21ST CCLC NTAC
National Technical Assistance Center

Asset-Based Approaches to Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Strategies

Empowering Safety: Integrating Comprehensive Safety Planning in Out-of-School Time Programs

"Together, we can empower programs to create safer environments and stronger communities for all."

— Dr. Sheronda Witter, U.S. Department of Education 21st CCLC Project Officer

This takeaway includes key information and resources shared during the third webinar in a series on asset-based approaches to community violence prevention and intervention for out-of-school time (OST) professionals. 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). Our partner for this webinar is the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS TA Center). Register for future webinars at 21stcclcntac.org.
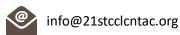
Key Takeaways

- **Proactive safety planning is critical.** It's essential for 21st CCLC programs to prioritize safety planning and apply evidence-based frameworks, such as scenario-based tabletop exercises, to enhance emergency preparedness in out-of-school time.

- **Prevention and mitigation are the first steps in emergency management.** Safety planning should ultimately address all five mission areas of emergency preparedness: prevention, mitigation (i.e., intervention), protection, response, and recovery.

- **OST programs have a key role to play in proactive safety planning.** Whether independently or as part of the larger school community, OST program staff should work collaboratively with youth, families, school leadership, and trusted community partners.

- **Resources and partnerships abound.** Many tools, strategies, and partners are available to help you address program-wide readiness. Keep attending this webinar series to discover more ways to strengthen your programs and mitigate potential threats!

Guest panelists:

- *Mr. Steve McElroy, Director of Security, Westerville City Schools (Ohio)*
- *Ms. Amanda Everett Ihegbe, Director of Training and Engagement, REMS TA Center*

Resources Shared During the Webinar

- REMS Technical Assistance Center — Federally funded TA center that provides training and resources to help education agencies and their community partners manage safety, security, and emergency management programs. Most of the resources listed below are from the REMS TA Center. Visit their website for additional resources.

- Six-Step Planning Process — Part of the REMS TA Center's at-a-glance Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), this flexible process was designed for local educational agencies but focuses on collaboration with partners and can be adapted to programs not based in schools.

- SITE ASSESS — Free, secure mobile app designed to help education agencies assess their safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness.

- EOP ASSIST — This software application is an EOP-plan generator for K-12 education agencies. The app is free, and you install it on a local server for complete data privacy. Also available as an offline interactive workbook in English and Spanish.

- Building Blocks to School Safety — Toolkit for K-12 schools and school districts for developing high-quality school emergency operations plans (EOPs).

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design [CPTED] Fact Sheet — Tips and strategies for using the CPTED approach in K-12 school environments to remove or reduce opportunities for criminal behavior.

- Emergency Preparedness for Afterschool Programs — *#REMSontheAir* podcast Episode 33, addressing hazards, threats, and considerations for planning and implementing safety protocols and EOPs.

- State Emergency Management Resources Map — Interactive map with links to State emergency management resources, including State contacts, reports, legislation, and more.

- Timeless School Safety Strategies Fact Sheet — Strategies for getting started with emergency management planning and EOP development.

- Community Violence Prevention & Intervention (CVPI) Knowledge Network Group — Any 21st CCLC professional can create an account or log in to access the 21st CCLC Knowledge Network, where you'll find groups and discussion forums related to this topic and many others relevant to your work.