



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) HUB PILOT

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION



WELCOME TO THE TA HUB PILOT PROGRAM

ReCAST Mecklenburg (Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma) is a grant awarded to Mecklenburg County Public Health Department in 2018 by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to promote resiliency and equity in the Mecklenburg Priority Health Area (PHA) through evidence-based, violence prevention, community youth engagement programs, and linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health services.

The impact of violence on youth manifests in many ways that can affect individuals over their lifetime. Therefore, a variety of strategies and stakeholders are necessary to provide a range of approaches to youth violence prevention. The county's commitment to change is evident in the formation of the new Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) within Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH). The OVP follows a public health approach to reduce and prevent violence through the use of data, evidence-informed best practices, and community partnerships.

Violence has been recognized as a public health issue nationwide

In order to impact systems level change, OVP and ReCAST are working together to promote a vision of a thriving community-centered culture that is invested in the inclusion, success, healing, and overall well-being of all citizens. The OVP is working across stakeholder groups to address the impact of violence and collaborate around common goals. The CDC VetoViolence¹ approach adopted by ReCAST is a way to engage community and strengthen collaboration around messaging and networking. Your organization is critical to developing community-level solutions and leading community-led initiatives.

Objectives of the TA Hub Pilot Program

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Provide evidence-based tools and resources to support implementation of community-led initiatives

PROMOTION OF TRAUMA INFORMED AND RESILIENCY APPROACHES

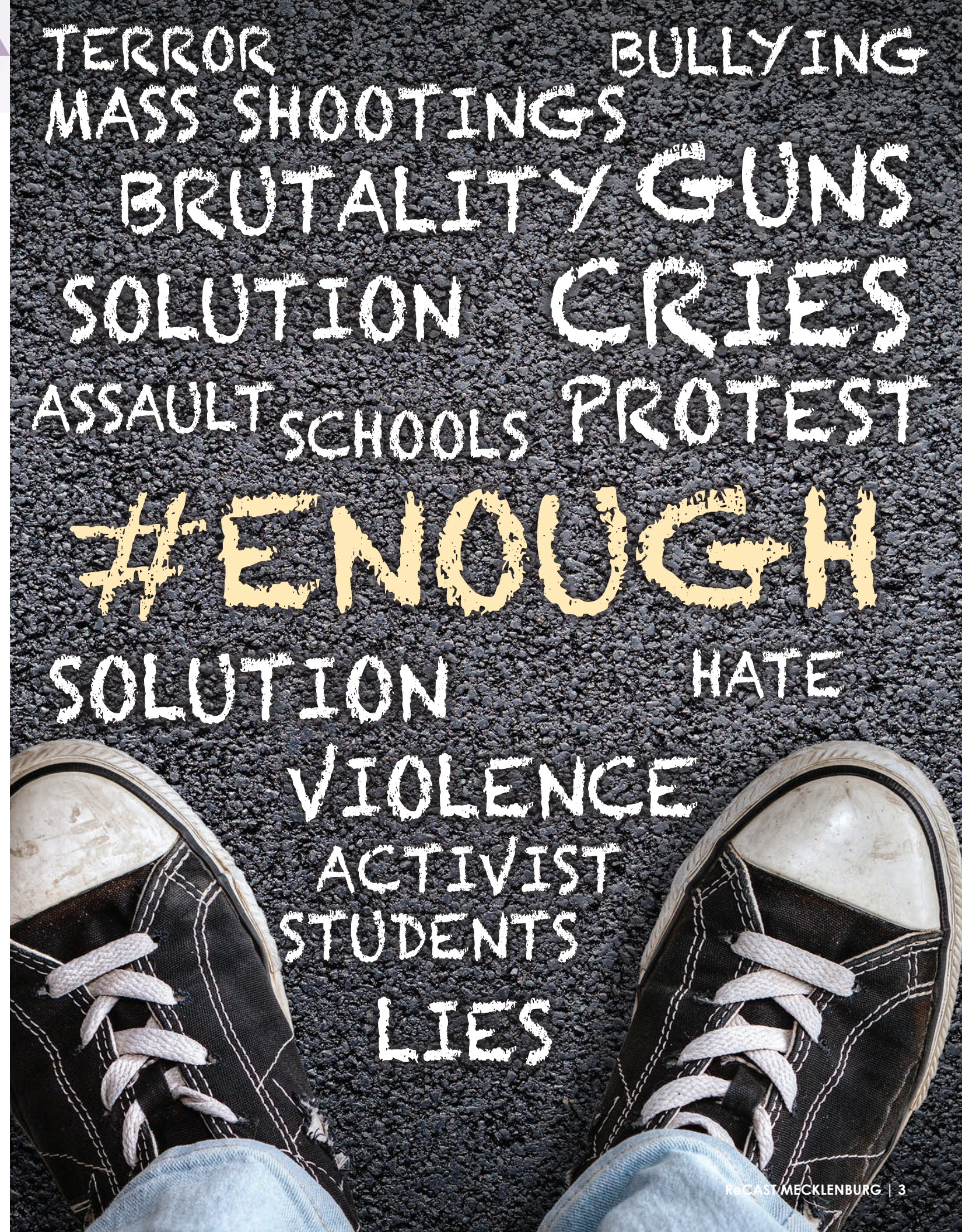
Provide trauma informed and resiliency training to enhance existing violence prevention advocacy efforts

BUILD CAPACITY FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND LEADERSHIP

Strengthen ways the community engages and shares resources

¹The 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 TA Hub Pilot Program scope of work. Organizational roles and responsibilities, and the various partners who will provide support throughout the on-boarding and implementation process, are included in this booklet.



ALONG YOUR JOURNEY

Along your journey of participating in the TA Hub, you will be joining a network of organizations aimed at achieving a common goal of creating a safer Mecklenburg.

The TA Hub will:

- 1) Support existing initiatives
- 2) Build skills and knowledge through trauma-informed training
- 3) Encourage leadership and innovation that engages community



VIOLENCE



BETTER TOGETHER

The Office of Violence Prevention approaches violence as a public health issue. Rooted in a commitment to community engagement and capacity building, the OVP has brought County, City, Partners, and Community together to increase opportunities to build healthier and more resilient communities.

When communities play an active role in preventing and addressing community violence through rich **PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES** that nurture growth and potential, innovative solutions are developed that are grounded in resiliency and safety



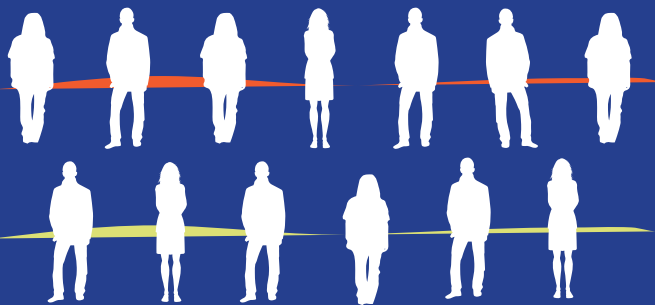
VetoViolence is an evidence based and evidence informed model developed by the CDC to guide youth violence prevention strategies. Within the youth violence prevention work space, ReCAST Mecklenburg promotes three approaches from the VetoViolence model to work towards building protective community environments:

- **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 violence outcomes

EVENTS

Monthly Milestones:

August 2022 - Acceptance Announcements

Email Confirmation of Intent to Participate

September 2022

- Onboarding Meeting
- Completion of Organizational Needs Assessment
- Initial Implementation Plan with Invoice Due

October 2022 - Individual Coaching Sessions Begin

November 2022 - Capacity Building Event

December 2022 - Networking Event

January 2023 - Capacity Building Event

February 2023 - Networking Event

February 28, 2023 - Reflection Due

ACTIVITIES

Any reporting data will be used to evaluate and improve the implementation of the TA Hub pilot for the enhancement of youth violence intervention services in the community.

Participants will be required to work with the project team to establish an implementation plan for the duration of the 6-month pilot. The implementation plan will address gaps identified in the needs assessment with assistance from program staff. Topics may include:

- Needs assessment overview
- Incorporating evidence-based approaches to enhance existing work
- Coaching and mentoring
- Professional development resources
- Technology audit
- Outcomes based data assessment

Participants are encouraged to fully engage with the activities, trainings, and other events to maximize the TA Hub experience.

THOUGHTS & REFLECTION

A reflection is required at the end of the TA Hub and will be due **February 28, 2023**.

Reflection questions will be provided in late January. The Final Reflection is intended to give an overview of your experience during the TA Hub.

ReCAST Training Opportunities:

September 13 - Trauma 101 Training (virtual)

September 28 - Implicit Bias Training (virtual)

October 7, 19, and November 9 - Resiliency Workshops (virtual)

October 20 - Trauma 201 Training (virtual)

Date TBD - Building Youth Programs Training

Date TBD - Becoming More Tech Savvy Session

Additional events will be announced once Needs Assessments are completed

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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

- Investing in the inclusion and wellbeing of all Mecklenburg residents
- Building on evidence-based approaches to violence prevention
- Supporting community voices in violence prevention
- Safer Neighborhoods, Safer Mecklenburg

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

To find out more information about ReCAST, including tools related to youth violence prevention and trauma-informed care, please visit the ReCAST website. <https://vision.recastmeck.com/>

To find out more information about the Office of Violence Prevention, please visit the Mecklenburg County website. <https://www.mecknc.gov/HealthDepartment/Pages/ViolencePrevention.aspx>



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.

The Mecklenburg County Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) was launched in response to the rise in homicide and gun-related assaults in Charlotte area. The OVP works to coordinate countywide violence prevention efforts to ensure all residents live, learn, work, and play in safe, healthy, thriving communities. The mission of the OVP is to reduce violence in Mecklenburg County by collaborating with County, City, Partners, and Community to increase opportunity, and build healthier, more resilient communities.

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