

Gun Violence Prevention Network Program Summary & Application

Signature Learning Opportunity

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), since 2020, gun violence has become the leading cause of death of children in the United States. This tragic reality requires communities to understand and address this issue in a strategic and coordinated way. Philanthropy is well positioned to play a key role as a convener, investor, and advocate for advanced programmatic solutions for tackling gun violence as a public health issue.

In 2021, CFLeads hosted its first successful Gun Violence Prevention Network with four community foundations throughout the country. This network resulted in significant investments from the federal government in local violence prevention efforts in several of the communities. Participating foundation teams built their knowledge and capacity to strengthen partnerships, pursue national resources, and leverage philanthropic investments to maximize impact.

The CFLeads Gun Violence Prevention Network will use an iterative, action-oriented peer learning approach. The Network will be guided by national gun violence prevention experts and speakers who will provide substantive information on current research and best practices for addressing violence as a public health issue.

About the Network

The Gun Violence Prevention Network will be comprised of 6 – 8 community foundation teams consisting of 4 - 5 individuals from each community.

Teams should include:

- The community foundation CEO or other senior leader with the external relationships necessary to engage local partners;
- One or two senior staff members focused on youth, family, and/or community investments; and
- 1 - 2 community partners, such as a representative from a local violence prevention organization, public health and/or public safety department, local elected official, or other foundation.

The Network will meet in person three times during 2024. Each in-person meeting will take place over two days.

Meeting elements include:

1. Customized program content from field experts;
2. Structured peer advising;
3. Team action planning; and
4. Informal networking time.

Community foundations that are current CFLeads investors will receive priority consideration for this Network. Not yet a CFLeads investor? Visit [Support Our Work](#) to learn more about becoming one.

Benefits to Community Foundations Participating in the Network

If selected for Network participation, your community foundation will receive the following benefits:

- Information to gain a better understanding of effective gun violence prevention practices;
- Guidance from session presenters and one-on-one advice from subject matter experts in applying specific gun violence prevention best practices, leading to tangible milestones in your local violence prevention work;
- Support on crafting short-term action plans your team will carry out between the Network meetings, leading to stronger team effectiveness;
- Assistance in creating a blueprint to start or expand local gun violence prevention activities post-network; and
- Regular, organized and well-structured exchanges with other community foundations, leading to strong peer connections to draw upon in the future.

Required Community Foundation Commitments

CFLeads is committed to building a community of practice. The Network participants will maximize their experience and the experience of others when all members fully participate. Each community foundation has much to give and much to gain.

To participate in the Gun Violence Prevention Network, selected community foundation teams commit to:

1. The creation of teams as outlined above, that remain consistent throughout the program.

2. Full team attendance at all three meetings of the Network (locations TBD).
Tentative weeks for meetings:
 - a. **The week of April 22**
 - b. **The week of July 29**
 - c. **The week of October 7**
3. 90-minute team interviews in advance of each network learning meeting.
4. Completion of team homework to be presented at each meeting.
5. Active engagement with other participating community foundations to further learning.

There is no fee to participate in the Gun Violence Prevention Network. If selected, community foundation teams will be responsible for travel and accommodation for all team members to all meetings.

Key Application and Network Launch Dates

1. **January 11, 2024:** Virtual information session for potential applicants at 2PM Eastern. Register [here](#).
2. **January 22, 2024:** Applications due. Please submit your application via email to Caroline Merenda at cmerenda@cfleads.org
3. **January 31, 2024:** Announcement of community foundations selected to participate in Gun Violence Prevention Network.
4. **February 5, 2024:** Selected community foundations receive Terms of Participation from CFLeads
5. **February 9, 2024:** Community foundations return signed Terms of Participation to CFLeads.
6. **February 19 – 23, 2024:** CFLeads holds team interviews with Network participants.

Questions?

If you have questions on the Gun Violence Prevention Network, please email Caroline Merenda at cmerenda@cfleads.org.

Ready to Apply?

Please send your completed application (as a Word document) to cmerenda@cfleads.org by January 22, 2024.

The Gun Violence Prevention Network is funded by the California Wellness Foundation.



Community Foundations
Leading Change

**APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN
CFLEADS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK
December 2023**

Please submit responses via a Word document to cmerenda@cflleads.org.

Section 1: Your Community Foundation and Team

Community Foundation or Affiliate:

Address:

Year founded:

Geographic area being served:

Staff size:

Assets:

Primary Contact Regarding the Application Process:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

If you are an affiliate, please provide the following about your community lead: Name, CEO, and contact information.

Please provide the names, titles and contact information for each team member that will participate in the Gun Violence Prevention Network. Please briefly describe why each member is appropriate for this learning opportunity.

Section 2: About Your Community Foundation

Please take no more than 3 pages to answer questions in Section 2.

1. Has your community foundation embraced local gun violence prevention as an organizational priority? Please describe.

2. What has been the community foundation's decision-making process that led it to take on gun violence prevention? Please briefly describe one or two organizational actions the CEO or senior leadership took to help ensure the success of the work. List no more than two examples.
3. Increasingly, community foundations are taking steps to ensure that race and ethnicity do not determine life outcomes. Has your community foundation engaged staff and/or board members in deepening their understanding of the importance of and their capacities to advance racial equity? Please describe one or two activities to increase your board and staff understanding of racial equity.
4. Please describe the community foundation's racial and ethnic diversity at the staff, senior staff, and board levels.

Section 3: Your Current Activities

Please take no more than 3 pages to answer questions in Section 3.

1. Please tell us about your foundation's current gun violence reduction and prevention work. In no more than a paragraph or two, please describe:
 - Desired community impact: What result(s) do you hope to achieve in the community? Is your community foundation pursuing any identified population-level result(s)? Include one or two of your foundation's key partnerships, if any, in which partners work closely with you in advancing the desired community impact(s.)
 - Results: To date, what has been the most important result of your gun violence prevention work, if any?
2. What are you seeking to gain from participation in the Gun Violence Prevention Network? Please identify the top one or two outcomes of participating in the Gun Violence Prevention Network that would most make your participation worthwhile.
3. How is your community foundation using data to address gun violence? Do you currently have a data partner supporting your work?
4. How is your community foundation amplifying community voice by bringing together community stakeholders who wield power and influence to enact large-scale change?
5. Is your community foundation advocating for policy change at local, state and/or federal levels? As part of this Network, would you be willing to engage in a policy agenda in partnership with other community foundations?

Section 4: Expectations

As described in the Summary above, the success of the Gun Violence Prevention Network depends on the full commitment of each participating team. While we understand that conflicts will occasionally arise, we expect participants will commit to:

- Creating a team that must include the community foundation’s CEO or senior leader, a senior staff member or two, and at least one community partner;
- Full and consistent team attendance at the three, two-day meetings that are a hallmark of this initiative; and
- Actively sharing and learning in real time with community foundation peers.

Section 5: Signatures

By signing below, if selected to participate, I agree to all of the commitments and expectations set forth in the Gun Violence Prevention Network overview and this application.

Signature of CEO

Date

Commitment from lead community foundation CEO on behalf of affiliate (if relevant)

By signing below, I acknowledge and support the application from an affiliate of the community foundation I represent.

Name of lead community foundation:

Signature of CEO of lead community foundation

Date