

LA —

PEACEMAKERS INITIATIVE

PROGRESS REPORT

URBAN **PEACE**
INSTITUTE

2025: NEW CHALLENGES, NEW VICTORIES

In 2025, Los Angeles endured profound instability: neighborhoods burned in devastating wildfires, ICE raids destabilized communities, and the National Guard flooded our streets. Amidst this chaos, community violence intervention (CVI) organizations stood firm. While traditional systems faltered, Urban Peace Institute and our partners proved that community-led systems of care are the true stabilizers of public safety.

Now, this progress faces an existential threat. Federal funding cuts have slashed \$811 million in vital safety grants, undermining the very infrastructure that keeps our neighborhoods safe. But the data is clear: when organizations are funded to build capacity, they save lives. With more political uncertainty ahead, continued investment is essential to securing a powerful community-led safety infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since February 2024, Urban Peace Institute (UPI) has strengthened 18 Black- and Brown-led CVI organizations through the Los Angeles Peacemakers Initiative. This initiative leverages a strategic braid of \$9.6 million in public and private funding to provide essential capacity-building support and peacemaking activities. Through this project, CVI organizations have enrolled more than 1,500 new program participants and prevented over 1,300 potential acts of violence.

We are not merely funding temporary interventions; we are building a permanent safety infrastructure. Despite challenges in the landscape, LA Peacemakers Initiative organizations have achieved measurable progress toward reducing community violence while simultaneously building capacity to significantly expand the work.

PART I: REDUCING VIOLENCE

The primary goal of the LA Peacemakers Initiative is to save lives. Through the relentless work of peacemakers on the ground, the initiative has generated substantial public safety returns.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Beyond violence reduction,

LA Peacemakers Initiative organizations are advancing public safety by strengthening the social fabric of their neighborhoods.

1,707

Outreach Efforts
Conducted

1,867

Workshops
Hosted

1,053

Community
Meetings

922

Social Gatherings
Organized

701

Organizing Initiatives
Launched

441

Arts & Culture
Convenings

CORE SAFETY METRICS

1,355
Incident
Preventions

968
Conflict
Mediations

1,162
Crisis
Responses

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: THE POWER OF SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

Small, grassroots organizations have proven vital to our ecosystem. They accounted for roughly one-third of all outreach activities and new participants enrolled and held almost half of all social gatherings and community meetings. This supports our strategic rationale for funding diverse organizations across different stages of growth.

PART 2: CAPACITY BUILDING

A unique objective of the LA Peacemakers Initiative is to professionalize and stabilize the CVI organizations. UPI's capacity building efforts seek to help organizations move beyond the "grant-to-grant" survival cycle by growing essential infrastructure and creating long-term self-sustainability. LA Peacemakers Initiative funding has supported 100 total positions, split nearly evenly between boots-on-the-ground presence and operational supports.

THE FRONTLINE (47 POSITIONS)

LA Peacemakers partners expanded the workforce dedicated to direct peace efforts:



THE BACK OFFICE (53 POSITIONS)

The initiative funded key infrastructure that promotes sustainability:



SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development: Executive Leadership Training, Nonprofit Development Workshops, Compliance & Audit Readiness Seminars, National CVI Conferences.

Technical Infrastructure: Web Design & Digital Marketing Assets, Grant Writing Consultation, HR & Payroll Systems, Specialized Accounting Services.

PART 3: THE PATH FORWARD

The LA Peacemakers Initiative works because it is rooted in honoring and expanding the decades-long history of grassroots safety in our city. It proves that when public and private funders come together to support the growth and sustainability of those with the credibility to do the work, the impact multiplies. In these precarious times, it is critical that leaders commit to continuing investment in CVI—to transform safety and save lives.

