NEW YORK STATE | Division of Criminal Justice Services

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Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative 2023–2024 Annual Report

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I. Introduction

New York State's Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative uses evidence-based strategies, data, and proven practices that address shootings and violent crime in 28 police jurisdictions in 21 urban counties outside of New York City. Approximately $73 million was distributed to qualifying jurisdictions during NYS Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024, with partner agencies receiving funding for personnel, overtime, equipment, training, and technical assistance. Partner agencies include county prosecutors, probation, and sheriffs whose efforts must enhance the police agencies' response to shootings and violent crime.

2024 marked the 11th year of this initiative, and while the core structure has remained consistent since its inception, several enhancements were made to further improve the initiative and remain current with contemporary public safety practices. These changes include:

- Enhancing the community engagement requirement for participating agencies.
- Updating crime gun submission requirements.
- Improving non-fatal shooting investigations and community trust building.
- Modifying other requirements to ensure alignment with other violence reduction initiatives.

New York State is committed to supporting proven practices to reduce violent crime and providing technical assistance to help agencies implement evidence-based strategies effectively. 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 and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).** Jurisdictions apply problem-oriented policing principles and the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) model to select and implement these strategies and must integrate procedural justice into their response

plans. Jurisdictions also coordinate with SNUG Street Outreach programs, where present. The initiative additionally emphasizes intelligence gathering and crime analysis: all jurisdictions have access to crime analysis personnel and resources through individual GIVE-funded analysts or through the New York State Crime Analysis Center Network, which DCJS supports in partnership with local law enforcement agencies

CACs within GIVE jurisdictions are in Albany, Broome, Erie, Orange, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga and Suffolk counties and serve 14 of the 21 GIVE counties. A CAC in Franklin County also serves Jefferson County.

II. Field Operations

The Field Operations Section delivers the Law Enforcement Strategic Assistance Unit's (LESAU) strategic advisement and support to GIVE jurisdictions. Composed of a supervisor, support staff and seven field advisors, the unit works with jurisdictions to implement the core elements of identified strategies effectively and collaborates with them to innovate in pursuit of improved public safety outcomes. Field advisors serve as a key resource for delivering this support by providing hands-on strategic guidance to funded law enforcement agencies, district attorneys' offices and probation departments through regular advising calls, on-site consultations, training sessions, and ongoing communication. They facilitate collaboration among local partnerships; coordinate peer learning opportunities and working sessions that enhance interagency cooperation and work closely with agency leadership and frontline staff to ensure strong operational alignment with each jurisdiction's GIVE plan.

III. Technical Assistance, Training and Program Alignment

Training and Technical Assistance

In addition to the field and operational support for GIVE, DCJS provides agencies with training and technical assistance to guide the successful implementation of the evidence-based strategies required under the initiative. The goal is to supply the information and resources needed to carry out programs with a demonstrated record of success.

DCJS staff develop and deliver training on the strategies, and the agency engages nationally and internationally recognized experts in evidence-based practices to provide training and technical assistance directly to GIVE sites. This instruction is tailored to roles, responsibilities and skill levels, from patrol officers and investigators to crime analysts, prosecutors, probation officers, supervisors and command staff. Each year, DCJS hosts the Public Safety Symposium in Albany, a three-day conference that convenes more than 1,000 public safety professionals for more than 100 presentations on evidence-based programs and data-driven initiatives. DCJS also maintains a network among participating agencies that allows them to share information about effective practices through regional roundtables, cross-jurisdictional information sharing and the DCJS Criminal Justice Knowledge Bank.

During this period, DCJS delivered 69 training classes to 2,032 attendees, 1,696 in person and 336 through the continued DCJS Law Enforcement Webinar Series, covering the GIVE evidence-based strategies and the skills that support them. Webinars included Hot-Spots Policing, Place Network Investigations, and GIVE guidance, and new in-person offerings included the addition of artificial intelligence training titled, “Artificial Intelligence & Law Enforcement: What Leaders Need to Know.”

The following are the core strategies supported by GIVE:

Problem-Oriented Policing

GIVE jurisdictions are required to use the SARA framework and apply problem-oriented policing principles to analyze identified local crime problems and inform tailored responses. Problem-oriented policing is an approach in which police identify and analyze recurring problems, understood as patterns of related incidents or conditions that harm community members. The analysis draws on crime data, operational information, and community knowledge to identify the problem’s underlying causes and contributing conditions, inform a tailored response, and assess whether that response reduces the problem. Implementation requires coordination among participating agencies and partners, clearly defined roles, aligned resources, and community engagement. Selected strategies are assessed on an ongoing basis to examine their implementation and effectiveness for any adjustments that may be needed.

Procedural Justice

Procedural justice focuses on the way law enforcement interacts and collaborates with the public and how these interactions influence the public’s view of law enforcement and people’s willingness to follow the law. It is a philosophy that upholds legitimacy in the community. The four pillars of procedural justice are voice, neutrality, respect, and trust.

Procedural justice is rooted in the idea that an individual’s regard for the criminal justice system is shaped by their encounter with the system and their perception of the fairness of the process. Perceptions of fairness lead to perceived police legitimacy, and police legitimacy impacts citizen cooperation, compliance and police empowerment. When officers incorporate the four pillars into their interactions with the public, individuals are more likely to comply with police directives and the law because they see the police as more legitimate, which makes encounters safer for officers and the public. All GIVE agencies are required to integrate procedural justice into their overall plans and strategies.

The DCJS procedural justice and implicit bias training have been certified by the Municipal Police Training Council.

The first delivery of “Procedural Justice for Executives” was added this year. This course is a two-day LESAU workshop that helps police executives apply procedural justice and evidence-based practices to agency-level challenges in policy, recruitment, retention, training, evaluation and officer wellness.

Hot-Spots Policing

Hot-spots policing concentrates police resources on the specific micro-locations where crime clusters. The strategy is rooted in research showing that crime is disproportionately concentrated in a small number of places within a community. These hot spots are smaller than patrol beats or neighborhoods, often limited to individual addresses, intersections, street segments or clusters of addresses and blocks, and they persist in the same locations over time. Crime analysis identifies these locations; officers conduct directed patrols there; and each hot spot is treated as a distinct problem-solving initiative. Officers apply the four Gs described by Dr. Cynthia Lum: go to the hot spot; get out of the vehicle; go up to the people there; and go into the businesses and other locations within it to deter crime, build relationships and support the people who live and work there.

Focused Deterrence

Focused deterrence is based on the research finding that a small group of individuals are typically responsible for the majority of the shootings, gun violence and firearm-related deaths in a community. The strategy identifies those chronic offenders for enhanced attention, services and support that give those who want to leave the violence behind a path forward; and investigation, enforcement and prosecution for those who continue engaging in violent behaviors. A partnership of law enforcement agencies, community groups and social services organizations communicates this directly to the identified individuals through call-ins and custom notifications. The goal of this direct communication is to foster legitimacy and build trust between the police and the community. The approach was first popularized in Boston with Operation Ceasefire and is often referred to as group violence intervention.

Non-Fatal Shooting

The non-fatal shooting strategy is a dedicated investigative approach that applies homicide-level resources and rigor to non-fatal shooting cases to improve clearance rates. During this period, the strategy was a required component of the comprehensive plan for identified jurisdictions with significant non-fatal shooting activity, while other jurisdictions had the option to adopt it where it aligned with their local crime reduction priorities. Non-fatal shootings are near-miss homicides, and those involved are statistically more likely to reoffend or continue to be victimized, yet case closure rates have historically been much lower than for homicides. Best practices include dedicated investigative units; integration of support staff, such as crime analysts and victim advocates; consistent communication between police and prosecutors; timely National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) submissions; and standardized investigative protocols and case reviews. Closing these cases interrupts further violence and builds community confidence in police effectiveness, especially in high-crime areas.

Place Network Investigations

Place Network Investigations (PNI) is a place-based investigative strategy for locations with long-term, persistent violence. The strategy is based on research finding that violence at these locations is sustained by a network of connected places: crime sites where offenses occur; convergent settings where offenders routinely meet; comfort spaces where they plan and stage

in private and corrupting spots – businesses that profit from and fuel criminal activity. Investigators trace both the offenders and the places, building cases against the violent offenders, and on the problem places themselves, whether a negligent business, abandoned property, a vacant lot or conditions that a city agency must correct. A whole-of-city approach, coordinated through a PNI board of police and other city department leaders, then disrupts the network and designs out the conditions that allow crime. Addressing the people and the places together produces lasting reductions, lessens the need for continuous enforcement and supports community redevelopment.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a place-based strategy that changes the physical and social conditions of locations where crime concentrates. The strategy is based on the research finding that the environment shapes both the opportunity for crime and its prevention. Physical measures include improved lighting, cleared sightlines, controlled entry points, territorial markers, greened vacant lots, repaired or secured abandoned properties and the removal of visible signs of neglect, designed to raise an offender's perceived risk of being seen and to expand residents' opportunities for surveillance and guardianship. Social measures include resident participation, neighborhood organization, and activities that build trust and common standards, developing the neighborhood capacity through which residents identify problems, use space collectively and regulate behavior. Law enforcement, city agencies, businesses, and residents plan and carry out these projects together at locations identified through analysis, with the goal of reducing crime and the fear of crime and improving neighborhood quality of life.

Community Engagement

GIVE supports law enforcement participation in both community engagement and youth engagement programs within funded jurisdictions, with each serving a distinct purpose: community engagement builds relationships with the community as a whole, while youth engagement addresses the relationship between law enforcement and young people. These programs prioritize building trust, transparency and collaboration; use evidence-based or promising approaches; and are carried out with all GIVE partners.

Community engagement builds ongoing relationships and collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and the community. The strategy is based on research finding that when community members feel understood and respected by police, they view the agency as legitimate and are more willing to share information, report suspicious activity and work with officers. The work is relationship-based, centered on non-enforcement contacts, collaborative problem-solving and shared responsibility for public safety, with analysis identifying the locations most in need of cooperative relationships. Through these partnerships, police and community members can identify the drivers of crime together and address problems before they escalate.

Youth Engagement

Youth engagement works with young people, using evidence-based approaches, to prevent involvement in violence and the justice system before it starts. Officers participate actively in

youth-focused programming and community-based initiatives that promote positive and prosocial skills, and these programs focus on promoting positive youth development, reducing delinquency and decreasing reliance on pretrial detention or incarceration.

Street Outreach

Street outreach, delivered in New York through the SNUG Street Outreach program, is an evidence-based violence reduction initiative that uses a public health approach to gun violence: identify its source, interrupt its transmission and treat the individuals, families and communities affected by it. SNUG employs credible messengers: outreach workers, hospital responders, social workers and case managers who live in the communities where they work and have had experiences similar to those of the young people they aim to help. Outreach workers respond to shootings to prevent retaliation, detect and resolve conflicts, before they lead to additional violence, and connect high-risk youth with services that promote positive life skills. The model has expanded to include trauma and mental health support, with social workers and case managers across the state and hospital-based social workers at level one trauma centers, connecting victims of violence to their local SNUG programs. The program aims to change the community norms and attitudes that accept violence as a part of life. GIVE jurisdictions with SNUG programs are required to share shooting and violent crime information with their local SNUG programs. This includes monthly and annual shooting maps, prompt notification of shootings in the SNUG target areas, and regular discussion of firearm-related crime, group activity and violence.

GIVE / SNUG Trust Building

Trust building brings police and community members together to strengthen the relationship between them through honest dialogue. DCJS began this initiative in 2020, modeled after reconciliation work occurring around the country to facilitate frank engagements between communities, police and other authorities that allow them to address historical tensions, grievances and misconceptions. Trust building is carried out through an ongoing series of facilitated conversations that bring police officers and community members together for structured monthly discussions. Piloted in the cities of Utica and Schenectady, with assistance from the Finn Institute for Public Safety, the evaluation found that, when implemented appropriately, trust building can generate curative conversation and facilitate community involvement in shaping future policy and practice. This initiative continues, and technical assistance is available to GIVE agencies.

IV. Evaluation and Assessment

Evaluation and assessment play a key role in GIVE, as the state works to ensure that agencies use resources wisely and implement evidence-based practices, as designed. Jurisdictions document their progress through the GIVE Reporting and Assessment Tool, developed with input from subject matter experts from New York State and across the country, as well as internal and external GIVE stakeholders. Two assessments anchor this reporting: the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT), through which jurisdictions evaluate the progress of their evidence-based strategies, and the Implementation Assessment Tool (IAT), which evaluates how those strategies are being implemented, built, reinforced and sustained with fidelity. Along with spending and meeting

reports, these tools are submitted quarterly, allowing DCJS to review whether funded work is being delivered as outlined in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan and allowing agencies to fulfill the reporting requirements of the grant-funded program.

V. GIVE Partner Agencies 2023 and 2024: Strategy and Funding Overview

In 2023 and 2024, GIVE funds personnel, including prosecutors, police, probation, and field intelligence officers, as well as crime analysts. The grants provide funds to be used for enforcement, equipment, technology, and training. In addition, funds for special initiatives, such as non-fatal shooting investigations, youth engagement, and community outreach / trust building, were made available. Jurisdictions receiving GIVE funding were required to develop comprehensive plans that coordinate the efforts of all GIVE-funded partners, while integrating 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 three part-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $1,606,460

2024 Grant Award: $2,441,289

Broome County

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

2023 Grant Award: $481,590

2024 Grant Award: $872,833

Cayuga County

Participating agencies: Auburn Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports two fully funded employees and one partially funded employee.

2023 Grant Award: $370,655

2024 Grant Award: $370,655

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.

2023 Grant Award: $488,551

2024 Grant Award: $682,014

Chemung County

Participating agencies: Elmira Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports one fully funded employee and three partially funded employees.

2023 Grant Award: $383,147

2024 Grant Award: $383,147

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.

2023 Grant Award: $1,062,694

2024 Grant Award: $1,466,363

Erie County

Participating agencies: Buffalo Police Department, Amherst Police Department, Cheektowaga Police Department, Lackawanna Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Probation Department and Central Police Services. GIVE funding supports 12 full-time employees and two part-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $4,273,544

2024 Grant Award: $6,482,391

Jefferson County

Participating agencies: Watertown Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department. GIVE funding supports one fully funded employee and four partially funded employees.

2023 Grant Award: $507,948

2024 Grant Award: $507,948

Monroe County

Participating agencies: Rochester Police Department, Greece Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and the Probation Department. GIVE funding supports five full-time employees and 10 part-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $4,214,570

2024 Grant Award: $6,254,325

Nassau County

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

2023 Grant Award: $799,026

2024 Grant Award: $1,494,692

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 two part-time employe

2023 Grant Award: $1,540,914

2024 Grant Award: $2,188,290

Oneida County

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

2023 Grant Award: $789,375

2024 Grant Award: $1,435,330

Onondaga County

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

2023 Grant Award: $1,865,545

2024 Grant Award: $3,231,376

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 five full-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $933,547

2024 Grant Award: $1,782,060

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.

2023 Grant Award: $863,012

2024 Grant Award: $1,285,599

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.

2023 Grant Award: $250,774

2024 Grant Award: $357,920

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 two part-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $415,498

2024 Grant Award: $1,200,773

Suffolk County

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

2023 Grant Award: $313,816

2024 Grant Award: $1,307,677

Tompkins County

Participating agencies: Ithica Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and Probation Department.

2023 Grant Award: $383,595

2024 Grant Award: $383,595

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.

2023 Grant Award: $165,205

2024 Grant Award: $405,525

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 eight full-time employees and two part-time employees.

2023 Grant Award: $479,152

2024 Grant Award: $1,404,108

Appendix A: Data

The GIVE funding cycle begins in early summer, providing law enforcement agencies additional resources when crime traditionally spikes. Each of the 28 police departments participating in GIVE as of 2023, submit monthly statistics to DCJS. Those statistics are posted to the DCJS website under the Reported Crime and Victimization Section (Gun Violence).

Appendix B: 2023 Firearm-Related Crime Activity

The GIVE initiative targets 28 jurisdictions within 21 counties Upstate and on Long Island. Participating agencies are categorized into two tiers, with Tier I agencies focused on reducing the number of victims of firearm shooting incidents and Tier II agencies focused on reducing firearm-related violent crimes. The following agencies are shown separately and summarized under GIVE Tier I: Albany, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, Nassau County, Newburgh, Niagara Falls, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Schenectady, Suffolk County, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, and Yonkers. Shootings in the following jurisdictions appear in the Tier II summary pages: Amherst, Auburn, Binghamton, Cheektowaga, Elmira, Greece, Ithaca, Jamestown, Kingston, Lackawanna, Middletown, Spring Valley, and Watertown.

All GIVE jurisdictions (Tier I and II) reported 816 shooting incidents involving injury through December 2023, down (-24%) when compared to 2022 (1,073).

Shooting victims (persons hit) decreased 23 percent (963) through December 2023, when compared to 2022 (1,257).

When compared to 2022, the number of shooting homicides in 2023 decreased (-32%), with 141 reported. Rochester (43), Buffalo (24), Albany (14), Syracuse (12), Suffolk County (11) Niagara Falls (7), and Utica (5) accounted for 82 percent (116) of the 141 homicides.

Firearm Report data can be found **here.**

2024

Through December 2024, the 28 police departments collectively reported 588 shooting incidents involving injury, down (-28%) when compared to January – December 2023 (817).

The number of individuals shot through December 2024 (725) decreased 25 percent when compared to January – December 2023 (963).

When compared to 2023, the number of shooting homicides in 2024 decreased (-18%), with 115 reported.