



2023 One Lexington End-Of-Year Report

We are excited to share with our partners and the Lexington community the highlights of our work in 2023. Show you what we've done, what we've spent, and how it all fits into our city's strategic plan to address youth and young adult gun violence.



The One Lexington Gun Violence Reduction Strategy is a combination of our strategic planning sessions, led by local agencies and individuals affected by gun violence, and the national violence prevention model, ***Cure Violence or CV. Cure Violence (formerly known as Chicago Ceasefire)*** is intended to create individual-level and community-level change in communities where it is often normal for young people to carry a gun and—for some—to use a gun to settle various forms of conflict. CV is designed to stop the transmission of violence like that of public health interventions meant to curtail epidemics or to reduce the impact of harmful behavior such as smoking and overeating. ***The CV model focuses on individuals most at risk of spreading gun violence and uses interventions to change individual behavior and attitudes.*** Next, it demonstrates, to participants and the broader community, that there are more acceptable and less harmful ways to resolve personal conflicts and disputes. The CV model does not involve the use of force or threat of punishment. It presumes that violent behavior—like all behavior—responds to structures, incentives, and norms. It is designed to introduce at-risk individuals to alternative models of conflict resolution that, in turn, may spread to the larger community—essentially “De-normalizing” the harmful behavior. CV operates independently of, while hopefully not undermining, law enforcement. But CV has simply been a template for Lexington and not just a plug-in-and-play strategy for addressing gun violence. We believe a Lexington-centered plan with cross-sector participation is our best approach. You can read our full strategic plan to address youth and young adult gun violence below:

<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/One%20Lexington%20SP%20Updated%208.24.23.pdf>

ONE Lexington is a city initiative out of the mayor’s office that leverages government resources and community partnerships to reduce gun violence impacting youth and young adults (ages 13-29). Below are some of the latest gun violence statistics in Lexington, KY.

Total Shootings Statistics (through December 29th, 2023)

Lexington Homicide by Gun & Shooting Statistics

2023 (to date) - 22 homicides by gun (24 total homicides)

2022 (at this point last year) – 36 homicides by gun (44 total homicides)

2021 (at this point in the year) - 36 homicides (37 total homicides)

5-year average (at this point in the year) - 30 homicides by gun (34 total homicides)

- 8 (fewer gun-related homicides than the 5-year average)

Lexington Shooting Statistics (Reported Residents Shot)

2023 (to date) - 84 shootings

2022 (at this point last year) – 119 shootings

2021 (at this point in the year) - 135 shootings

3-year average (at this point in the year) - 125 shootings

- 41 (fewer shootings than the 3-year average)

Youth & Young Adult Shootings Statistics

Lexington Homicide by Gun & Shooting Statistics

(Victims ages 13-29)

2023 (to date) - 11 homicides

2022 (at this point last year) - 13 homicides

2021 (at this point in the year) - 24 homicides

5-year average (at this point in the year) - 16 homicides

- 5 (fewer gun-related homicides than the 5-year average)

Lexington Shootings Statistics (Reported Residents Shot)

(Victims ages 13-29)

2023 (to date) - 55 shootings

2022 (at this point last year) - 84 shootings

2021 (at this point in the year) - 87 shootings

3-year average (at this point in the year) - 81 shootings

- 26 (fewer shootings than the 3-year average)

Prevention efforts in 2023

One Lexington Violence Prevention Grant: Back in July, ONE Lexington, in partnership with the Community Action Council, put over \$91,000 into the hands of 12 grassroots organizations focused on helping our community address youth & young adult gun violence among youth & young adults in Lexington. *SWAG-Sisters and Supporters Working Against Gun Violence, Lexington Stryders, Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families, Voyage Movement, On the Move Art Studio, Rhema Word Foundation, M'Power Rhythm, H.E.A.R.T.S., Community Inspired Solutions, Frankie's Corner, Leadership Academy, Lexington Ravens and Casa de la Cultura* were awarded grants to help sustain their incredible work!



ONE Lexington's mission is to leverage government resources & community partnerships to reduce gun violence among youth & young adults ages 13-29. Last year's recipients facilitated programs or services that are in line with our strategic

plan that is funneled through the P.I.E.R. model, which stands for **Prevention Intervention Engagement & Re-Entry**. Last year we saw shootings and homicides in Lexington decrease substantially. I believe part of that progress can be attributed to organizations and individuals like these coming together and making a difference. Nothing is more inspiring than to see ordinary people step up and do EXTRAORDINARY things!

"This funding opportunity will also be coupled with workshops and information that can help grassroots organizations expand their reach in the community. As One Lexington moves out of a programmatic space and into more of a central hub for gun violence resources in the city, this grant program takes a huge step towards building the capacity of organizations that are on the frontlines, doing the work each day." - Devine Carama

Fayette County Public Schools FRYSC Donations: Back in February of 2022, One Lexington, in collaboration with Cities United and the University of Kentucky CLD, brought together individuals from the public and private sectors to build our *One Lexington Strategic Plan*. A citywide plan to combat gun violence in Lexington over the next 4 years. That strategic plan is based on a national model called, P.I.E.R., which stands for **Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement, & Re-Entry**. Our goal with the FRYSC Violence Prevention Donations is to fund events, services, and programs that focus on the *Intervention and Prevention* pillars of the *P.I.E.R.* model. We hope that this donation is the first step towards empowering schools to stand up with us against gun violence in our community. Last year all 5 high school recipients collaborated on a "Stop the Violence" workshop for students to learn more about trauma, mindfulness, substance use disorder, and the community impact of gun violence (photo below).



Here is a list of the schools we funded in the fall of 2023.

\$1,000 Grant Recipients

- Lexington Traditional Magnet School
- Winburn Middle School
- Crawford Middle School
- Tates Creek High School
- Henry Clay High School
- Dunbar High School
- Frederick Douglass High School
- The Learning Center
- MLK Academy of Excellence

\$500 Grant Recipients

- William Wells Brown Elementary School

- Booker T. Washington Elementary School
- Cardinal Valley Elementary School
- Mary Todd Elementary School
- Deep Springs Elementary
- Rosa Parks Elementary School
- Harrison Elementary School

N.O.C.A.P. Program: One Lexington partnered with the Community Action Council for our N.O.C.A.P. (Nurturing Or Creating Alternative Pathways) program, which covered the program and activities fees (up to \$39,000) last year for youth, ages 12-17, with incarcerated parents or who have been directly impacted by gun violence. FREE programming was offered by **Evolve to Perform** (basketball), **454 Fitness** (boxing), **Northern League** (baseball), **JK Productions** (recording studio), and **Awesome Inc.** (computer coding). This year, we served 22 youth through our N.O.C.A.P. initiative. Here is what some of the most recent studies have said about the effect parental incarceration has on children:



"These hidden victims receive little personal support and do not benefit from the systemic societal mechanisms generally available to direct crime victims, despite their prevalence and their similarities to direct crime victims." - Eric Martin of the National Institute of Justice

"Children of incarcerated parents may also face many other challenging circumstances. They may have experienced trauma related to their parent's arrest or experiences leading up to it. Children of incarcerated parents may also be more likely to have faced other adverse childhood experiences, including witnessing violence in their communities or directly in their household or exposure to drug and alcohol use/misuse." - Youth.gov

"While many of the risk factors children of incarcerated parents experience may be related to parental substance abuse, mental health, inadequate education, or

other challenges, parental incarceration increases the risk of children living in poverty or experiencing household instability independent of these other problems." - Rutgers University National Resource Center on Children & Families of the Incarcerated

Per the One Lexington Strategic Plan to Reduce Gun Violence (*in partnership with Cities United & UK Community Innovation Lab*) among youth and young adults, providing prevention programming and support to those most vulnerable is extremely important to creating pathways to success and breaking generational cycles. Studies show that children of incarcerated parents have a higher risk of experiencing or witnessing violence.

It Takes A Village Summer Youth Program: One Lexington's weekly *It Takes a Village* youth summer program is designed to support under-served youth, ages 13-17, with social and emotional growth opportunities during the summer months, which the city of Lexington historically sees an uptick of youth violence. Several community partners collaborate in engaging Lexington youth with emotional & social skill-building workshops, regional college/career trade visits, and fun activities where participants can bond with each other in a safe space. Providing positive alternatives during the summer months can be a preventative measure in addressing youth gun violence. Showing them that life can be more than their current circumstance is a key component for young people investing in their futures.



This past summer One Lexington engaged 40 Lexington teenagers, many of whom have been directly impacted by gun violence, as a part of our weekly *It Takes a Village* Summer Youth Program. 100 percent of our participants were on free or reduced lunch and over 65 percent of our participants lived in single-parent homes. Our participants learned about conflict resolution, mindfulness, dealing with trauma, money management, the effects of substance use, the history of hip-hop, and much more! We also partnered with Andrews Brothers Counseling each Tuesday morning for group trauma-informed-care sessions. Many of our youth have been directly impacted by gun violence and several families have requested additional counseling services for their children with the Andrews Brothers.

It Takes A Village In-School Mentoring Program: is a program designed to reduce behavior referrals, SAFE appearances, and out-of-school suspensions, as well as

improve positive social interactions. The structure of the program will consist of mentors & community partners coming together to meet with students, selected by the school being served, once (or twice) a week to provide inspirational presentations, community service opportunities, interactive discussions, and workshops to help students with the behavioral and social challenges these students face on a day-to-day basis at school and home. We will focus on the 5 components of SEL (social & emotional Learning). **self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness.** We believe that providing outlets for students to unpack traumatic experiences in their lives, coupled with community mentorship that will be another strand for accountability, will put students in a better position to achieve academically. Each of our mentors is trained in restorative justice practices, conflict resolution, and trauma-informed care.

We not only want to engage youth in hopes of reducing conflict, but we also hope to empower the future leaders of tomorrow! The program will be founded on showing youth the potential power of their "village" by exposing them to a diverse collective of community partners from different walks of life. Below you will see a list of schools we facilitated at as well as the amount of student interactions at each school in 2023.



One Lexington partnered with ***The Voyage Movement, H.E.A.R.T.S., Rhema Word Foundation, Walker Reconstruction, and Empowering Through Education Inc.*** to facilitate in-school mentoring programs at the following schools in 2023.

- William Wells Brown Elementary School - 192
- Tates Creek Elementary School - 39
- Beaumont Middle School - 213
- Winburn Middle School - 390
- Southern Middle School - 333
- Edythe J Hayes Middle School - 236
- Frederick Douglass High School - 470 (*including freshman assembly*)
- Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School - 1000 (*freshman & sophomore assembly*)
- Tates Creek High School - 101
- Bryan Station High School - 95
- STEAM Academy - 138

- Success Academy - 122
- MLK Academy of Excellence - 315
- The Learning Center - 146
- **Total: 3,790**

One Lexington Facilitates 1st Symposium on Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence:

Our mayor, several council members, city officials, state legislators, educators, judges, prosecutors, survivors of gun violence, and many more joined us in October for our first *Symposium on Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence*. Our One Lexington team presented the importance that connectivity and collaboration have on closing service gaps for those affected by gun violence, as well as laying out the city's Crisis Response Plan for incidents involving gun violence. This 1-day event featured a keynote address from Louisville's own Dr. Eddie Woods, who leads *No More Red Dots*, located in one of the most violent neighborhoods in Louisville. He shared how utilizing his experience in the streets and prison has informed his work today of addressing youth gun violence.



We also facilitated 4 highly requested breakout sessions: ***Engaging the Latino Community, Domestic Violence Bystander Awareness, How to Build a Successful Nonprofit, and Compassion Fatigue***. We also gave the podium to public safety members to talk about the importance of community policing. Throughout the symposium we highlighted several One Lex Violence Prevention Grant recipients, allowing them to present and share about their organization's work and how it fits into the city plan of addressing youth gun violence. Towards the end of the symposium, we presented "*Community Game Changer*" awards to Jill Chenault, Logan Avritt, Miranda Scully, and Dawin Wingate. Four individuals who are doing amazing behind-the-scenes work in keeping our community safe. This event was done in collaboration with the University of Kentucky's Community Innovation Lab. Along with taking notes throughout the event, UKCIB is in the process of helping us get feedback on the symposium from those in attendance. We will utilize this information to improve our plan and create more professional development opportunities in 2024.

Black Men United Convening: In October of 2021 we challenged 100 BLACK MEN to show up for a PSA about standing in solidarity to keep our neighborhoods safe. I was humbled to see so many brothers come out and fellowship in the name of uplifting our young people. Over 100 men from different eras, religious backgrounds, and walks of life joined us in the name of UNITY on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. We followed that up with an "opportunity fair" in 2022 where men could come out and learn about different opportunities to serve youth in Lexington.



With summer approaching last year, we felt it was time for us to come together again but this time with some tangible goals and action items to walk away with. We invited Green Dot of Lexington, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and other community partners to share with the men ways they could get involved with underserved youth during the summer. Immediately following the event at 7:30 pm we encouraged everyone to join us as we engaged the 5 hundred block on Chestnut Street with fresh food shares from Black Soil and positive vibes, in response to the double homicide shooting that occurred on that street the previous week. Lex 18 News chronicled our efforts and you can see some footage HERE - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcXygKJ5E-U>

10th Annual Cities United Convening: Our One Lexington team attended the 10th annual Cities United Convening in ATL this past October. We joined other city leaders, mayors, frontline workers, and other violence prevention stakeholders around the country for a conference that included site visits to violence prevention programs, breakout sessions on best practices and strategies, and

national speakers. The highlight of the week was not only getting to meet Greg Jackson who is the new director of the White House's new Office of Gun Violence Prevention, but the fact that he heard of our city's work specifically and looks forward to building with us. For any community partners wanting notes from the conference, please let us know and we will send them in a separate email.



Lowering of Age Purview: One Lexington is currently working on lowering our age purview from age 13 to age 10, which would encompass 4th & 5th graders. This means this demographic and their families would now be eligible for our gun violence prevention services and programming (mentoring, engagement, victim services, etc.). To responsibly do so, we are organizing a strategic planning session/informational made up of community partners who serve that demo, to figure out some best practices, gaps in programming and services, and insight that can inform our gun violence prevention strategies for that age group.

Intervention efforts in 2023

One Lexington Visit Capitol to Talk About Gun Violence Reduction Efforts w/ Lawmakers: In the summer of 2023 the ONE Lexington team had the opportunity to go to the Kentucky State Capitol to talk about all the amazing work that our community partners are doing in Lexington to reduce gun violence among youth and young adults. They heard about our city's progress (homicides down 60 percent, shootings down 40 percent at the time of our presentation) last year and wanted to know what strategies could be replicated in other areas of the state and what legislators in Frankfort can do at the state level to support our efforts.



We stressed the impact that cross-sector communication and COLLABORATION have had in our city's fight to address gun violence among youth and young adults. From individuals using sports to mentor, grassroots organizations engaging communities, those with lived experience informing our kids, the school system implementing safety strategies, public safety being responsible and transparent in its enforcement, and so much more! [#ItTakesAVillage](#)

Watch FULL Session HERE- [\(361\) Commission on Race & Access to Opportunity and Juvenile Justice Oversight Council \(6-20-23\) - YouTube](#)

Youth & Young Adult Conflict Mediations: This year, One Lexington staff and crisis response advocates facilitated **16 youth & young adult conflict mediations**, all of which were 17 years of age or younger. The way we identify “conflict” in our work is a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one, that has the potential to end in gun violence. The requests from our mediations came from school staff, parents, and even youth themselves. Conflicts mediated started at school, community events, and neighborhood spaces, but many started on social media.

Supporting Survivors of Gun Violence: This year Mayor Linda Gorton dedicated more of a personal stake in supporting survivors of gun violence. Our One Lexington team followed her lead in creating a more comprehensive way to support those affected by gun violence. Mayor Linda Gorton has been holding closed meetings with Lexington mothers who have lost children to gun violence. The One Lexington team regularly attended the LPD’s Victims Advocate support group, ***S.O.S. (Surviving Onward Sessions)***. We also facilitated a survey for over 40 individuals and families that we are directly supported through our Crisis Response Plan. We have taken the results of the survey, the thoughts expressed during the S.O.S. sessions, and concerns gathered in the mayor’s meetings and utilized that information to better inform us on how we can support survivors.



Crisis Response Efforts: In 2023, One Lexington facilitated **over 40 Violence Intervention Team meetings**, composed of community partners in public safety, the Fayette County Public Schools system, the courts, the University of Kentucky Trauma Center, and more. Each week, the Lexington Police Department would present to us shooting cases that involved or impacted youth and young adults ages 13-29. Once these cases were presented to the team, our Crisis Response Coordinator, Kenneth Payne, would deploy one of our 4 Crisis Response Advocates to follow up with the affected parties and figure out a way that we can best support them.



Another part of One Lexington crisis response efforts is, N.E.W. (Neighborhood Engagement Walks), where One Lexington staff, Crisis Response Advocates, mental health specialists, members of the faith community, other nonprofits, and more would engage communities recently impacted by gun violence. **In 2023 One Lexington facilitated 12 Neighborhood Engagement Walks in 7 different districts.** We were able to connect residents with fresh groceries courtesy of Black Soil and the Food Chain, as well as services such as mental health support, youth mentoring resources, relocation, temporary housing, conflict mediation, property damage repairs, and more. Many of the neighborhoods we engaged in last year simply requested prayer. **Our 4 Crisis Response Advocates were deployed a total of 31 times last year,** in response to shootings in Lexington involving youth and young adults. Our advocates helped mediate ongoing conflicts, relocate families, and connect survivors to other community resources.

One Lexington Downtown Peacekeepers: Towards the end of the summer, One Lexington's staff, crisis response team, mental health specialist, and a few volunteers met downtown from about 11:30 pm until 3 am, to assess the growing number of juveniles occupying downtown in preparation for our "*Downtown Peacekeepers*" initiative we hope to launch next Spring. Our primary goal is to engage and monitor juveniles in the downtown area in hopes of reducing youth conflict. We also want to assist LPD in crowd control if needed. The majority of our night was spent locating the different hotspots where juveniles hang out and engaging them in conversation.



The majority of the night was fairly uneventful until about 2 am when a shooting occurred near Short & Mill. LPD quickly locked down the scene, attended to victims, and apprehended a suspect. Our peacekeepers team was able to assist them in crowd control as well as mediate some subsequent conflicts that ensued

after the shooting. Our team learned quite a bit and debriefed internally and with LPD to figure out if this initiative is needed and if so, what is the safest and most impactful way that this group can be effective in reducing conflict among young people downtown, moving forward. Special thanks to Councilmember Sheehan for joining and shadowing us for the duration. Our goal is to continue this program in 2024 during the summer months.

Enforcement efforts in 2023

One Lexington and many of its community partners don't have any enforcement capabilities, but we do commit to bridging the gap between public safety and underserved communities. In 2023 we had members of the Lexington Police Department volunteer with our It Takes A Village Summer Youth Program. LPD also joined us at our annual "*Symposium On Youth & Young Adult Gun Violence*" where officers spoke about the importance of community policing strategies, especially in neighborhoods of color. Another example of the great working relationship we have with public safety is the youth referrals we get from officers on patrol. Several times officers have come across juveniles involved in bad behavior but instead of charging them, they reach out to us and connect them with us for more community-based support. Our director, Devine Carama, also partnered with the Lexington Fire Department on a #LexSaveLives campaign focused on raising awareness for Hands-only CPR training in Lexington. For more conventional information on our public safety partners efforts to address gun violence, visit the following websites:



<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/departments/police>

<https://www.fayettesheriff.com/>

<https://www.kycourts.gov/Courts/Rules%20of%20Practice/D22JUVENILETREATMENTCOURTRULES.pdf>

<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/juvenile-probation-court-services>

Re-Entry efforts in 2023

Goodwill Ignite Program: One Lexington collaborated with the Goodwill Ignite Program last year to host a 1-day **job fair/skills training opportunity for young men and women ages 18-24 who are currently system involved** called, "*Ignite the Block*"! This event had live music, giveaways, community resources, signups for job training, and on the spot job placements. Check more on the event [HERE 'Ignite the Block' event in Lexington helps young adults with criminal history find work \(wkyt.com\)](#)

Second Chance Hiring Partnership: One Lexington partnered with UPS to provide second-chance hiring for young adults ages 18-24. In 2023, **One Lexington referred 10 individuals to UPS and 6 of them were hired.**

One Lexington staff provided support for the Juvenile Treatment Court, Specialty Courts' Urban Group, as well as young adult referrals from Judge Dianne Minnifield. In 2024 we are excited about a new partnership with Community Corrections and Probation, where we look to support offenders with felonies being amended to misdemeanors, specifically gun charges. This remains one of our biggest gaps, but we look to address that through increased funding and more strategic partnerships.

One Lexington Spending:

- Community Grant Programs (*One Lexington Violence Prevention Grant, FRYSC Donations, and N.O.C.A.P. Program*) - **\$100,000**
- Crisis Response (*Survivor support, Crisis Advocate stipends, & N.E.W*) - **\$85,440.05**
- Community Support (*community partner training, neighborhood events, nonprofit support, and youth sponsorship*) **\$25,563.07**
- It Takes A Village In-School Mentoring Program - **\$22,123.00**
- It Takes A Village Summer Program - **\$10,132.00**
- One Lexington Marketing - **\$8,493.99**
- Be the Change Scholarship Program - **\$7,000**

- One Lexington Travel - **\$1,786**
- Fiscal 2023 Total Spending - **\$260,538.11**
- Fiscal 2024 Budget - **\$296,000**