



Division of Criminal
Justice Services

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Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative

2021 Annual Report

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I. Introduction

New York State’s Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative provides over \$13.3 million in grants to 20 police departments, district attorneys’ offices, probation departments and sheriffs’ offices in 17 counties across New York State and Long Island. These counties historically account for more than 80 percent of the violent crime that occurs in New York State outside of New York City.

It is paramount that we engage in partnerships to co-produce public safety and to stem the rise of gun violence that so many of our communities have experienced in 2021 across this state. The Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative offers our agency evidence-based strategies that enable focused, data-driven and precise prevention and enforcement efforts. With limited resources, the City of Newburgh Police Department relies heavily on collaboration with our partners to supply technical, financial, and human resources. The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is one of those strategic partners that not only provides our agency with instrumental assets but consistently exhibits a common vision, and shared commitment toward meaningful crime reduction measures

—Chief Anthony W. Geraci, City of Newburgh Police Department

New York State is committed to supporting proven practices to reduce violent crimes, while providing technical assistance to help agencies effectively implement evidence-based strategies. To that end, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers the GIVE Initiative, which focuses on four core elements:

- 1. People** – Strategies must focus prevention and enforcement efforts on top offenders who have been identified to be responsible for most shootings, homicides, or aggravated assaults, where applicable.
- 2. Places** – Strategies must focus prevention and enforcement efforts on locations (hot spots), where crime data and analysis show that most shootings, homicides, or aggravated assaults, occur.
- 3. Alignment** – Strategies must describe how partners will coordinate and align all existing resources in the jurisdiction to reduce shootings, homicides or aggravated assaults.
- 4. Engagement** – Strategies must clearly articulate how organized outreach to key stakeholders will occur, with specific focus on how the communities affected will be provided a voice, and how coordination will occur in a transparent manner that fosters wide-ranging support for violence reduction efforts.

The evidence-based strategies supported by GIVE are **hot-spots policing, focused deterrence, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) and street outreach**. GIVE also emphasizes intelligence gathering and crime analysis. All jurisdictions have access to crime analysis personnel and resources through individual GIVE-funded analysts or through the network of 10 Crime Analysis Centers (CAC), which DCJS supports in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. CACs within GIVE jurisdictions are located in Albany, Broome, Erie, Orange, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga and Suffolk counties and serve 12 of the 17 GIVE counties. There is also a CAC serving the North Country, located in Franklin County.

New York State provides the centers with more than \$10 million annually to support staffing, training, technology, support and infrastructure. Local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies also assign staff to CACs and provide additional support.

Firearm Arrest GIVE Detail

The NICAC analysts provided information regarding the day of the week of most firearm incidents, and the Niagara Falls Police Department scheduled a GIVE detail of uniformed officers to go to hot-spot locations at those times. Officers observed a known probationer outside of a residence with a loaded 9mm Hi-Point firearm in his waistband. The suspect was arrested and charged with criminal possession of a firearm.

—*Niagara Intelligence and Crime Analysis Center (NICAC)*

II. Technical Assistance, Training, and Program Alignment

As DCJS developed GIVE, the agency's leadership recognized the importance of providing partner agencies with guidance so they could successfully implement the required evidence-based components of the initiative. In addition to awarding grants to fund personnel and technology, DCJS provides technical assistance to the 20 participating police departments, district attorneys' offices, sheriffs' offices and county probation departments.

DCJS tapped nationally-recognized experts in evidence-based practices to provide technical assistance and training and created a network among participating agencies, allowing them to seamlessly share information about effective practices. New York State is unique in providing this level of comprehensive, hands-on, technical assistance and training to share the information and resources needed to successfully implement programs that have a demonstrated record of success.

In addition to embracing enhanced crime analysis, GIVE agencies must coordinate and align with other programs to engage the community in anti-violence efforts.

The New York State SNUG Street outreach worker program, funded and supported by DCJS, represents an alignment of violence-reduction efforts and community engagement. SNUG workers proactively defuse gun-fueled disputes and offer assistance to those seeking to end

violence in their communities. Evidence-based strategies employed by GIVE agencies, and technical assistance training on these concepts, provided through DCJS, include:

Problem-Oriented Policing

GIVE jurisdictions are required to utilize problem-oriented policing (POP) as a framework to examine potential root causes of violence.

Problem-oriented policing uses crime analysis and operational intelligence to examine a cluster of similar incidents, with the goal of identifying the underlying problem and discovering a new or enhanced way to address the problem.

Once a framework for a solution is identified, evidence-based strategies are developed to focus on preventative solutions that are not solely dependent on the criminal justice system. These strategies engage other public agencies, the community, and the private sector to help address an identified problem. Jurisdictions must implement more than one responsive evidence-based strategy, while interweaving the concepts of procedural justice.

This approach also encourages information sharing among non-law enforcement agencies, so effective practices can further enhance police response. Strategies are subject to rigorous evaluation to determine their effectiveness.

All jurisdictions were asked to use this model to guide overall strategy implementation in 2021.

Procedural Justice

Procedural justice focuses on the way that law enforcement interacts with the public and how these interactions influence crime rates, the public's view of law enforcement, and people's willingness to obey the law. It is not a practice, but a philosophy that promotes organizational change, upholds legitimacy in the community and enhances officer safety. The four pillars of procedural justice are: voice, neutrality, respect, and trustworthiness.

In September 2021, the New York State Municipal Police Training Council ([MPTC](#)) approved the Implicit Bias training curriculum. Implicit bias training reflects a new way of thinking about the issue of biased policing. It is based on the science of bias, which tells us that biased policing is not due to widespread racism in policing. In fact, the science tells that even well-intentioned humans (and thus, officers) manifest biases that can impact their perceptions and behavior. These biases can manifest below consciousness. The goal of this training is to develop a deeper understanding of the core concepts of implicit bias to enable members of law enforcement to build better relationships within the communities that they serve. DCJS delivered five Implicit Bias Train-the-Trainer classes in 2021 and certified 109 instructors. These instructors will now be able to deliver this training to officers on a local level.

All GIVE agencies are required to integrate procedural justice into their overall plans and strategies.

Hot-Spots Policing

Hot-spots policing focuses on small geographic areas, usually in urban centers, where crime is concentrated. Interventions are based on the understanding that there are settings with significant clusters of crime that generate a large proportion of violent crime reported in the broader community. Focusing law enforcement efforts in hot spots is an efficient use of limited resources.

Training in hot-spots policing helps agencies develop and implement multi-disciplinary strategies, including integrating the work of prosecutors and probation officers.

Focused Deterrence

Focused deterrence is based on the premise that a small group of individuals is typically responsible for most of the shootings, gun violence and firearm-related deaths in “hot spots.” The strategy identifies those chronic offenders and targets them for enhanced attention, investigation, enforcement and prosecution. This strategy is sometimes also referred to as group violence intervention – a strategy first popularized in Boston with Operation Ceasefire. An important component of this approach is a partnership among law enforcement agencies, community groups and social services organizations, which join to communicate directly with offenders. The partners outline clear consequences for continued criminal behavior, stress that the affected community wants the gun violence to stop and provide offenders with alternatives and assistance to change their behaviors.

Group violence intervention helps foster legitimacy and build trust between the police and the community. The pivotal piece of the strategy is a “call-in” or “notification,” which is repeated as often as necessary. At call-ins, law enforcement, community members and social service providers join to deliver the message that violence will no longer be tolerated, and if violence does occur, every available legal lever will be pulled to bring an immediate and certain response. This “hard” message, usually delivered by police and prosecutors, is accompanied by a “soft” message that emphasizes the community’s willingness to help individuals change and the availability of services (e.g., job training, drug treatment) for those interested in engaging in more pro-social behavior. Focused deterrence also involves “custom notifications,” where small teams of law enforcement officers and community members meet with particularly at-risk individuals to deter violent behavior. At these face-to-face meetings with offenders, the following messages are communicated:

- The shootings, firearm-related homicides and gun violence are wrong and need to stop.
- The community needs them alive, out of prison and with their loved ones.
- Any future gun violence will be met with clear, predictable and certain consequences.
- Help is available to all who are willing to accept it.

Due to the pandemic and social distancing concerns call-ins were not conducted in 2021, however, agencies were able to safely deliver these messages to identified high risk individuals via custom notifications.

Jurisdictions that adopted focused deterrence were supported by hands-on technical assistance from the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC). In addition, NNSC provided training, which included the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention's Impact on Kingston Offenders and Victims webinar.

“The GIVE initiative is an important asset that produces results and fosters relationships among local and state agencies. At a time when it feels as though there is no shortage of guns and gun crimes, GIVE provides essential crime prevention strategies, which are important now, more than ever. The collaboration between the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office, the Rochester Police Department, Monroe County Probation, the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and other law enforcement partners, is an innovative approach to addressing the concerning trends of gun crimes. Without DCJS’s support of GIVE, our law enforcement partners would not have the targeted funding and intelligence necessary to address the significant increase in gun crimes we have seen over the past two years. The GIVE initiative strengthens our approach and response to the illegal firearms that continue to plague our community.”

—Sandra Doorley, Monroe County District Attorney

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is defined as a multi-disciplinary approach for reducing crime through urban and environmental design and the management and use of built environments. It operates around four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement and maintenance. Implementing CPTED principles and strategies such as improved lighting, updating landscaping, and removing rubbish create safer environments and improve the quality of life in communities.

The primary goal of training is to provide law enforcement, code enforcement, individuals and organizations involved in community crime-prevention programs with the information needed to create their own prevention initiatives through environmental design. The training also allows law enforcement to practice what they have learned by performing a safety assessment of a neighborhood, apartment complex or micro hot-spot location and evaluating how CPTED principles could be used.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to focus their CPTED efforts in identified hot spots in order to engage the community and reduce crime.

Street Outreach

Street outreach is both a proactive and reactive element of the GIVE Initiative. Outreach workers have ties within the community and are sometimes individuals who have formerly engaged in street violence. Street outreach workers respond to shootings to prevent retaliation, detect conflicts, and resolve them peacefully before they lead to additional violence. They engage individuals who are thought to be linked to gun violence and work with case managers to connect the individuals with resources, such as educational institutions and job training services – to help break patterns of violence. Street outreach workers also collaborate with neighborhood organizations and other community groups to organize events and public education activities that stand against gun violence. The goal of outreach is to change behaviors, attitudes and social norms related to gun violence by using credible messengers to deliver those key messages.

The DCJS SNUG Street Outreach program is an evidence-based, violence reduction initiative that treats gun violence as a public health issue by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. In 2021, there were 12 DCJS SNUG programs across New York State. At each SNUG site, outreach teams of “credible messengers” – individuals who are hired from within the communities in which they work and have backgrounds similar to those with whom they aim to connect – mentor the highest risk youth with an emphasis on conflict mediation and violence prevention. DCJS developed and administers a comprehensive training program to all new SNUG team members.

SNUG outreach teams engage residents, religious leaders, and law enforcement to change social norms and behaviors that perpetuate violence. Anytime a shooting involving injury occurs in a SNUG target area, a SNUG team responds to the shooting scene and the hospital to begin work on preventing retaliation. The teams also work with family members of victims to connect them to the New York State Office of Victim Services for access to resources, such as financial relief, which can include medical and funeral expenses, loss of earnings or support and counseling costs. Social workers also are embedded at trauma centers that serve SNUG sites to reach victims and families in the immediate aftermath of violence and connect them with services and support from SNUG site-based social workers and case managers after discharge.

GIVE / SNUG Trust Building Workshops

DCJS continued a series of trust building workshops in 2021 after initially starting this project in July 2020. These workshops included a group of active law enforcement personnel involved in the DCJS principled policing training and community members who are actively engaged in street outreach work with SNUG. This work was modeled after reconciliation work that has been occurring around the country for many years.

These monthly meetings addressed topics ranging from past harms committed by both police officers and SNUG members; the community’s role in reducing gun violence, and police reform, to name a few. These discussions have helped build trust and understanding between the participants involved. Through this work, DCJS has created a structure to assist localities around the state facilitate these critical conversations, which can help strengthen police and community

relationships. In 2021, DCJS offered technical assistance to localities interested in engaging in this type of work. The first two communities have been selected to begin trust building work through these workshops in 2022.

In-Person Training & DCJS Law Enforcement Webinar Series

The Principled Policing Instructor Training series, which includes Procedural Justice I, Procedural Justice II, and Implicit Bias became the main focus of in-person training that was offered in 2021. DCJS hosted 18 in-person Principled Policing classes that were attended by 418 trainers. These trainers have returned to their agencies and have provided in-service training to their personnel. The Law Enforcement Webinar series also continued and 3,948 people viewed both the live and recorded webinars.

Training courses were as follows:

Class Title	Dates	Location
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	1/12/21 – 1/15/21	Broome Co.
Evidence-Based Crime Strategies, Implementation, and Successes During the Pandemic.	1/26/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	2/2/21 – 2/5/21	Alleghany Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	2/9/21 – 2/12/21	Queens Co.
The Importance of Research	2/23/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	2/23/21 – 2/26/21	Westchester Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	3/9/21 – 3/12/21	Suffolk Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer Implicit Bias Pilot	3/10/21 – 3/12/21	Dutchess Co.
Procedural Justice for LE Executives	3/18/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	4/19/21 – 4/22/21	Jefferson Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	4/26/21 – 4/30/21	Erie Co.
Community Trust Building	5/13/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Implicit Bias	5/18/21	DCJS
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer Implicit Bias	5/19/21 – 5/21/21	Albany Co.
Producing an Operational Hot-spot Map	5/20/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer Implicit Bias	6/9/21 – 6/11/21	Rockland Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	6/22/21 – 6/25/21	Essex Co.
Ideas for Violence Reduction	6/29/21	LE Webinar Series
The Intimate Partner Violence Intervention’s Impact on Kingston Offenders and Victims	7/20/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer Implicit Bias	7/28/21 – 7/30/21	Oneida Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	8/10/21 – 8/13/21	Kings Co.
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	9/27/21 – 10/1/21	Monroe Co.

Principled Policing – Train the Trainer	10/12/21 – 10/15/21	Orange Co.
Evidence-Based Management of Individuals on Probation Supervision Convicted of Violent Crimes	10/27/21	LE Webinar Series
Principled Policing – Train the Trainer Implicit Bias	11/16/21 – 11/19/21	Nassau Co.

III. Additional Information Sharing and DCJS Oversight

DCJS' Office of Public Safety (OPS) facilitates information sharing among jurisdictions, allowing professionals to connect with GIVE agencies, network and share their successes and challenges through conference calls, live meetings, and webinars. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, information sharing was conducted virtually. GIVE law enforcement executives participated in a webinar that focused on procedural justice, and DCJS also facilitated a webinar in which Orange County agencies shared how they had modified strategy implementation during the pandemic.

DCJS provides assistance, support, guidance, and oversight to GIVE jurisdictions through OPS and the Office of Program Development and Funding (OPDF). OPS staff also conduct site visits and work with jurisdictions to identify additional training and support, as necessary. OPDF staff monitor and review grant spending. All GIVE partners must submit work plans that detail grant spending on evidence-based strategies and submit vouchers for reimbursement to verify spending. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, GIVE staff members were able to virtually attend 143 jurisdictional events and meetings in 2021.

IV. Evaluation and Assessment

Evaluation and assessment play a key role in GIVE, while the state aims to ensure that agencies are using resources wisely and implementing evidence-based practices, as designed. OPS and the Office of Justice Research and Performance (OJRP) collaborated to develop evidence-based strategy Self-Assessment Tools (SATs), with input from subject matter experts from across the country, as well as internal and external GIVE stakeholders. The SATs allow GIVE jurisdictions to evaluate their own implementation of evidence-based strategies by identifying key elements and components that are most critical to maintaining fidelity to the model. The SATs allow GIVE agencies to fulfill financial reporting requirements of the grant-funded program. In 2021, DCJS streamlined the SATs in order to allow for easier reporting and analysis of these important assessment tools.

V. Partner Agencies: Strategy and Funding Overview

GIVE funds personnel, including prosecutors, police, probation, and field intelligence officers, as well as crime analysts. The grants also fund overtime for special initiatives, enforcement, equipment, technology, training, and community outreach. Jurisdictions receiving GIVE funding were required to develop comprehensive plans that coordinate the efforts of all GIVE-funded partners, while integrating the use of evidence-based strategies and community programs – to focus on the core principles of people, places, alignment, and community engagement. Below is

a list of counties and participating agencies, as well as a high-level overview of the grants they share, including jurisdiction-specific details for grant-funded positions:

Albany County

Participating agencies: Albany Police Department, District Attorney's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports six full-time employees and four part-time employees.

Strategies: Focused Deterrence, Hot Spots and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$759,829

Broome County

Participating agencies: Binghamton Police Department, District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office. GIVE funding supports four full-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$391,243

Chautauqua County

Participating agencies: Jamestown Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports two full-time employees and one part-time employee.

Strategies: CPTED, Focused Deterrence, and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$193,463

Dutchess County

Participating agencies: City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports one full-time employee and two part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$343,669

Erie County

Participating agencies: Buffalo Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Probation Department and Central Police Services. GIVE funding supports 11 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED and Hot Spots and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$1,958,847

Monroe County

Participating agencies: Rochester Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department. GIVE funding supports five full-time employees and 12 part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Focused Deterrence, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$1,789,755

Nassau County

Participating agencies: Nassau County Police Department, Hempstead Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports four full-time employees and four part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Focused Deterrence, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$861,743

Niagara County

Participating agencies: Niagara Falls Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports four full-time employees and three part-time employees.

Strategies: Focused Deterrence, and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$647,376

Oneida County

Participating agencies: Utica Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports four full-time employees and three part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Focused Deterrence, and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$645,955

Onondaga County

Participating agencies: Syracuse Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding fully supports four full-time positions and partially funds eight full-time positions.

Strategies: Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$1,240,831

Orange County

Participating agencies: City of Newburgh Police Department, Middletown Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports six full-time employees.

Strategies: Focused Deterrence, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$848,513

Rensselaer County

Participating agencies: Troy Police Department, District Attorney's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports three full-time employees and two part-time employees.

Strategies: Hot Spots and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$422,587

Rockland County

Participating agencies: Spring Valley Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Intelligence Center and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports overtime for detectives and patrol. GIVE funding supports one part-time employee.

Strategies: CPTED, and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$107,146

Schenectady County

Participating agencies: Schenectady Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports seven full-time employees and one part-time employee.

Strategies: Hot Spots and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$785,275

Suffolk County

Participating agencies: Suffolk County Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department and Sheriff's Office. GIVE funding supports six part-time employees.

Strategies: Focused Deterrence, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$993,861

Ulster County

Participating agencies: Kingston Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports two full-time employees and four part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Focused Deterrence, and Hot Spots

Grant Award: \$240,320

Westchester County

Participating agencies: Yonkers Police Department, Mount Vernon Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Department of Public Safety and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports nine full-time employees and two part-time employees.

Strategies: CPTED, Hot Spots, and Street Outreach

Grant Award: \$1,080,968

Appendix A: Data

The Gun Involved Violence Elimination initiative began on July 1, 2014, with the first year of grant funding awarded through June 30, 2015, the second year awarded through June 30, 2016, the third year awarded through June 30, 2017, the fourth year awarded through June 30, 2018, the fifth year awarded through June 30, 2019, the sixth year awarded through June 30, 2020, and the seventh year awarded through June 20, 2021. The GIVE funding cycle begins in early summer, so law enforcement agencies have additional resources when crime traditionally spikes.

Each of the 20 police departments participating in GIVE submit monthly statistics to DCJS. Those statistics are posted to the [DCJS website](#) under the Reported Crime and Victimization Section (Gun Violence).

Appendix B: 2021 Firearm-Related Crime Activity

The GIVE Initiative targets 20 jurisdictions within 17 counties Upstate and on Long Island. The GIVE totals in this report include data from all 20 GIVE jurisdictions. However, only 14 agencies are shown separately: Albany, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, Nassau County, Newburgh, Niagara Falls, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Schenectady, Suffolk County, Syracuse, Utica and Yonkers. Shootings in the following police department jurisdictions appear in the “All Other GIVE PDs” section of this report: Binghamton, Jamestown, Kingston, Middletown, Troy, and the Village of Spring Valley. The complete report is not included in this overview.

GIVE jurisdictions reported 1,231 shooting incidents involving injury for calendar year 2021, up (+4%) compared to 2020 (1,185). Shooting incidents were up (+45%) compared to the five-year average (849).

Shooting victims (persons hit) increased 3 percent (1,469) in 2021, compared to 2020 (1,427). Shooting victims were up (+49%) compared to the five-year average (987).

Compared to 2020, the number of shooting homicides in 2021 increased (3%), with 214 reported. Buffalo (59), Rochester (55), Syracuse (25), Suffolk (17), Albany (16), and Niagara Falls (10) accounted for 85 percent (182) of the 214 homicides. Shooting homicides were up (+54%) compared the five-year average (139).

Appendix C: Technical Assistance / Training Providers

National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College

The National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College provides technical assistance to the cities of Newburgh and Albany for implementation of the Group Violence Intervention. It also provides technical assistance to the City of Kingston for the implementation of the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI) program, which is the first such program in New York State. The Network supports cities implementing proven strategic interventions to reduce violence and improve public safety, minimize arrest and incarceration, strengthen communities, and improve relationships between law enforcement and communities.