



City of Gainesville

Office of the City Manager

September 29, 2026

Children's Trust Board of Directors
Ms. Marsha Kiner, Executive Director
4010 NW 25th Place
Gainesville, FL 32606
mkiner@childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us

Re: City of Gainesville – Gun Violence Prevention Program Data

Please see the attached data requested at the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC) board meeting on Thursday September 17th, 2026. In the spirit of partnership and transparency, we believe it is important to provide this information to underscore the City's desire to openly share information and our dedication to data informed community-based gun violence prevention. The information provided in this memo is submitted by City staff into the Children's Trust's SAMIS database. This data is responsive to the performance measures that were developed with CTAC staff as part of the city's agreement.

Following the direction of CTAC Staff, City staff were asked to provide a high-level update on gun violence prevention programming, limit programmatic detail in the interest of time, and keep the presentation to approximately 10 minutes. This context was not provided to Board members by CTAC staff during the meeting. Our primary concern is ensuring that in the future, City staff present programmatic updates more in line with the data and information the Board expects to receive.

The presentation provided at the meeting had been submitted to CTAC staff approximately one month in advance and was revised at their request before receiving approval. Similarly, the performance data was presented using the required template provided by CTAC staff, which does not include a field for reporting youth participation numbers. We share this context to highlight the importance of establishing consistent expectations so that staff can provide the information necessary for meaningful discussion.



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The City remains committed to transparency, accountability, and maintaining strong communication among all partners. Ensuring that the City, CTAC staff, and the Board are operating with the same expectations and information is essential to that commitment.

The Gun Violence Prevention Program takes a strategic public health approach by addressing gun violence as a preventable community health issue influenced by multiple, interconnected risk and protective factors. Rather than relying solely on responses after violence occurs, the program combines violence interruption and conflict mediation with upstream investments in youth development, education, workforce opportunities, family support, safe community spaces, and access to resources.

Violence interruption serves as a critical component of this continuum by engaging individuals and situations at elevated risk, mediating conflicts, disrupting potential retaliation, and connecting people to resources before violence escalates. Through field contacts, shooting response, conflict mediation, and follow-up with high-risk cases, violence interrupters provide a focused intervention that complements the program's broader investments in prevention and community resilience.

Together, these strategies operate across multiple levels of the social-ecological model—supporting individuals and families, strengthening relationships, increasing community capacity, and coordinating systems and institutions. Technology hubs create pathways to education and economic opportunity while activating community spaces in under resourced areas. The broader strategic plan prioritizes healing and economic support, early prevention and continuous care, sustainable investment, data transparency, shared accountability, and system-wide integration. This creates a continuum from upstream prevention to targeted intervention with those at elevated risk while strengthening the community conditions that can reduce violence over time.

We recognize and appreciate the significant investment the Children's Trust has made in the City's gun violence prevention efforts. We believe the interventions supported through this partnership have contributed meaningfully to the broader reduction in gun violence experienced in Gainesville. IMPACT GNV's intervention strategy is intentionally centered on a multilayered, community-based approach that brings together prevention,



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intervention, outreach, and strategic partnerships. Additionally, the efforts are focused across zip codes where data has demonstrated there is a higher impact of gun violence, also allowing initiatives to be tailored to the communities they serve. The data submitted by the Gainesville Police Department highlight significant reductions in gun violence in these areas. We welcome the opportunity to provide the Board with a more comprehensive discussion of this strategy, its implementation, and its outcomes.

City of Gainesville Gun Violence Prevention Program

Youth Served Snapshot

Program Measure	Current data
Violence Interruption field contacts with youth	2,490
Total VI field contacts	3,864
Share of VI contacts involving youth	64.4%
Conflict mediations involving youth	37
Youth represented in those mediations	119
Youth-related mediations recorded successful	29
Youth Steering Committee meetings	14

1. Violence Interruption

Across October 2025 through August 2026, the spreadsheet records 3,864 total field contacts, of which 2,490 were contacts with youth. That means approximately 64% of all field contacts involved youth.

Youth accounted for 86.7% of field contacts in March, 81.8% in April, and 81.2% in May. August was also high at 75.4%.

VI work became particularly youth-focused during the spring. As discussed in the board packet, through field contacts, Interrupters are building relationships, gathering



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information, and connecting high-risk youth and adults with resources to meet their goals. Through field contacts, VI's have gotten firearm leads, followed up on potential conflicts before escalation, and connected neighbors to housing, social services, food assistance, and more.

Conflict Mediation

The spreadsheet contains 78 conflict mediation records. Of those, 37 involved at least one youth, meaning approximately 47% of mediation incidents involved youth.

Those 37 records represent 119 youth were involved in mediated conflicts.

Of the youth-related mediation records:

- 29 were recorded as Successful
- 8 were recorded as Unknown

Importantly, there are no youth-related mediation records labeled unsuccessful. Among the youth-involved incidents, General Conflict is by far the most common type—27 of the 37 records. There are also youth-involved incidents categorized as shooting responses and dynamic/retaliatory gun violence. The program is not only engaging youth through activities; it is also intervening when young people are already connected to conflict. VI's are directly engaging with youth who are suspected to carry firearms and or have access to them, mitigating physical altercations, and providing follow up to prevention escalations.

Community Engagement

STEM on the Eastside programming has been ongoing since late 2025, engaging youth and their families living in the Duval neighborhood on topics like engineering, literacy, arts, and youth development. The engagements occur twice a week and often draw 15-20 youth each session.

This initiative represents significant work to activate the Clarence R. Kelly Center in the Duval neighborhood, a key intervention in violence prevention. Prior to programming, the areas surrounding the Center struggled with loitering and some illegal activities and



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the center was underutilized. VI staff engaged in significant trust building, door-to-door engagement, and resource connection before beginning the program. Through this program, youth have a safe space directly in their neighborhood for engaging educational programming, mentorship, and lessons in emotional regulation and managing interpersonal conflict.

2. Technology Hubs

The Technology Hub data report **345 youth served**.

The reported youth service counts by location are especially informative:

Technology Hub Location	Youth Served*
Residences at Oakview	183
Infinite Dream Builders	96
Pineridge Community Center	66
Nehemiah Project	0
Thrive Newberry	0
Total	345

*Youth served indicates the unduplicated number of youths utilizing the technology hub throughout the program.

The Technology Hub initiative provides more than computer access. Based on the narratives provided by program facilitators, technology is being used as a platform for academic support, literacy, STEM exposure, career development, creative programming, and youth development.

3. Youth Steering Committee

The Children's Trust of Alachua County funded an additional facilitator for the Youth Steering Committee – GNV. Throughout the course of the agreement, the City of Gainesville's Youth Steering Committee – GNV met fourteen times, with an average attendance of 7 members. The City of Gainesville's Youth Steering Committee



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addresses youth gun violence and other critical issues affecting local youth. Members meet monthly and engage in special activities designed to promote personal and professional growth. Participation is compensated, and the committee serves as a platform for meaningful dialogue and problem-solving around key youth concerns.

4. Conclusion

The City's violence prevention strategy has a significant youth emphasis, reflecting both best practice and the Children's Trust dedication to improving the lives in youth in our community. Through universal/community prevention, targeted engagement and higher-risk intervention The City has established a continuum of engagement: The data shows not only youth attendance at programs, but youth being reached through positive development opportunities, relationship-based street outreach, resource connection, and direct conflict intervention.

Sincerely,

[Andrew Persons \(Sep 29, 2026 13:16:19 EDT\)](#)

Andrew Persons
Interim City Manager
City of Gainesville

cc:

Joseph Hillhouse, Fire Chief
Brandy Stone, Director of Community Health Initiatives