

Office Structure

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP) is staffed by a Director and Policy Manager. Through these positions the office coordinates resource services, administers grant funding to private non-profit organizations and enjoins in community problem solving.

Mission

OYVP offers research information and facilitates communication associated with best practices and grant funding opportunities to supplement local resources.

The goal for youth violence prevention is to prevent opportunities for violence to occur by connecting community and service providers dealing with at-risk youth and their families with the following:

- **Prevention education**
- **Policy and community organizing support**
- **Resource identification and funding**

Vision

OYVP works with a coordinating council, to include city bureaus, county, state and federal partners, business, schools, and the faith community to provide consistent policy input, guidance, and advocacy to address youth violence.

OYVP recognizes all rights within **The Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of the City of Portland and Multnomah County** adopted by the City of Portland in 2006.

History

Identification of Youth Violence:

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.

Seeking Solution:

In 2005 a multitude of community leaders, police, gang outreach workers and policy makers were brought together to collaborate on a solution to eliminate youth gangs and associated criminal behavior from Portland. At that time it was stated that the City Council must seriously review available resource dollars and how money is allocated for this purpose.

Identified Funding Issue:

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.

Creation of the Office:

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention was created on July 17, 2006. This office reflects priorities the City Council identified to build a more family friendly city and increase public safety, and reflects the emphasis on attacking the root causes of problems in neighborhoods rather than simply focusing on policing efforts.

Services Funding

Small Grant Program

In 2006 the Portland City Council approved the ability 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.

Since 2007 the Small Grant Program has provided funding for the following purposes:

- Summer activities programs providing education and recreation for at-risk youth.
- Outreach intervention services providing intervention, outreach, prevention, counseling and educational services to at-risk youth.
- Street level outreach services.

Gang Violence Task Force

The Director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention hosts the Gang Violence Task Force (GVTF) which provides the largest bi-weekly service provider and citizen stakeholder problem solving forum in the Portland Metro area.

Attending stakeholders serve as an advisory body assisting in the identification of service and resource needs for at-risk youth as well as needs associated with agencies and organizations directly or in-directly responsible to serve at-risk youth and or their families.

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention:

Will increase the capacity to coordinate services available to at-risk youth and their families, while developing stronger referral and service support networks.

Researches best practices in youth programming to offer the most effective services for the youth in Portland.

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

Seeks grant funding support to ensure the continuance of experienced private non-profit outreach services.

Partners with other City, County, State and Federal services in order to provide and receive education and support.

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention is interested in your input specifically related to service needs for at risk youth and their families.

Please contact us:

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***Office of Youth
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