

Community Violence Intervention: Building Seattle's First CVI Infrastructure

Purpose of This Briefing:

- Provide a shared understanding of CVI
- Describe Seattle's current CVI landscape
- Identify structural and operational gaps
- Compare Seattle's approach to national practice

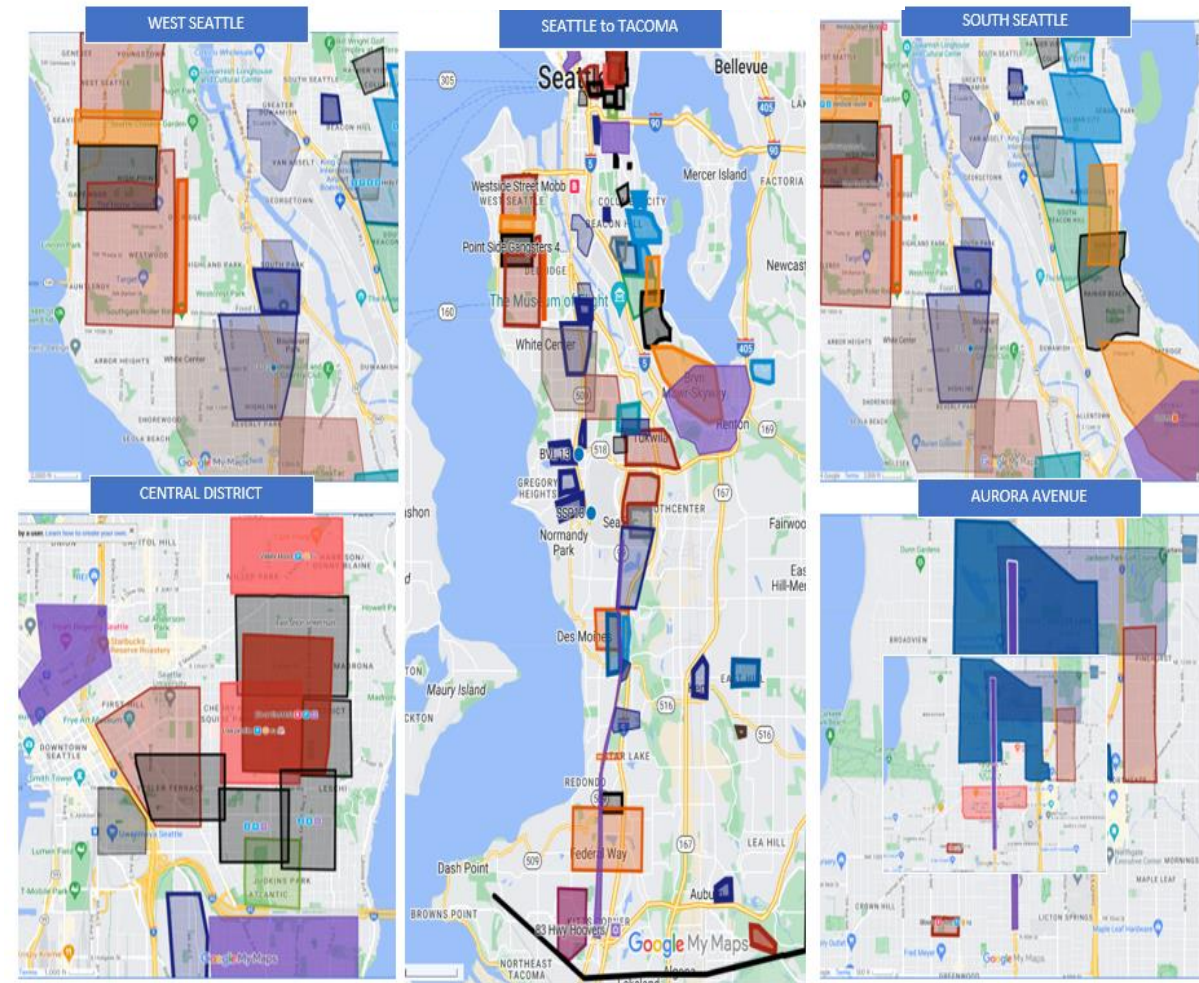
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Why CVI Matters?

- **Serious violence is driven by a small number of individuals, groups, and locations, often connected through social networks and retaliatory dynamics**
- **Traditional enforcement alone does not interrupt cycles of retaliation or address trauma-related risk factors associated with repeat violence.**
- **Cities nationwide use Community Violence Intervention (CVI) as a complementary public safety function, alongside policing, to reduce shootings and prevent escalation**

Community Violence is Highly Concentrated



Colored polygons illustrate areas of concentrated group- and network-associated violence, shown for contextual understanding of geographic concentration rather than enforcement targeting.

The Role of CVI Strategies

CVI STRATEGIES TARGET THOSE MOST AT RISK

60% OF GUN VIOLENCE CAN
PREDICTED THROUGH A
SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

40% OF THOSE SHOT ARE
KILLED OR INJURED AGAIN
WITHIN 5 YEARS

LESS THAN 2% ARE
CONNECTED TO 80% OF
COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

**THIS POPULATION IS THE
HARDEST TO REACH
WITHOUT TARGETED
STRATEGIES**



Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Definition:

A comprehensive set of strategies that address the root causes of violence and focus on interrupting cycles of violence, preventing retaliatory acts, and promoting positive community change using a network of community-based organizations, public health departments, and other stakeholders to reduce violence.

The CVI ecosystem aims to provide adequate funding, maximize the response to high-risk individuals, and make violence reduction sustainable.



CVI Ecosystem - Key Elements

- City-led strategy, community driven strategy
- Network of trusted community organizations
- Public health + public safety coordination
- Focus on highest risk individuals
- Real-time violence interruption & mediation
- Prevention of retaliation cycles
- Street outreach & credible messengers
- Sustainable funding & infrastructure
- Cross-agency coordination (city, county, partners)
- Community trust + legitimacy at the center
- Wraparound services (housing, jobs, mental health)
- Data-informed targeting & response

Community
violence
intervention
ecosystem



Current State: Fragmented CVI Landscape

The Problem:

Seattle's current community violence prevention efforts are fragmented and lack the coordinated infrastructure needed to achieve sustained reductions in gun violence.

- Multiple CVI-related investments operating without shared governance or executive ownership
- Effective programs exist, but function largely in silos
- Limited systemwide accountability, data integration, or coordination
- CVI is often treated as time-limited programming, rather than core public safety infrastructure

Opportunity:

Seattle has an opportunity to strengthen coordination, infrastructure, and system capacity to support a scalable CVI approach spanning prevention, intervention, stabilization and recovery.

Seattle's Foundational Strengths to Build From

- Strong community-led initiatives - Seattle Community Safety Initiative (SCSI)
- Recent reductions in shootings and firearm harm, indicating short-term progress
- In **2024**, firearm homicides declined by **29%**, non-fatal shootings fell **13%**, and shots-fired incidents decreased **6%**
- In the **first half of 2025**, homicides declined **41% year-over-year**, and overall shootings were down **29%**
- Recognition as a **Top 10 city on the National Violence Prevention Index (2023)**, reflecting strong readiness and infrastructure foundations
- Existing **hospital-based violence intervention programs** and victim services
- Prior success in youth violence reduction efforts, including **SYVPI outcomes in the early 2010s**
- Access to national technical assistance and evidence-informed strategies (e.g., **Cities United, NICJR, Everytown**)
- Growing political and public interest in **community-centered approaches that complement traditional enforcement**

These assets indicate readiness—but do not substitute for a coordinated CVI ecosystem.

Data reflects Seattle Police Department year-over-year comparisons; reductions may be influenced by multiple factors and do not by themselves indicate system-level sustainability.

National Trend: Systems Over Programs



NEW YORK CITY
CRISIS MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM



Coordinated CVI Ecosystems

Cities are moving away from isolated solutions, creating cohesive Community Violence Intervention systems for greater overall impact.

Focus on Governance and Infrastructure

Governance, data management, and robust infrastructure are prioritized to enhance and support violence prevention efforts.

Investing in Sustainability and Trust

Efforts are now directed toward visibility, trust, and consistency, making solutions more sustainable and effective.

The Capacity Lens: National Benchmark



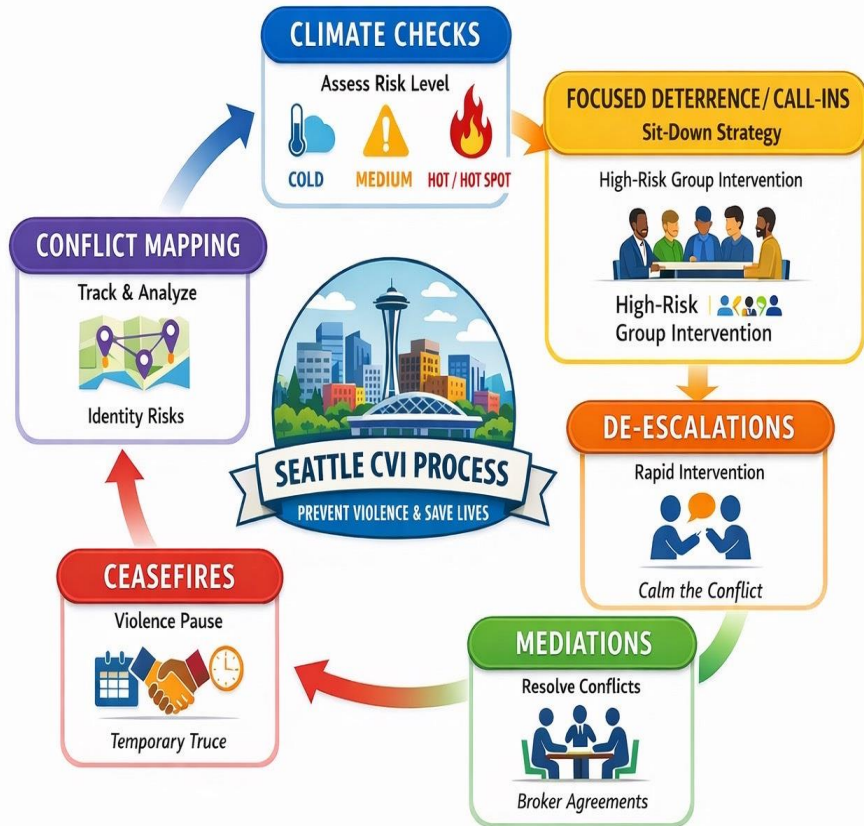
What Successful Cities Build:

1. Political governance and public sector leadership
2. Data-informed problem analysis
3. Cross-sector collaboration on a shared strategy
4. Effective operational management
5. Robust violence reduction infrastructure
6. Sustainability planning and institutionalization

Cities succeed because of capacity, not because they bought the “right” program.

Professionalization Improves Outcomes

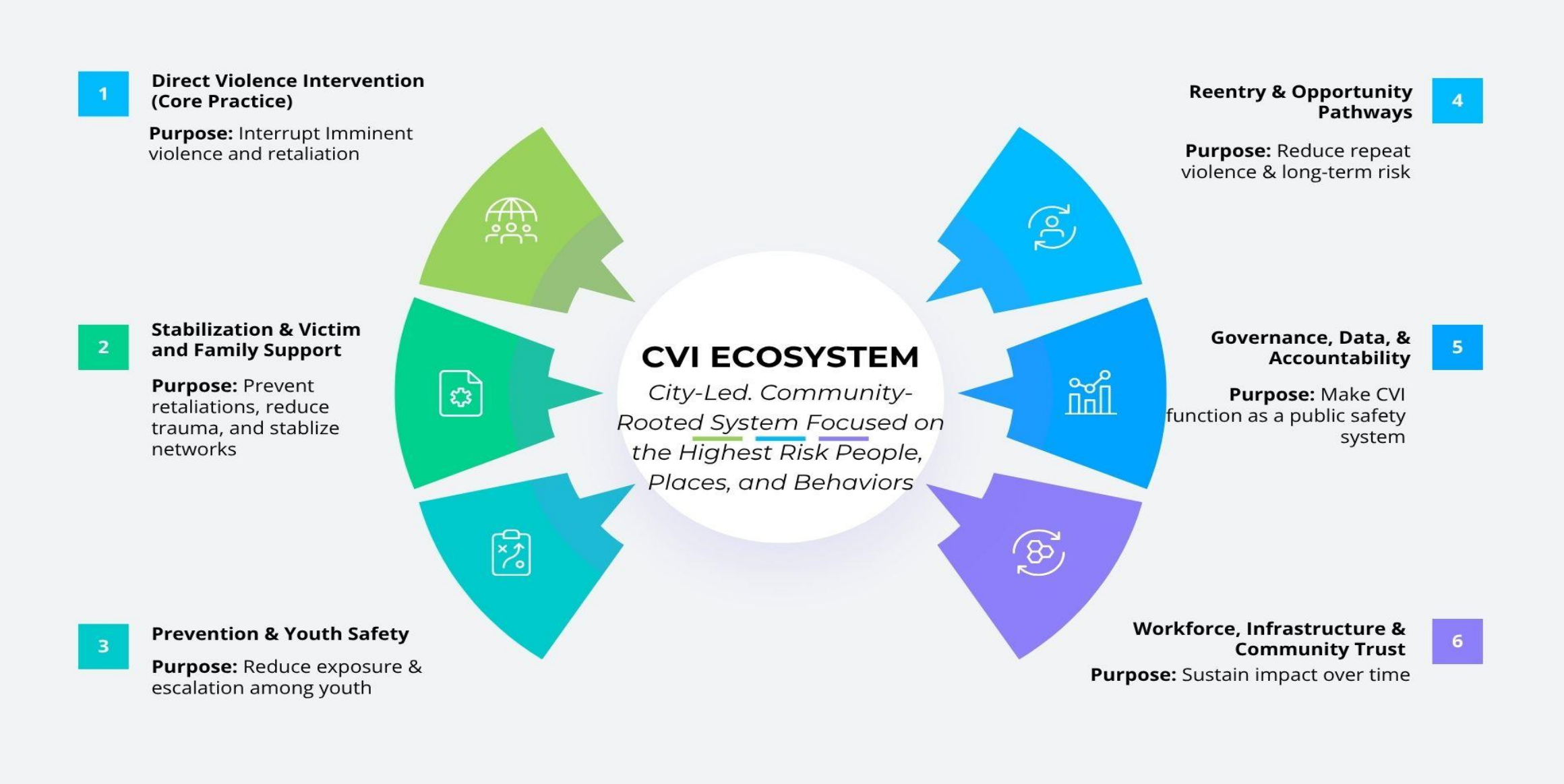
Outcomes improve when legitimacy is paired with structure.



- Credible messengers are most effective when supported by **clear practice governance**
- Standard operating procedures and shared protocols improve **consistency and safety**
- Professionalization strengthens **accountability without undermining legitimacy**
- Street outreach functions as a **non-punitive first responder role**
- CVI operates **alongside, not instead of, law enforcement**, similar to fire and EMS

Opportunity to align state, local, and federal funding into a coordinated CVI ecosystem

CVI as a Coordinated Ecosystem



Where Seattle Aligns vs. Lags

Alignment

- Public Health Framing
- Community Partnerships
- Hospital-Based Intervention

Lagging

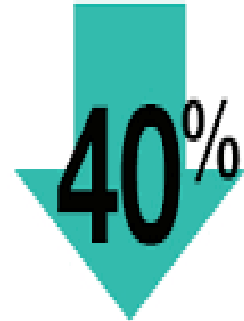
- Executive Ownership
- Practice Governance
- Institutionalized Infrastructure

*Seattle is doing many of the right things.
What's missing is the system that makes those things add up.*

National Example: New York City

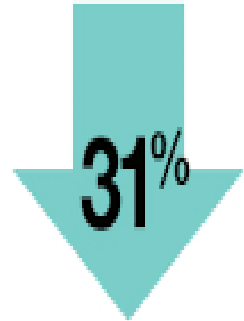
Crisis Management System (CMS)

From 2010 to 2019,
data shows an average



reduction
in shootings
across all CMS
program areas

Compared to



in
comparison
sites

Integrated CVI Framework

NYC's CMS connects citywide violence intervention efforts, moving beyond isolated, standalone models for greater impact.

Neighborhood-Based Hubs

Local hubs in high-priority areas address specific community needs, bringing crisis management directly to affected neighborhoods.

Accountability and Visibility

Tracking outreach hours, branded vehicles, and uniforms ensure visibility and accountability in public safety efforts.

Beyond Incident Counts

Emphasis on performance measurements that reflect broader community impact, not just the number of incidents managed.

CVI Investment Landscape

- **Federal (2022):**
DOJ invested ~\$100M in CVI through their Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI)
- **Washington State:**
Washington State Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention
Supports CVI through state-funded grants, victim services, and community-based violence prevention investments
- **Local (Cities):**
Fund core components such as:
 - Street outreach teams
 - Hospital-based intervention
 - Case management & wraparound services

Opportunity to align state, local, and federal funding into a coordinated CVI ecosystem

Build Seattle's CVI Infrastructure with a Multi-Year, Phased Approach

Phase 1: Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Development

- **Goals:** Lay the groundwork for a sustainable CVI ecosystem
- *Build the system*

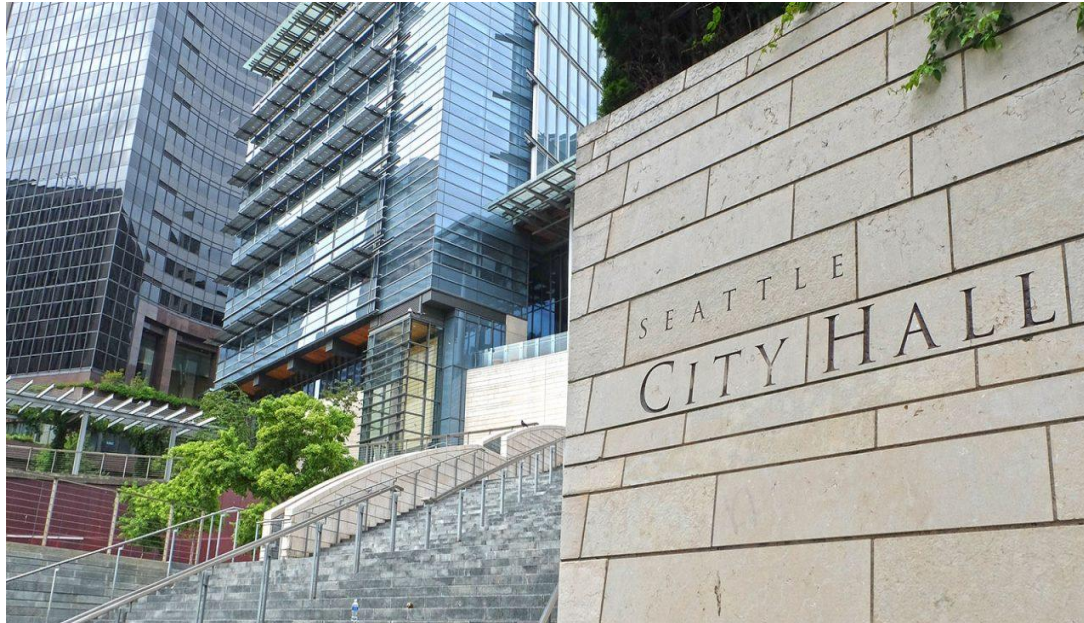
Phase 2: Pilot Deployment & Initial Evaluation

- **Focus:** Deploy, refine, and scale what works
- *Operate with fidelity*

Phase 3: Expansion, Scaling & Institutionalization

- **Focus:** Sustain and embed CVI into city systems
- *Sustain and embed*

Phase 1: Council-Funded Deliverables



Bottom Line:

- From fragmented efforts → coordinated CVI ecosystem
- Equips Council for future investment and policy decisions

Purpose: Build the blueprint for a coordinated CVI ecosystem

1. National CVI Landscape Briefing
What works nationally

2. Seattle CVI Ecosystem Assessment
What we have + what's missing

3. Office of Violence Prevention Framework
How the system is structured

4. Budget & Implementation Guidance
What it costs + how to phase it

THANK YOU!
Questions?