

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-137

A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SUBRECIPIENT
AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS ENTITIES
(Equity and Engagement Department – Community Gun
Violence Reduction Blueprint Public Programs)

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN,
ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a subrecipient agreement in a form approved by the City Attorney between the City of Champaign and each of the following agencies not to exceed the amounts set forth below:

FY 2025/26 Blueprint Program Subrecipients	
Carle Foundation Hospital	\$ 200,000.00
Champaign County YMCA d/b/a Stephens Family YMCA	\$ 224,373.00
Crime Stoppers of Champaign County, Inc.	\$ 57,000.00
FirstFollowers	\$ 442,794.00
Housing Authority of Champaign County YouthBuild, NFP	\$ 150,000.00
Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club	\$ 50,000.00
STEAM Genius NFP	\$ 55,000.00
East Central Illinois Youth for Christ	\$ 70,000.00
Total	\$1,249,167.00

COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-137

PASSED:

APPROVED: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Joan Walls, City Manager

DATE: August 1, 2025

SUBJECT: EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL BILL NO. 2025-137

A. Introduction: The purpose of this Council Bill is to approve FY 2025/26 Blueprint partner funding allocations and to authorize the City Manager to enter into subrecipient agreements for FY 2025/26 Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint programs in the total amount of \$1,249,167.00 with the following agencies: FirstFollowers \$442,794.00, Champaign County YMCA d/b/a Stephens Family YMCA \$224,373.00, East Central Illinois Youth for Christ \$70,000.00, Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club \$50,000.00, Housing Authority of Champaign County YouthBuild NFP \$150,000.00, Carle Foundation Hospital \$200,000.00, Crime Stoppers of Champaign County, Inc., \$57,000.00 and STEAM Genius NFP \$55,000.00.

B. Action Requested: The Administration recommends approval of this Council Bill.

C. Prior Council Action: See Attachment A.

D. Background:

1. Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint. In response to community calls for action, the Champaign City Council designated gun violence as a top priority allocating ARPA funds for intervention programs focused on youth engagement, safe spaces and victim support. In December 2021, the City Council ([SS-2021-037](#)) approved the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint, setting the stage for an innovative and collaborative approach focusing on root causes and addressing community gun violence. The Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint engaged partners with a history of anti-violence prevention and intervention services. These partners have a record of collaboration with the City, emphasizing communities of color and justice-impacted individuals. On March 1, 2022, at a [Regular Council Meeting](#), subrecipient agreements for Blueprint partners totaling over \$2.6 million in ARPA funds were approved by Council. Funding for Blueprint partner programs has continued at that level in subsequent years. However, with ARPA funds coming to an end, earlier this year City Council demonstrated their commitment to address gun violence in Champaign. At a Study Session on January 28, 2025 ([SS 2025-003](#)), Council directed staff to continue with the evaluation framework, execute subrecipient agreements with Blueprint partners and develop other initiatives related to the continued implementation of the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint. The Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint consists of three overarching broad goal areas that include strategies that have been designed based on best practices and evaluation results. The goals include Goal 1 (prevent/reduce gun violence and promote safety), Goal 2 (enhance

community engagement and support), and Goal 3 (data driven decision making). Partnering agencies bring a culturally responsive lens to their work, serving communities of color and individuals who are, or have been, justice involved. These organizations are uniquely positioned to serve as leads for specific areas and components of the Blueprint based on their past work with the City. This Report to Council is focused on the recommended FY 2025/26 Blueprint Partners to address goals one and two.

2. Recommended Partners. The recommended organizations will provide a range of support including reentry, youth engagement, family support, hospital-based intervention, legal services and public safety collaboration. These recommendations are the result of partner assessments conducted over the past several months, including an internal review of each organization’s programmatic alignment, community impact and financial reporting over the last two fiscal years. This review has informed recruitment efforts to ensure the next funding cycle supports partners with the capacity and infrastructure to meet Blueprint goals and compliance standards. All proposed partners will be required to meet the expectations outlined below prior to finalization of any contracts.

a. Conditions for Funding: Approval to enter into contracts are based on each organization demonstrating:

- Clear alignment with the goals of the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint
- Programming focused on priority populations and high-impact neighborhoods
- Measurable deliverables and transparent balanced budgeting
- Organizational capacity and a demonstrated track record
- Trauma-informed, restorative and equity-centered service delivery
- Community accessibility and culturally responsive engagement

Staff from the Equity and Engagement and Finance Departments met individually with existing Blueprint partner organizations over the last two months to provide an update, discuss timelines, provide a financial overview, inform them of expectations and share information regarding subrecipient agreement process. There was also an opportunity for partners to ask questions. The recommendations listed below reflect organizations that align with the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint. The table below outlines the proposed Blueprint partners, the primary focus of their programs, service provided and their proposed funding amount.

Organization	Primary Focus	Service Provided	Proposed Allocation
FirstFollowers: InReach and Workforce Development	Community engagement, peer mentorship and Reentry, workforce development	Reentry support, direct intervention and vocational skills for formerly incarcerated adults/young adults	\$442,794
Champaign County YMCA	Youth wellness, engagement	After-school youth programming in at-risk neighborhoods grades K-8	\$224,373

d/b/a Stephens Family YMCA			
Housing Authority of Champaign County – YouthBuild, NFP	Youth development, housing connections	Vocational training and diploma pathways for impacted youth and young adults 17 and over.	\$150,000
Carle Foundation Hospital	Hospital-based crisis intervention	Emergency room response, trauma care, gun violence victim support.	\$200,000
East Central Illinois Youth for Christ	Mentoring, school-based intervention	Academic and emotional support using lived experience for ages 13-18.	\$70,000
Crime Stoppers of Champaign County, Inc.	Anonymous reporting, public safety	Rewards for tips regarding crimes where a weapon is used that lead to an arrest or recovery of weapons.	\$57,000
Steam Genius NFP	STEM and Citizenship Programming for at risk youth	Engagement with at risk youth in Champaign Unit 4 Schools alternative education program.	\$55,000
Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club	After-school and summer programming	Support for low-income families in marginalized communities. Serving youth ages 8-18 and their families	\$50,000
Total			\$1,249,167

Once Council approves the contracts referenced above, Equity and Engagement staff will regularly monitor the services provided by each vendor. Understanding that these partners have limited capacity, staff will utilize an RFP process to fill identified service gaps. For example, an RFP process could be used to provide additional youth services that deliver alternative paths to graduation for students with low attendance; or to provide additional trauma informed services for female youth; or other identified needs that align with Blueprint priorities. This RFP process would provide an opportunity for service providers, currently not selected but previously funded through the CommUnity Matters or the Blueprint, to compete for funding to help cover identified service gaps.

3. Next Steps. Staff will execute subrecipient agreements with the recommended partner agencies. These programs for FY 2025/26 will begin in Summer 2025 and will run until June 30, 2026. Partners will participate in an orientation meeting outlining the objectives of the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint. Subrecipients will meet with designated Equity and Engagement and Finance Department staff to review and complete the monthly performance

reporting template, meet quarterly with evaluator(s) for the project to discuss metrics for evaluating program impact, and other assistance necessary to collect data during service provision, meet monthly with staff to discuss capacity and service delivery challenges and participate in regular coordination meetings with other Blueprint Partners facilitated through the Equity and Engagement Department.

E. Alternatives:

1. Approve this Council Bill and authorize the City Manager to enter into subrecipient agreements for FY 2025/26 Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint programs in the total amount of \$1,249,167.00 with the following agencies: FirstFollowers, Champaign County YMCA dba Stephens Family YMCA, East Central Illinois Youth for Christ, Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, Housing Authority of Champaign County YouthBuild, NFP, Carle Foundation Hospital, Crime Stoppers of Champaign County, Inc., and STEAM Genius NFP.
2. Do not approve the Council Bill and provide further direction to staff.

F. Discussion of Alternatives:

Alternative 1 would approve this Council Bill and authorize the City Manager to enter into subrecipient agreements for FY 2025/26 Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint programs in the total amount of \$1,249,167.00 with the following agencies: First Followers, Champaign County YMCA dba Stephens Family YMCA, East Central Illinois Youth for Christ, Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, Housing Authority of Champaign County YouthBuild, NFP, Carle Foundation Hospital, Crime Stoppers of Champaign County, Inc. and Steam Genius NFP.

a. Advantages

- Supports the City Council Goal “Our City Keeps Our Community Safe” and provides a mechanism to address gun violence as a priority.
- Supports evidence based best practices to address community gun violence.
- Maintains the momentum gained since Council approval of the Blueprint.
- Promotes a community engagement approach to strengthen the City’s commitment to public safety.
- Supports capacity building efforts in community-based organizations working to address gun violence.
- Allows for culturally responsive service provision.

b. Disadvantages

- Would depend on direction provided by Council.

Alternative 2 would not approve this Council Bill and would provide further direction to staff.

a. Advantages

- Specific advantages would depend on direction provided by Council.

b. Disadvantages

- Significant shifts in programming may affect the momentum achieved over the last several years and the partnerships established to identify high-risk individuals and to provide intervention and support services.

G. Community Input: At the January 28, 2025 Study Session ([SS 2025-003](#)), there was extensive public comment in support of partner programs funded by the Blueprint. Through the Community Coalition, the community and public receive regular updates on community violence initiatives. At monthly Coalition meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month, individuals and community representatives engage in interactive discussions with representatives from law enforcement, City departments, and agencies engaged in responding to gun violence and community trauma. Staff from the Equity and Engagement and Finance Departments met individually with Blueprint partner organizations to provide an update, discuss timelines, provide a financial overview, inform them of expectations and share information regarding subrecipient agreement process. The public will have an additional opportunity to provide input at the Council meeting when this topic is discussed.

H. Budget Impact: On June 17, 2025, Council adopted the FY2026/2026 Budget that included approval of the recommended FY26 Budget Requests as detailed in SS2025-015 which included \$1,250,000 in one-time funding from the General Fund for Blueprint Partners. Based on the contract expenses of \$1,249,167 outlined in this Council Bill, the expenses are within the FY26 Adopted Budget amount and no additional funding from the General Fund is required for these contracts.

I. Staff Impact: Staff from the Equity and Engagement Department, Finance Department and Legal Department will spend over 300 hours preparing and reviewing subrecipient agreements, meeting with Blueprint partner organizations and providing follow-up as needed. Staff from the Community, Safety and Justice Division will spend approximately 1500 hours monitoring Blueprint partner programs, holding partner meetings, performing site visits and attending community/partner events. In addition, staff from the City's Finance Department will spend approximately 1000 hours processing accounts payable, the preparation of financial reports and working with Blueprint partners to build capacity.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

Betsy Barclay
Community Relations Specialist

Jorge Elvir
Community Relations Manager

Attachment A: List of Prior Council Actions

Prior City Council:

- At the January 27, 2015, City Council Study Session, staff presented the Community Coalition Long-term Sustainability Model ([SS 2015-004](#)). Council directed staff to work with members of the Coalition Executive Committee to transition coordination of the Coalition to the Champaign County Mental Health Board.
- On November 25, 2015, City Council received an Information Only memorandum, “Police Department Implements New Approach to Address Violence”.
- In Council goal setting for 2015-2017, Council identified “Our City Promotes Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods” as Goal 3 [Council Bill 2016-004](#).
- At the April 12, 2016, City Council Study Session, staff presented the CU Fresh Start Gun Violence Deterrence Initiative ([SS 2016-017](#)). Council directed staff to continue working with the Community Coalition and CU Fresh Start Multi-Disciplinary Team to develop and implement the proposed model and approach of the CU Fresh Start initiative to address gun violence in Champaign County.
- By adopting [Council Bill 2016-214](#), Council approved the City of Champaign entering into an Interagency Grant Agreement with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, for an amount of \$127,028 with local matching contribution of \$67,000 from the Champaign County Mental Health Board to cover the costs of a case manager assigned to the Prairie Center (now Rosecrance).
- On May 16, 2017, City Council adopted [Council Bill 2017-105](#), approving a change order to a contract for professional services with Institution Builders Inc. increasing the not-to-exceed amount from \$17,000 to \$35,000. This contract formed part of the City’s obligations under the grant agreement to ensure that planning activities included research and analysis of crime data.
- On October 3, 2017, Council adopted [Council Bill 2017-191](#) and [Council Bill 2017-192](#) and authorized the continuation of a Program Coordinator position for the CU Fresh Start Initiative, subject to the continued receipt of grant funding to cover the cost of this position.
- At the October 17, 2017, City Council Study Session ([SS 2017-042](#)), staff presented the CU Fresh Start Gun Violence Deterrence Initiative Phase 1 Evaluation Report and Council directed staff to continue working with the steering committee to implement the initiative.
- On November 17, 2017 the Council approved [Council Bill 2017-217](#) and [Council Bill 2017-218](#) to receive \$159,303 in grant funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program as well as amend the fiscal year 2017 / 2018 annual budget revenues and expenditures by \$107,547 in the General Fund.
- On January 5, 2018, the Council adopted [Council Bill 2018-001](#), adopting 2017-2019 City Council Vision and Goals, including the goal “Our City Ensures Public Safety” again featuring an action item to initiate and support programs to reduce gun violence.
- On April 17, 2018 Council adopted [Council Bill 2018-046](#) to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for professional services between the City of Champaign and Institution Builders Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of \$22,740 to cover costs of research and data analysis for CU Fresh Start.
- At the November 20, 2018, City Council Study Session ([SS 2018-046](#)), staff presented a summary of Year 2 activities to Council and Council directed staff to continue working with the steering committee to implement the initiative.

- In March of 2019, staff presented for City Council approval of a grant agreement in the amount of \$182,936 to be awarded through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The grant of \$182,936 is a combination of funds rolled over from year two equaling \$103,284 and a new grant award of \$79,652.
- On September 3, 2019, the Council approved [Council Bill 2019-147](#), [Council Bill 2019-148](#), [Council Bill 2019-149](#) authorizing a two percent increase in City Food and Beverage Tax and amending the Budget and Salary and Staffing Ordinance to create a recurring Community Relations Specialist position to serve as project manager for CU Fresh Start.
- On September 27, 2019, the Council approved [Council Bill 2019-169](#) authorizing an agreement for professional services between the City of Champaign and First Followers, Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of \$53,800 to cover the cost of providing mentoring, job retention coaching, behavior change counseling and a life skills based curriculum to Champaign County residents who are participating in the CU Fresh Start Initiative.
- On December 13, 2019, the Council approved [Council Bill 2019-212](#) adopting 2019-2021 Council goals, including “Our City Keeps Our Community Safe” featuring a key action about gun violence deterrence.
- On February 21, 2020, staff provided Council with [SS 2020-006](#) CU Fresh Start Gun Violence Initiative Year 3 Update and Future Implementation.
- On January 22, 2021, staff provided Council with [SS 2021-003](#) 2019-2021 City Council Goals Progress Report.
- On December 7, 2021, the Council approved [Council Bill 2021-162](#) adopting the City Council Vision and Goals for the 2021-2023 Council Term.
- On December 14, 2021, staff provided Council with a [SS-2021-037](#) Proposed Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint.
- On December 21, 2021 at the Regular Council meeting, Council approved [Council Bill 2021-178](#) the contract for a two (2) year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the lease and installation of thirty-six (36) Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs).
- On January 18, 2022, the Council approved [Council Bill 2022-001](#) to establish a new City Department entitled the Equity and Engagement Department. This department is led by a director, serving as the Chief Equity Officer for the City, reporting directly to the City Manager. Within the Equity and Engagement Department the Community Safety and Justice division was established to lead and coordinate Blueprint implementation.
- On February 15, 2022 at the Regular Council Meeting, Council approved Council Bill [2022-019](#) A Resolution Adopting a Council Policy Regarding Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint and Codifying Such Policy.
- On February 25, 2022, Council adopted [Council Bill 2022-024](#) authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$78,800.00 for an 18-month period beginning on March 1, 2022 with SU Institute Health and Education, Evaluation, Assessment and Research LLC of Savoy, Illinois for evaluation design and consulting services in connection with the Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint.
- On February 25, 2022, Council approved [Council Bill 2022-025](#) authorizing subrecipient agreements for FY 2022/23 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Violence Reduction Blueprint programs with the following agencies: Carle Foundation Hospital (\$200,000), Champaign Unit 4 Schools (\$526,620), Crime Stoppers (\$100,000), DREAM Academy (\$216,000), East Central Illinois Youth For Christ (\$106,000), First Followers (\$686,841), Housing Authority of Champaign County YouthBuild Program (\$150,000),

STEAM Genius (\$117,900), Trauma and Resilience Initiative (\$452,704) and Youth and Family Peer Support Alliance (\$135,900).

- On October 18, 2022, Council approved [Council Bill 2022-164](#) authorizing a subrecipient agreement in the amount of \$218,103 for a 12 month period beginning on October 8, 2022 with Stephen's Family YMCA for afterschool/weekend youth development programming in connection with the CGVRB.
- On December 20, 2022, Council approved [Council Bill 2022-202](#) authorizing a subrecipient agreement in the amount of \$45,373 for a 12-month period with Vision to Succeed, LLC for positive youth development programming in connection with the CGVRB.
- On February 21, 2023, Council approved [Council Bill 2023-019](#) the intergovernmental agreement with the State of Illinois, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority was approved for the Blueprint.
- On January 24, 2025, staff provided Council with a [SS-2025-003](#) Community Gun Violence Reduction Blueprint Update.
- On March 14, 2025, Council approved [Council Bill 2025-028](#) authorizing a subrecipient agreement in the amount of \$75,000 for a 12-month period with SU Institute of Health and Education, Evaluation, Assessment and Research LLC.