



Executive Summary
The Office of Youth Violence Prevention
February 2008
Tom Potter, Mayor

Background

Portland's gangs historically located in North and Inner Northeast Portland have branched out to outer Northeast and Southeast Portland with signs of graffiti, youth recruitment, assaults and homicides. Gangs are no longer isolated to geographic areas as in the past and are mobile across the city and metropolitan area. Gang membership ranges in age from 10 to 35, impacting the lives of males and females alike.

Gang outreach and prevention efforts have been struggling with reduced funding streams from Federal, State and local levels. In the spring of 2006 outreach programs either ceased to exist or were reduced in staff due to the reduction of funding.

The Mayor's Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP) was established by the City of Portland in July, 2006. OYVP is currently staffed by a Director, Policy Manager and Public Safety Coordinator. Through these positions the office coordinates resource services, administrates grant funding to private non-profit organizations and enjoins in community problem solving.

In December 2006 the Portland City Council approved through ordinance the ability of OYVP to offer grant funding to existing private non-profit organizations for assistance in providing a range of outreach, intervention, prevention, counseling, education and recreation programs and activities. The resulting Small Grant Program fund was subdivided into the 2 grant funds programs, entitled Outreach Intervention Services and Summer Activities for Youth in Portland. Grant monies awarded through a request for proposal (RFP) process in were made available to 7 grantee organizations in June of 2007.

In May 2007 OYVP hired a Public Safety Coordinator (PSC) to assist with community/gang outreach coordination and the development of relationships with individuals and families in an effort to connect them with resources and services.

Service Population Identified in 2007

From 2006 gang related crime continued to expand beyond previously identified at risk neighborhoods. In the spring of 2007 a housing area and several park areas in North and NE Portland were impacted by youth gang related crime. In the summer, fall and winter of 2007 / 2008 neighborhoods in NE and SE Portland as well as Gresham were impacted by increasing violence and youth gang activity and crime.

Grant Funding Program Supplied in 2007

5 private non-profit organizations receiving grant funding (\$310,000) under the Intervention Outreach Services Grant. Each of the private non-profit intervention outreach programs were

granted \$62,000 to be expended for intervention outreach services from June 2007 through June 2008.

Two private non-profit organizations were awarded through RFP process \$25,000 each to supply summer activity programming for youth from June through September of 2007.

As of February 8, 2008 of the total amount (\$360, 000) available through the Small Grant Fund Program the sum \$172,154.10 has been expended. Of the total \$122,899.04 was for personnel, \$42,208.91 for materials / services and \$ 7,046.14 for administrative costs.

Expected Outcomes for the Small Grant Fund Program

Small Grant Fund expected outcomes were to be: a minimum weekly contact with 50 youth from target populations; weekly contact with youth and or their families to link them to public and non-profit organizations that offer educational, social, medical and or / employment-related services; to increase the number of youth participating in outreach group activities; to increase the number of youth deferred to drug and alcohol counseling; to decrease the number of police contacts with youth due to gang related behavior; to increase the number of parents participating in prevention education, counseling and treatment with at risk youth.

The target population was stated as at-risk youth, ages 12 to 25 years.

Defining Youth At-Risk Target Populations to be Served by Small Grant Fund Program

As of December 19, 2007 the ethnic populations served by grant funds were: Latino (39%); African American (19%); Asian American (14%); Native American (8%); Caucasian (6%). To be included is self identified Bi Racial population (10%); youth identifying other or did not list on survey forms (2%).

One of the questions offered in the listed survey was as follows: "Have you ever been asked to join a gang?" 42% of the youth completing the survey form answered "Yes".

Services Offered by the Office of Youth Violence Prevention in 2007

Small Grant Fund Outcomes through December 2007

Target Populations Served: (source OYVP Child / Youth Demographic Survey)

- Area of residence in the following ranked order: NE (282), SE (210), North (119), NW (26), SW (16) and not living in Portland or not listed (22).
- Gender totals: Male (324), Female (308), not listed on forms (43).
- Youth age categories: 20 to 25 (49), 15 to 19 or high school aged youth (336), 12 to 14 or middle school age youth (222), 11 or younger elementary school aged youth (45).

Outcomes for Target Populations Served (source - required weekly reporting forms).

- As of December 27, 2007, 5 Intervention Outreach Services grantee organizations contacted 2105 youth, an average of 75 youth contacted per week.

- Of those 2105 youth contacted 1171 came involved in programming offered by Intervention Outreach Grant Fund provider organizations.
- Of those 2105 youth contacted 509 of their family members were also contacted of which 247 became involved in additional grantee organization programs.
- Of those 2105 youth contacted, 1981 received referral program information.
- Of the 509 family members contacted, 350 received referral program information.
- The 2 grantee programs (Oregon Outreach Inc. and Latino Network) funded under the Summer Activities for Youth in Portland Grant Fund were not required to complete weekly forms, since populations served were constantly revisiting those programs from June through September of 2007. Both programs combined served 57 youth during that period (source - client surveys).

Gang Violence Task Force (GVTF) Outcomes through January 2008:

- In fulfillment of the listed service roll OYVP has been involved in co-chairing, structuring agendas, maintaining archives and communication via email list serve for the GVTF since October of 2006.
- The GVTF has provided the largest service provider venue in the Portland Metro area in which the OYVP has the ability to determined and facilitated service needs with agencies and organizations directly or in-directly responsible to serve at-risk youth, while focusing on gang and violence prevention.
- 18 GVTF Meeting Minute documents in PDF format have been stored as public information on www.portlandonline.com under on the GVTF webpage which is linked to webpage for the Mayor's Office of Youth Violence Prevention.
- Under the Intervention Outreach Services Grant Fund Grant Agreements outreach providers are to provide an Outreach Worker to attend bi-monthly GVTF meetings.

Public Safety Coordinator (PSC) Outcomes through January 2008

- The PSC position fostered a successful service model as an on-site resource to several different Portland community areas, while working to supply residents, at-risk youth living in or frequenting those areas.
- The PSC position has worked to enhance service provider efforts when responding to identified problems within neighborhood, recreation and event areas.
- In May 2007, the PSC assisted service providers and residents in North Portland's New Columbia community with problem solving, while providing a resource presence at an on site office location.
- In August 2007, PSC service expanded to other North and NE Portland neighborhood areas, specifically the areas of Portland's Pier and Peninsula parks.

- In late August 2007, the PSC was involved in helping to coordinate responses with public service and private-non profit outreach service providers for planned public events attended by large numbers of at risk youth.
- In September 2007, the PSC relocated to East Portland at East Precinct to assist in new efforts to curb escalating youth violence taking place both in Gresham and East Portland near 162nd and Burnside.
- In September and October of 2007, the PSC worked with staff within several Portland Public Schools and the David Douglas School District regarding gang related and at-risk youth related issues.
- From October 2007 into January 2007, the PSC structure 3 meetings settings which facilitated forums for North and NE Portland community members and service providers. Through these meetings and forums, community members needed to enhance volunteering efforts, offered additional mentoring to youth within Portland's Public Schools and neighborhoods.
- Through PSC based research on identified problems, the OYPV has been enhanced in the ability to create problem solving linkages with grant funded private non-profit outreach programming available to assist in service to identified problem areas. PSC research has benefited the GVTF membership organization, enhancing problem solving efforts.

Next Steps

OYVP will continue to partner with the other City, County, State and Federal services in order to provide and receive education and support.

An advisory committee in addition to the Gang Violence Task Force representing business, education, law enforcement, local government, youth, faith based and residential communities is in the process of being created to increase community awareness, support and service growth.

The OYVP will continue to increase the capacity to coordinate services available to at-risk youth and their families. In so doing, we are developing stronger referral and service support networks while continuing to identify service gaps.

The OYVP will continue to research best-practices in youth programming to offer the most effective services for our young people.

The OYVP is dedicated to assisting the community in problem solving efforts as well as offering youth outreach programs the ability to expand their service capacity.

The OYVP will be seeking grant funding support from the City through future budget processes to ensure the continuance of experienced private non-profit outreach services. The continuation of the Small Grant Funding Program will serve in providing a range of outreach, intervention, prevention, counseling and education services to at-risk youth city-wide.