



TO: Councilman Michael D. Polensek, Chair, Public Safety Committee
Councilman Blaine A. Griffin, President, Cleveland City Council
Patricia J. Britt, Clerk of Council, Cleveland City Council
Ibukun Ode-Martins, Research and Policy Analyst, Cleveland City Council

CC: Tiffany Scruggs, Executive in Residence for Community Services, City of Cleveland
Joyce Pan Huang, Chief Impact Officer, Cleveland Foundation
Darlene Toney, Program Officer, Cleveland Foundation

FROM: Jason Weiner, Director of Organizational Impact and Community Philanthropy,
Cleveland Foundation

DATE: April 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Safety Fund Quarter 1 (2026) Report

Round Three of funding (June 2025) for the Neighborhood Safety Fund was conducted through an invitation-only process, designed to identify organizations best equipped to reduce gun violence by delivering coordinated services to individuals at the highest risk.

This round prioritized core elements of a comprehensive community violence intervention (CVI) strategy, including:

- **Violence interruption and street outreach**
- **Victim services and hospital-based interventions**
- **Mental health and grief support services**

Building on lessons from previous funding rounds and informed by the expertise of violence prevention and intervention practitioners, we invited seven organizations to submit proposals. Each organization responded to a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) and presented their approach in person to the Neighborhood Safety Fund Advisory Committee on June 6.

Collectively, the invited organizations requested **\$2,088,771** in funding. After a rigorous review process, the committee selected **five organizations** to receive a total of **\$829,000** in support.

While we are proud to invest in several high-impact organizations through this round, the process also underscored a broader challenge: the limited number of organizations with the infrastructure and capacity to perform community violence intervention and interruption practices and the necessary sector coordination to sustain long-term violence prevention efforts.

Per the requirements outlined in our signed fund agreement, please find information identifying the entities receiving funding as well as those denied funding during this third round of funding from the Neighborhood Safety Fund.

Entities Receiving Funding

Name	Requested Amt.	Received Amt.	Brief Description
Brenda Glass Multipurpose Center	\$150,000	\$150,000	Comprehensive trauma services, hospital intervention and victim services.
ICONS	\$80,000	\$80,000	Safe Schools Safe Streets Community Violence Interruption and Prevention Program in Collinwood
Project LIFT	\$150,000	\$180,000	Restorative Justice in Cleveland; a targeted mental health initiative for safe and engaged communities. This organization was also selected to provide mental health support for community violence intervention and interruption staff. A key best practice for a sustained violence prevention effort.
United Black Fund (fiscal agent)	\$258,916	\$179,000	Funding for the Safety Unit. The decreased amount reflects a revised budget.
Renounce Denounce	\$300,000	\$240,000	Saving Our Youth & Communities from Gun and Gang Violence; violence interruption program for high need youth and gang intervention. The reduced amount reflects their funding priority of staff salaries and benefits.

Entities Denied Funding

Name	Requested Amt.	Reason for Decline
Cleveland Peacemakers	\$149,855	The funding request was for a MetroHealth program instead of Cleveland Peacemakers core services.
Civilians Against Violence	\$1,000,000	The committee viewed this request as a 'not now,' but sees an opportunity to work with this organization as they build capacity.