

Violence Prevention Initiatives Childhood & Youth Committee

Presented by:

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“Youth violence is preventable. To prevent and eliminate violence and improve youth well-being, communities should employ evidence-based, comprehensive approaches that address the multiple factors that impact violence, both factors that increase risk of violence and factors that buffer against risk and promote positive youth development and well being.”

www.youth.gov/youth-topics/violence-prevention



Based on decades of research, the CDC has identified the following 6 strategies to prevent youth violence:

- Promote family environments that support healthy development
- Provide quality education early in life
- Strengthen youth's skills
- Connect youth to caring adults and activities
- Create protective community environments
- Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

Protective Factors Against Delinquency for Youth



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High expectations and positive/resilient temperament

- Resilient personality
- Prosocial orientation
- Easy-going temperament
- Sense of purpose and positive future
- Socially outgoing
- Low irritability and impulsivity



Social competencies and problem-solving skills

- Self-efficacy
- Feelings of self-worth
- Youth employment
- Conflict resolution skills
- Life skills
- Resistance skills
- Communication skills
- High IQ



Healthy/conventional beliefs and commitment to community and school

- Planning to go to college
- Interest in/commitment to school, hobbies, and work
- Involved in meaningful activities (such as tutoring or volunteering)
- Academic aspirations
- Cultural identity



Involvement in organized religious activities

- Frequency of praying and attending religious events
- Perceived importance of religion
- Religious identity

Houston Health Department Initiatives

Supporting Violence Prevention Strategies



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- My Brother's Keeper Houston
 - A citywide collaborative effort that focuses activities on boys and young men of color
- HHD Children and Youth Services
 - An array of services provided by HHD for children 0 to 17, young adults and their families
 - Provides preventive activities and services that lead to improved health outcomes and well being

Milestones



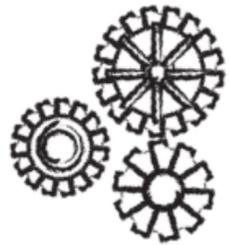
Milestone 3:

Graduating from
Highschool Ready for
College and Career



Milestone 4:

Complete Post-
Secondary Education
or Training



Milestone 5:

Successfully
Entering the
Workforce



Milestone 6:

Reducing Crime and
Violence and Providing
a Second Chance

- My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston began its mission in 2015 with an aim to uplift boys and young men of color helping them reach their full potential.
- The Houston Health Department serves as the backbone organization of MBK Houston to leverage the expertise of nonprofits, agencies, educational institutions and other partners to unite around strategies and evidence-based methodologies and programs seeking to increase opportunities and close disparity gaps that persist in our communities.

Vision

To see boys and young men of color reach their full potential by providing opportunities for growth, access to resources, removing barriers to success and creating clear pathways to advancement.

Mission

My Brother's Keeper Houston is an inclusive and sustaining movement that uplifts boys and young men of color through systems change strategies, data-driven decisions, and cross-sector collaboration in the Greater Houston area.

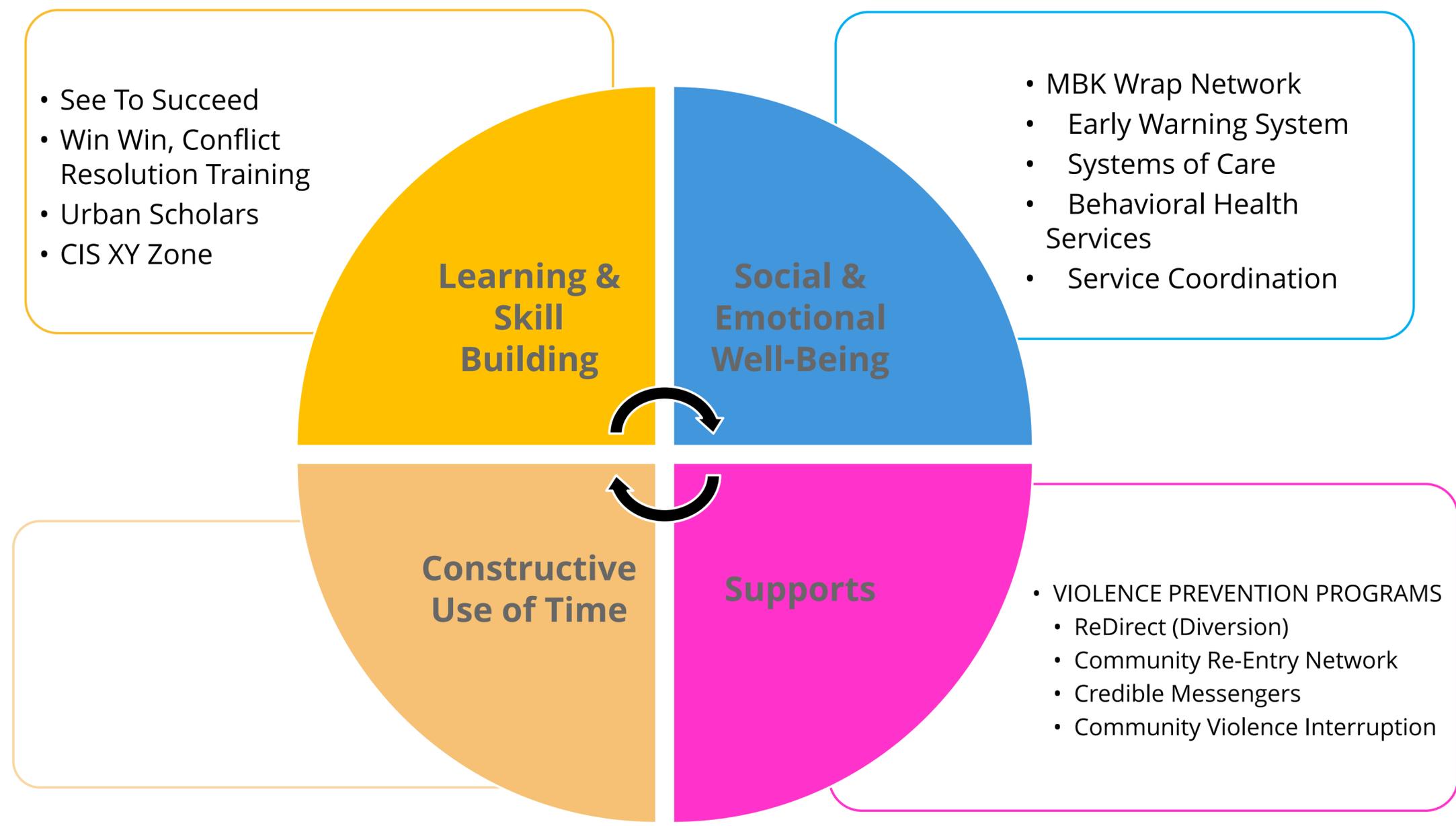
Cross-Cutting Strategies

- Establish Baseline Data and Success Indicators
- Bolster Parental Engagement
- Drive Community Partnerships
- Promote In-School
- Efforts Engage Progress-Monitoring Systems
- Assess Action Plan Effectiveness

HHD Programs that Strengthen & Improve Childhood Success Factors



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- A school-based systems of care model that uses an early warning system to identify at risk youth and provide services using a tiered service system based on an evidence-based assessment tool.
- This model places a case manager on each campus and provides a response system to address social, emotional and health issues.
- In the 2021-2022 School year, 425 students were served
- This is a partnership between Houston Health Department (HHD) and Harris County Protective Services and coordinated between Houston ISD, HHD, Harris County Youth Services, Communities in Schools and Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD.

MBK Wrap Network: Early Warning System Indicators



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- Excessive absences
- Excessive number of incidents
- Course failures
- Failure to progress/below level

- Homeless
- Parole/probation
- Pregnant teen or teen parent
- Non-cognitive factors (“resiliency”)

MBK Wrap Network: Tiered System of Service Coordination



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Universal Services

Level I

- Food assistance (provision and nutrition education)
- Enrichment programs (CASE, arts foundations, academic)
- Caregiver/family support
- Health and Wellness services (resources/referrals and school-based health education)
- Behavioral support system (PBIS coaching, classroom, parents, etc.)

Tailored Services

Level II

- Wraparound services (Social services and support)*
- Mentorship
- Care coordination
- Emergency assistance as needed

Crisis Intervention

Level III

- Intensive case management & Wraparound services
- Emergency assistance (financial, housing, utility, transportation)
- Medical and mental health stabilization

Children & Youth Services

SEE TO SUCCEED

See to Succeed (STS) provides comprehensive eye exams and corrective eye wear at no cost to children.

IMPACT

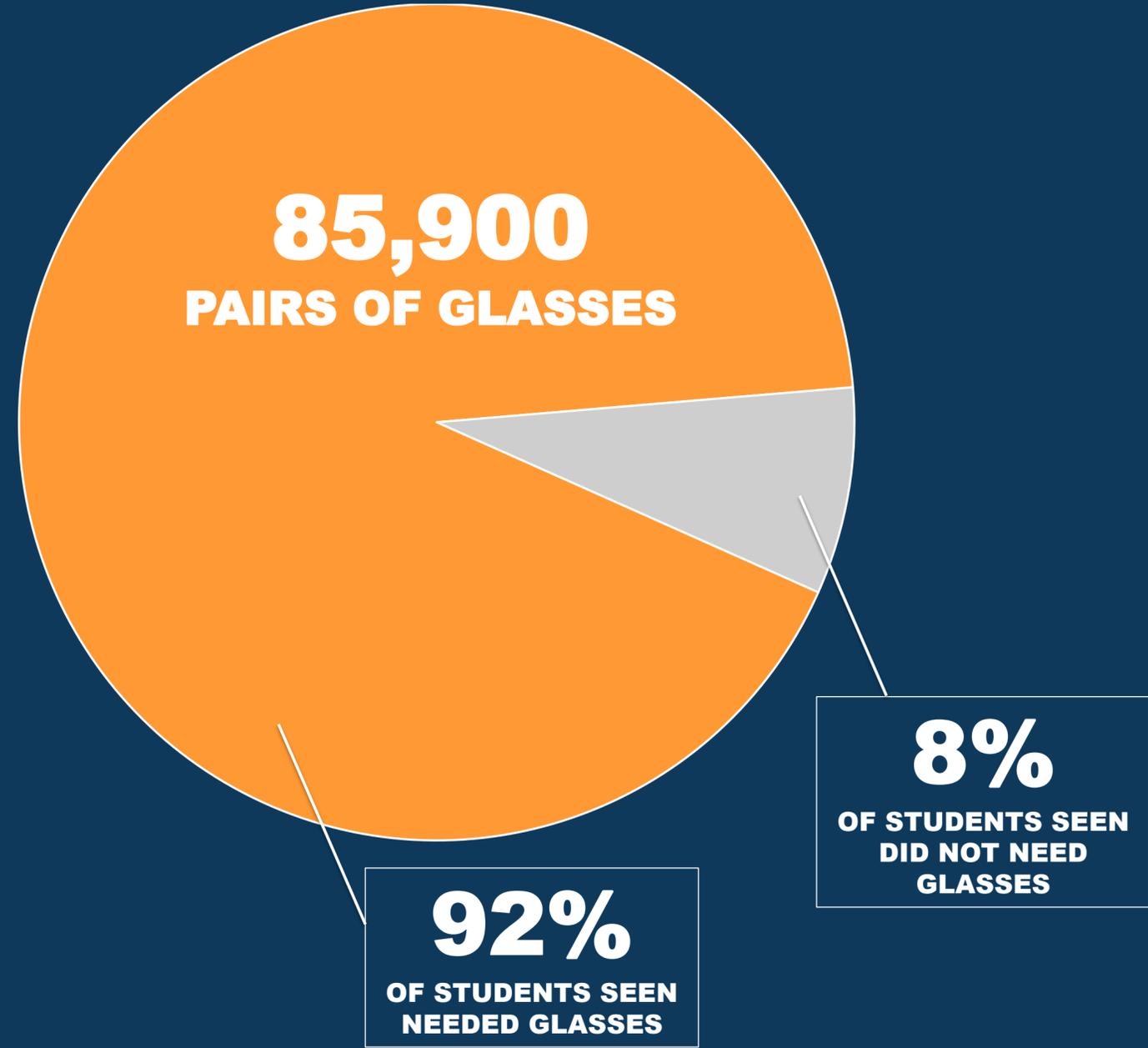
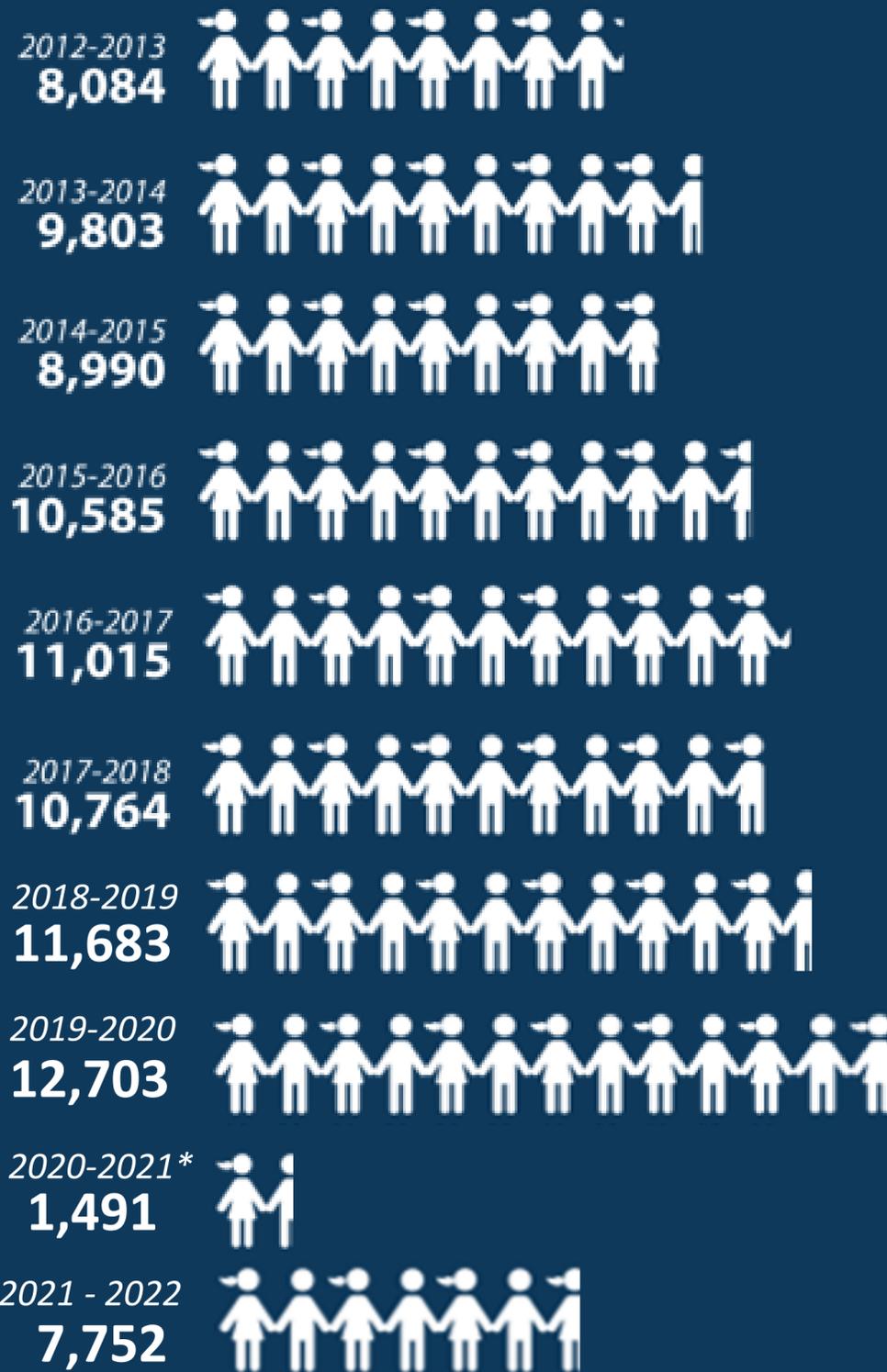
Following of results from an HISD study of at-risk students during AY 2015-16, who received glasses from the See to Succeed Program:

- 80% of students who previously failed reading or math passed.
- 52% of chronically absent students attended at least 90% of the school year.
- 53% of students with prior disciplinary actions experienced no further disciplinary problems.



HIGH IMPACT –

Number of Children Examined/ Glasses Provided Since Inception of Program



TOTAL: 92,870

*Covid-modified school year - Exams were done by appointment only, no field trips.

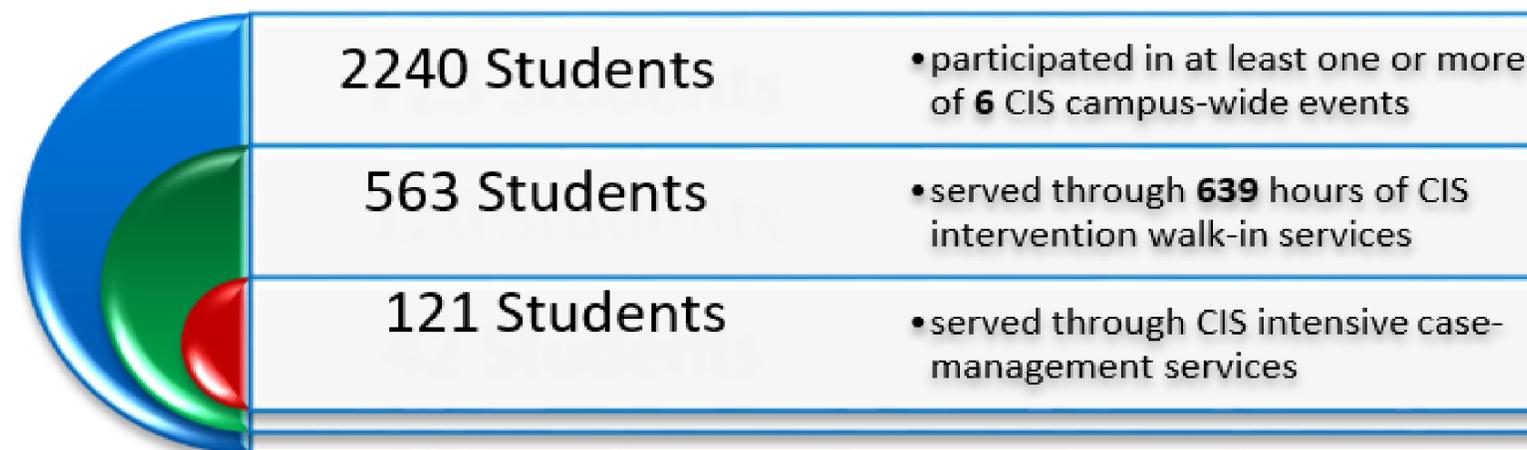
Children and Youth Services Communities In Schools (CIS): XYZone



Overview:

- Communities In Schools (CIS) is a campus-based Dropout Prevention initiative proven to decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates.
- XYZone implementation begin in 2017 at Scarborough High School as part of an MBK early warning system and wrap around system of care.
- The XY-Zone strategy provides leadership development and peer support to help at-risk male youth build skills and transition into adulthood.

2018-2021 School Years CIS Students Served at Scarborough HS





The SJLI-Urban Scholars program engages youth with the goals of:

- Improving the education, health, and well being of youth and communities of color by empowering them to enact social change through research, training, and community mobilization.

Total Students	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
All Schools	100	116	158

Program Outcomes:

- 100% Graduation for all Urban Scholars seniors and successful post-secondary transition.
- 90% Attendance average for Urban Scholars throughout 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- 70% passing rate for core math courses across all schools.
- 71% passing rate for core science courses across all schools.
- 68% passing rate for core English courses across all schools.

Law Enforcement and the Community: A Win-Win

Purpose:

The Win-Win Workshop empowers participants to have successful encounters with law enforcement and focuses on de-escalation.

Activity:

- 731 participants served over the last 3 school years throughout the community



Violence Prevention: ReDirect Diversion Program



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Overview:

- This initiative provides intensive case management, mentoring, referrals, and evidence-based interventions as an alternative to incarceration for boys and young men of color ages 12 – 17 years.
- Referrals come from Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

Outcomes

- ✓ Total # of Justice Involved and Other High-Risk Youth Referred by the Community Enrollment: 64
- ✓ Total # of Youth Rearrested During FY22: 11
- ✓ Of those rearrested, total # of youth placed in a detention setting: 6
- ✓ Total # of youth obtaining volunteer/community service hours: 10
- ✓ Total # of youth working to attain an educational goal (i.e. HS Diploma, other training): 60

Violence Prevention: Community Reentry Network Program (CRNP)



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Established in 2008

The Community Re-Entry Network Program (CRNP) provides support to ex-offenders by identifying physical and behavioral health needs. CRNP links individuals to healthcare services, supportive housing, family reunification, soft skills training, and workforce development. The goal of the program is to prevent recidivism

Program Components

- Focuses on Cognitive Restructuring (Thinking For A Change or Moral Recognition Therapy)
- Workforce Development and Peer Support
- Maintaining and Improving Mental and Physical Health
- Professionalism and Interview Etiquette
- Financial Literacy



Indicators and Outcomes: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Outreach: 855

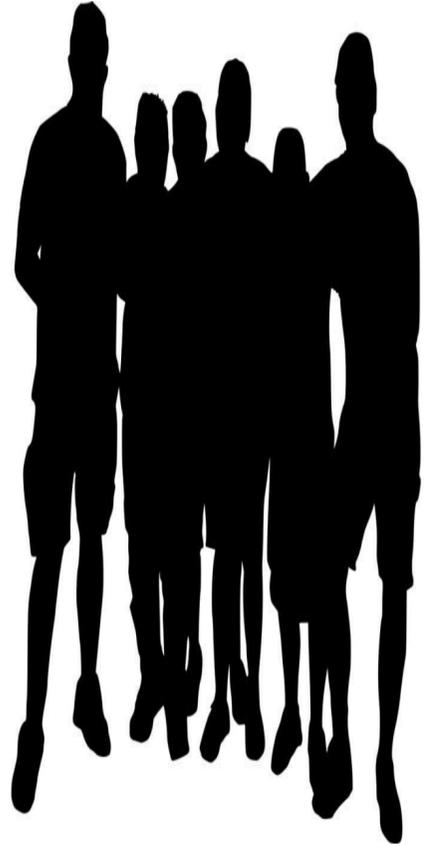
Enrollment: 474

Total graduating the program: 283

Total employed and/or completing an educational/vocational program: 150

3-year recidivism rate: 7.8%

The Mayor's Office and City Council have allocated \$4,000,000 in funding to implement the following evidence informed programs to prevent, disrupt, and stop the spread of violence



***Community Violence Interruption
Budget: \$2,500,000:***

- Interrupt violent acts and prevent retaliation (***immediate response***)
- Partners with community-based programs
- Outreach, educate and change the social norms of those at highest risk for violence perpetration or victimization

***Credible Messengers
Budget: \$500,000***

- Pair mentors with youth and young adults at highest risk for re-offending or engaging in gang activity (***long-term***)
- Partner with impacted communities
- Utilize specially trained adults with lived experience

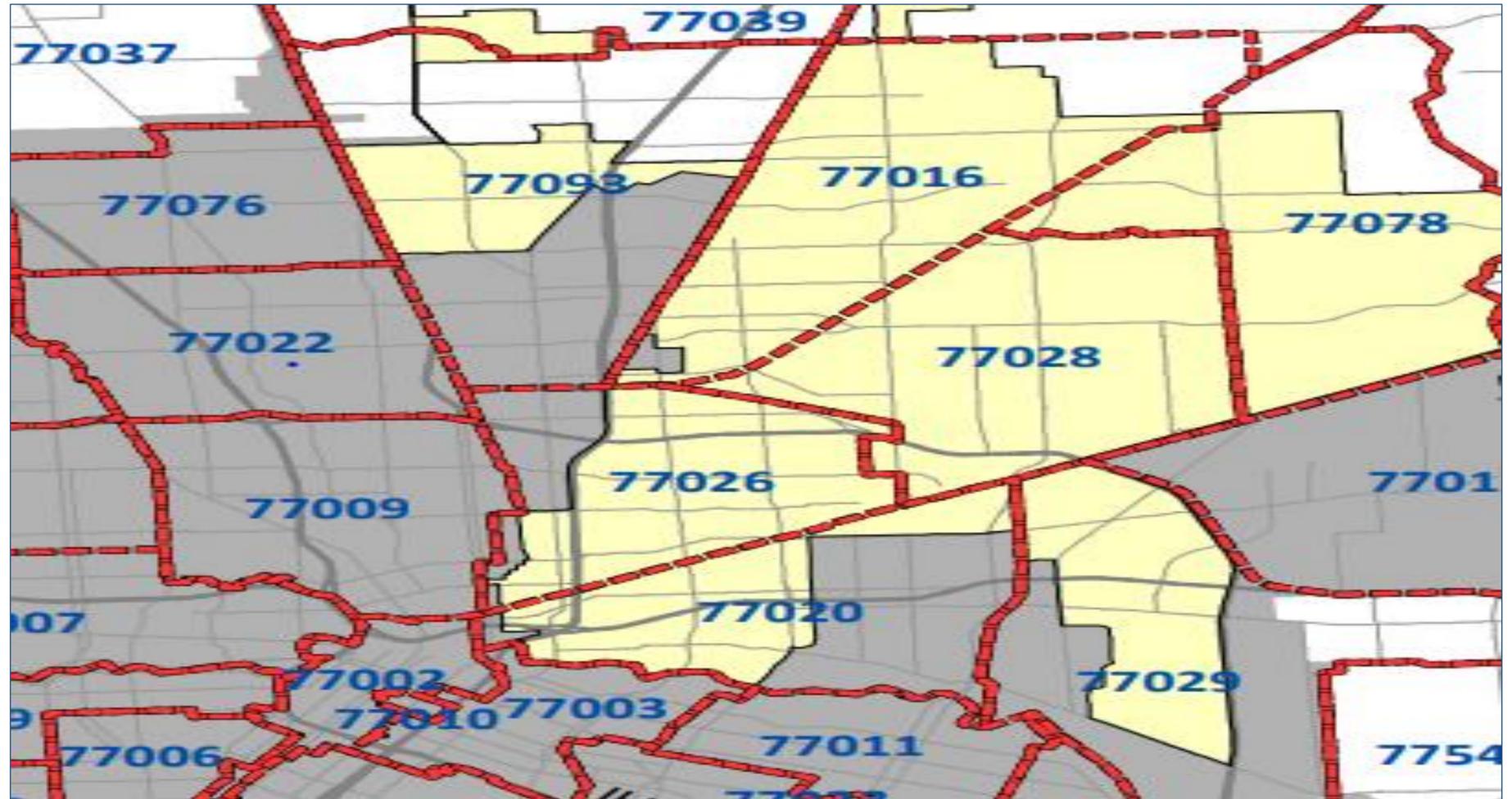
***Community Reentry
Network Program Expansion
Budget: \$1,000,000***

- Support justice impacted individuals with successful community reintegration
- Partner with community-based reentry providers
- Provide services to reduce recidivism critical for increasing public health and safety

Pilot Service Area Data:

The pilot program will be implemented in the service area as depicted below based on the following criteria:

- High Violent Crime
- Low COVID Vaccine Rates
- High COVID Infection/Death Rates



ZIPCode	Number	Number_V	Covid_Case	Covid_Death	Total_Population	Crime Rate Per 1,000	Violent Crime Rate Per 1,000	Covid 19 Case Rate Per 1,000	Covid 19 Death Rate Per 1,000	Crime Rate Rank	Violent Crime Rate Rank	Covid 19 Case Rate Rank	Covid 19 Death Rate Rank	Cal with weight	Overall Rank
77016	3736	567	6079	102	30741	122	18	198	3	18	7	16	3	11.6	8
77026	3556	633	4774	71	21300	167	30	224	3	6	1	1	3	3.05	2
77028	2549	343	3873	59	17425	146	20	222	3	8	5	2	3	5.3	4

Funding Requests to Sustain Prevention Services



See to Succeed Vision Program Request \$500,000 per year

- Each year over 20,000 school age kids fail the state mandated vision screening
- STS currently serves 7,000-12,000 students annually with 1115 waiver funding
- This funding will stabilize funding for these services which have been demonstrated to improve school indicators for academic, attendance and behavior. These indicators are also markers for student success & avoidance of violence.

MBK Systems of Care Cost to Sustain Current 3 campuses: \$350,000 per year Request \$350,000 per year

- This evidence-based program uses an early warning system to identify at risk youth and provide tiered services to address social, emotional and health issues.
- This initiative serves 425 youth across 3 schools (1 elementary, 1 middle and 1 high school) annually with 1115 waiver funding.
- This funding will sustain these services for 425 youth for an additional year when current resources expire after November 30, 2023.

Funding Requests to Expand Prevention Services



CIS XYZone Expansion Cost: \$90,000 per year for 1 additional campus, 150 more youth served

Request: \$270,000 per year to expand to 3 additional campuses

- This initiative provides basic needs services, low needs case management and life skills small group services
- Approximately 150 youth receive services per school which increases student capacity to build decision making skills needed in adulthood
- The funding will expand services to 3 new campuses and 450 more youth per year

SJLI Urban Scholars Expansion Cost: \$200,000 per year for 3 additional campuses, 50 more youth served per school

Request: \$400,000 per year to expand to 6 campuses

- This initiative uses a social justice youth development curriculum and integrates mental health and trauma-informed practices to teach students how to respond to the negative elements. It increases students' capacity to graduate high school.
- Approximately 150 youth receive services per year between 3 campuses
- This funding will expand services to 6 new campuses and 300 more youth per year



Thank You