awards

Chicano Awareness Center dba Latino Center of the Midlands	Healing Circulos: Leadership development for young women in South Omaha	Omaha	\$47,950
City Of Omaha	OPD Firearms DNA Testing	Omaha	\$19,550
Completely KIDS, Inc.	Teen Employment Program	Omaha	\$44,033
El Centro de las Americas	LPD -Operation Tipping Point & Lighthouse	Lincoln	\$66,948
Girls Inc. of Omaha	Shaping Futures, Breaking Cycles	Omaha	\$27,000
Goodwill Industries of Omaha	YouthBuild	Omaha	\$60,000 deobligate
Hope Center for Kids, Inc.	Village Basketball Alliance	Omaha	\$32,654
Nebraska Medical Center	Project Inspire/Dusk to Dawn	Omaha	\$32,469
NorthStar Foundation	NorthStar Foundation	Omaha	\$32,469

Chicano Awareness Center dba Latino Center of the Midlands

Healing Círculos focuses on primary prevention by providing voluntary services. The program engages students with attendance problems before system involvement. That said, adjudicated youth are also eligible if referred for attendance or other school problems. The program relies on partnering schools to help in the early identification of risk factors, primarily chronic truancy, poor academic performance, and behavior problems in school. Because educators are positioned to know their students well and to collect data related to these risk factors, they are ideal partners in helping the Latino Center intervene early, well before adjudication becomes necessary. Students are referred to Healing Círculos by school administrators, counselors, Latino Center Student Advocates, juvenile justice system professionals, and community-based partner agencies. We also have self-referrals from students and their parents or guardians. Referrals are based on risk factors such as chronic truancy, lack of pro-social involvement, absence of parental involvement, lack of self-regulation, and disengagement in school and the community. Students meet on a weekly basis during the school year in a facilitated group setting to build a positive value system and address issues regarding risky behaviors. Groups are divided by gender with the young women participating in Xochikalli and young men participating in Ollin. A grant from the Office of Violence Prevention would specifically fund a Xochikalli Facilitator, who would serve at least 64 young women and girls during the one-year grant. This position is currently unfilled; the OVP grant would help the program significantly increase the number of girls and young women it serves, helping to address a need for culturally fluent, gender-specific services. Typical group sizes are 10 to 15 youth, with the ideal size being 12. In addition to the weekly group sessions, students meet monthly for outings and service-learning opportunities, where they learn more about their community's needs and build group cohesion through pro-social activities. These service learning and other group outings continue in the summer when school is not in session.

City of Omaha

Gang and gun-related violent crime is a persistent problem in the Omaha metro area that devastates the lives of victims, their families, and the community at large. While there have been incredible strides made in decreasing gang and gun-related violent crime in recent years, especially in comparison with recent national trends, much more needs to be accomplished. DNA evidence from seized and recovered firearms is a critical tool to identify and apprehend suspects, provide conclusive evidence for linking suspects to criminal weapons offenses, bolster the odds of conviction, and increase the likelihood that swift and severe sanctions will be levied against the perpetrators of gun violence. These efforts help OPD to remove violent repeat offenders from the community and decrease gang and gun-related crime over time.

Completely KIDS, Inc.

Completely KIDS' Teen Employment Program (TEP) provides workforce development, professionalism training, goal setting and attainment, and employment opportunities for high school students in central Omaha. TEP provides participating young people with a healthy afterschool environment and equips them with workforce development skills and on-the-job training to improve their chances of successful education and long-term employment. For youth engaged in the program, TEP reduces the potential for them to succumb to peer pressure and be involved in unhealthy behaviors and street violence. TEP will engage 25 students with ongoing mentoring and training in professional skills, and developing their leadership, planning, confidence, and other areas for success in the workforce and their future careers. Participating teens, in turn, work as Completely KIDS staff to provide vital afterschool

enrichment activities to younger children at schools and community sites. TEP students work directly with Completely KIDS' senior staff to receive guidance and on-the-job training. Students attend educational workshops in areas such as resume-building and conflict management. Lastly, mentor meetings serve to guide teens towards goal attainment in academics, career, and social-emotional skills-building.

El Centro de las Americas (Subaward Lancaster County – Lighthouse/ LPD – OTP)

Operation Tipping Point (OTP) focuses on working directly with youth, ages 11-17, who are at risk of gang affiliation within Lancaster County. Operation Tipping Point has more than 20 community partners (including a direct partnership with 17 Lincoln Public Schools) and justice stakeholders. OTP addresses the increasingly violent crimes associated with gangs through intervention/prevention strategies. A full-time Gang Outreach Specialist serves as a link between primary and secondary prevention/intervention efforts and the engagement of community partners. The Gang Outreach Specialist is located within the Lincoln Police Department Gang Unit.

Lighthouse Cop Club is a monthly program designed to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and at-risk or justice-involved youth. The program typically engages 13 youth, 5 officers, and 2 Lighthouse staff (per event) in relationship-building activities held both on-site and out in the community. Activities include bowling, ice skating, facility tours, sports events, and more by offering youth a chance to interact with officers in a non-enforcement, supportive setting. Referrals come from Lighthouse and staff follow up directly with families to encourage participation. By providing consistent, positive engagement, Cop Club helps improve youth-officer trust and replaces high-risk free time with prosocial community interaction.

Lighthouse Restorative Practices Program runs most of the harm circles through the Lighthouse Alternative Suspension Program (ASP) which offers a restorative, trauma-informed environment for middle and high school students in Lincoln Public Schools who are serving short-term suspensions. ASP operates from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and includes academic support, restorative practices, structured reflection, and daily meals. Students are referred by school administrators or support staff to ASP. Students work on school assignments, participate in two restorative circles (initial intake and closing reflection), and engage in conversations to explore the harm caused by their violent and aggressive behaviors.

Girls Inc. of Omaha

Girls Inc. of Omaha "Shaping Futures, Breaking Cycles" program offers monthly 90-minute sessions on the fourth Monday of each month for girls in grade 9 - 12. The sessions are designed to empower young women by increasing their knowledge and skills to recognize and to prevent intimate partner violence (IPV), while building healthy relationship skills. Each session includes interactive discussions, role-playing activities, and guest speakers from local organizations and experts, such as law enforcement and licensed mental health professionals, to provide real-world perspectives and resources. Through collaboration with other agencies, such as the Women's Center for Advancement (WCA), the Omaha Police Department and expert-led sessions on peer advocacy, conflict resolution, and the role of firearms in IPV. Participants are connected with community resources and empowered to contribute to violence prevention efforts in their communities.

Goodwill

YouthBuild is a national, community-based skills-training program designed to prepare opportunity youth for apprenticeships in the construction trades. YouthBuild students participate in the required construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income or homeless families in our community. Our YouthBuild students split their time between the vocational training job site and the classroom. They can earn their high school diplomas in the classroom, learn to become community leaders and prepare for post-secondary training opportunities like college, apprenticeships, and long-term employment. The YouthBuild program provides a robust support system that includes mentoring, follow-up education, employment & personal counseling services, civic engagement, and more. YouthBuild accepts individuals with criminal backgrounds. Over the past three years the number of youth charged in the adult criminal system has tripled, with over 80% being youth of color and 80% involved in at least one weapons charge. Our program focuses on serving the youth in the inner-city neighborhoods where crime is the highest and the majority (76%) of our current YouthBuild's cohort identify as Black or Hispanic/Latino.

Hope Center for Kids, Inc.

The Village Basketball Alliance (VBA) was formed through collaborative work of Omaha 360 community partners over a decade ago. The original intention was to provide a community basketball league where young people from different neighborhoods in North Omaha, who may not have had positive interactions were they to encounter one another on the streets, could have positive, healthy competition with the support of caring adult role models. Men aged 14 and older, some served by various community organizations and Omaha 360 partners, have come together weekly for athletic competition since 2011, made possible by VBA, hosted at the Hope Center for Kids and The Schenzel Community Center (formerly Hope Skate). The Hope Center for Kids offers VBA as an alternative to criminal activities that often take place in the out-of-school hours when youth are not a part of extracurricular activities. Jr. VBA focuses on youth still in their school years (ages 14-19), while VBA's reach includes youth and young adults. Village Basketball Alliance is a preventative program that works to keep youth and young adults away from criminal activities. Omaha has long experienced issues with gangs and violent crimes that are often more pronounced by economic disparities and unemployment. Unemployment and poverty are contributors to higher crime rates. Violent crimes affect the offenders, the families, community residents, service providers, and the city of Omaha as a whole.

Nebraska Medical Center

Nebraska Medical Center provides three distinct violence prevention activities: Project Inspire, Dusk to Dawn, and Encompass. Project Inspire is a structured, 16-week program with a predetermined curriculum designed to address gun violence and recidivism through trauma-informed care, education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and mentorship. Dusk to Dawn is a 2.5 hour program that includes a presentation by a trauma surgeon discussing the life and death of a young man who was killed in South Omaha. Encompass employs a trauma-informed, culturally responsive team including a program supervisor, violence intervention specialists, social workers, mental health specialist, and a learning specialist. The team provides bedside intervention and long-term case management for hospitalized victims of violence, addressing the root causes of repeat injury and trauma.

NorthStar Foundation

NorthStar will enhance and expand its comprehensive sequence of athletic engagement and outreach programming for low-income, at-risk male youth in North Omaha in 2023-2024. The research-tested model of targeted team sports outreach deployed by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) has an established track record of reinforcing the engagement of participants in NorthStar's broader extended learning time (ELT) model and increasing their protective factors against violent gang involvement. The AEOP program is a different initiative focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) that supports, challenges, and instills life skills through young men. The OVP funding will be singularly vital for 2023- 2024 AEOP program delivery: ensuring the use of family-centered and culturally responsive interventions, furnishing linkages to external school- and community-based behavioral health providers, and building longitudinal case coordination to support the resilience and success of NorthStar boys in need.

Office of Violence Statutorily Monitor Programs

Program Site Monitors

By the strategic plan, the Office of Violence Prevention Director conducted program site monitors of the FY 2025 grantees. The purpose of the program site monitors is to further the relationship between the Office of Violence Prevention and the grant recipients. The Director can witness the program environment, speak with the program participants, monitor the use of grant funds and gain insight into future funding needs for stakeholders in the state.

All awarded programs were monitored by the current Director of Violence Prevention and were scheduled based on the agency's risk assessment level determined after awarded.

City of Lincoln – Operation Tipping Point (subaward of El Centro de las Americas)

Chris Carlile met with the program's specialists at the Lincoln Public School's District office in Lincoln. They are employed by Lincoln Police Department with a collaboration with Lincoln Public Schools. Operation Tipping Point (OTP) Specialists work closely with the Lincoln Public Schools and both work with youth starting as early as third grade to get them to graduate instead of going down the path of gangs. The current iteration of Tipping Point has been around for 10 years and consists of two main components: prevention and intervention.

Last year, they had a 100% success rate with 20/20 of the LPS seniors graduated. One of the specialists has been recognized by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and U.S. Congressman Mike Flood within the past few months. This grant fiscal year included a new addition to the team, but the new specialist has developed a great connection with the youth this past year.

The prevention component takes a group-based approach, where Matt (and Darrell joined him based on the size of the group) works with students in schools. These groups typically include students who receive free or reduced lunch, those with a gang member in their family, students who have been suspended, and others facing similar challenges. They start working with these groups as early as Year 3 (third grade) and continue until the end of middle school.

The intervention component targets students in grades 7 to 12. This is a one-on-one approach where Darrell will work with students who are known to have gang involvement or connections, or who are on probation.

Both components aim to reduce gang involvement, assist students in graduating, increase school attendance, and help students build a positive foundation for their future. The program primarily operates within public schools, and their main collaborators are Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) and the Lincoln Police Department (LPD). LPS has been a valuable partner, as it allows them to meet students in school rather than having to chase them around the city; our desks are also located within the district building. Their partnership with the police department adds credibility and supervision to our efforts. We also collaborate with other community organizations on a limited basis. Goodrich Middle and Culler Middle are the two schools currently not accepting them.

Lighthouse (subaward of El Centro de las Americas)

Chris Carlile met with the administrative staff at the Lighthouse main office in central Lincoln. The program was born out of evidence-based restorative programs. They work with Lincoln Public Schools with the students who receive out of school suspension. They build relationships with the students to reduce recidivism with the goal of reintegrating back into the schools. Since the start of the grant, they have served 118 total youth with 117 successfully completing the program. Suspensions are typically vaping or fighting (gang rivalry at times) Pound Middle is the biggest collaborator with the support of Assistant Principal. The other schools they work closely with are Dawes Middle, Irving Middle, Northeast High and Lefler Middle.

They can only serve 16 students a day which is the cut off for their program to allow one-on-one time with the coordinator. They would like to fund additional staff to allow more students to participate in the program and provide transportation for the students who are not able to come. The program involves working on missing assignments, conversations with the students, grounding techniques and mediation/yoga as wellness components.

They would like to fund additional new programs such as TIP, Trades in Industry Program, which is a trades program for youth in high-crime areas who are underserved, underperforming and in poverty

Girls Inc. of Omaha

Chris Carlile met with the administrative staff in North Omaha. The program gave a comprehensive explanation of their program, Shaping Futures, Breaking Cycles. The SGBC program started this fiscal year with 18 young women in the first session, and 17 each in the other two sessions with eligibility open to all young women in the ages of 12 - 18. The young women in the program have speakers from domestic violence non-profits to present boundaries and self-advocacy. Girls Inc. staff conduct scenarios and resources, such as 988 and intimate partner violence handouts, to the girls.

Goodwill Industries of Omaha

Chris Carlile met with the administrative staff at the main Goodwill administrative office in Omaha. The program gave a comprehensive explanation of their program. The staff mentioned their agency has gone through organizational transition which has lead a shift for the program to be re-evaluated for future funding down the road. YouthBuild students receive stipends for the work in the fields of construction and trades. The agency has a workshop where they can learn carpentry, construction and HVAC (appliance repair). They have implemented a Virtual Reality program in the plumbing and electrical trades. The program works with youth in the ages between 16 – 24, Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. At the time of the site visit, they had 39 students enrolled but two withdrew due to their age but are welcome to come back. 80% of the students are in probation and a majority are from North Omaha.

The YouthBuild program has provided structured programming that could include financial support,

behavioral corrections, life skills and social skills. The program currently has a 77% success rate of youth graduating from high school with many taking the GED test. The program measures their outcomes by students receiving their high school diploma and/or job placement.

Hope Center for Kids, Inc.

Chris Carlile met with the administrative staff in North Omaha. The staff provided a comprehensive explanation of their program. The 12-week program was taking place at the time of the site monitor and provided insight how the Village Basketball Alliance gives an opportunity to reach a population in Northeast Omaha to address the violence through the facilitation of the program. North Omaha is considered gang territory with a high homicide rate. Hope Center collaborates with Omaha Police Department to provide security during the basketball league games due to tense situations. The program offers jobs to the youth with positive activities and using their own gym to help stop violence. Since the VBA program has expanded, the area has noticed crime rate has gone down and these youth have come back as adults to give back to the community as coaches.

Nebraska Medical Center

Chris Carlile met with the administrative staff in Omaha. The staff provided a comprehensive explanation of their Project Inspire and Dusk to Dawn programs. The staff gave an oversight of their other program, Encompass, that is currently funded by VOCA, Victims of Crime Act. Project Inspire is a hospital led program to curb gun violence and recidivism among youth through engagement and empowerment. The majority of the youth are males either on probation or incarcerated at the Douglas County Youth Center. Omaha Public Schools have given the agency referrals from Blackburn High School for non-violent offenders for Project Inspire. The program is planning to expand to include females.

Project Inspire is a collaboration between Blackburn High School, Bridges Out of Poverty, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Juvenile Probation. The programs are 16-weeks for youth ages between 13 – 18 and serve approximately eight to ten youth each session. The program includes trauma-informed training and confidence building, educational and professional development, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and mentorship. Seven youth graduated the program in spring 2025.

The Dusk to Dawn is a 2 ½ hour program which begins in the hospital's trauma bay where the youth relive the final moments of one young man's life, Roberto Gonzalez, as gun violence took his life. The youth will see the measures taken by hospital staff in an attempt to save a life and how the destruction of violence places on victims, families and the communities. A trained violence prevention specialist works with the youth through building exercises for risk recognition and problem-solving skills.