CLEVELAND Foundation

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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: Chief Sonya Pryor-Jones, Chief of Youth and Family Success, City of Cleveland
Chief Ryan Puente, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Government Affairs, City of Cleveland

FROM: Jason Weiner, Philanthropic Services Advisor, Cleveland Foundation

DATE: July 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Safety Fund Quarter 2 Report

Round Three of funding 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.

Previously Requested Information

Which of the funded organizations provide services to youth in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, and how many youths are serviced by them?

a. *Spread the Love Foundation*
b. *Writers in Residence*
c. *Peel dem Layers Back*

The 2024 reports are not all submitted yet so we do not have the numbers of youths serviced by the above organizations at this time. We will be happy to share this information in a future report.

Please provide information on the services provided by Renounce Denounce and Sankofa Circle in the Collinwood area.

We feel that each organization's own staff and webpages provide the best information about current services provided. ***Renounce Denounce's website*** *has a section called "Training and Services" while Sankofa Circle's webpage explains their methodology, current projects and other vital information related to their services on* ***their website****.*

Provide projections of how the remainder of the money might be expended and the estimated timeline of when the funds might be elapsed.

The Cleveland Foundation Investment Team has prepared multiple investment models looking out 10 years based on choice of investment pool, distribution amount and grantmaking frequency. Please contact Jason Weiner to coordinate a review of this information at the Cleveland Foundation with the Neighborhood Safety Fund Advisory Committee and members of the Cleveland Foundation's investment team.

Provide the main points of contact (name and contact information) of each of the funded organizations.

Please see attached spreadsheet, "NSF Grantee 2023-2024."

Provide the reports/evaluations collected for the recipients of the 2022 grant cycle.

The Cleveland Foundation does not have permission from our Round 1 (2023) and Round 2 (2024) grantees to share reports with external entities nor is it our policy to do so. Starting with Round 3 (2025) Neighborhood Safety Fund grantees, we have informed everyone who applies that their reports may be shared with the City of Cleveland and Cleveland City Council in the

future. However, we are happy to provide this summary of the Round 1 Funding reports we have received to date:

- Round One funding supported approximately 8,000 people with mental health, mentorship, safe passages, K-8 prevention / intervention and high school prevention and intervention needs
- 90% of Organizations worked with males ages 11 – 17
- 10% worked with adults aged 18 and older on mental health and employment services
- Funds provided were for general operating support, helping organizations build their capacity to serve
- Dollars allowed funded organizations to solidify their infrastructure, eliminate barriers to access and establish space for program and administrative operations
- We learned that funded organizations needed assistance with fund development, communication, networking and marketing/outreach. To address this need, the Cleveland Foundation paid for and retained the services of Janus Small and Associates to deliver a cohort-based curriculum focusing on building the capacity of grantees and develop these skills.

Name of Organization	Contact Person for Organization	Contact Person's Email	Organization's Webpage
A Vision of Change, Inc.	Michael Matthews	michael@panache5.com	https://www.avisionofchange.org/
Agape Renaissance Center Inc	Sandra Bishop	sandrasaidit@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/agapelovecle/
Balance Point Studios	Ali Black	ali@ablackpoet.com	https://www.litcleveland.org/profiles/balance-point-studios---ali-black-donald-black-jr
Beat the Streets Cleveland	Demetrius O. Williams MNA	dwilliams@btscle.org	https://www.btscle.org/
Brenda Glass Multipurpose Trauma Center	Brenda Glass	bglass@brendaglasstraumacenter.org	https://www.brendaglasstraumacenter.org/
Building Hope In The City	Brian Upton	brian@buildinghopeinthecity.org	https://www.buildinghopeinthecity.org/
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.	Deborah Milbourne	ea@bbcdevelopment.org	https://www.bbcdevelopment.org/
Civilians Against Violence	Andre D Dodson	civiliansagainstviolence@gmail.com	https://www.civiliansagainstviolence.org/
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	Leo Serrano	leo.serrano@clevelandmetroschools.org	https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/
Cleveland YPAR	LaTonya Goldsby	msgoldsby74@gmail.com	https://www.yparcleveland.com/
EEG Family and Early Learner Foundation	Dr. Jehoshaphat K. Jones	jehoshaphat.jones@educationequitygroup.com	https://educationequitygroup.com/index.php/the-eeg-foundation
Elements of Internal Movement	Shirley Bell	Elements.movement@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/elements.movement/
Environmental Health Watch, Inc.	Kimberly Foreman	kim@ehw.org	https://www.ehw.org/
Famicos Foundation, Inc. (Reading Ramm)	Erica Burnett	eburnett@famicos.org	https://famicos.org/
God's Vision Foundation	Marinelly Cruz	Info@godsvisionfoundation.org	https://www.godsvisionfoundation.org/
ICONS	Gwendolyn Davis	gdavis@unitedicons.org	https://unitedicons.org/
Impact Youth Incorporated	Shawn Austin	impactyouth.inc@gmail.com	https://impactyouthinc.org/
Jarvis Gibson Foundation	Jarvis Gibson Sr.	jarvisgibsonfoundation@gmail.com	https://www.jarvisgibsonfoundation.org/
M-PAC Cleveland	Michelle Bell	mpactheworld@att.net	https://www.m-pac.online/
MetroHealth Foundation, Inc.	Kathryn E Plummer	kplummer@metrohealth.org	https://www.metrohealth.org/foundation
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church dba Mt. Sinai Ministries	Melissa Manzone	melissa@norainc.org	https://mtsinaiministries.org/
NERVE DJ INSTITUTE Corporation	John Oscar Horton Jr	djjohnnyo@nervedjinstitute.org	https://nervedjinstitute.org/
New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church	Vincent E Stokes II	nspbcpastor@outlook.com	https://www.newsardispbc.org/
Passages Connecting Fathers and Sons Inc.	Brian Moore	drbamoore@passages-oh.org	https://www.passages-oh.org/
Peel Dem Layers Back	Archie L Green II	peeldemlayersback@gmail.com	https://www.pdlb.org/
Project LIFT Services	LaToya Logan	logan@projecliftservices.org	https://projectliftservices.org/
Prolific Achievers Academy	Aharon Ben Keymah	growing@thepaacademy.net	https://projectliftservices.org/
Renounce Denounce Gang Intervention Program	Laron Douglas	Info@renouncedenouncegangprogram.org	https://www.renouncedenouncegangprogram.org/
Safety unit	Victoria Willson	accounting@unitedblackfund.org	
Sankofa Circle	Katarina Smiley	katarina@sankofacircleinternational.org	https://www.sankofacircleinternational.org/
Shiloh Baptist Church	Rev Dr Lisa Goods	revlgoods@gmail.com	https://www.shilohbaptistchurchcle.org/
Shooting Without Bullets	Kelsi Carter	Kelsi@shootingwithoutbullets.org	https://www.shootingwithoutbullets.org/
Special Deeds Inc.	Don McGee	dmcgee@specialdeeds.org	https://www.specialdeeds.org/
Spread the Love Foundation	Ossie Mae Neal	ossiemae@spreadtheloveOH.com	https://spreadtheloveoh.com/
Teaching Young Women in Society Truth	Angela Douglas	twistcorp2019@gmail.com	https://www.teachingyoungwomentruth.org/

The Refugee Response dba Re:Source Cleveland	Patrick Kearns	Patrick@ResourceCleveland.org	https://www.resourcecleveland.org/
Thea Bowman Center (Jalens Hope)	Bryce Mathis	bryce@montuagency.com	https://www.theabowmancenter.org/
Writers in Residence	Zachary Thomas	zthomas@writersnresidence.org	https://www.writersnresidence.org/