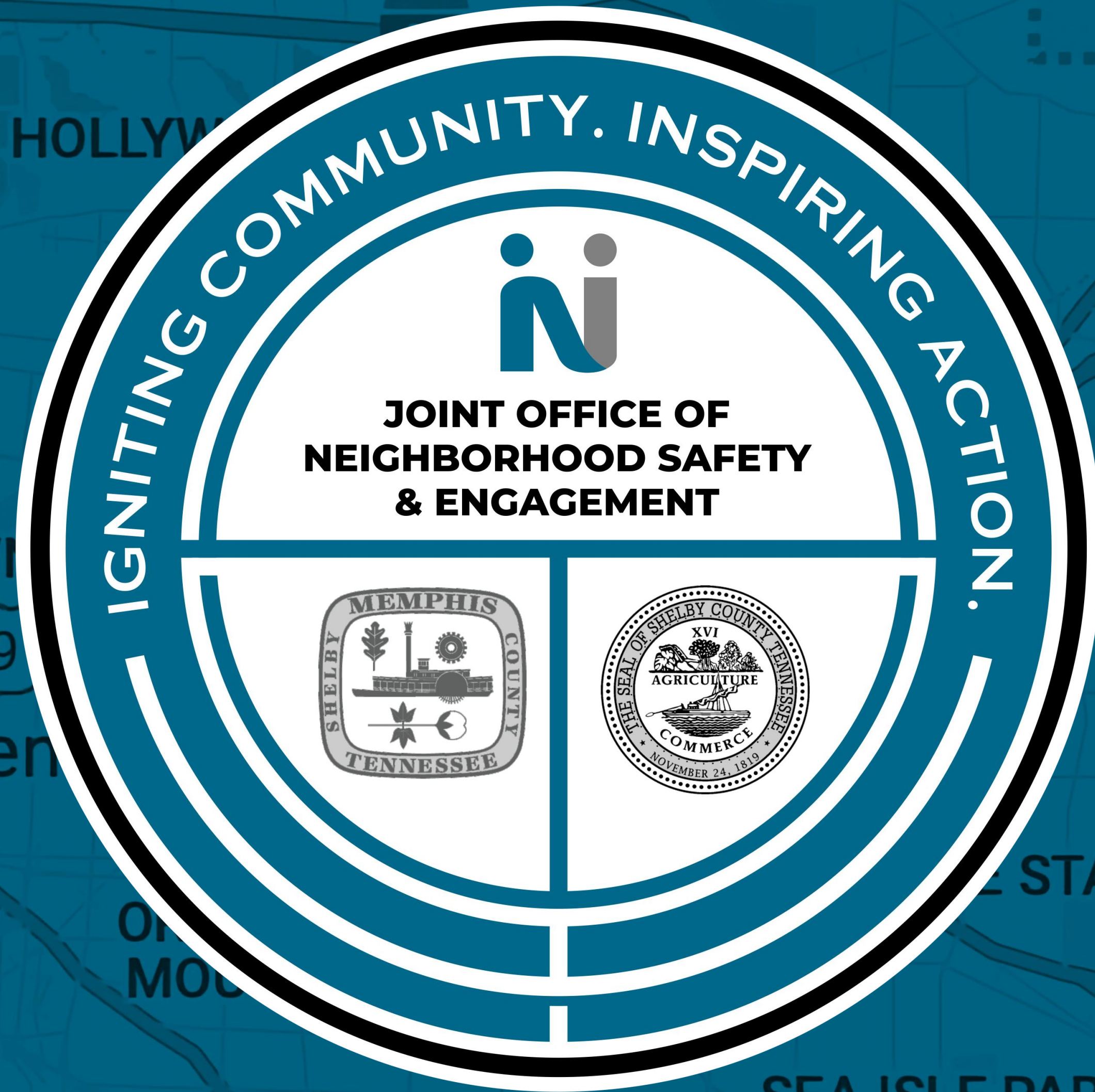


# Ecosystem Convening & Coordinating Around Violence Prevention



## From Silos to Systems

# What is an Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)?

An OVP is a **public safety office, within government, focused on reducing gun violence**, established to respond to the specific needs of the jurisdiction in which it resides—using a **public health approach** rather than one centered around criminal enforcement.



*Valerie Matthews and Tamika Williams had the wisdom and courage to acknowledge that the way the Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee, governments were approaching public safety wasn't working as well as it should. With the support of Memphis Mayor Paul Young and Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, they've broken down city-county silos to launch a joint Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement. We're honored to have them join Results for America's Jen Tolentino to share the story of this work in today's post.*

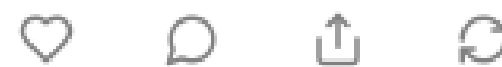
– Michele Jolin, CEO and Co-Founder, Results for America

## [A First-in-the-Nation Model for Community Safety](#)

How Memphis and Shelby County's joint city-county office is aligning investments, strengthening community partners and contributing to reductions in gun violence.

[TAMIKA A WILLIAMS, VALERIE M. MATTHEWS, AND JEN TOLENTINO](#)

JAN 28



[READ IN APP](#) ↗



# Why Gun Violence?

## Stand. Take a Seat.

...if you have personally been threatened or intimidated with a gun.

...if you are a direct victim of gun violence.

... if fear of a mass shooting has prevented you from attending certain places or events.

...if a friend, family, or community member has been involved in a gun violence related incident.

...if you have lost a friend or family member to gun violence.

“*Gun violence is a public health epidemic that affects the well-being and public safety of all Americans. In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data shows **46,728 individuals died from gun violence** in the United States, the third-highest annual total ever recorded.<sup>1</sup>*

In 2022, Black youth accounted for 48% of all youth firearm deaths, although they made up only 14% of the U.S. youth population.

While most gun violence does not involve a mass shooting, in 2024, there were 505 reported mass shootings, killing 511 people and injuring another 2,206 victims.

For the third straight year, firearms killed more children and teens, ages 1 to 17, than any other cause, including car crashes and cancer.

Kim, R., Wagner, E. D., Nestadt, P. S., Somayaji, N., Horwitz, J., & Crifasi, C. K. (2025). *Gun Violence in the United States 2023: Examining the Gun Suicide Epidemic*. Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions, Johns Hopkins Center for Suicide Prevention, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.





**Mayor Lee Harris**  
Shelby County Government

**Sandy Bromley, Division Director**  
Division of Community Services



**Mayor Paul Young**  
City of Memphis

**Mairi Albertson, Chief of Staff**  
Executive Leadership



**Valerie M. Matthews (SCG),**  
Director

**Tamika A. Williams (CoM),**  
Deputy Director

**Rape Prevention & Education (RPE)**  
Safe Bars & Shifting Boundaries

**901 Peace**  
Gang Violence Reduction Initiative (GVRI)

# Press Conference

November 14, 2024

- 1** The Joint Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement regularly **convenes and coordinates** government and community stakeholders to drive collective impact.
- 2** Driven by community voice, the Joint Office applies a **public health approach by addressing root causes, reducing risk, and strengthening protective factors**. It empowers those closest to the issues to lead solutions, fostering shared responsibility for creating safe, healthy, and thriving neighborhoods.
- 3 Fund and support** community-based organizations (CBOs) and community-led efforts in equitable and strategic ways.

Intervention strategies focus on imminent acts of violence (e.g., mental health, airlift, life coaching).

Prevention strategies address the underlying causes of violence and thus have a longer timeframe for impact (e.g., education, housing, workforce development).



# IGNITING COMMUNITY. INSPIRING ACTION.



## INFORM

## INTEGRATE

## INVEST

## INNOVATE

Strengthen CVIPI through data sharing, data collection, and the timely provision of information to aid ecosystem partners in making informed decisions that enhance public safety.

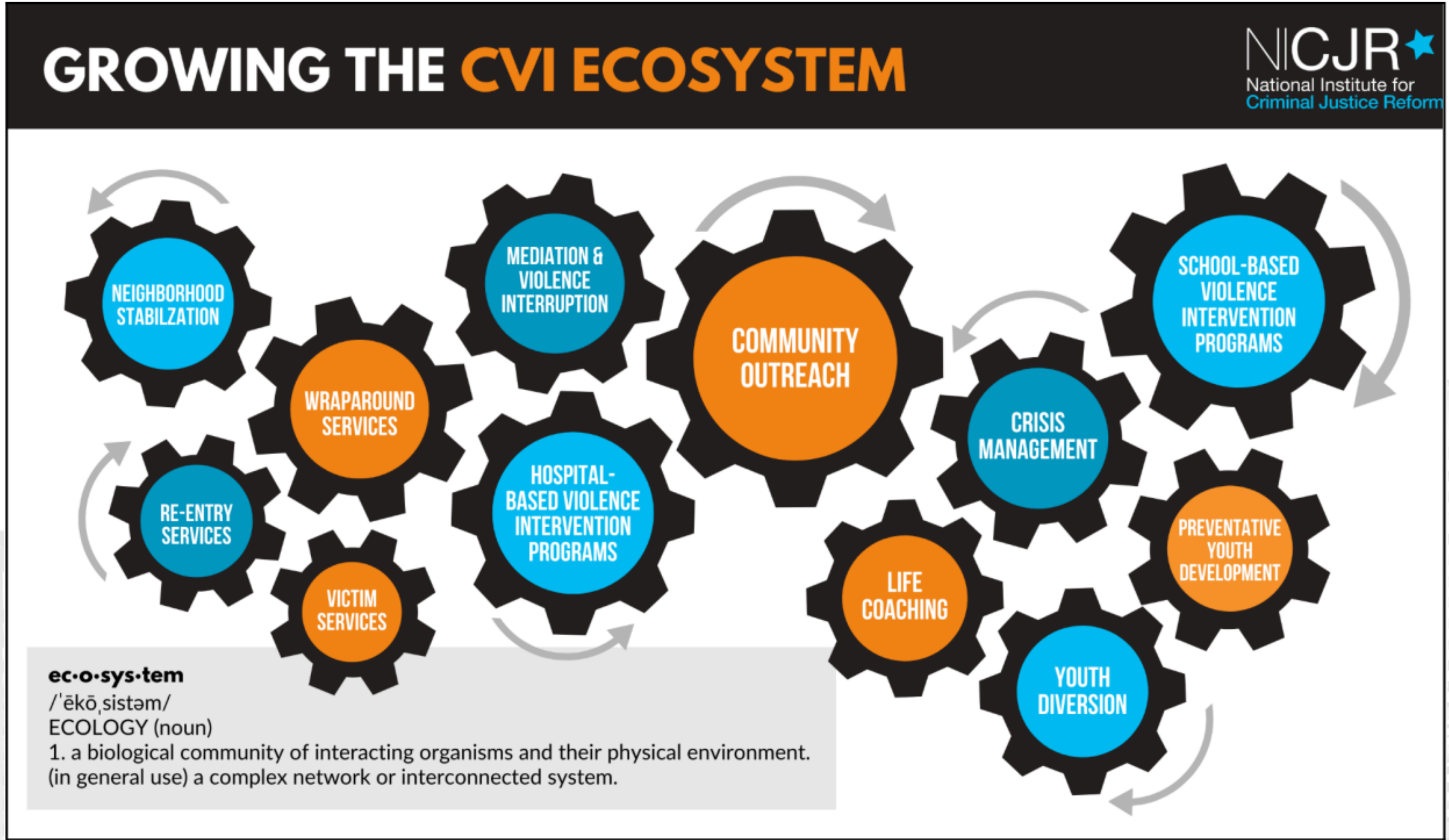
Regularly convene government agencies, CBOs, and other stakeholders to align strategies and resources, reduce silos, and collectively build organizational capacity.

Provide sustainable, long-term funding to CBOs leading violence prevention and intervention services.

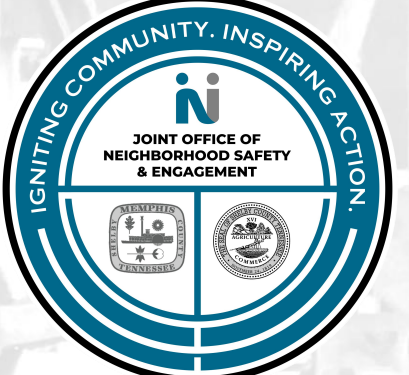
Co-develop, with the community, a countywide public safety plan centered on intervention, prevention, community transformation, and accountability.

# Key Players in the Ecosystem

Built on trust, coordination, and accountability.



Source: National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform



# INFORM

- Ecosystems require intentional design
- Convening and coordination drive impact

Figure 3: Shelby County, TN, Existing CVI Ecosystem



These are people struggling in the water. Without help, they could drown. It's a struggle to rescue as many people as possible. The question is: What else could be done to help them?

The rush of people isn't stopping. They haven't been swept away by the current yet, but they still need help. The question is: Where are they all coming from?

Life jackets are being handed out as a distant scream is heard. If someone doesn't post warning signs or repair the bridge, more people will fall in. Fixing the bridge will help keep people safe today and for years to come.



### Why intervene here?

To help people in urgent need. When individuals face a crisis, **tertiary prevention** services offer vital options that help individuals cope and recover. The next step? Helping people avoid them.

### Why intervene here?

Giving people the tools and support to improve their own health is key. **Secondary prevention** programs provide a critical early response. The next step is addressing trauma's root causes.

### Why intervene here?

Helping people build resilience can prevent harm before it occurs. That's why **primary prevention** takes place upstream. Here is where we address the root causes of public health challenges.

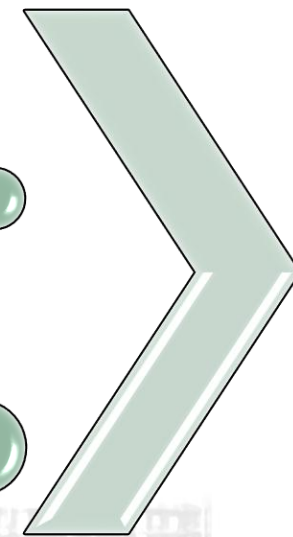


# INTEGRATE

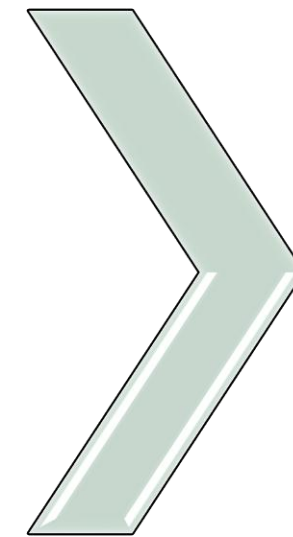
- Ecosystems require intentional design
- Convening and coordination drive impact



Quarterly  
**Safer Memphis  
365 Convening**



13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Cities United  
Annual  
Convening**

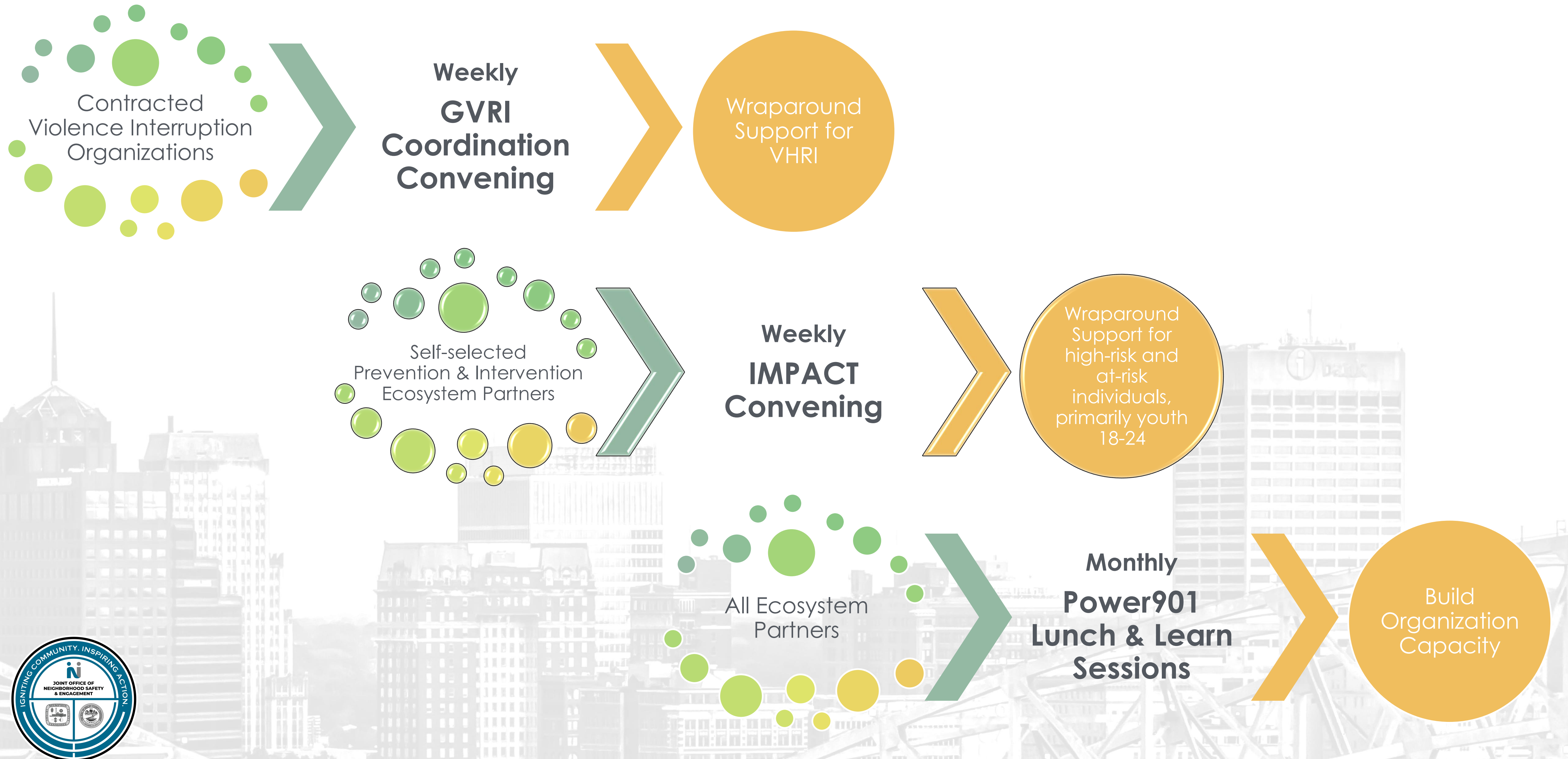


Bi-Annual  
**Trauma: 101  
Training**



# INTEGRATE

**Convening-** The formal act of bringing people together for a shared purpose, meeting, or assembly, often focused on collaboration, decision-making, or solving complex issues.





# JOINT OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT



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