

Shannon Community Safety Initiative 2025 Statewide Research Partner Year-End Report

Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania



Photo: Methuen Police Department

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Background

The Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) provides funding to communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reduce gang and youth violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reintegration programs. Since 2026, the Massachusetts Legislature has appropriated funds to support the Shannon CSI. This longstanding investment in evidence-based strategies has made Massachusetts a national leader in violence prevention.

The Shannon CSI is modeled on the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model, a multi-sector approach that addresses community gang violence through five strategy areas:¹

- **Community Mobilization** – Engaging local citizens, including former gang members and community groups, and agencies, and coordinating programs and staff functions within and across agencies.
- **Opportunities Provision** – Developing a variety of education, training, employment, and reentry programs tailored to gang-involved youth and young adults.
- **Social Intervention** – Connecting gang-involved youth and their families to services through youth-serving agencies, schools, street outreach workers, grassroots and faith-based organizations, and criminal justice partners.
- **Suppression** – Implementing formal and informal social control procedures and accountability measures, including law enforcement supervision and monitoring by criminal justice agencies working in collaboration with community-based service providers, schools, and grassroots organizations.
- **Organizational Change and Development** – Establishing policies and procedures that optimize the use of resources to address gang violence effectively.

The Shannon CSI is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research (OGR), a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). In addition to funding local partners to employ Shannon CSI's core strategies, the grant program also funds a research component comprised of Local Action Research Partners (LARPs) and the Statewide Research Partner (SRP). In 2025, Northeastern University—in partnership with the Crime and Justice Policy Lab (CJP) of the University of Pennsylvania—served as the SRP for the Shannon CSI.

The SRP assists OGR and Shannon grantees by providing strategic thinking, critical analysis, and feedback to improve or maintain program operations, ensuring that the goals of funded programs are within scope, on schedule, and within budget. The SRP also produces biannual reports and a comprehensive annual report for OGR, offering highlights of Shannon-funded activities and analyses of Shannon CSI funding allocation. These reports draw on programmatic data collected from Shannon grantees as well as information on youth risk and protective factors collected through the Shannon Individual Risk Assessment (IRA). This 2025 year-end report provides a detailed summary of Shannon activities at the local level.

1. See OJJDP's website for more information about the Comprehensive Gang Model: <https://nationalgangcenter.ojp.gov/comprehensive-gang-model/about>

Year-End Reporting Response Rate

Over the course of 2025, Shannon CSI partners, sites, and LARPs implemented activities documented in this year-end report. The report reflects the full January – December funding period, with information below summarizing the status of partner, site, and LARP reporting as of February 13, 2026.

100%

PARTNER REPORTS

All 146 Shannon CSI-funded partner organizations submitted year-end reports.



UTEC

100%

SITE REPORTS

All 15 managers of the Shannon CSI sites submitted year-end reports.



Pa' Lante

100%

LARP REPORTS

All 15 Shannon CSI LARPs submitted year-end reports.



Freedom House

Overview of Partner Activities

In 2025, the **Shannon CSI awarded \$11,179,673.17 to 15 sites** that provide services across 26 Massachusetts communities impacted by gang activity. In total, Shannon dollars supported **146 partner organizations** and approximately **137 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions** to address youth gang violence within these communities (see Annex for Executive Summaries of each of the 2025 Shannon-funded partner organizations).

Table 1. Number of 2025 Partner Organizations by Site

	Shannon CSI site	# of funded partner organizations
1	Boston	28
2	Brockton	10
3	Fall River	12
4	Fitchburg/Gardner	6
5	Haverhill/Methuen	10
6	Holyoke/Chicopee	8
7	Lawrence	8
8	Lowell	8
9	Lynn	6
10	Metro Mayors Coalition*	19
11	New Bedford	3
12	Pittsfield	2
13	Springfield	15
14	Taunton	3
15	Worcester	8
	Total # of funded partner organizations	146

*Metro Mayors Coalition includes the following communities: Braintree, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop

Aligned with OJJDP’s Comprehensive Gang Model, Shannon CSI grantees delivered services in 2025 across five core categories. These services were tailored to the individual needs of at-risk, proven-risk, and high-risk youth in Shannon-funded communities.

- **Positive Youth Development (PYD) and Recreation** – PYD and recreational programming offer youth prosocial outlets to explore and strengthen their interests, skills, and abilities. These programs serve as safe havens outside of school hours, providing recreational, enrichment, educational, and prevention activities, including athletics, physical fitness, and school achievement initiatives.

Overview of Partner Activities

- **Case Management, Street Outreach, or Intervention** – Case management, street outreach, or intervention programs connect gang-involved and proven-risk youth, as well as their families, to needed social services. Social intervention efforts include drop-in recreation, positive youth development activities, and other strategies designed to reach young people and link them with supportive adults and constructive activities.
- **Education and Employment** – Education and employment programming provides youth at risk for violence and gang involvement with educational support, job training, and work opportunities aimed at improving long-term outcomes.
- **Suppression** – Suppression strategies focus on the close supervision and monitoring of gang-involved youth and other high-impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. For the purposes of this grant, tracked activities include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, re-entry efforts, and the use of special prosecutors.
- **Community Mobilization** – Community mobilization efforts educate residents about local gang and youth violence trends, while engaging community members in strategies to address and prevent violence.



Boys & Girls Club Holyoke

In late 2025, W began working with STRIVE while incarcerated at the Suffolk House of Corrections. W had a history of substance use disorders and claimed to lack the specialized skills needed to secure and maintain employment. After working closely with STRIVE's reentry facilitator and participating with their cohort, W was ultimately released and shortly after secured an entry-level position at a painting company. At the time of writing, W has not only maintained their position, but thrived in it. They continue to learn more specialized skills in their industry thanks to the foundational training they received from STRIVE.

~ JRI-MLMC/Strive (Shannon CSI Boston site)

Overview of Partner Activities

Table 2 presents annual outcomes achieved in 2025 compared to 2024. Across many service areas, increases in program activity were observed, including a notable 75% increase in the number of youth participating in recreation programs and a 78% increase in youth participation in education programs.



UTEC

Table 2. 2025 Outcome Reporting

Strategy and Outcome	2024	2025	% change
Positive youth development & recreation			
# participated in youth development programs	11,069	14,374	30%
# participated in recreation programs	11,452	20,064	75%
Case management, street outreach, or intervention			
# received case management services	3,588	3,786	6%
# received street outreach services	1,124	1,796	60%
Education & employment			
# participated in education programs	5,766	10,239	78%
# participated in employment programs	2,826	3,245	15%
Suppression			
# hot spot patrols completed	4,027	2,736	-32%
# law enforcement supported home visits	483	433	-10%
Community mobilization			
# community members attended events, meetings & presentations	50,954	46,134	-9%
# community events, meetings & presentations held	1,493	1,656	11%

Shannon Funding Allocation

In 2025, total funding across all sites increased by \$296,321.56, representing a 3% increase from the previous year. Funding changes by site ranged from no increase in Fall River, Haverhill, Lawrence, Springfield, and Worcester to a 22% increase in Taunton. As shown in Table 1, Boston received the highest funding allocation (\$1,735,107.39), and Taunton received the lowest (\$161,352.96).

Table 3. 2025 Shannon funding and partners by site

Site	2025 Funding Amount	Difference in Funding from 2024	% of all 2025 Shannon CSI Funding
Boston	\$1,735,107.39	\$29,632.27	2%
Brockton	\$775,475.14	\$29,632.26	4%
Fall River	\$653,973.25	\$0	0%
Fitchburg/Gardner	\$479,882.76	\$29,632.26	7%
Haverhill/Methuen	\$310,466.65	-\$1.05	0%
Holyoke/Chicopee	\$606,446.54	\$29,632.26	5%
Lawrence	\$299,866.91	\$0	0%
Lowell	\$790,957.53	\$29,632.26	4%
Lynn	\$446,354.29	\$29,632.26	7%
Metro Mayors Coalition	\$815,703.17	\$29,632.26	4%
New Bedford	\$1,168,615.71	\$29,632.26	3%
Pittsfield	\$439,015.06	\$29,632.26	7%
Springfield	\$1,247,411.92	\$0	0%
Taunton	\$161,352.96	\$29,632.26	22%
Worcester	\$1,249,043.89	\$0	0%
Total	\$11,179,673.17	\$296,321.56	3%

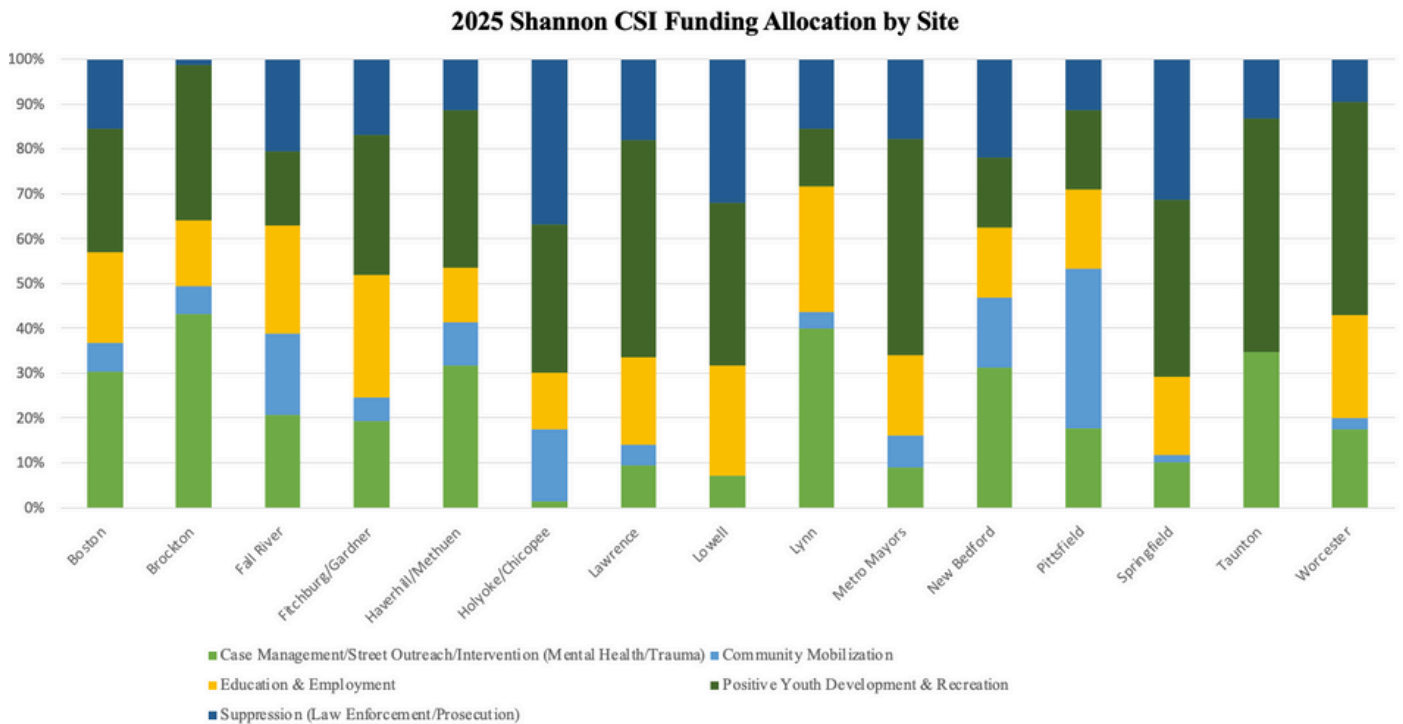
Shannon funding in 2025 was allocated across the grant program's five programmatic categories as follows. Site costs classified as "administrative/other" totaled \$793,395.57, approximately 7% of Shannon funding.

- Case Management & Street Outreach or Intervention Programs: \$2,179,071.51 (19%)
- Community Mobilization: \$860,073.57 (8%)
- Education & Employment: \$2,005,135.20 (18%)
- Positive Youth Development and Recreation Programming: \$3,347,481.80 (30%)
- Suppression: \$1,994,515.57 (18%)

Shannon Funding Allocation

As shown in Figure 1, the distribution of funding across programmatic categories in 2025 varied to best suit the needs of each Shannon site. Some sites allocated a greater proportion of funding to case management and street outreach or intervention (e.g., Brockton), while others focused their funding on providing positive youth development and recreation services (e.g., Taunton).

Figure 1. Funding allocation by site in 2025



One Shannon youth who was formerly gang-involved was having a difficult time doing anything in the community because of gang rivalries. He has since obtained a job outside of Lynn and is working on his GED. He has also made progress in the way of getting his ID and working towards his license. He is no longer gang involved. The program helped him with getting his job and his ID and currently the program is helping him to get housing outside of Lynn, those are all things to be highlighted.

~ Catholic Charities North Lynn (Shannon CSI Lynn site)

Youth Target Population and Trends

In 2025, Shannon CSI partners served over 24,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 24. Shannon CSI populations remain fairly consistent from year to year. Participants tend to be predominantly male and come from communities of color. In 2025, youth aged 10-14 were most strongly represented. From 2024 to 2025, there were slight changes in the distribution of risk factors among Shannon youth, with an 8% decrease in youth who were assessed as low risk and a 12% increase in youth assessed as moderate risk compared to youth risk levels in 2024.

24,000+
YOUTH SERVED

Table 4 presents demographic information for youth participants in 2025, compared to youth participants in 2024.

Table 4. Shannon CSI Participant Demographics

Demographics	2025	2024
Age		
10-14	42%	27%
15-18	37%	29%
19-24	9%	8%
Unknown	12%	36%
Sex		
Male	55%	40%
Female	34%	26%
Other/Unknown	11%	34%
Race/Ethnicity		
Hispanic	36%	26%
Black	21%	16%
White	15%	11%
Two or more	6%	5%
Asian	4%	3%
American Indian/Alaskan	<1%	<1%
Other/Unknown	17%	39%
Risk		
High	15%	19%
Moderate	44%	32%
Low	41%	49%

Partner and Site Successes

The SRP team used grounded theory methods to analyze Shannon partner and site reports for patterns regarding successes and challenges experienced by grantees during the 12-month reporting period of January – December 2025. Our team identified three common themes related to partner successes: continued expansion of Shannon programming, increased collaboration among Shannon grantees, and improved youth engagement and participation.

Continued Expansion of Shannon Programming

Shannon programming continued to expand in 2025, with eighty-nine or 60% of grantees reporting expanding their impact with new programs, operating in new sites, or reaching new participant demographics. The Worcester Youth Center expanded to a “record number” of job sites, opening opportunities for Shannon youth across the city. Worcester-based Shannon youth were met with praise from their employers, who noted their “exceptional preparation, professionalism, and readiness.” The Center for Teen Empowerment in Boston also launched programming in Mattapan for the first time and held a kickoff event attended by nearly one hundred teens. Representatives from Governor Healey’s office and Mayor Wu herself also attended events at the Center, where youth eagerly explained their work.



Boys and Girls Club Worcester

Increased Collaboration Among Partners

To facilitate this expansion, Shannon grantees have increasingly relied on their networks of fellow grantees and trusted community partners. Sixty-nine, or 47% of partners, have reported new or reinvigorated collaborations with other grantees to support their programming. Three Shannon partners were invited to sit as judges on the Fall River Youth Court, where all nineteen participants completed programming this year. The Fitchburg Police Department supported the Spanish American Center by donating several impounded bicycles, which the youth repaired and repurposed themselves for use in a new biking program. The partnership between the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club and the Chicopee Police Department also continues to prosper, with more than 150 youth graduating from the Youth Cadet Academy. These collaborations also helped Shannon grantees solve persistent logistical issues, like transportation. When Winthrop CASA lost access to its full-sized community gym, Winthrop PD stepped in to help secure a smaller gym space at a local church, ensuring that Open Rec youth basketball could continue uninterrupted.

Partner and Site Successes

Youth Engagement and Participation

Shannon programs are also experiencing increased participation and higher quality engagement from youth participants, with seventy, or 48% of partners reporting advances in this area. The Department of Public Works/Parks and Recreation in Lynn reports that participation in its Youth Drop-in Center continues to rise across all age groups, so much so that they've increased operating hours to meet demand. Shannon grantees are also developing new approaches to help build participation among specific demographics. South End Community Center in Springfield intentionally sought to improve participation among female youth, noting that they are "often underrepresented in violence prevention and leadership-focused programming." As a result of this intentional focus on providing activities to encourage female engagement, retention, engagement, and participation among young women greatly improved. Similarly, Kidz Konnect in Brockton hired a male staff member to a director-level role, providing young men with a male positive role model and opportunities for mentorship. Ultimately, male participation nearly doubled from 2024.

Additional Successes

While not thematically significant, it is important to note that youth are increasingly reliant on Shannon as a safe space, full of trusted adults who can provide support around sensitive issues. At the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club, 81% of youth reported that the program was full of "caring adults" who supported them. While 80% reported that the program was a "physically and emotionally" safe space for them. The City of Gardner Police Department noted that "youth who have positive mentoring relationships with the police are quicker to request help for themselves or others," and several of their youth have approached them for help with supportive services. As the socioeconomic climate becomes more turbulent, ensuring that Shannon continues to provide youth with access to trusted adults with the skills to help them navigate these challenges is critical.



Boys & Girls Club Chicopee & Chicopee Police Department

A 15-year-old participant is navigating the academic, social, and athletic demands that come with being a new freshman. She works daily to balance her coursework, manage evolving peer relationships, and uphold the expectations placed on her as a student-athlete. Her hard work paid off this fall when she earned a spot on the varsity basketball team. Even with these responsibilities, she demonstrated exceptional dedication to community service over the summer. She volunteered consistently, helping facilitate our youth basketball classes and quickly becoming a reliable and influential member of the Role Models Inspiring Service and Empowerment (RISE) initiative developed and led by our new Teen Director. Her leadership, positive attitude, and ability to connect with younger participants have made her a standout role model.

~ Malden/Mystic Valley YMCA (Shannon CSI MAPC site)

Partner and Site Challenges

Our thematic analysis of the 2025 year-end reports also revealed three common areas of opportunity among Shannon grantees: staffing, participation, and broader socioeconomic challenges.

Staffing

Fifty-eight, or 40% of Shannon grantees reporting challenges hiring or maintaining staff. This trend has increased substantially from the thirty-six organizations that reported staffing challenges last year. Large-scale budget reductions at multiple levels have exacerbated the issue, as hiring decisions are closely tied to funding availability. Roca Inc. lost a previously awarded \$6 million after federal funds were rescinded, resulting in a layoff of over fifty employees. CAI/MakeIT Haverhill was unable to secure several anticipated grants needed to “sustain and expand core programs and staff capacity,” which limited its operations.

In addition, hiring remains a challenge among Shannon grantees because their diverse programs require staff with unique backgrounds. Merrimack Valley YMCA notes that, while increased engagement is welcome, “staff capacity was stretched as demand for safe spaces and mentoring grew.” While this remains a challenge, Shannon grantees have implemented a range of solutions, like promoting internal hires and recruiting program alumni into new roles.

Broader Socioeconomic Challenges

A tight labor market reflects just one part of the broader socioeconomic pressures that grantees reported this cycle. Thirty-seven, or 25% of grantees, reported difficulties navigating an array of social and economic conditions beyond their control. Reductions in nutrition programs and other social safety net resources created real strain in the Shannon community and often required grantees to provide resources beyond their usual scope.

The Cambridge Community Arts Center noted that the lapse in supplemental nutrition funding “created a greater need for fundamental human services,” during which they worked to ensure all participants had food and basic needs supplied. ACT Lawrence also noted that youth faced struggles like “housing instability, family financial stress, school attendance challenges, and disruptions to public benefits.” Some of these challenges are persistent, but the fact that grantees have identified them at a thematically significant level indicates an acute need requiring increased support.

Many participants entered the program carrying heightened emotional and social-emotional needs, requiring additional time, specialized support, and trauma-informed approaches beyond traditional youth programming.

~ Urban Guild



Metro Mayors Coalition 2025 Youth Conference

Partner and Site Challenges

Participation

Fifty-three, or 36% of Shannon grantees, also indicated challenges with maintaining consistent youth attendance. Responses indicate that the increasing presence of immigration enforcement officers has both eroded community trust in law enforcement and hampered participation among youth. Winthrop Community Against Substance Abuse (CASA) reports that “heightened fear and uncertainty” related to immigration “created additional barriers to participation” for participants with uncertain statuses. The Chelsea Police Department also notes that the misconception that local police collaborate with federal immigration enforcement has “created real fear” in their community.

With regular programming and Officer involvement with after-school programs, we have noticed more trust between the police and the youth we interact with.

~ Gardner Police Department

Apprentice Learning was required to contract with a private transportation agency to ensure participants arrived safely to their program sites due to widespread anxieties around immigration enforcement on Boston public transit. Not only does this climate of uncertainty impact participation, but Shannon staff at Hyde Square Task Force also noted an increasing sense of “frustration and low motivation” among participants that youth attribute to current events.



Teen Empowerment

Shannon Research Partner Activities

In 2025, the Shannon CSI awarded a total of **\$1,049,438.40 in research funding**, supporting 15 Local Action Research Partners paired with individual Shannon program sites, as well as a Statewide Research Partner. This investment in research alongside direct programming to youth strengthens the overall effectiveness of the grant program by ensuring that funded activities are data-driven and evidence-based. Through ongoing data analysis, technical assistance, and evaluation, research partners help sites assess the risk and needs of communities and participants, refine the grant program's strategies, and use data to inform continuous improvement, ultimately enhancing outcomes for youth and communities.

Local Action Research Partner Activity Summary

The following section provides highlights of LARP activities during the second half of 2025. Notably, strengthening Shannon's referral process through community resource mapping and ongoing monitoring of referrals was a recurring focus noted by research partners at the Brockton, Holyoke/Chicopee, New Bedford, and Springfield sites. Additionally, Worcester joined the Boston and MAPC sites in implementing a competitive grant process, with Fall River set to adopt this process in 2027.

- **Boston University (BU)** engaged in gang audits for all local law enforcement partner communities of the MAPC site (Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, and Winthrop). The LARP supported the site's competitive grant application process and supported site funding decisions through analysis of community crime and risk data.
- **Bridgewater State University** administered a survey to all Brockton grantees to better understand the types of data each partner collects on program participants. The LARP followed up with one-on-one meetings to discuss findings and address challenges, with difficulties securing successful referrals emerging as a common theme. In response, the LARP plans to expand its work with each partner to strengthen outreach to community partners, including local school districts.
- **CERT Inc.** conducted cost analyses for each funded partner organization in the Holyoke/Chicopee site, including estimates of cost per youth. These analyses helped inform strategic funding decisions and resource allocation. In addition, the LARP provided Shannon IRA training and shared materials to support grantees in meeting biannual reporting requirements. The LARP met with grantees to discuss strategies to better target high-risk youth and allocate resources effectively. CERT Inc. supported the Holyoke Police Department in tracking community-based work and making crime data accessible via mobile devices. During the grant proposal process, the LARP also worked closely with partners and the site manager to develop an appropriate Shannon grant proposal addressing the needs of youth. The LARP assisted partners with data management, provided regular updates on youth risks and outcomes, and attended all steering committee meetings to offer guidance, feedback, and respond to questions.

Shannon Research Partner Activities

- **Clark University** supported the Worcester site's Governance Council for Children, Youth, and Families by expanding membership to include additional representatives and coalitions identified in the LARP's most recent community risk assessment. The LARP also provided data and insights on gender-specific programming and opportunities for out-of-school youth. In collaboration with site leadership and community partners, the LARP revised a report on Shannon indicators and assisted with the launch of a new Request for Proposals process for Shannon grantees. Additionally, the LARP helped reinstate quarterly steering committee meetings to offer funded partners best practices, technical assistance, and up-to-date youth violence trend data.
- **Crime and Justice Institute (CJI)** worked with Fall River grantees to support information-sharing, reduce barriers for grantees, and foster learning. CJI helped shift from full steering committee meetings to smaller, quarterly groups focused on roles such as resource coordination, justice systems, and community-based services. They also led a system-mapping exercise to visualize partner collaborations and identify opportunities to strengthen connections. CJI advised on a new Letter of Intent process for 2026 funding to promote transparency and alignment, with a Request for Proposal step planned for 2027 to expand and diversify partnerships. Additionally, CJI provided grantees with an overview of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model and evidence-based practices to ensure a shared understanding among members.
- **Kelley Research Associates** supported the Taunton site in five core areas: program coordination and fiscal oversight; planning for expanded service delivery across two housing authority sites; youth feedback and program improvement; strategic planning for future Shannon funding; and analytic capacity building. The team provided ongoing coordination and oversight through bi-weekly meetings, supported data collection and reporting to assess youth participation and outcomes, and administered a youth survey to inform program adjustments. In addition, the LARP's input provided during Steering Committee meetings guided planning for the 2026 Shannon grant and updates to the site's Strategic Action Plan. The LARP continued its work with the Taunton Police Department by providing ongoing crime mapping support, with training efforts scheduled to continue into 2026.
- **Sean Varano**, who serves as the LARP for the New Bedford site, supported the creation of a steering committee subcommittee to foster community dialogue around youth violence, gangs, and violence prevention. Subcommittee members noted limited awareness among community members of local violence prevention initiatives (including Shannon) and growing concerns about residents' willingness to seek support amid strained community relationships with police. In December 2025, a pilot community forum was held at a local church. The forum highlighted local prevention efforts, including Shannon, the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI), and the HEAL Project, and gathered community input to better understand local experiences with youth and gang violence. Feedback from this event is being used to inform plans for expanding similar forums citywide. Throughout the period, the LARP continued to provide support to the Shannon program staff, including regular communication with program leadership, monitoring and managing data collection systems, reviewing referral patterns, supporting staff training, and assisting with case management database use.

Shannon Research Partner Activities

- **North Shore Community College (NSCC)** placed interns at the Lynn site's partner agencies and provided ongoing analytic support by analyzing crime data and producing quarterly reports that were shared with and used by partners. The LARP also attended all Lynn Shannon steering committee meetings and followed up with grantees on the use of the Shannon IRA tool. In addition to supporting individual grantees, the LARP provided guidance to the City of Lynn's Community Violence Prevention Project.
- **Northeastern University/Crime and Justice Policy Lab (CJP)** continued its problem analysis work as the LARP to the Boston Shannon site. Specifically, the LARP conducted research to inform recommendations to the Boston Police Department (BPD) on addressing evolving gang violence in the city, replicating and adjusting existing best practices, and developing new strategies to strengthen gang violence reduction efforts. Additionally, the LARP partnered with BPD to understand the 35% decrease in homicides between 2023 (37) and 2024 (24), as well as the 29% increase in 2025 (31). The team conducted interviews with detectives to better understand the nature of these homicides. The analysis also included nonfatal shooting incidents, 911 shots-fired calls, ShotSpotter data, and other information on violent crime. Beyond its research for the BPD, the LARP continues to provide technical assistance to Boston site grantees to support compliance with Shannon reporting requirements.
- **Salem State University** supported the Springfield Shannon site with the development of a new referral form. In addition, the LARP assisted the SRP in providing data for the Shannon IRA validation study, finalized all data collection and informed consent materials for a city-wide gang assessment study, and contacted other LARPs, including research partners in Fall River and New Bedford, to exchange prevention strategies for similar youth risk profiles.
- **University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School** continued to play a key role in organizing the Fitchburg/Gardner site's Young Adult Community Advisory Board (YAAB). During the reporting period, the LARP collaborated closely with YAAB to share revised Shannon IRA materials and provide feedback to the SRP.
- **University of Massachusetts Lowell** serves as the LARP for the Shannon Haverhill/Methuen, Lawrence, and Lowell sites. During the reporting period, the LARP gathered gang intervention data to provide recommendations on best practices to Shannon partner organizations. The LARP also engaged with grantees through steering committee meetings and is currently updating community risk assessments for all three sites.
- **Westfield State University** partnered with one of the Pittsfield grantees, 18 Degrees, to strengthen data collection practices aligned with the organization's logic model and theory of change. In addition, the LARP updated the site's community risk assessment in collaboration with the Pittsfield Police Department, analyzing recent gun violence and group/gang involvement data and incorporating qualitative insights from community focus groups conducted between July and September. Findings from the updated assessment will inform future grant cycles and help ensure that programming remains responsive to current community violence trends.

Shannon Research Partner Activities

Statewide Research Partner Activity Summary

In 2025, Northeastern University/University of Pennsylvania's Crime and Justice Policy Lab served as the Shannon SRP, providing strategic, analytic, and research support to OGR, Shannon sites, and LARPs. During the reporting period, the SRP continued to support grant compliance by meeting with new and returning grantees to review reporting requirements and address challenges in grant management. In addition, the team focused on two key areas: updating Shannon IRA guidance and training materials based on findings from the SRP's validation study of the assessment tool, and sharing information and aggregate data on program activities and impact with state representatives.

Individual Risk Assessment

In 2025, the SRP team completed an extensive study to validate the Shannon IRA. Designed to help grantees allocate limited resources strategically by identifying youth at risk of engaging in violence and gangs, the IRA assists sites in matching youth with appropriate programming and referrals. Originally adapted from existing validated risk assessments, the assessment tool was launched in 2018.

Based on feedback from LARPs and grantees, the Northeastern University/University of Pennsylvania Crime and Justice Policy Lab SRP team collaborated with Dr. Joe Camilleri of Westfield State University to test the predictive validity of the IRA—essentially examining whether it accurately predicts risk of gang involvement and violence. Findings indicated that IRA scores successfully predicted both violence and joining or remaining in a gang over a follow-up period of at least five months, confirming the instrument's validity.

During the reporting period, the SRP updated the survey instrument, refining questions and response options for clarity, and revising training materials to ensure proper use across Shannon sites. These updated materials are scheduled to be shared with OGR, site managers, and LARPs in early 2026.

Overall, IRA use declined slightly in 2025: the number of youth assessed dropped from 961 in 2024 to 924, and site participation decreased modestly from 11 of 15 sites to 10. Use of the tool is expected to increase following the release of the updated training materials and guidance.

Presenting on Shannon to Policymakers

In September 2025, the SRP was invited by EOPSS to co-present with OGR's Executive Director, Kevin Stanton, to the Massachusetts Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding. The presentation highlighted how Shannon has become a national model for community-based violence prevention due to two decades of sustained state investment. Content emphasized key

Shannon Research Partner Activities

features of the grant program, including a strong focus on service delivery and research, and the fostering of cross-sector, multidisciplinary partnerships across Massachusetts.

Drawing from SRP-produced annual site briefs, the team shared aggregate data from Shannon-funded police departments on active gangs/groups and confirmed members, providing legislators with a clear picture of the context in Shannon-funded communities. The presentation also provided information on how Shannon funding is allocated across the 15 funded sites and included testimonials demonstrating the program's impact. For example, an officer from Worcester shared that youth previously encountered on the streets by the gang unit are now participating in the site's basketball program, illustrating how Shannon reaches its target youth population, builds trust, and offers positive alternatives to gang involvement and violence. Overall, the session highlighted how, over the past twenty years, Shannon's prevention and intervention efforts have created meaningful change by providing youth and families with new opportunities and a different perspective on law enforcement.

One participant, C, a young Haitian immigrant, faced significant challenges related to family instability, economic hardship, and the stress of immigration enforcement concerns impacting his household. These pressures made it difficult for him to remain focused on school and maintain emotional stability during a particularly challenging period in 2025. Through the Shannon-supported program, we provided C with consistent career coaching, job training support, and referrals for counseling and mental health resources. We also assisted him in accessing employment pathways and practical resources that helped stabilize his situation while his family navigated immigration-related stress. As a result, C successfully completed job training and earned his OSHA certification in carpentry. He secured consistent employment, remained engaged in his community, and avoided involvement in illegal activity during a high-risk period. His progress reflects how targeted support, mentorship, and access to resources can positively redirect a young person's trajectory during times of crisis

~ Extreme Kid, Inc. (Shannon CSI Worcester site)

Annex: Shannon 2025 Grantee Executive Summaries

Boston		
Site Manager		DeMon Bills, Boston Police Department
LARP		Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania's Crime and Justice Policy Lab
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
1	Apprentice Learning	Founded in 2012, AL provides real-world work experiences for middle -grade youth. Directly partnering with schools and employers, AL leverages career exploration to teach skills, ignite purpose, and nurture dreams. Over the 12 years, AL has served more than 1,500 students in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) through developmentally appropriate programs that strengthen engagement in school, help bridge the often-difficult transition to high school, and provide successful first job experiences that positively impact long-term career prospects.
2	Boston Centers for Youth and Families	BCYF's mission is to strengthen Boston youth and families in their pursuit of success through meaningful relationships, essential programs, and vital community resources.
3	Boston Housing Authority	As the largest housing authority in New England, the Boston Housing Authority fosters sustainable communities by providing quality affordable housing, bringing stability, opportunity, and peace of mind to thousands of low and moderate-income families and individuals across Boston, and to the city as a whole. The youth programs division seeks to make BHA housing a launchpad for economic mobility, opportunity, and well-being for all youth and promote stability in adulthood.
4	Boston Medical Center VIAP	Founded in 2006, the mission of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP) is to provide trauma response and wrap-around case management services to individuals treated at Boston Medical Center (BMC) for injuries from community firearm and knife violence. VIAP promotes physical and emotional recovery by empowering survivors with skills, services, and opportunities, enabling survivors to make positive changes in their lives and contribute to building a safer and healthier community. VIAP successfully engages youth, including those with mental illness, substance use disorder, gang affiliation, and high-risk behavior, in case management and mentorship.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager	DeMon Bills, BPD	
LARP	Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab	
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
5	Boston Police Department	BPD’s Bureau of Investigative Services (BIS) oversees citywide investigative divisions, including the Major Case, Criminal Investigation (Homicide, Fugitive, District Detectives), and Family Justice units; the Bureau of Community Engagement (BCE) implements the Commissioner’s community policing vision by fostering partnerships with Boston Public Schools and marginalized populations. BCE manages specialized programming for youth and seniors, coordinating with Community Service Officers across 11 districts to build public trust; the Bureau of Field Services has primary responsibility for the implementation of Community Policing and the delivery of effective and efficient police services to the community, as well as primary responsibility for the delivery of general, tactical police services and joint Bureau operations, unless otherwise directed by the Police Commissioner.
6	Boston Public Health Commission	The Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Initiative at the Boston Public Health Commission works to reduce community violence by addressing its root causes and strengthening protective factors in neighborhoods most impacted by harm. VIP serves youth, young adults, families, and community members in high-need areas across Boston, with a focus on populations disproportionately affected by violence, trauma, and systemic inequities. Through trauma-informed, community-led programming, VIP supports violence prevention, healing, and resilience by investing in trusted local partners, credible messengers, and place-based strategies. Programming includes youth engagement, community outreach, capacity-building, healing and grief support, and cross-sector coordination to promote long-term safety and well-being.
7	Center for Teen Empowerment	Teen Empowerment employs youth ages 14-21 to work as community organizers. Youth work in groups in Mattapan, Roxbury, and Dorchester to identify the root causes of community violence and address those issues by involving a large number of their peers and community adults in youth-led events and initiatives.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager		DeMon Bills, BPD
LARP		Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
8	Fathers Uplift Inc.	Fathers' UpLift empowers fathers by offering therapy, reentry support, advocacy, and workforce development. We encourage collaboration with mothers and engage the community to help fathers overcome barriers (e.g., racism, emotional, traumatic, and addiction) that prevent them from being actively involved in their children's lives. Our goal is to ensure the well-being of children and foster long-term family stability.
9	Freedom House	Our mission is to transform the economic and cultural fabric of high-needs communities through education and leadership development. We inspire black, brown, and immigrant students to graduate and give back to their communities.
10	Future Chefs	Future Chefs prepares Boston’s youth of color for success in work and life beyond high school through hands-on learning, mentorship, and skill-building that lays the foundation for lifelong economic stability. Using project-based culinary education, the program helps teens develop confidence, creativity, and practical skills through the artistic and therapeutic medium of cooking. Leadership, culinary competence, and transferable essential skills are central to our work, equipping young people to thrive in any career, even in the face of systemic barriers. In a supportive and safe environment, teens build meaningful relationships and networks that strengthen their well-being, expand opportunity, and support long-term economic mobility, empowering them to pursue the future they envision.
11	Hyde Square Task Force	Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF)’s mission is to nurture and amplify the voices, creativity, and power of youth by grounding them in Afro-Latin culture so they can advance justice in their communities. Our Jóvenes en Acción/Youth in Action (JEA) program is a neighborhood-based, yearlong, multidisciplinary interventive program that provides a safe, supportive environment for youth in grades 8-12 to engage in academic enrichment/mentoring, college/career preparation, civic engagement, Afro-Latin arts training, and socio-emotional mental health support. JEA improves educational outcomes and expands job opportunities for our youth while also providing a structured, supervised alternative to unsafe situations. We intentionally schedule programming outside of school hours, when youth are most at risk for engaging in unsafe/unhealthy behaviors, and due to the level of need in our community, JEA comes at no cost to our youth or their families.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager	DeMon Bills, BPD	
LARP	Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab	
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
12	JRI-MLMC/Strive	Founded in 2002, My Life My Choice works to prevent, disrupt, and ultimately end the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) through survivor-led programs that educate and empower youth to find their voice and chart a positive life path. We serve young people ages 12-25 of all identities and backgrounds, the majority of whom live at the intersection of multiple forms of identity-based oppression and face extreme marginalization. We have had proven success reaching this population through our unique continuum of survivor-led services, including Survivor Mentoring, intensive case management, job readiness and leadership development, mental health services, prevention education, consultation, training, and policy and advocacy. Our goal is to change not only lives, but the structural inequities that give rise to CSEC.
13	Louis D. Brown Peace Institute	The mission of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI) is to serve as a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief, and loss. In 1993, when 15-year-old Louis D. Brown was caught in a fatal crossfire shootout and killed on his way to a Teens Against Gang Violence meeting near his home, there were no resources in Boston for survivors of homicide victims. The next year, guided by her own experience as a survivor, Louis’ mother Clementina Chéry co-founded LDBPI) to honor his legacy and continue his peacemaking work, with the mission of supporting survivors of homicide victims, teaching young people the value of peace, and interrupting persistent cycles of violence in our communities.
14	Madison Park Development Corporation	Madison Park Development Corporation (MPDC) works to foster a vibrant and healthy Roxbury community by advancing resident well-being and opportunity. MPDC is a community-based nonprofit that develops and manages affordable housing while also operating a community center and arts and culture venue. The organization provides comprehensive programs that address socioeconomic disparities, including workforce training and leadership development. Through the Soheil Turner Youth Leadership Institute, MPDC serves more than 150 youth and young adults ages 14–24 each year.
15	Maverick Landing Community Services	Founded in 2007, the mission of Maverick Landing Community Services is to support the East Boston community and the Maverick Landing housing development in particular with ongoing support in the form of case management, youth programming, and workforce development.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager		DeMon Bills, BPD
LARP		Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
16	Mothers for Justice and Equality	Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE) aims to end neighborhood violence by empowering mothers and families to challenge its normalization through education and engagement. MJE works with high-risk, system-involved youth ages 16–24 in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park—areas with the city’s highest violence rates. Programming focuses on gang prevention, intervention, and diversion, alongside academic enrichment and social-emotional support.
17	Project Right, Inc.	Project R.I.G.H.T. (Rebuild and Improve Grove Hall Together) is a community-based organization dedicated to strengthening resident and youth leadership to promote neighborhood stabilization and community safety in the Greater Grove Hall area of Roxbury and North Dorchester. The organization primarily serves neighborhood residents and youth, with a focus on engaging individuals in historically under-resourced and violence-impacted communities. Through grassroots organizing, Project RIGHT provides leadership development, advocacy support, violence and substance abuse prevention initiatives, and technical assistance to resident-led organizations, block associations, and community partners. Its programming emphasizes community-driven solutions and long-term strategies to address complex social challenges and improve public safety and economic stability.
18	Roca Inc.	Roca Inc.’s mission is to relentlessly disrupt violence by engaging young people, police, and systems to address trauma, find hope, and drive change. Based in Chelsea, Roc works in 21 communities across Massachusetts and has developed an effective youth violence prevention program for serving high-risk young people in the City of Boston. Launched in 2016, Roca’s program initially targeted youth who were involved in a spate of brutal gang-related violence from 2014-18. In the years since, Roca’s program has grown to serve 25-40 young people annually affiliated with the cities, high schools, and police departments of East Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Revere, and Lynn.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager	DeMon Bills, BPD	
LARP	Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab	
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
19	Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center	Volley Against Violence (VAV) is a long-standing partnership between Sportsmen’s and the Boston Police Department that brings youth from across Boston together for free, weekly Friday night tennis. Since launching in 2009 with just eight participants, the program has grown to regularly serve more than 50 youth each week. Through tennis and positive relationships with coaches and police officers, participants build teamwork, respect, goal - setting, and conflict-resolution skills. Guided by a life-skills curriculum, VAV supports youth’s emotional, cognitive, and physical development, helping them navigate challenges both on and off the court.
20	St. Stephen's Youth Program	Since 2000, SSYP has provided out-of-school time programming in the South End and Lower Roxbury to elementary and middle school youth, teen employment and training, and workforce development for parents. Our B-READY school year program employs 20 teens, Monday to Friday from 2 pm to 6 pm as counselors to 80 youth in our elementary and middle school programs. The summer program, B-SAFE, enrolls 120 youth in its comprehensive five-week summer program and employs 60 teens as counselors.
21	Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office	Through the Juvenile Alternative Resolution (JAR) Program, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office diverts eligible youth ages 12–17 into individualized, community-based services that address the root causes of system involvement. JAR programming includes trauma-informed case management, access to behavioral health and academic support, family engagement, and mentorship
22	Urban Guild	The Guild is a community-centered organization rooted in the beauty, strength, and talent of culturally diverse urban communities of color. The organization serves youth ages 11–18 by creating safe, healing spaces that foster belonging, wellness, and positive development. Through cross-sector partnerships, including collaboration with public institutions and community leaders, we provide mentorship, wellness support, creative expression, physical fitness, and restorative justice–informed programming. Our work strengthens youth engagement, reduces exposure to harmful activities, and builds pathways toward long-term individual and community well-being.

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager	DeMon Bills, BPD	
LARP	Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab	
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
23	Veronica Robles Cultural Center	<p>Founded in 2013 and located in East Boston, MA, Veronica Robles Cultural Center (VROCC) is a multipurpose, multidisciplinary, nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to promote Latin American arts and cultures as an engine for stronger communities and economic growth. A BIPOC, immigrant, and woman-led organization, VROCC engages 50,000+ people annually through high-quality, culturally affirming, bilingual, and community-based folkloric arts and culture programming: folkloric music/dance/arts education, youth employment, and culturally affirming social/emotional learning for 400 at-risk, predominantly Latinx immigrant children & youth; the production and presentation of 100 annual arts & culture events; and arts incubation, providing space, resources, small business training, and professional development.</p>
24	YOU Boston	<p>YOU Boston is a youth development and violence prevention organization serving justice-involved, court-involved, and systems-involved youth in Boston, including young people with histories of school truancy and educational disengagement. YOU Boston focuses on creating access to skill development and growth opportunities for youth ages 14–24 through a trauma-informed, strength-based approach. The organization provides wraparound supports that integrate academic engagement, workforce readiness, social-emotional skill development, and credible mentorship. YOU Boston emphasizes consistent, positive adult relationships and coordinated partnerships with courts, schools, and community-based agencies to reduce recidivism, improve educational and employment outcomes, and strengthen youth connections to family and community. By addressing the root causes of system involvement, YOU Boston helps young people build stability, accountability, and pathways toward long-term success.</p>
25	Young Man with a Plan	<p>Launched in 2015, Young Man with a Plan (YMWAP) delivers holistic mentoring sustained over 6+ years that helps 375+ young at-risk Black and Latino men aged 13-24 in Boston find a safe place to belong, make academic and social emotional gains, and access sustainable futures.</p>

Boston (Continued)

Site Manager		DeMon Bills, BPD
LARP		Northeastern University / University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab
Funded Partner Organizations (28)		
26	Youth Guidance Becoming a Man	Founded in 2017 in partnership with the City of Boston and Boston Public Schools, Youth Guidance Boston delivers school-based programs that help students overcome obstacles, stay engaged in their education, and succeed in school and life. Its flagship program, Becoming A Man (BAM), provides group counseling for young men in grades 6–12, focusing on social-cognitive skill development, responsible decision-making, and positive community engagement. BAM integrates clinical theory, rites-of-passage practices, and youth-centered engagement strategies. Youth Guidance serves approximately 1,000 youth annually across Greater Boston, while also supporting families, schools, and communities.
27	YouthBuild Boston	YouthBuild Boston (YBB) has been changing the lives of Boston’s young people since 1990 by providing them with the support and credentials needed to successfully enter the construction and design industry. Promoting the core values of youth development and community service, YBB provides opportunities in academic and vocational education, on-the-job training, and the development of life skills that readily strengthen and prepare students for the workforce.
28	YouthConnect	Founded in 1996, YouthConnect partners with young people and families to create safer, stronger communities through free, trauma-responsive mental health and advocacy services. Working alongside the Boston Police Department, our licensed clinical social workers offer immediate support, essential resources, and lasting connections that help families build stable, hopeful futures. YouthConnect accomplishes its mission by embedding social workers in police stations to provide resource coordination, wraparound case management, and therapy services to youth between the ages of 10-24 years who have been referred by police officers.

Brockton

Site Manager	Michael Skinner, Brockton Police Department	
LARP	Robert Grantham and Jennifer Hartsfield, Bridgewater State University	
Funded Partner Organizations (10)		
1	Boys and Girls Club of Metro South	Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South was formed in 2019 through the merger of the Boys & Girls Club of Brockton (founded in 1990) and the Boys & Girls Club of Taunton (founded in 1902), with a mission "to nurture strong minds, healthy bodies, and community spirit through youth-driven, high-impact programs in safe and fun environments." Through a combination of after-school, weekend, and summer camp programs, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro South serves more than 2,000 children ages 5 to 18 from 49 different communities at our Brockton and Taunton Clubhouses, Camp Riverside, and at several community-based extension sites throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.
2	Brockton Police Department	The objective of the Brockton Shannon Program (BSP) is to expand direct services to maximize outreach to Shannon-eligible youth. The BSP employs a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach aimed at preventing firearms violence and youth gang involvement, achieved through strategic partnerships with a variety of community organizations. These initiatives collectively reduce the capacity of gangs to recruit vulnerable youth.
3	Health Imperatives	Founded in 1977, Health Imperatives works to improve the health and well-being of low-income and vulnerable individuals and families across Southeastern Massachusetts. The organization provides inclusive, trauma-informed healthcare and human services across four core areas: medical and clinical care, emergency services, maternal and child health, and housing and economic security. Health Imperatives is committed to serving marginalized populations, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ individuals, people who are unhoused or underinsured, survivors of violence, individuals with disabilities, those with substance use disorders, and people who are or have been incarcerated. Through its Shannon Grant-related programming, Health Imperatives delivers curriculum-based and one-time presentations that support youth development, healthy relationships, and consent education.

Brockton (Continued)

Site Manager	Michael Skinner, Brockton Police Department	
LARP	Robert Grantham and Jennifer Hartsfield, Bridgewater State University	
Funded Partner Organizations (10)		
4	Hoops Collaborative Youth Development	The Hoops Collaborative has consistently worked to support the holistic development of student athletes. Recognizing the profound impact sports can have on youth, the organization has designed clinics and camps across Massachusetts to promote wellness, inclusion, and personal growth, grounded in research showing that sports participation enhances social awareness, self-sufficiency, and self-esteem while reducing feelings of loneliness, depression, and isolation. From the beginning, The Hoops Collaborative has emphasized the importance of creating a safe and positive environment where athletes can thrive using structured programming that empowers athletes to develop confidence, mental toughness, and teamwork.
5	Kidz Konnect (Old Colony YMCA)	Founded in 1887, Old Colony Y is one of the oldest and largest YMCA associations in the United States and among the top 15 YMCAs nationally. Committed to strengthening spirit, mind, and body, the organization responds to community needs by promoting positive values such as caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Serving communities across Southeastern Massachusetts through seven branches and multiple social service sites, Old Colony Y reaches more than 140,000 individuals annually, the majority of whom are youth. With an operating budget exceeding \$90 million and a workforce of over 1,800 staff, the organization delivers programs that support healthy development, wellness, and community well-being.
6	Love to Learn Inc.	Love to Learn (L2L) Youth Program is a comprehensive youth development program focused on fostering positive behaviors, preventing truancy, and reducing school and community-based discipline issues for 10-18 years old Brockton youth. Our holistic approach to youth development helps foster positive relationships, prevent negative behaviors, and create a nurturing environment for youth within our community. We aim to create a stronger, more resilient community by providing our youth with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices and foster open conversations between positive adults and youth.

Brockton (Continued)

Site Manager	Michael Skinner, Brockton Police Department	
LARP	Robert Grantham and Jennifer Hartsfield, Bridgewater State University	
Funded Partner Organizations (10)		
7	Safe Corners (Old Colony YMCA)	Safe Corners is a community-based Violence Prevention and Intervention program in the City of Brockton in collaborative partnership with the Old Colony YMCA, City of Brockton and Brockton Police Department. Safe Corners Street Outreach is present on the streets and deployed directly into the community to prevent, intervene and deter youth ages 13-24 who are involved in gangs or at risk of gang/street involvement by providing mentoring, specialized case management and various resources for wrap around supports. In the fiscal year 2024, we served 146,105 children, adults, and seniors through various programs, with 1,211,503 visits to our facilities.
8	South Opportunity and Achievement Program	South Opportunity and Achievement Program began in 2023 with the goal of enhancing literacy and bringing field trips, mentorships and other positive activities to South Middle School with a goal of enhancing education and creating a positive environment for student opportunity.
9	Strategies for Youth (Juvenile Justice Jeopardy)	Strategies for Youth (SFY) was founded in 2010 with the mission to ensure the best possible outcomes for youth interacting with law enforcement. SFY pursues this mission through training law enforcement on developmentally appropriate and trauma informed approaches to youth and educating youth about rights and obligations in police interactions. Through SFY's signature educational program, Juvenile Justice Jeopardy, critical information about how to keep law enforcement and peer interactions safe, peaceful, and lawful is gamified to promote accurate and accessible legal information while facilitating important dialogues with local credible messengers.
10	Youth Empowerment and Positivity (YEP)	The YEP (Youth Empowerment & Positivity) We Can Program is a multicultural youth program that serves the Greater Brockton Community, powered by the Cape Verdean Association of Brockton, Inc (CVA). The program celebrates diversity and prioritizes compassion and understanding when it comes to the needs of our community, whether it be linguistically, financially, socially, or ultimately as a support.

Fall River

Site Manager		Crystal Stone, City of Fall River
LARP		Crime and Justice Institute
Funded Partner Organizations (12)		
1	Bristol County Training Consortium/ MassHire Bristol Career Centers	The MassHire Youth Connection Shannon Program fulfills its mission by empowering youth through education and employment opportunities. The program supports and guides each participant toward long-term success in their educational and career paths. This includes providing subsidized and unsubsidized employment opportunities. Assisting them with the necessary skills that are required to be successful in the workforce.
2	Fall River Boys and Girls Club	The Club's mission is to enable young people to reach their full potential as responsible, caring and productive citizens by providing school age members with programs and services supporting our key outcome areas: Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Character & Citizenship. Program offerings include Science Club, Lego Robotics, 3D Printing, UPS Road Code, Red Cross Babysitting, Healthy Habits, Swim Lessons, Swim Team, Basketball Skills, Torch Club and Keystone Club. The Food and Nutrition Program provides dinner during the school year.
3	Fall River Police Department	Since joining the Shannon Community Safety Initiative in 2006, the Fall River Police Department has worked collaboratively to reduce youth and gang violence and improve public safety outcomes for Shannon-eligible youth ages 10–24 in high-risk neighborhoods throughout the City of Fall River. Through a balanced approach that integrates focused enforcement, prevention, and community engagement, the Department addresses violent crime trends while supporting early intervention and diversion opportunities for at-risk youth. FRPD programming includes targeted suppression efforts, school-based engagement through School Resource Officers, participation in multidisciplinary case coordination, and sustained collaboration with community partners to connect youth and families to services that promote long-term stability and positive development.

Fall River (Continued)

Site Manager	Crystal Stone, City of Fall River	
LARP	Crime and Justice Institute	
Funded Partner Organizations (12)		
4	Fall River Public Schools	Fall River Public Schools is an urban school district located in southeastern Massachusetts, serving approximately 11,920 students across grades PreK–12. Our diverse student population includes many multilingual learners and economically disadvantaged youth, many of whom face significant risk factors, including exposure to community violence, poverty, and family instability. The district’s mission centers on preparing all students for college, career, and community success through rigorous instruction, strong social-emotional support, and meaningful community partnerships.
5	Fall River YMCA	The Fall River YMCA serves as a safe haven for at-risk youth. Standing by both the Fall River YMCA mission and that of gang and youth violence prevention, the YMCA promotes both youth development and social responsibility. The organization operates as a drop-in program focused on recreational and age-appropriate activities with adult role models for guidance.
6	Fall River Youth Court	South Coast Youth Courts is a peer-led juvenile diversion program that allows youth between the ages of 12 and 18 to take responsibility for their first-time offense charges and receive consequences without impacting their future goals. We also provide educational programming for youth aged 10-12, starting to exhibit negative behavioral choices and work to steer them in a more positive direction.
7	Family Service Association	Family Service Association has provided Therapeutic Mentoring as part of the Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) service array for over 16 years, supporting youth with mental health needs. The program offers structured, one-to-one, strength-based support between a therapeutic mentor and a youth, designed to address daily living, social, and communication needs. Services include coaching, support, and skill-building in age-appropriate behaviors, interpersonal communication, problem-solving, and conflict resolution. Mentors help youth learn to relate appropriately to peers and adults in recreational and social settings and build confidence and develop sustainable skills for success in school, work, and social settings.

Fall River (Continued)

Site Manager		Crystal Stone, City of Fall River
LARP		Crime and Justice Institute
Funded Partner Organizations (12)		
8	Greater Fall River RE-CREATION	Greater Fall River Re-Creation is a nonprofit, youth-centered organization committed to promoting positive development through recreation, prevention, and intervention initiatives.
9	Massachusetts Parole Board	MPB coordinates with the Fall River Police Department (FRPD) to facilitate visits to parolees' homes to coordinate services and confirm compliance with parole conditions. FRPD assists with the execution of warrants for parole violators. Referrals are made when necessary to providers in the Fall River area.
10	Solidground Psychotherapy	Solidground Psychotherapy is a community-based mental health practice dedicated to supporting adolescents and adults who are impacted by trauma, chronic stress, and risk factors associated with violence and gang involvement. The organization provides trauma-informed, evidence-based services including individual therapy, group therapy, clinical consultations, and ongoing multidisciplinary clinical meetings. Through coordinated behavioral health programming, Solidground Psychotherapy works to strengthen emotional regulation, coping skills, and long-term stability to reduce risk and promote positive outcomes.
11	United Neighbors of Fall River	United Neighbors of Fall River Community Connections Coalition is committed to promoting a strong, healthy and safe community which will assist families in the promotion of peace and tranquility, optimum growth and development of our children, and secure and stable family environments.
12	YouthBuild Fall River	Youthbuild Fall River is a full-time, comprehensive youth development program that seeks to empower opportunity youth by providing a unique mixture of education, job skills, life skills, case management, and leadership development. Over the course of 6-10 months, Participants learn on real job sites while engaging in leadership development opportunities and working toward their HiSet.

Fitchburg/Gardner

Site Manager		Wil Renderos, City of Fitchburg
LARP		Dara Drawbridge, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
Funded Partner Organizations (6)		
1	City of Fitchburg Police Department	The Tri-City Anti-Gang Partnership provides at-risk youth in Fitchburg, Gardner, and Leominster with opportunities for success and alternatives to gang violence and involvement. Through collaboration between nonprofits, law enforcement, and schools, the partnership addresses the underlying causes of gang involvement and drug use. Law enforcement involved in the partnership utilize a community policing approach.
2	City of Gardner Police Department	The mission of the Gardner Police Department is to provide our community with a fair, honest, and professional police force. We strive to build and maintain strong partnerships within the community. The Shannon grant helps fund programs within the Gardner Schools for youth ages 6-18. Programs such as D.A.R.E. education, youth mentoring, and truancy follow-ups all help keep our Gardner youth safe by education and fostering positive relationships between our officers and the community's youth.
3	Making Opportunity Count	Making Opportunity Count's (MOC) mission is to empower families to achieve economic security by eliminating barriers and creating opportunities. Our youth after-school and out-of-school programming presents youth ages 6-24 with opportunities to engage in positive youth development programming. The program is designed to meet the unique needs of youth, promote personal growth, teamwork, leadership, and discover passions and skills for their future.
4	Mount Wachusett Community College	The RISE Program serves at-risk young people from Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner identified by school personnel and partner sites as needing additional life skills support and one-on-one mentoring to access college, reenroll in high school, or pass the HiSET exam.
5	Shining Light Ministries, Inc.	Founded in 2010, Shining Light Ministries purpose is to minister to human need and bring hope to at-risk children, youth, adults, and families in the Twin City area, by providing opportunities and resources, allowing for lives to be repaired and restored while providing a safe haven and basic necessities to those in need. The SNAP youth center and AMP athletic mentoring program meet this need by giving youth in this neighborhood and community a safe place to hang out, and through mentoring at both the youth center and through athletic mentoring in the Elm Street Neighborhood, the YMCA, and Goodrich Alternative High School.
6	Spanish American Center	Revived after COVID, the CrossRoads Program engages middle and high school students by growing and nurturing a mindset for learning and exploration, future focused, conscious and intentional programming to prevent participation in gangs, drugs and other illegal activities.

Haverhill/Methuen

Site Manager		Megan Shea, City of Haverhill
LARP		Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Funded Partner Organizations (10)		
1	Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill	Founded in 1900, the mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. We offer more than 30 year-round programs for youth ages 6 to 18 focused in five core areas: Education & Career Development, Character & Leadership Development, Health & Life Skills, Arts, and Sports, Fitness & Recreation. Our Club provides a safe space, high-quality youth programs, and time spent with caring adult mentors.
2	CAI/MakeIT Haverhill	Make It Haverhill (MIH) is a workforce development program of Community Action, Inc. dedicated to advancing economic mobility for adults in Haverhill and the Merrimack Valley who face barriers such as unemployment, underemployment, language access challenges, and digital exclusion. MIH serves adults age 18 and older, including seniors, new and existing immigrants, English language learners, low-income families, unemployed or underemployed individuals, and communities of color. During the 2025 program year, MIH delivered community job fairs, English classes, digital literacy training, and a job readiness programs focused on career exploration, resume development, mock interviews, and financial literacy. Through a trusted, hyper-local service hub model, MIH combines skill-building with supportive services to help residents access employment opportunities and long-term economic stability.
3	Haverhill Police Department	The Haverhill Police Department brings the GREAT program to Haverhill schools. We also join other partners in order to interact with the children at after-school programs and incorporate the GREAT program philosophy at these locations.
4	Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc.	Founded in 1992, the mission of the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children and families in need, empowering them to overcome challenges and build a brighter future. The program hires neighborhood youth, offers an after-school homework center with mentors and academic councilors, and provides activity options including sports, crafts, yoga, karate, and field trips at no cost to participants.
5	Methuen Police Department	The mission of the Methuen Police Department is to protect life and property while fostering trust, safety, and collaboration within our community. We serve all residents, businesses, and visitors. Through the Shannon grant, the Department supports targeted hotspot patrols, gang intelligence, and lawful surveillance designed to prevent crime, disrupt harmful activity, and improve quality of life. These proactive, data-driven strategies allow us to work in partnership with the community to create safer neighborhoods and promote long-term public safety.

Haverhill/Methuen (Continued)

Site Manager		Megan Shea, City of Haverhill
LARP		Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Funded Partner Organizations (10)		
6	North Shore YMCA Haverhill	Founded in 1858, the mission of the Haverhill YMCA is to support the needs of the community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The PASS Program is a therapeutic support program for students who have out of school suspension. The program provides counseling (both group and individual), tutoring, physical education, lunch, and a re-entry plan.
7	Somebody Cares New England	Founded in 2003, Somebody Cares New England (SCNE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening communities and supporting individuals and families facing economic and social challenges. SCNE serves children, youth, adults, and seniors, particularly those at risk of food insecurity, social isolation, or high-risk behaviors. Through its youth center and community outreach programs, the organization provides safe spaces, mentorship, and access to basic needs and positive developmental experiences. SCNE's prevention-focused programming fosters resilience, reduces risk factors related to substance use, violence, and justice system involvement, and promotes stability within the community.
8	UTEC	UTEC's mission and promise is to ignite and nurture the ambition of young adults to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. We are dedicated to helping young people ages 17-25 in the communities of Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill overcome the very real challenges of interrupted education, gang involvement, and mass incarceration.
9	Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School	Whittier Tech is a Vocational Technical High School located in Haverhill. The school serves the 11 cities and towns of Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury. The type of programming provided is awareness, education, and support for our community. We follow the iDECIDE (Drug Education Curriculum: Intervention, Diversion, and Empowerment) program for science-based drug education which provides Tier 2 intervention and aims to be an alternative to punitive measures.
10	YWCA of Northeastern Mass	Founded in 1892, the YWCA of Northeastern Massachusetts provides comprehensive support services and resources to the Merrimack Valley, adapting to meet evolving community needs. A central focus of its programming is reducing risk factors for at-risk youth, particularly those impacted by poverty, abuse, and violence. Serving youth from middle school through young adulthood (ages 12-24), the YWCA offers workshops on healthy relationships, self-esteem, and other intervention-focused topics. By addressing socioeconomic, mental, and emotional needs, the organization equips local youth with the knowledge and skills to make healthy decisions and build positive relationships.

Holyoke/Chicopee

Site Manager		Eileen Cavanaugh, Holyoke Boys and Girls Club
LARP		Mike Krezmien, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
1	Chicopee Boys and Girls Club (CBGC)	The Haven Teen Program, part of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, serves teens ages 13-18 from the greater Chicopee area. Many of these young people live within walking distance of the campus, in the low-income housing communities that surround it. We offer safe, fun, structured programming, including but not limited to recreation, STEM, nutrition, gaming, digital media, workforce readiness, and mental wellness. We also partner with the Chicopee Police Department to provide mentoring, both structured and informal, targeted community outreach, and a week-long youth cadet academy.
2	Chicopee Police Department	The Chicopee Police Department is committed to preventing crime, preserving order, and protecting the rights, lives, and property of all people through ethical, professional, and community-centered policing. The department emphasizes collaboration and proactive strategies to address public safety challenges, including gang violence. By fostering strong partnerships with local leaders, organizations, and residents, the department works to enhance collective safety and community trust. These efforts include programs designed to support youth, families, and neighborhood well-being.
3	Hampden County Sheriff's Office	The Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative of the Hampden County Sheriff is a partnership between local, state & federal law enforcement; city & state government; civic & human service organizations; faith based organizations; the business community; education providers; property managers; and residents coming together to create safe, healthy & economically viable neighborhoods through information sharing, identifying at-risk youth, referrals and community efforts in specific Holyoke neighborhoods. We focus on holistic approaches for youth and families in the Holyoke Community. Programming includes enrichment activities through basketball, table tennis, weight training, and mentoring. The Holyoke Hub is also a program that provides wraparound services for individuals, youth, and families.
4	Holyoke Boys and Girls Club (HBGC)	The mission of HBGC is to empower young people, especially those needing support, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens through safe environments, educational programs, health initiatives, and character development.

Holyoke/Chicopee (Continued)

Site Manager	Eileen Cavanaugh, Holyoke Boys and Girls Club	
LARP	Mike Krezmien, University of Massachusetts Amherst	
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
5	Holyoke Police Department	We, the members of the Holyoke Police Department, believe in the dignity and worth of all people. We are committed to serving all people of the community with respect, compassion, and in a fair manner. We are dedicated to providing high-quality community policing, the prevention of crime, and the protection of life, property, and constitutional rights of all persons. With community service as our foundation and community policing as our philosophy, we work together with the community as a whole to improve the quality of life of our citizens. We strive to improve ourselves; to be open and honest; to plan for the future, and to provide our community with qualified and effective personnel through leadership and training. We are proud of the diversity of our workforce that permits us to grow, and respects each of us as individuals.
6	MassHire Holyoke	Our mission is to equip and aid youth in any way possible. Our youth need extensive assistance and guidance to manage the daily pressures in their lives. We provide extensive mentoring to teach and guide these youth on a pathway for success.
7	Pa'lante	Launched in 2015 through a multi-year organizing effort by students, families, and educators, Pa'lante was created to confront and transform racially unjust school discipline policies fueling the school-to-prison pipeline. Through restorative justice, healing-centered youth engagement, and community organizing, Pa'lante is now recognized both regionally and nationally for cultivating youth leaders who prevent violence, resolve conflict, and lead systems-level change. Each year, we work intensively with 35+ Holyoke youth who become Pa'lante Peer Leaders (PLs) and 200+ drop-in youth. Holyoke youth bring a wealth of assets, including the determination to create lasting change. Ages 13-19, our Peer Leaders are 93% BIPOC, 98% low income, 68% female, 62% bilingual, 33% on an IEP +/- or have a self-disclosed disability, and 19% LGBTQ+.
8	The Center for Resilience	Our focus at The Center for Resilience (CFR) is on fostering resilience through trauma treatment and education. In our Youth Leadership Group settings, we support participants in engaging in reparative social interactions that nurture experiences of affirmation, connection and self-efficacy. Our young men's groups focus on creating a space where young men are safe to share and connect around themes of trauma, vulnerability, healing, identity, and creating social change.

Lawrence

Site Manager		Rosa Shepard, Lawrence Police Department
LARP		Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
1	ACT Lawrence	ACT Lawrence is a Latina-led, community-based nonprofit serving residents of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The organization’s mission is to advance social and economic justice by empowering low- to moderate-income individuals and families—particularly immigrants, first-generation residents, and youth—to achieve stability and economic mobility. In 2025, ACT Lawrence provided HUD-certified housing counseling, financial coaching, digital literacy, and youth leadership and workforce development programs. Through culturally responsive and bilingual services, the organization helps families strengthen financial resilience and access long-term opportunities.
2	Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence	Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence offers members a wide range of programs, events, field trips, and activities. Overseen by caring mentors who provide academic support, the goal is to mold well-rounded, socially responsible, and motivated young citizens of the community. Our core program areas are: Character & Leadership, Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Planning for Your Future. The Club is a haven for more than 4,000 boys and girls who participate in positive and constructive activities every year.
3	Change the Play, Inc.	Change The Play is a youth-centered nonprofit dedicated to empowering at-risk youth ages 8–24 through creative, educational, and career-focused programming. We serve young people facing social, academic, and environmental barriers by providing hands-on opportunities in music production, DJing, entrepreneurship, branding, content creation, and workforce readiness. Our programs are designed to build confidence, transferable skills, and positive pathways by meeting youth where they are and engaging them through culturally relevant, real-world learning experiences.
4	Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc.	Founded in 1992, the mission of Lawrence Prospera (LFD) is to strengthen the individuals and families of Lawrence through the development of thriving neighborhoods; our programming includes ESL and Citizenship Services, High Risk Youth Development programming, and SISU Athletics. The ESL and Citizenship programs work with adults, 18+, new to this country, looking to learn English, fully participate in the life of the city, and potentially become US Citizens. Youth programming provides wraparound services, including education, workforce development, social-emotional development, mental health, food service, case management, street outreach, and recreation to high-risk and proven-risk young people ages 14 to 24 who have dropped out of school, are involved with law enforcement, criminal activities, gang involvement, or gang adjacent. SISU Athletics provides free basketball and volleyball for Lawrence youth, ages 6 to 18, who are unable to participate in other organized sports programming.

Lawrence (Continued)

Site Manager	Rosa Shepard, Lawrence Police Department	
LARP	Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell	
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
5	Lawrence Police Department	The Lawrence Police Department serves the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts, with a population of about 89,000. It offers community-oriented programs, including crime prevention, school safety, domestic violence response, and support for at-risk youth. The department also provides educational initiatives, such as the Junior Police Academy, and works with mental health professionals to respond to crises. Through these efforts, LPD strives to build trust, enhance safety, and foster positive relationships within the community.
6	Merrimack Valley YMCA	The Teen Achievers Program at the Lawrence YMCA is a leadership and personal development initiative designed for youth ages 12–18 that aims to empower teens to discover their identities, pursue their passions, and prepare for future success. At its core, Teen Achievers provides a supportive, structured environment where participants build critical life skills including stress and time management, emotional regulation, decision-making, and self-confidence. Supported by the YMCA’s dedicated teen staff, the program encourages teens to embrace leadership opportunities and prepare for the transition to adulthood.
7	Sueños Basketball	Sueños Basketball mission is to contribute to the overall holistic development of the youth in the City of Lawrence and nearby town. The primary goal is to develop the kids’ mindset through basketball by having an educational and sports program that helps them understand the importance of being young people of character and hardworking students. By going on this trip, they can have an educational and sport experience that can open their minds to what is going on in another part of the world and how the impact of this trip can help them to be hardworking and person of character.
8	YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts Inc.	Founded in 1892, the YWCA of Northeastern Massachusetts provides comprehensive support services and resources to the Merrimack Valley, adapting to meet evolving community needs. Its programming focuses on mitigating risk factors for at-risk youth, particularly those affected by poverty, abuse, and violence. Serving youth ages 12–24, the YWCA offers workshops on healthy relationships, self-esteem, and life skills through discussion, hands-on activities, and interactive presentations. By addressing socioeconomic, mental, and emotional needs, the organization equips youth with the knowledge and skills to make healthy decisions and build positive relationships.

Lowell		
Site Manager	Kathleen Keefe, Lowell Police Department	
LARP	Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell	
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
1	Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell	For 150 years, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell has met community needs in accordance with its current mission to inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. The agency engages young people ages 8-18 in afterschool and summer programs that advance youth violence prevention through physically and emotionally safe spaces, mentoring by caring and responsible adults, and opportunities to develop health and wellness, character and leadership, academic success, and life and work readiness. Our 1:1 mentor program for youth assessed at risk of substance misuse, gang affiliation, truancy, or criminal activity provides weekly meetings between mentors and mentees to set goals and develop specific plans to reach those goals.
2	Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association	The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association's (CMAA) mission is to improve the quality of life for Cambodian Americans, as well as other minorities and economically disadvantaged persons in Lowell, MA, through educational, cultural, economic, and social programs. Beginning in the early 1980's, thousands of Cambodians fled their homeland to escape a communist regime and genocide and resettled in Lowell and other cities throughout the US. For many Cambodian refugees, with limited resources, language barriers, and a lack of knowledge about local customs and culture, the resettlement process can be overwhelming. In 1984, CMAA was founded to help alleviate these gaps and provide support to the Cambodian communities in Greater Lowell as well as other areas in the US. Our services range from language translation to assisting with food and shelter resources to organizing community events that bring people together. We believe that by providing the necessary resources and support, individuals can achieve their fullest potential and create fulfilling lives in their new home.
3	Career Center of Lowell	The MassHire Lowell Career Center is a core partner in the Commonwealth's statewide workforce development system, with more than 30 years of experience designing and delivering employment and training programs for young people. The organization provides opportunities for youth and young adults seeking pathways to economic stability and long-term career success. Programming emphasizes paid work experience that integrates structured work readiness and professional skill development with hands-on, on-the-job learning. Through this model, participants gain the skills, confidence, and real-world experience necessary to successfully transition into employment, education, or advanced training.

Lowell (Continued)

Site Manager		Kathleen Keefe, Lowell Police Department
LARP		Christopher Harris, University of Massachusetts Lowell
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
4	Community Teamwork Inc - YouthBuild	YouthBuild of Greater Lowell (YBL) is a comprehensive workforce development program serving young adults ages 16 to 24 in the Greater Lowell area. We provide an opportunity to help youth reconnect with their education, develop vocational skills, and build a pathway to a successful future.
5	Lowell High School	Lowell High School uses the Shannon grant to fund a tutoring program. We have teachers of various subjects available before and after school for drop-in style tutoring. Additionally, teachers, guidance counselors, and assistant principals can refer students to tutoring.
6	Lowell Parks and Recreation	The City's Recreation Division promotes positive and healthy activities through diverse, year-round programming that engages residents of all ages. It manages and permits the use of parks, playgrounds, and other public facilities for youth sports, school activities, special events, and summer programs. Offerings for youth include swimming lessons, sports leagues, martial arts, dance, and summer day programs, while adults can access fitness classes, dance, and swimming lessons. By providing accessible recreational opportunities, the Division supports community health, engagement, and enrichment.
7	Lowell Police Department	The mission of the Lowell Police Department's Shannon program is to reduce youth violence and gang activity through both suppression and positive youth development/recreation. The LPD's Gang Unit conducts saturated patrols in the City's gang hotspots paying particular attention to the downtown area, which includes Lowell High School. The LPD's Youth Services Unit provides year-round recreational programming including a Boxing Gym, Learn to Swim Program, Strongwater Farm horseback riding, video gaming nights, flag football, basketball and other events and activities.
8	YWCA	As part of the YWCA Lowell's mission to eliminate racism and empower women, we provide programming for underserved populations in the community. Our Roaming Resource Van Program distributes non-perishable groceries in targeted neighborhoods and at various public sites throughout the community. Our Community Technology Center offers access to computers and basic technology training, women's Support Groups, and Positive Youth Development Programs that target marginalized, high-risk Youth.

Lynn

Site Manager		Becky LeBlanc, Lynn Police Department
LARP		Rachel Roesler and Anne Koshivas, Northshore Community College
Funded Partner Organizations (6)		
1	Catholic Charities North	The mission of Catholic Charities is to welcome and serve, with compassion and respect, all those in need by providing life's necessities, education, and advocacy to move families toward self-sufficiency. CCN offers educational (HiSet) programming, case management, and social services to provide basic needs.
2	DPW / Parks & Recreation	The Parks and Recreation Department is a division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and provides year-round recreational programs including sports clinics, park programs, recreational activities and entertainment outings that meet the needs of all Lynn residents from youths to seniors.
3	LifeScene	Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn (LifeScene) was founded in 1855 to provide practical support to working families. We offer opportunities for whole families to participate in programming that helps parenting skills, social connections, and self-agency. We have been a member of the Shannon community for 20 years and provide over 100 teens each year with cohort-based approaches to developing & sustaining healthy relationships, the importance of civic engagement and basic life skills, such as opening a bank account or searching for a job.
4	Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development	The mission of LHAND is to assist low and moderate-income families and individuals with safe and affordable housing and services.
5	Lynn Police Department	The mission of LPD is to provide the highest quality police service and to impact crime, and its associated elements through the utilization of new and proven crime prevention strategies and problem-solving partnerships with our community. As the lead agency and site/financial manager for the Shannon grant program, LPD provides the overall suppression efforts and partners with the community organization to reduce violence in Lynn. These efforts include collaborative outreach to at-risk youth by way of their department units, such as Youth Services Unit, Gang Unit, and School Resource Officers.
6	LYSOA	The mission of Lynn Youth Street Outreach Advocacy (LYSOA) is to empower the highest risk youth in our community to reach a positive purpose in life. LYSOA provides advocacy and outreach services to all high-risk youth, young adults, and their families in the community. We organize and conduct outreach activities, encourage youth involvement in community development, and assist participants with job searches/obtaining employment. LYSOA Services youth ages 12-24 years of age.

MAPC

Site Manager		Metropolitan Area Planning Council
LARP		Shea Cronin and Danielle Rousseau, Boston University
Funded Partner Organizations (19)		
1	Braintree Police Department	The Town of Braintree hosts 5 high schools, 4 middle schools, and the largest mall in the area. We are a meeting place for multiple gangs and youth who aren't tethered to a family structure.
2	Cambridge Community Art Center	Founded in 1937, the Community Art Center (CAC) is dedicated to cultivating an engaged community of youth whose artistic voices transform their lives and neighborhoods. Founded by parents to expand access to arts-rich education and creative enrichment for children in low-income communities, CAC emphasizes the power of youth, creativity, and community care. The organization primarily serves individuals and families living in public housing developments in and around the Port neighborhood of Cambridge. Through its programs, CAC empowers young people to develop skills, self-expression, and a sense of agency that fosters positive change locally and beyond.
3	Cambridge Police Department	The Cambridge Police Department is a dedicated and diverse group of professionals who are committed to working with the community to make the City of Cambridge a safe and desirable place to live, work, or visit. The population served is wide ranging, from juveniles, young adults, to vulnerable populations such as immigrants, unhoused, the elderly, and the mentally ill. The wide range of programs for some of our populations includes youth boxing, police youth academy, senior citizen academy, and a wide range of summer youth programming.
4	Cambridge Youth Programs - City Peace	Cambridge Youth Programs (CYP) offers year-round, high-quality programming for Cambridge residents who are pre-teens, middle schoolers, and teens at five Youth Centers across Cambridge. CYP's purpose is to provide Cambridge youth and teens with a just, joyful and caring community where they forge healthy relationships, discover who they are, and develop new skills.
5	CAPIC - Revere PAL	The Revere Police Activities League incorporates a gang prevention/social intervention strategy that provides structured programming for a wide range of youth within the community. These strategies and services have been identified through careful analysis of data provided from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and (crime data) that have identified gaps in services during after school hours (3pm-9pm), weekends and summer months especially for low income and minority youth and families.
6	Center for Teen Empowerment	The Center for Teen Empowerment employs youth ages 14-19 in Somerville, MA to work every day in the summer and after school to organize a strategy to address community violence and other issues that affect youth in their community.

MAPC (Continued)

Site Manager		Metropolitan Area Planning Council
LARP		Shea Cronin and Danielle Rousseau, Boston University
Funded Partner Organizations (19)		
7	Chelsea Police Department	We, the members of the Chelsea Police Department, are committed, take pride, and are dedicated to the needs of our community in the delivery of quality police services in an effective, responsive, and professional manner. We recognize and accept our responsibility to maintain order while affording dignity and respect for each and every individual that we encounter. Our objective is to improve the quality of life through community and inter-agency partnerships to promote a safe and secure community for all.
8	City of Chelsea - Jordan Boys and Girls Club	The Jordan Boys & Girls Club's mission is to help young people, especially those who need us most, build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders. We do this by providing a haven, filled with hope and opportunity, ongoing relationships with caring adults, and life-enhancing programs. Jordan Boys & Girls Club is an out-of-school-time program that supports youth, ages 6-18, through programs in leadership, education, wellness, and readiness for the future.
9	City of Malden	The Malden Police Department and Malden Recreation Dept. work together to run programs, Mac Singleton Basketball Program and the summer youth workforce to provide at-risk youth in Malden a positive way to come together and be mentored in a positive environment by other members of the community. The youth are employed in the summer and work on a daily basis throughout the city services to teach them life skills and communication skills. During the basketball program, the youth are coached by Malden Police Officers and develop positive relationships with the police.
10	Everett Police Department	The mission of the EPD is to build and maintain relationships with youths in our community. We strive for our officers to be a visible and impactful part of our community. To meet these goals, we encourage and deploy officers in our schools, we have a presence at school dismissals, we are in the parks, at community events, and host in-school activities to build relationships with students. Further, we work with area departments and our crime analysts to better share information and stay on top of any youth-related issues that may arise.
11	Malden Police Department	The Malden Police Dept. continues to use the Shannon grant for directed patrols and youth violence incidents in Malden. This is done through identification, intervention, and suppression efforts year-round of all youthful violent offenders. MPD is also using the funding for the Mac Singleton basketball program for at-risk youth ages 8-15, where all coaches are Malden Police Officers. Each summer, the Malden Police Jr Police Academy is held for 2 weeks for over 80 at-risk Malden youth where they are taught life skills and cooperation.

MAPC (Continued)

Site Manager	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	
LARP	Shea Cronin and Danielle Rousseau, Boston University	
Funded Partner Organizations (19)		
12	Malden Mystic Valley YMCA	The Mystic Valley YMCA’s mission is to strengthen communities by offering programs that enrich the spirit, mind, and body. Each year, nearly 45,000 individuals benefit from programs including aquatics, fitness, chronic disease prevention, health equity initiatives, nutrition support, year-round preschool, out-of-school childcare, and teen leadership development. The Teen Center engages youth in activities that foster self-expression, collaboration, and leadership, giving them a voice, encouraging peer support, and building confidence. The Center’s impact extends beyond individual growth: the goal is for youth to leave prepared to pursue their goals independently, contribute positively to their communities, and serve as role models for their peers.
13	Quincy Police Department	The Quincy Police Department's mission has always been to create a proactive partnership with the 100,000+ citizens of Quincy that best serves the needs of the community and to assist our citizens with maintaining a high quality of life. It has always been a high priority for our Officers to engage the youth in our community to combat Youth Violence. Officers receive referrals of at-risk youth by school administrators, School Resource Officers, social service agencies, and others and engage these Youth to participate in our Youth Programs. Our Officers, with Shannon Funds, accomplish its mission of creating meaningful connections with youth by establishing a Youth Police Academy, Cops in the Parks Program, and Ride-A-Longs, which serve hundreds of youths in our community.
14	Quincy Recreation Department	The Quincy Recreation Department is committed to offering youth ages 6-19 with accessible and quality recreation programs. Our programs are built to promote a healthy, active lifestyle while giving safe spaces where the youth can build relationships, character, and create a safe, inclusive community.
15	Revere Police Department	RPD’s mission is community engagement, law enforcement, and positive youth development, and recreation. Our community is racially and ethnically diverse with a significant Latino and Moroccan population. Revere partners with the PAL League, Revere Boxing, and our Behavior Health Unit.

MAPC (Continued)

Site Manager		Metropolitan Area Planning Council
LARP		Shea Cronin and Danielle Rousseau, Boston University
Funded Partner Organizations (19)		
16	Roca, Inc.	The Mystic Valley YMCA’s mission is to strengthen communities by offering programs that enrich the spirit, mind, and body. Each year, nearly 45,000 individuals benefit from programs including aquatics, fitness, chronic disease prevention, health equity initiatives, nutrition support, year-round preschool, out-of-school childcare, and teen leadership development. The Teen Center engages youth in activities that foster self-expression, collaboration, and leadership, giving them a voice, encouraging peer support, and building confidence. The Center’s impact extends beyond individual growth: the goal is for youth to leave prepared to pursue their goals independently, contribute positively to their communities, and serve as role models for their peers.
17	Somerville Police Department	Our objective is to get officers directly involved with at-risk youth outside of their daily patrol function, to reduce the risk of involvement with the police only after a harmful activity, in the hopes that they will accept our help because of an already established rapport. We hope to accomplish this via the youth police academy, community basketball games, officers attending meetings, workshops, dialogue sessions with at-risk youth, their parents/guardians via our partnership with organizations such as ROCA, Teen Empowerment, Recreation Dept, etc. and occasionally hotspot patrols in areas of concentrated gang and firearm violence.
18	Winthrop Community Against Substance Abuse CASA	CASA partners with the community to provide free, inclusive programs that promote resiliency, social-emotional learning, and mental health support for youth and families. Serving primarily middle and high school students in Winthrop, CASA offers daily drop-in programming, leadership development, behavioral health prevention, and opportunities for prosocial engagement. These programs help reduce risk factors related to substance use and youth violence while strengthening protective factors. By creating safe spaces, CASA empowers young people to build skills, connect with peers, and contribute positively to their community.
19	Winthrop Police Department	Winthrop PD adopts a dual-focused approach to gang/youth violence involvement across multiple age groups. Prevention efforts target middle-school-aged youth through initiatives such as our Open Rec program, safe parks initiative, Pizza/BBQ with cops, to prevent early involvement in gangs or other illegal activities. We focus on high school-aged youth with our diversion program. For those ages 19-24, efforts focus on suppression by addressing narcotic trafficking and weapon possession, as well as providing recovery services for users while apprehending distributors.

New Bedford

Site Manager		Renée Ledbetter, NorthStar Learning Center
LARP		Sean Varano
Funded Partner Organizations (3)		
1	Bristol County District Attorney's Office	The Bristol County District Attorney's Office serves over 592,000 residents across 20 cities and towns, prosecuting all crimes in the county, from misdemeanors to felonies, including murder. The office works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement throughout investigations, grand jury proceedings, and trials. Its priorities include preventing elder abuse and domestic violence, supporting at-risk youth, and addressing gun, gang, and drug-related crimes. In addition to prosecution, the office promotes crime prevention through public education and programs that encourage youth engagement in positive activities.
2	New Bedford Police Department	The New Bedford Police Department is committed to protecting public safety, building community trust, and enhancing quality of life through proactive, community-centered policing. Serving a diverse population of approximately 101,000 residents, the Department prioritizes prevention, collaboration, and accountability. A key focus of its programming, as it pertains to the Shannon program, is youth drug and violence mentoring and targeted intervention, designed to reduce risk factors, promote positive decision-making, and strengthen connections between young people, families, and law enforcement. Through these efforts, the Department aims to foster safer neighborhoods and support long-term community well-being.
3	NorthStar Learning Center	NorthStar's mission is to help young people overcome poverty, discrimination, educational disadvantages, violence, and other adversity through learning essential competencies and hopefulness with which they can transform their lives and communities. In advocacy and public policy, we as a minority-led nonprofit organization advance diversity as a strength and resource to open pathways to create a better life.

Pittsfield

Site Manager	Margaret Gregory-Bilotta, City of Pittsfield	
LARP	Joseph Camilleri, Westfield State University/Lisa Barao, University of Pennsylvania’s Crime and Justice Policy Lab	
Funded Partner Organizations (2)		
1	18 Degrees - Pittsfield Community Connection	Established in 1887, our mission at 18 Degrees is to champion access, opportunity, belonging, and well-being for all people on their journey, helping to build thriving communities. 18 Degrees meets community needs through a range of programs and services at 10 locations in the four counties of Western Massachusetts: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire. Our social services agency provides education, parenting skills and peer support, prevention and intervention services, and advocacy across a spectrum of programs in four core areas: 1) Early Education & Care; 2) Foster Care & Adoption; 3) Child & Family Well-Being; and 4) Youth & Community Development.
2	Pittsfield Police Department	The mission of the Pittsfield Police Department is to work in partnership with the community, to protect life and property, and enhance the quality of life in our city.

Springfield

Site Manager		Kyla Raimer, Springfield Police Department
LARP		Joseph Gustafson, Salem State University
Funded Partner Organizations (15)		
1	COGIC Family Services	COGIC Family Services, Inc. serves vulnerable individuals and families in the Greater Springfield, Massachusetts area, transforming lives through innovative, community-based programming. The organization supports children, youth, families, young adults, and older adults, particularly those affected by poverty, violence, and systemic inequities, using a “hand-up, not a handout” approach. Programs include after-school enrichment, youth violence prevention and intervention, academic and life-skills mentoring, family support, and community empowerment initiatives. All programs are evaluated annually to ensure they remain responsive, effective, and aligned with the evolving needs of the communities served.
2	Greater New Life Christian Center	The mission of GNLCC's Teen Opportunity Project (TOP) is to provide teen youth/young adults ages 14-24 with primarily summer employment to reduce violence/other gang-related issues, as well as recidivism of those already involved with law enforcement. The program offers First Aid/CPR certification, soft skills training, financial literacy, entrepreneurial workshops, and college prep to enhance employability skills and educational prospects. The organization offers community festivals and gatherings for all ages to provide exposure to the arts, healthy play, and nutritious food.
3	Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services	Night Spot is a free evening youth program serving approximately 450 youth ages 10–22 through positive youth development and recreational programming. The program provides a safe, consistent space for young people to gather during high-risk hours, offering structured and semi-structured activities including basketball, volleyball, game room tournaments, girls’ empowerment programming, and short-term mental health–focused media projects. Night Spot prioritizes relationship-building, youth engagement, and access to positive alternatives to street involvement. Programming is designed to meet youth where they are while gradually encouraging participation in more structured opportunities.
4	New North Citizen's Council	NNCC’s mission is to provide advocacy, public, and human services to preserve and support families, resulting in the improvement of quality of life, with an emphasis on the multicultural community. The council serves Springfield, Massachusetts, and adjacent communities within Hampden County. Our after-school program located in the north end of Springfield has focused on education, recreation/enrichment, violence prevention, substance use, and creative projects geared towards leadership development. Programming is free and open Monday through Friday at your youth services center located at 4 Birnie Ave.

Springfield (Continued)

Site Manager		Kyla Raimer, Springfield Police Department
LARP		Joseph Gustafson, Salem State University
Funded Partner Organizations (15)		
5	ReGreen	ReGreen Springfield is a community-based nonprofit committed to improving environmental equity, public health, and neighborhood resilience through urban greening, education, and workforce development. The organization serves Springfield residents in high-need neighborhoods, focusing on youth, returning citizens, and adults facing employment barriers. Through hands-on programs such as tree planting, urban forestry, green infrastructure, and environmental education, participants gain skills while contributing to stronger, safer neighborhoods. These initiatives provide structured, pro-social opportunities that support violence prevention, community stabilization, and pathways to employment, aligning with the goals of the Shannon grant.
6	South End Community Center	The Community Youth Corps started in 2011 to support youth and families by providing a safe, structured, and engaging program that promotes positive development and reduces involvement in violence and gang activity. South End Community Center serves children and youth ages 11 to 21, primarily from South End and surrounding neighborhoods. The organization delivers comprehensive out-of-school programming, including academic support, mentoring, leadership development, and enrichment activities. Through consistent engagement and trusted relationships, SECC provides positive alternatives during high-risk hours and fosters long-term success for youth and families.
7	Springfield Boys & Girls Club Family Center	Founded in 1899, Boys & Girls Club Family Center serves young people in Springfield, Massachusetts, through preschool, after-school, and teen programming. Our Shannon-funded programs address youth violence prevention for ages 6-24 through mental health services, positive youth development, and leadership opportunities. We serve predominantly Black and Hispanic/Latino youth facing exposure to community violence and trauma.
8	Springfield Boys & Girls Club	The Springfield Boys & Girls Club is committed to providing safe, structured, and empowering youth development programs that support young people in making positive choices and avoiding pathways to violence. We serve Springfield youth ages 6–18, with an emphasis on those most impacted by community risk factors and in need of stable mentorship, academic support, and pro-social opportunities. Through targeted programming—including leadership development, workforce readiness, academic enrichment, and violence-prevention initiatives—SBGC creates consistent protective factors and equips young people with the skills needed to succeed.

Springfield (Continued)

Site Manager		Kyla Raimer, Springfield Police Department
LARP		Joseph Gustafson, Salem State University
Funded Partner Organizations (15)		
9	Springfield Parks Department	The Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings & Recreation Management (DPBRM) provides safe, structured, and prevention-focused enrichment programming for Springfield youth during critical afterschool and summer hours. Across the 2024–2025 program cycle, DPBRM served 383 youth participants and employed 75 Springfield youth workers, offering both high-quality enrichment opportunities and early workforce development. Programming includes recreation, STEM and nature-based learning, social-emotional skill building, cultural enrichment, and paid youth employment that fosters leadership, financial literacy, and positive identity development. Through this dual-impact model, DPBRM works to reduce risk factors associated with youth violence and disengagement while creating long-term pathways for youth to thrive in school, work, and community life.
10	Springfield Police Department	The Springfield Police Department’s mission is to enhance public safety through targeted enforcement, crime suppression, and proactive policing strategies. The Department serves youth and young adults ages 10–24 city-wide who are at high risk for gang involvement and violent criminal activity. Through focused patrols in high-crime areas, intelligence-led operations, warrant apprehension initiatives, and direct law-enforcement engagement, the Department works to disrupt gang activity and reduce violence. These efforts are designed to deter criminal behavior, improve community safety, and hold offenders accountable.
11	The Dunbar Center Inc.	The Dunbar Community Center is an African American–led, community-based organization funded by United Way, government sources, and private foundations. It provides educational opportunities, leadership development, and recreational, mentoring, and enrichment programs for children, adults, and families. Dunbar serves individuals with mental and developmental disabilities through specialized support including respite care, family support services, and its Special Needs Advocacy Program. Through after-school learning, workshops, and holistic programming, the organization promotes the social, emotional, and physical development of the communities it serves.
12	The Mission Inc	We have committed our life work to address the needs of the most disenfranchised and low-income residents of Springfield. We strive to advance the quality of life in our community by providing culturally sensitive, comprehensive health education and support services, and reducing health disparities, enhancing education, and improving socio-economic status indicators. The services we provide include but are not limited to: mediation and conflict resolution, community outreach and security, mentorship, health education, workforce development, gang prevention and intervention, and individual and family aid. Our overall goal is to make our communities a decent and safe place to live through the acquisition of knowledge, intervention/prevention, and mentorship.

Springfield (Continued)

Site Manager	Kyla Raimer, Springfield Police Department	
LARP	Joseph Gustafson, Salem State University	
Funded Partner Organizations (15)		
13	The Salvation Army	Starting in 1997, The Salvation Army’s Bridging the Gap Youth Diversion Program provides a structured, supportive alternative to court involvement for at-risk youth. Through a combination of life-skills workshops, individualized mentoring, academic support, and community service opportunities, the program helps participants build accountability, improve decision-making, and strengthen personal and family stability. Over a 12-week period, youth receive consistent guidance from trained staff and access resources that address the underlying factors contributing to risky behaviors. Bridging the Gap aims to reduce recidivism, promote positive youth development, and connect young people with constructive pathways for long-term success in their schools, homes, and communities.
14	YMCA of Greater Springfield	The youth development program consists of two components. One component is a sports program, and the other is a free after-school program for middle and high school students. Both are designed to prevent potential engagement with substance abuse, gang affiliation, and crime.
15	YWCA of Western Mass	The YWCA Of Western Massachusetts developed the H.E.R.E. (Healthy, Empowering Relationships and Education) Project in 2023 with the aim of serving youth aged 12-18 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The mission of the H.E.R.E. Project is to disrupt cycles of violence, both at the individual level and in the community, through prevention and education services, peer mentoring, and youth leadership throughout the City of Springfield. To achieve this, the H.E.R.E. Project provides youth-based curricula on topics such as healthy relationship dynamics, bystander intervention, and the warning signs of human trafficking. The H.E.R.E. Project also hosts interactive tables and workshops across Springfield, Massachusetts to provide additional services to youth and their families.

Taunton

Site Manager		Jennifer Bastille, Taunton Police Department
LARP		Pamela Kelley Associates
Funded Partner Organizations (2)		
1	Taunton Housing Authority	Shannon funding supports a Youth Services Coordinator (YSC) at two Taunton Housing Authority (THA) locations, Bristol Commons and Paul Bunker/Riverside Complex. The role of the YSC is to establish connections with youth, parents, and guardians residing in THA for family development. Through these connections, the YSC aims to develop and implement a comprehensive prevention service program plan specifically tailored for at-risk youth between the ages of 10 and 24.
2	Taunton Police Department	Taunton Police Department's Street Crime Unit overtime shifts focus on at risk/high risk/gang involving juveniles in hot spot areas. Detectives use the overtime shift to do surveillance/track drug activity of juvenile gangs specifically focusing on the housing sites where these juveniles live and congregate, areas that are often unsupervised and have been involved in gun-related incidents. Many of these youth have also been involved in our gun activity through the summer.

Worcester

Site Manager		City of Worcester
LARP		Jennifer Safford-Farquharson, Clark University
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass and Metrowest	For more than 60 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest has helped transform the lives of over 30,000 children facing adversity across 87 communities in Central Mass and MetroWest. Founded in 1963, our mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. We match adult mentors (Bigs) with youth (Littles) in meaningful mentoring relationships that provide ongoing, consistent support, guidance, and new experiences. Our Littles’ ages range from 6 to 25: about half from single-parent homes, 10% with a family member in the court system, 77% Black, Brown or non-White, 45% male, 54% female, 1% other, and all live near opportunity deserts and are facing or at risk of poverty.
2	Boys and Girls Club of Worcester	Founded in 1889, the mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester is to inspire and enable all youth, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible adults. The Club succeeds in carrying out its mission through caring, trustworthy professional staff who forge relationships with our youth members and influence their ability to learn, grow, and succeed in life. All Club programs are based on a youth development model that builds self-esteem and offers a sense of belonging, competence, and influence.
3	Extreme Kid, Inc.	City of Hope Massachusetts by Extreme Kid, Inc. is a community-based initiative dedicated to preventing violence and supporting positive outcomes for at-risk youth and young adults across urban communities in Massachusetts. We serve youth ages 8–24 who are impacted by poverty, community violence, housing instability, and limited access to educational and career resources. Our programming focuses on prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation through street outreach, mentorship, leadership development, life skills education, workforce readiness, and resource navigation. By meeting youth where they are and providing trauma-informed, culturally responsive support, we work to reduce risk factors and strengthen pathways toward stability and success.
4	St. Bernard's Church Our Lady of Providence Parish	Our drop-in program serves youth ages 10–24 in Worcester’s highest-risk neighborhoods through athletics, mentorship, academic support, and life-skills development. While we do not conduct formal assessments, we collaborate closely with Shannon partners to identify high-risk youth and connect them to wraparound supports. Our goal is to interrupt cycles of violence by providing consistent guidance and teaching youth healthier coping, communication, and conflict-resolution skills.

Worcester (Continued)

Site Manager		City of Worcester
LARP		Jennifer Safford-Farquharson, Clark University
Funded Partner Organizations (8)		
5	The Torch Foundation	Founded in 2015, the mission of The Torch Foundation is to ignite the potential of every teen to become a confident, compassionate, and capable leader. Through workshops and coaching, The Torch Foundation equips youth with the emotional intelligence, resilience, and leadership skills to thrive in school, relationships, and life.
6	Worcester Community Action Council	Founded in 1965 as part of the War on Poverty, Worcester Community Action Council (WCAC) is one of 1,000 community action agencies across the U.S. and 23 in Massachusetts created to address disparities throughout the nation. Our values of advancing equitable access, elevating all voices, and partnering with people are embedded in the role we play as the federally designated anti-poverty agency for Central and South-Central Massachusetts. WCAC embodies service to the community through our Mission: Helping people move to economic self-sufficiency through programs, partnerships, and advocacy. We embody our mission by providing programs such as fuel/heating assistance, Headstart, Parenting case management, and Job and Education Training.
7	Worcester Police Department	The Worcester Police Department (WPD) operates multiple Shannon-funded programs focused on youth violence prevention, community engagement, intervention, and enforcement. In partnership with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester, Recreation Worcester, local churches, and St. Bernard’s Church, WPD delivers prevention and relationship-building initiatives, including Gang Camp, the Arts and Music Police Partnership (AMPP), PAAL Basketball, and community-based dialogue programs that engage youth through sports, arts, and mentoring. WPD also provides targeted intervention for justice-involved youth through long-standing outreach to incarcerated young people and reentry support. Complementing these efforts, the Tactical Response Area (TRA) initiative allows gang unit officers to focus enforcement, surveillance, and proactive patrols in high-crime areas to address gang and gun activity and enhance community safety.
8	Worcester Youth Center, Inc.	Worcester Youth Center (WYC) serves 300 youth ages 14–24, with a focus on those who are disconnected, system-involved, or facing barriers such as homelessness, justice involvement, and exposure to violence. WYC will serve 45 youth through the Shannon program in work-readiness and high school retention and referral to HiSet.