

# HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT

## Can We Make Communities Safer Without Relying On Police?

**Yes!** In November 2020, the John Jay Research & Evaluation Center published [Reducing Violence Without Police: A Review of Research Evidence](#), describing policies, programs, and research that show violence in communities can be reduced without policing, rather by investing in communities and community-serving organizations. Violence in the community should be addressed with community-level interventions that focus on the health and safety of whole populations and not only high-risk individuals.

Below are seven strategies identified as key areas for non-policing interventions and policies:



(1)  
improve  
the physical  
environment



(2)  
strengthen  
anti-violence  
social norms  
and peer  
relationships



(3)  
engage  
and support  
youth



(4)  
reduce  
substance  
abuse



(5)  
**mitigate  
financial  
stress**



(6)  
reduce the  
harmful effects  
of the justice  
process



(7)  
confront  
the gun  
problem

Financial stability is a major factor in one's life. Helping families avoid financial stress and negative income shocks may lead to reduced violence. Mitigating short-term economic insecurity can reduce community violence.

Below are interventions to reduce and prevent community violence by **mitigating financial stress**:

- 1) Reduce negative income shocks following divorce.
- 2) Increase one-time, immediate financial assistance..
- 3) Increase short-term financial assistance and programs that support the development of emotional and social skills.
- 4) Increase social welfare (relief) spending that combines income and a work requirement.
- 5) Increase availability of high-wage entry-level jobs.
- 6) Increase low-skilled wages for individuals returning home after periods of incarceration.
- 7) Offer housing voucher programs (e.g. Moving

to Opportunity) with priority for residents of demolished public housing.

- 8) Increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.
- 9) Use electronic benefit transfer instead of cash.
- 10) Alter the timing of income support payments to stagger them across each month.
- 11) Stagger the timing of delivery of federal food benefits (SNAP).

### EXAMPLES

- 1) [Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center](#)
- 2) [UNITY of Greater New Orleans](#)
- 3) [START Corp](#)
- 4) [Covenant House](#)