

COMPARISON OF THE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL YOUTH INITIATIVE AND THE FALL RIVER SHANNON COMMUNITY SAFETY INITIATIVE POPULATIONS

Safe And Successful Youth Initiative

The purpose of the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is to help cities with documented high levels of youth violence over the past five years reduce youth violence at the community level.

Plan Proposal

With an eye on sustainability and building upon the positive youth development framework already in place, Fall River will use a case management model to identify “proven risk” youth, connect them and their families to pro-social activities and services, and provide ongoing monitoring and supervision. The Community Development Recreation Youth Outreach Program (YOP) will serve as a central hub for referrals and will work in collaboration with numerous partner organizations within the Fall River community to provide individualized services in order to reduce gang crime and youth violence.

All of the partners will identify “proven risk” youth that they contact. After identification, partner agencies will make a referral to the YOP. Referrals will be forwarded to one of six Outreach Workers who will contact and assess the youth using a risk assessment instrument and refer them and their families to intensive treatment.

The SSYI focuses on **intervention** (suppression activities such as arrests and patrols are not allowed) with a goal of supporting a full continuum of mandated services to the target population and their families:

- 1.) educational - drop out recovery that leads to return to school, including alternative educational options, to GED, to job training programs
- 2.) provide job training and employment opportunities - proven youth lack skills – they need structure and people who know how to work with this population, and
- 3.) provide trauma, health and behavioral support services, recognizing that "hurt people, hurt people" – includes substance abuse health.

SSYI Target Population

As required by the initiative, Fall River will use these funds to provide intervention services to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- males
- ages 14-24
- who are perpetrators or victims of serious violence.
- Proven risk youth who are in the system -- *DCF, DYS, Juvenile Court, Adult Court*
- youth that are currently **not** being served through existing youth violence prevention programs, such as Shannon Community Safety Initiative or the DPH-funded Violence Prevention Program.

Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative

The Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative is a collaborative group composed of community organizations, city agencies, and local law enforcement dedicated to addressing gang and youth violence in the city of Fall River. Funding is through the Shannon Community Safety Initiative out of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

Project plan

Utilizing a collaborative and comprehensive approach, the group actively addresses prevention, intervention, and gang suppression strategies to attempt to address all components of gang involvement and youth violence. The collaborative works to: 1.) develop and implement strategies, programs, and policies that address the reasons why youth join gangs and commit violence and 2.) promote a more peaceful community.

The Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative uses a youth development approach that focuses on developmental outcomes, such as becoming employable or building intellectual ability; achievement outcomes, such as graduating from high school/GED program or getting a job; and problem-free (prevention) outcomes, such as being alcohol- and drug-free or not engaging in violent behavior. The Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative promotes this approach to the overall community in an effort to emphasize how positive youth outcomes will make Fall River a stronger community; without losing sight of the importance of active gang suppression.

Included in the reported measurable outcomes are:

- 1.) **Suppression** – identified youth list, warrant sweeps, law enforcement activities;
- 2.) **Social Intervention** – street outreach worker activities, out-of-school activities, violence/gang prevention activities;
- 3.) **Opportunities** – educational activities, job placement activities;
- 4.) **Community Mobilization** – collaboration, events, media outreach; and
- 5.) **Organizational Change and Development** – steering committee, youth surveys.

FR Shannon CSI Target Population/Area:

The Fall River Community Safety Initiative understands that we will not be able to reach every youth in Fall River. The initiative focuses on the ever-changing hot spot locations as well as those youth most at-risk for violence and gang activity. These youth are specifically identified as:

- Males and females
- Ages 14-24
- Involved in or at high-risk for violence and gang activity –
- High risk is defined as having at least eight identified risk factors, including:
 - Individual factors like a history of conduct disorders or violent or aggressive behavior or a prior criminal history
 - Family characteristics like coming from a single parent household or growing up in poverty and/or financial stress
 - School or community-level characteristics like a lack of a caring adult, positive groups, or role models
 - Association with delinquent peers.
 - A more complete list of risk factors can be provided.

For more information on the Fall River Shannon Community Safety Initiative and the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, please visit www.frshannon.org or contact Christian McCloskey at 508-982-4297 or at christiantmcc@usa.net or Sean Flannery at 508-679-0922.