



Introduction to Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Strategies and Technical Assistance Center Resources for Out-of-School Time Professionals



“This series represents a critical step toward equipping our out-of-school time (OST) professionals with the tools and resources needed to support students, families, and communities facing violence.”

— Dr. La' Shawndra Scroggins, U.S. Department of Education 21st CCLC Group Leader

This takeaway includes strategies and resources shared during the first webinar in a six-part Community Violence Prevention and Intervention series, launched on Nov. 19, 2024. The series addresses the impacts of violence and juvenile crimes, strategies for prevention, and the power of cross-sector partnerships in preparing and strengthening communities. It's hosted by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC). Partners for the first webinar include the [Lubbock Independent School District's Texas ACE Program](#), [Communities In Schools of the South Plains](#), and [ACT Now](#). Register for future webinars at 21stcclcntac.org.



Key Takeaways

- **Community violence deeply impacts our youth, families, and neighborhoods.** Traumatic events such as school shootings, bullying, drug and gang violence, and juvenile crime can leave lasting emotional, physical, and economic scars.
- **OST programs can make a positive impact.** OST programs, including those in the 21st CCLC network, provide safe spaces, resources, and preventive strategies to uplift youth, reduce the impact of violence, and promote resilience in communities.
- **You don't have to do it alone.** You can use the tools and strategies discussed in the webinar to collaborate with local educational agencies, juvenile justice organizations, and community-based organizations for violence prevention and intervention — and to enhance safety and create emergency operations plans in OST programs.



Resources Shared During the Webinar

- [About Community Violence/Community Violence Prevention](#) – Web page with information and statistics about who's affected (and how) by experiencing or witnessing violence, with links to tools to support prevention. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, n.d.
- [ACT Now: Championing Quality Afterschool Programs in Illinois](#) – Website with resources for OST programs in Illinois and beyond. *Act Now Afterschool for Children and Teens*, n.d.



- [Community Violence Prevention: Resource for Action: A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence for Youth and Young Adults](#) – Resource that describes the social and structural contexts for community violence, ways to improve the conditions that increase risk for violence, and strategies for multi-sector partnerships and community engagement. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024*
- [Creating Afterschool Partnerships Toolkit](#) – Collection of information, tools, and resources to help OST programs identify, build, implement, and sustain partnerships. *ACT Now Afterschool for Children and Teens, 2023*
- [Emergency Readiness & Management](#) – Information and resources for K-12 schools and their partners. *National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE), n.d.*
- [OST Program Emergency Preparedness Mini Self-Assessment](#) – A 10-item instrument adapted from an emergency preparedness manual from the National Center on Health and Wellness. *National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE), 2019*
- [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center](#) – Website with links to information, training, and more to build the preparedness capacity (including prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts) of schools and their community partners. *REMS TA Center, n.d.*
- [Shining a Light: How Parent-Led Solutions Can Heal Our Communities and Address Trauma](#) – Stories, graphics, and photos tell how a cross-cultural, statewide grassroots effort in Illinois engaged parents in identifying and prioritizing real-world solutions that address trauma. *Community Organizing and Family Issues, 2023*
- [Trauma-Informed Data Collection](#) – One-pager with ways to ensure that surveys and interviews are inclusive, build trust, reflect community concerns, and engage participants while avoiding re-traumatization. *ACT Now Afterschool for Children and Teens, 2023*
- [We Can Prevent ACEs](#) – Short video that shows how to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by using strategies to create safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for all children. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.*

Additional Research and Resources

- [Developing and Implementing Community-Level Strategies for Preventing Youth Violence in the United States](#) – Summary of lessons learned while implementing five Youth Violence Prevention Centers in communities disproportionately affected by youth violence. *American Journal of Public Health, 2021*
- [Do After-School Programs Reduce Delinquency?](#) – Blog post explaining the crucial role afterschool programs play in reducing juvenile delinquency. *Afterschool.org, 2023*

This resource was developed in 2024 by the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC), funded under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and administered by Synergy Enterprises, Inc. under Cooperative Agreement No. 287E230009 with the Department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the Department or the federal government.

