



# YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT



Youth Violence Prevention • Racial Equity • Equitable Access to Services

# WELCOME, THIS BEGINS YOUR VETO VIOLENCE JOURNEY!

ReCAST Mecklenburg (Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma) is a five year grant funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) that focuses on youth violence prevention, racial equity, and increasing access to services. The focus of ReCAST is to educate residents about the impact of stress and trauma on overall wellbeing. Due to increasing violence in Mecklenburg County, as evidenced by an increasing homicide rate, the vision of ReCAST is to expand prevention efforts and resources for organizations working to change this paradigm.

Using guidance from **VetoViolence**<sup>1</sup>, an evidence-based approach to violence prevention formulated by the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), the ReCAST Youth Violence Prevention Pilot will support community level work in enhancing training, mentoring, and advocacy in youth serving organizations.

Violence has been recognized as a public health issue nationwide

Objectives of the ReCAST Youth Violence Prevention Pilot

## IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Utilize VetoViolence, the CDC's evidence-based guidance on a public health approach to violence prevention

## ABILITY TO REACH HIGH-RISK YOUTH

Assist high-risk youth (see definition on page 9) through implementation of evidence-based violence prevention initiatives

## PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES THAT PROMOTE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

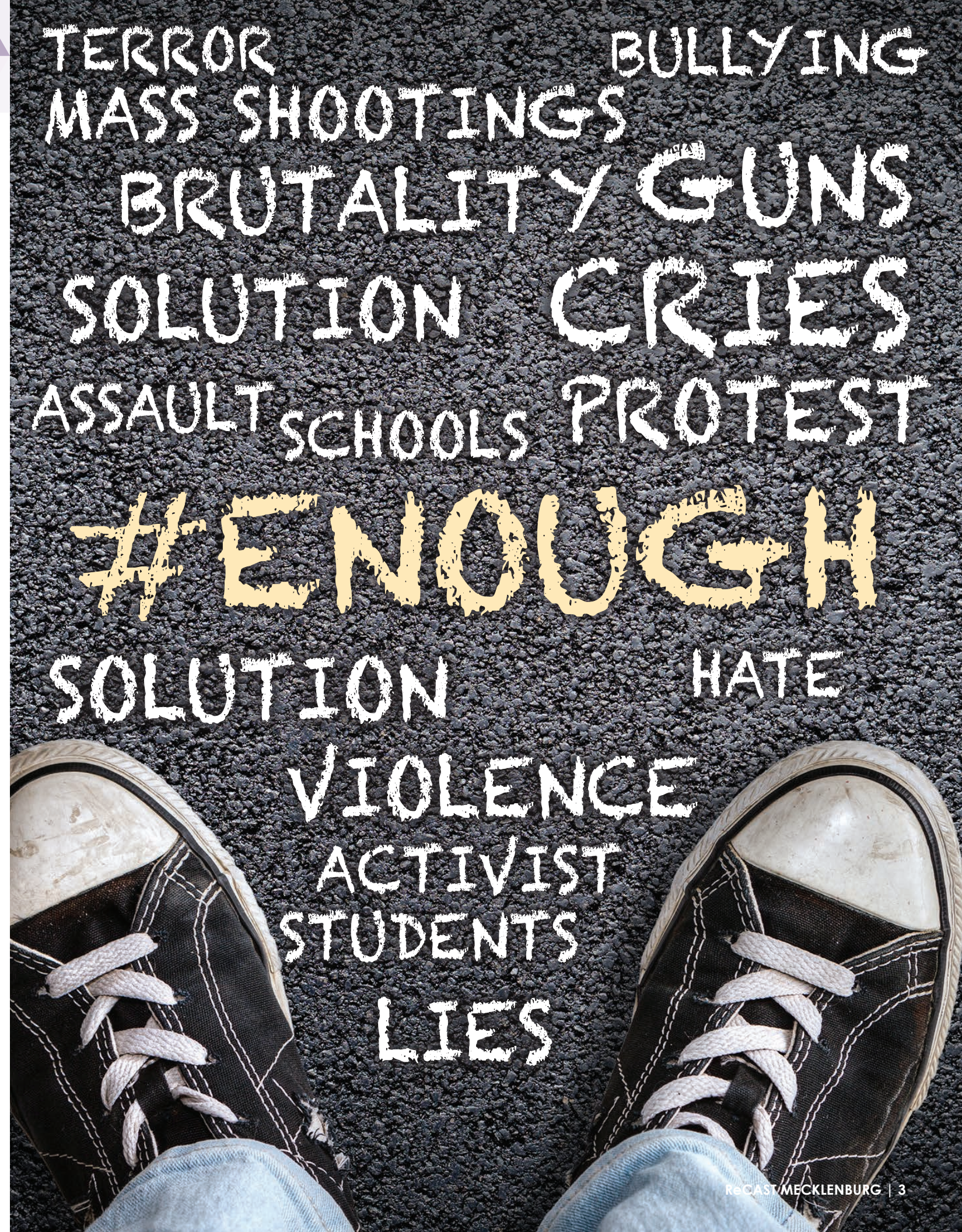
Engage youth through all aspects of project implementation and evaluation; it is preferable that youth are engaged in project development

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Strengthen ways the community and youth collaborate and share resources

<sup>1</sup>The Veto Violence model promotes family environments that support healthy development, connecting youth to caring adults and activities, and creating protective community environments.

This booklet provides an overview of the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative Scope of work, Organizational roles and responsibilities, and the various partners who will provide support throughout the onboarding and implementation process.



# JOIN THE RECAST YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK

Along your journey in supporting the Youth Violence Initiative, you will be joining a network of organizations aimed at achieving a common goal of creating a safer Mecklenburg.

ReCAST Mecklenburg will support organizations in this work by:

- 1) Providing funding to support new and existing work.
- 2) Build skills and knowledge through trauma informed training.
- 3) Encourage innovative projects that engage youth in developing strategies.



**VIOLENCE**

When communities play an active role in preventing and addressing youth violence through rich **PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES** that nurture youth growth and potential, innovative solutions are developed that are grounded in resiliency and safety. **YOUTH VOICES** are central to the conversation such as how they envision safer homes, schools, and community environments.





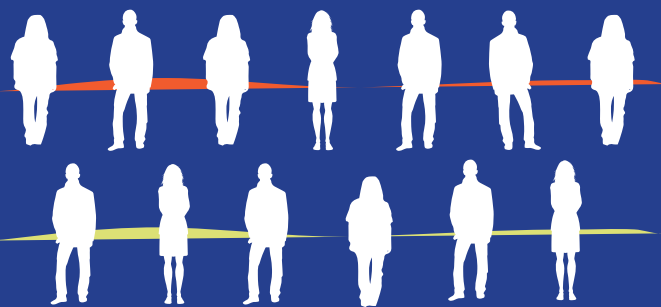
**VetoViolence** is an evidence based and evidence informed model used to guide youth violence prevention strategies. The ReCAST YVP initiative uses three approaches from the VetoViolence model to work towards building protective community environments:

- **Modify the physical and social environment** by fostering social interaction, strengthening connectedness, and increasing collective efficacy.
- **Improve the sustainability of safer neighborhoods** by implementing initiatives that reduce exposure to community level risk.
- **Promote community outreach and community norm change** by influencing and promoting social norms of non-violence.

By creating social norms that violence is unacceptable through enforcing policies and changing environments, a community level influence can be made.

## EVERY DAY AMONG YOUTH AGED 10 TO 24:

**13** are victims of homicide\*



**1,100** are treated in emergency departments for nonfatal assault-related injuries.\*



\* CDC US data



From 2014 – 2016 alone homicide rates increased 54% in Mecklenburg county (CMPD). In 2020, Mecklenburg experienced 120 homicides, many of which have affected youth. Violence includes various forms such as child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and suicide. Ultimately, violence can negatively impact physical, mental, and social well-being of youth and adults.

**Using community interventions and strategies can lead to the reduction of youth violence outcomes**

# TIMELINE

**Week of October 17, 2021** - Initial Award Announcements and Budget Meetings

**November 2021** - Onboarding Period

**December 1, 2021** - Initial Implementation Plan due

**December 16, 2021** - Introductory Violence Prevention Workshop

**January 22, 2022** - Optional Compassion Fatigue Workshop

**May 3, 2022** - Mid Point Check-in

**October 28th, 2022** - Final Project Due

# REPORTING

To ensure program objectives and outcomes are being met, ReCAST is required to report to SAMHSA on Government Performance and Results Act Measuring Tool (GPRA) and performance measures. The following reporting will be required:

- 1) Awardees will be required to track and report outcomes monthly and submit by the 1st of every month into an electronic database.

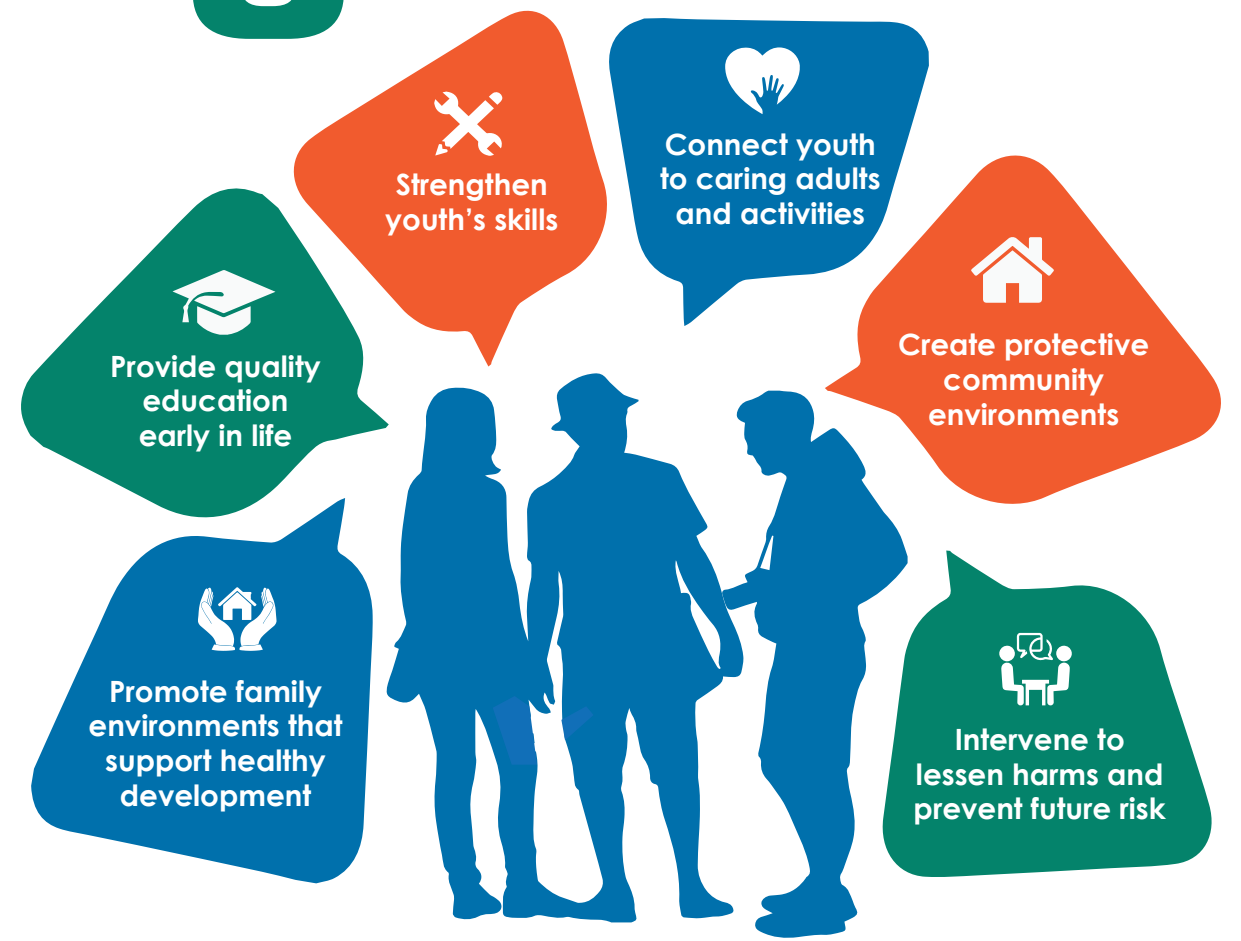
A final report of the project is due by October 28, 2022. The report will include:

- A narrative of the project
- Copies of any materials or photographic or video the project team wants to share
- The number of high-risk youth served by the project
- The number of any family members of high-risk youth served by the project
- A description of the project's outcomes



# 6

## Strategies to prevent youth violence from decades of research



## IMPORTANT YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION TERMS

**Youth Violence Definition:** "Youth violence occurs when young people intentionally use power to threaten or harm others. Examples can include bullying, gang violence, gun violence, and unsafe relationships." (CDC)

**High Risk Youth Definition:** a high-risk youth is a youth who is less likely to transition successfully into adulthood. Success can include academic success and job readiness, as well as the ability to be financially independent. This success can be impacted by environmental/community risks (ex. Underfunded schools, Diminished opportunities for upward mobility, etc.), peer/social/family risks (ex. gang involvement, peer rejection, etc.) and/or individual risks, such as previous trauma/victimization.

**VetoViolence** is a model from the CDC designed to prevent violence and implement evidence-based prevention strategies in the community. Creating protective community environments that include community led initiatives empower partners to help reduce risks for violence and to increase what protects people and communities from it.

# RECOMMENDED YVP RESOURCES AND TRAINING

**Mental Health First Aid Certification** is a training that provides support services and tools to the community in responding to behavioral, emotional or mental health crisis. This training is great for organizations and individuals.

**Darkness to Light** is a training that specializes in educating organizations and individuals on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child abuse and maltreatment.

**Question, Persuade, and Refer Gatekeeper Training (QPR)** provides tools to help service providers identify warning signs for a suicide crises and how to respond.

**Trauma Informed Care and Resilience Workshops** offer tools and resources that participants may utilize to address trauma, toxic stress, and anxiety that leads to dysregulation in everyday life.

**Racial Equity Training** promotes inclusion and cultural competency in building community responses; encourages dialogue about race; and raises awareness about unconscious biases to ultimately eliminate discriminatory behaviors.

**Youth Violence Prevention Workshops** are critical to understanding the structural and historical impact of violence on communities, youth growth and development, and overall wellbeing.

For more information about these trainings please visit  
<https://vision.recastmeck.com/resources/>



# SUPPORTING A BROADER VISION

## HOW CAN YOUR YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO RECAST YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION GOALS?

Your commitment to supporting the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative will contribute to the goal of **equipping youth and families in Mecklenburg County with strategies, tools and education to use as alternatives to violence.**

## WHAT CAN YOUR YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS GAIN BY GETTING INVOLVED IN THE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE?

The Youth Violence Prevention Initiative is an opportunity for organizations to **expand partnerships and community resources** and to **build a recognized model for Youth Violence Prevention.**

Organizations involved in the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative **take an evidenced-based approach to violence prevention** through implementation of veto violence.

## HOW CAN YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH RECAST SUPPORT A BROADER VISION OF INCLUSION FOR ALL CITIZENS?

Organizations involved take an evidence based approach of veto violence to addressing youth violence related issues. Your partnership with ReCAST **supports a broader vision** of a thriving community-centered culture that is invested in the inclusion, success, and overall well-being of all citizens.

# TOOLS AND RESOURCES

For tools related to youth violence prevention and to find out more information of about ReCAST, please visit the ReCAST website. <https://vision.recastmeck.com/>

CDC page on youth violence for more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/index.html>



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ReCAST Mecklenburg (Resiliency in Communities after Stress and Trauma) is a 5-year grant awarded to Mecklenburg County Public Health Department by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). ReCAST promotes resiliency and equity in communities to better deal with stress and trauma with the primary focus on youth violence prevention, racial equity, and equitable access to services.

### **For Support and Technical Assistance**

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