



COMPREHENSIVE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN (2026–2031)

The Road Ahead: Baltimore’s Second Five-Year Plan

Pillar 1: Strengthen Evidence-Based Violence Intervention Strategies

Data shows that a very small percentage of the population drives the majority of violence, as do acts of retaliatory violence. This pillar’s strategies focus on those at the highest risk of being involved in violence.

1.1 Building on Baltimore’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS)

The focused deterrence model is now operational in six BPD districts. This subpillar scales it citywide, deepens wraparound service capacity, and extends the strategy’s reach behind the wall in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

- 1.1.1 Expand Strategy to Scale
- 1.1.2 Grow Internal Service Capacity
- 1.1.3 Work With DPSCS to Conduct Focused Deterrence Behind the Wall
- 1.1.4 Continue to Evaluate GVRS

1.2 Strengthening the Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Ecosystem

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) empowers credible messengers — people with lived experience and deep community roots — to mediate conflicts, conduct street outreach, and connect high-risk individuals to the support they need. This subpillar deepens Baltimore’s investment in that ecosystem across every intervention point and strengthens coordination across its component parts.

- 1.2.1 Continued Support for Frontline Community Violence Intervention Work

- 1.2.2 Complete the School-Based Violence Intervention Program (SBVIP) Pilot
- 1.2.3 Secure the Long-Term Future of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Work
- 1.2.4 Integrate Violence Prevention and Intervention Work

Pillar 2: Youth Justice and Violence Reduction

Youth victims of homicides decreased by 78% in 2025 and youth arrests have declined overall since pre-pandemic highs in 2017, with the majority of arrests being for misdemeanor offenses. Investing in the success of Baltimore’s young people means addressing early trauma, preventing unnecessary repeat contact with the justice system, providing pathways for economic opportunity, and coordinating across systems to intervene early where necessary.

2.1 Implement Early Interventions to Improve Youth Safety

The earlier a community reaches a young person, the greater the opportunity to change their trajectory. This subpillar builds a coordinated system across MONSE, BPD, the Department of Juvenile Services, and community partners to identify risk early and connect young people and their families with support before involvement in violence deepens.

- 2.1.1 Institute Citywide Youth Diversion Programming with DJS

2.2 Center Young People in Public Safety

Young people are not just the beneficiaries of Baltimore’s public safety work; they are essential

partners in shaping it. This subpillar brings violence intervention into the spaces where young people actually are and ensures they help drive the strategies that impact their lives.

- 2.2.1 Uplift Youth Voices
- 2.2.2 Increase Proactive Neighborhood Stabilization in Areas with High Youth Violence

2.3 Support Programming for School-Aged Youth

Keeping Baltimore's school-aged young people safe requires a strategically connected ecosystem of supports that meets them in school, in their neighborhoods, and throughout the year — including the highest-risk months outside the traditional academic calendar.

- 2.3.1 Continue School-Based Violence Prevention Work in Middle and High Schools
- 2.3.2 Ensure Employment Opportunities for Baltimore's Youth
- 2.3.3 Strengthen Spring and Summer Youth Engagement Work
- 2.3.4 Continue to Sustain Safe Passage Work

2.4 Ensure Coordination and Collaboration Across Youth Justice Work

No single agency, program, or intervention can address the full complexity of what Baltimore's young people are navigating. This subpillar builds the coordination infrastructure to ensure all partners — City agencies, community-based organizations, state systems, and families — are working in alignment.

- 2.4.1 Build Capacity and Coordination Across City Agencies and Youth-Serving Providers
- 2.4.2 Continue Intensive Case Management for At-Risk Youth
- 2.4.3 Prioritize Child Fatality Review Report Recommendations
- 2.4.4 Intentionally Increase Parent and Caregiver Engagement

Pillar 3: Invest in All Baltimoreans

Violence takes shape long before it becomes visible, with unaddressed trauma, the absence of employment, and the compounding weight of systems that have historically taken more than they have given all playing a role. From coordinated support for crime victims and returning citizens to harm reduction supports and additional employment pathways, this pillar sees the importance of meeting communities where they are and treating mind, body, and spirit.

3.1 Strengthening Baltimore's Victim Services Work

Every survivor who reaches out to the City deserves a response that is timely, trauma-informed, and free of bureaucratic barriers. This subpillar expands the city's Victim Services infrastructure across every population it serves, deepens coordination with community partners, and ensures that the most underserved survivors, including those impacted by intimate partner violence and human trafficking, are no longer overlooked.

- 3.1.1 Build Capacity for Internal Victim Services Case Management
- 3.1.2 Finalize Implementation of Public Safety Partnership (PSP) Victim Services Assessment Report Recommendations
- 3.1.3 Improve Victim Services Coordination Between Government and Community-Based Partners
 - » 3.1.3.1 Activate and Expand Victim Services Coordinating Council
- 3.1.4 Expand Supports for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
 - 3.1.4.1 Improve Coordination Across IPV Prevention Partners
 - 3.1.4.2 Institutionalize Housing Supports for Survivors of IPV
 - 3.1.4.3 Promote Awareness and Advocacy Around Domestic Violence Prevention

- 3.1.4.4 Expand Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT)
- 3.1.5 Expand Anti-Human Trafficking Work
- 3.1.5.1 Human Trafficking Awareness and Response Training

3.2 Deliver Trauma-Informed Care Training

Trauma is the lived experience of residents who have witnessed violence, lost loved ones, and navigated systems not designed with their wellbeing in mind. Every person who works on behalf of the City has a role to play in responding to that reality with skill, empathy, and care.

- 3.2.1 Provide Conflict De-Escalation and Mediation Training for Frontline City Staff

3.3 Strengthen Re-Entry Continuum of Care

For the thousands of Baltimoreans who return home from incarceration each year, the transition back into community is one of the most critical yet most unsupported moments of their lives. This subpillar builds the continuum of care that makes successful re-entry possible, starting behind the wall and continuing through reintegration.

- 3.3.1 Stand Up the Office of Returning Citizens
- 3.3.2 Expand Safe Return Plans
- 3.3.3 Provide Housing Assistance to Vulnerable Baltimoreans
- 3.3.4 Formally Appoint and Activate the Re-Entry Action Council
- 3.3.5 Strengthen Partnership with DPSCS

3.4 Implement Strategies to Create Avenues for Meaningful Employment

Research on the connection between unemployment and violence is unambiguous. Lack of opportunity and economic mobility can lead to behavior that puts people at risk for being involved in violence, as perpetrators or victims. This subpillar expands every pathway the City has to connect residents to meaningful work.

- 3.4.1 Continue Transitional Employment Opportunities
- 3.4.2 Strengthen Job Readiness Programs and Case Management
- 3.4.3 Expand Skill-Based Vocational Training for In-Demand Careers
- 3.4.4 Prepare Baltimoreans for Careers in Growing Fields
- 3.4.5 Hire Local
- 3.4.6 Remove Barriers to Employment Access

3.5 Support for Baltimore's Older Adults

Baltimore's older adults built and sustain our city. They deserve to age with dignity, safety, and full support as they face a distinct set of public safety vulnerabilities that require targeted attention.

- 3.5.1 Focused Outreach and Engagement for Older Adults
- 3.5.2 Support for Older Adults Aging in Place
- 3.6.3 Address Safety Concerns at Rental Properties Serving Older Adults
- 3.6 Reduce Barriers for Immigrant and LGBTQIA+ Communities

Immigrant and LGBTQIA+ communities are too often marginalized when it comes to accessing City services and supports. They deserve a City government that is responsive to their needs, one that limits barriers to services and provides tailored resources that promote healing and wellbeing.

- 3.6.1 Remove Barriers to Victim Services
- 3.6.2 Provide Tailored, Coordinated Supports
- 3.6.3 Design Strategies With – Not For – Immigrant and LGBTQIA+ Communities
- 3.6.4 Ensure All Baltimoreans Can Access Services

Pillar 4: Build Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods

This pillar is about understanding that environmental factors can encourage

criminal activity or deter it and building safer neighborhoods means addressing blight, illegal dumping, and other quality of life issues.

4.1 Stabilize Communities

Violence ripples outward — destabilizing neighborhoods, deepening community trauma, and eroding the sense of safety that communities need to heal. This subpillar strengthens the City’s capacity to respond, both reactively and proactively, to the traumatic impact of violence on Baltimore’s communities.

- 4.1.1 Strengthen Coordinated Neighborhood Stabilization Response (CNSR) Work
 - » 4.1.1.1 Improve Data Collection and Analysis
- 4.1.2 Ensure Close Collaboration Across City Agencies and Community-Based Partners
- 4.1.3 Mobilize Proactively to Address Community Trauma

4.2 Addressing Quality of Life Issues

Safety is not just the absence of violence. It is the presence of functioning infrastructure, accessible public space, and businesses that contribute to rather than detract from neighborhood wellbeing. This subpillar deploys City government as a unified force for quality of life improvements in Baltimore’s highest-need communities.

- 4.2.1 Strengthen and Institutionalize Interagency Collaboration on Quality of Life Issues
- 4.2.2 Continue to Address Vacant Housing Issues that Contribute to Public Safety
- 4.2.3 Hold Businesses that Contribute to Public Safety Issues Accountable

4.3 Harm Reduction

The overdose crisis and the violence crisis are interconnected problems. They fall on the same communities, are driven by the same conditions, and require the same public health orientation. This subpillar addresses both the immediate dangers of substance use and the upstream conditions that drive Baltimoreans toward addiction.

- 4.3.1 Implement the Overdose Response Strategic Plan
- 4.3.2 Addressing Youth Addiction and Substance Use

4.4 Behavioral Health Intervention and Alternate Response

Baltimore’s 9-1-1 system receives approximately thousands of calls annually involving behavioral health needs that a law enforcement response alone cannot adequately address. This subpillar expands the City’s capacity to meet those calls, as well as other call types that don’t require law enforcement, with the right response.

- 4.4.1 Strengthen Existing 9-1-1 Diversion Infrastructure
- 4.4.2 Improve Behavioral Health Training for Law Enforcement and First Responders
- 4.4.3 Develop Alternate Response Infrastructure

4.5 Addressing Nutritional Insecurity

Research has established a direct link between food insecurity and violence. In Baltimore, that connection maps onto the same neighborhoods that have borne the greatest burden of gun violence for decades. This subpillar addresses food access as a public safety strategy.

- 4.5.1 Food Distribution
- 4.5.2 B’more Fresh
- 4.5.3 Secure More Grocery Stores and Food Access in Healthy Food Priority Areas

Pillar 5: Sustaining and Expanding Baltimore’s Public Safety Toolkit

Baltimore has made public safety progress by challenging assumptions, using unconventional tools, and allowing data and community to direct the work.

This pillar is about locking in the work that has driven results, pursuing aggressive legal action, addressing the flow of illegal firearms in our

communities and closing the data and access gaps that have historically made public safety harder to reach for those who need it most.

5.1 Institutionalize the Local Office of Violence Prevention

Programs built on political will alone are vulnerable. This subpillar embeds MONSE in Baltimore City's Code, ensuring that the convening force behind Baltimore's historic progress outlasts any single administration or budget cycle, and sustains the funding streams that made the work possible.

- 5.1.1 Sustain Essential Work Originally Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

5.2 Data Tracking and Coordination

The Scott Administration has built a public safety data infrastructure designed to turn information into action and hold every partner accountable. This subpillar deepens and expands that infrastructure across every dimension of the City's work.

- 5.2.1 Continue to Update the Public Safety Accountability Dashboard (PSAD)
 - 5.2.1.2 Regular Public Feedback on Usability and Features
- 5.2.2 Strengthen Data Sharing Agreements
- 5.2.3 Pilot a Unified Case Management System for City Human Services
- 5.2.4 Improve Data Tracking and Reporting for Community-Based Partners
- 5.2.5 National Data Reporting for CVI

5.3 Legal Action to Co-Produce Public Safety

Baltimore has used the courts as a tool for public safety, pursuing companies and agencies whose products, practices, and policies have contributed to violence in Baltimore's communities, and ensuring the resources recovered flow back to the people most harmed.

- 5.3.1 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Lawsuit
- 5.3.2 Glock / Easily Modifiable Firearms Lawsuit
- 5.3.3 Responsible Stewardship of Funding Resulting from Lawsuits and Legislation
 - » 5.3.3.1 Opioid Settlements and Abatement
 - » 5.3.3.2 Ghost Gun/Hanover Armory Case
 - » 5.3.3.3 Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund

5.4 Advocate for Legislation that Advances Public Safety

This subpillar sustains the City's consistent advocacy at the state and federal level for the policy changes on guns, housing, employment, and health that are essential to long-term safety.

5.5 Coordinate with Regional Law Enforcement to Address the Flow of Crime Guns into Baltimore City

Eighty-two percent of crime guns recovered in Baltimore originate outside the city. This subpillar deepens Baltimore's regional law enforcement partnerships to disrupt the supply chains that fuel violence.

5.6 Promote Safe Firearm Storage

Unsecured firearms in homes contribute to unintentional shootings, youth injuries, domestic violence incidents, and theft. This subpillar promotes safe storage as a straightforward, evidence-supported public safety intervention.

5.7 City-Issued Identification Services for Underserved Residents

Access to government-issued identification is one of the most overlooked barriers facing returning citizens, immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable Baltimoreans — and without it, nearly every other support becomes harder to reach. This subpillar expands ID access as a foundational public safety intervention.

Pillar 6: Community Engagement and Collaboration

Public safety cannot be built or sustained without the community. Government and law enforcement cannot do it alone.

This pillar is about deepening the relationships, accountability structures, and community authority that make this work possible, guided by those living in communities most impacted by violence.

6.1 Neighborhood Public Safety Plans (NPSP)

Public safety decisions made without community input miss the lived knowledge and trust that only residents can provide. Neighborhood Public Safety Plans (previously called Neighborhood Policing Plans) put communities in direct authority over local safety strategies. This subpillar scales and strengthens that model.

- 6.1.1 Leverage Evaluation Findings to Inform the Future of the NPSP Model
 - » 6.1.1.1 Emphasize Community Capacity-Building Partnership with City Agencies
- 6.1.2 Expand NPSPs to Additional Communities

6.2 Continue to Rebuild Public Trust in Law Enforcement and Government

This subpillar advances the sustained work of rebuilding that trust through transparency, data sharing, community policing, and the continued implementation of the Consent Decree.

- 6.2.1 Continue to Advance Community Policing Objectives
- 6.2.2 Follow Through on Commitment to Public Accessibility and Transparency
- 6.2.3 Continue Progress on Consent Decree Implementation

6.3 Produce an Anti-Violence Messaging Campaign

This subpillar develops a community-informed anti-violence messaging campaign that educates the public, shifts norms, and centers the voices of those most affected by violence in shaping Baltimore's public narrative around safety.

6.4 Continue Funding for Metro Crime Stoppers

Community members hold information that can solve crimes, close cold cases, and remove dangerous weapons from Baltimore's streets. Metro Crime Stoppers (MCS) provides a safe, anonymous channel for that information to reach law enforcement and sustaining it is a direct investment in community-driven public safety.

6.5 Ensure Community Voice in Public Safety Strategy

This subpillar institutionalizes the mechanisms — public feedback periods, community sessions, participatory planning processes — through which Baltimoreans shape, test, and refine the strategies meant to keep them safe.

6.6 Engage All Partners in the Co-Production of Public Safety

This subpillar sustains and deepens the formal mechanisms including the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), the Violence Prevention Task Force (VPTF), the Public Safety Advisory Commission, and Neighborhood Public Safety Plans that keep every partner invested in shared outcomes and give residents genuine authority over the strategies affecting their lives.

Goal: Establish formal feedback mechanisms for community partners to continue to inform Baltimore's public safety strategies.