

VOICE

Violence Outreach, Intervention, Community Engagement

The VOICE project assists victims of violent crime who have been referred by Grant Hospital to Columbus Public Health and the Columbus Recreation and Parks APPS program. The VOICE social work/intervention team provides wrap-around services and connects participants to needed medical, clinical and community social service programs.

Overview

Launched in March 2021, VOICE provides vital resources to victims of violent crime at Grant Hospital between the ages of 18-40 to ensure that they receive necessary medical services and help with needed housing, employment and educational deficiencies that create barriers. VOICE supports and advocates for clients, connecting them to resources that help prevent re-injury and jail time, and assist with recovery. The project is based on similar programs in California which dramatically decreased incidents of re-injury and legal issues.

The VOICE team meets with participants to discuss short and long term needs and goals, and connects them to resources such as food, housing and employment. Participants can receive stipends for positive steps, progressing through their individual phases and following their life plan. Members of the VOICE team have a strong connection to Columbus and care deeply about local families and communities.

Partners

Grant Hospital, Columbus Public Health, and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Activity & Client Demographics

From March 2021 to March 2022, the VOICE project reviewed over 41 referrals, with 23 active/enrolled participants as of March 2022. The average age of enrolled clients is 29. The program is capped at no more than 25 active cases due to intensive case management services and wrap-around resources provided to address each client's specific needs.

Learn more at www.columbus.gov/CARE.
Questions? Call Thad Alexander at 614-400-0771 or Jessica Jessberger at 614-645-6831.



Testimonials

“Without VOICE, I might not be here.”

“VOICE helped me with my anxiety so I can be in a social environment again. It's been a journey.”

“I'm going to Barber school with the help of the VOICE program.”

VOICE Phases

To determine if a client is progressing in the program, they are placed in one of four phases:

- **Crisis Intervention:** Introduction of intervention team, roles, needs assessment and consent
- **Stabilization:** Connect with client post discharge, identify life plan and goals, and introduce incentives
- **Action:** Develop self-reliance, identify strengths following the CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) model, and address any barriers
- **Self Sufficiency:** Apply CBT model, address barriers, and show consistency with the life plan

Client Resources

- **Transportation:** COTA passes or cab referrals
- **Housing/Employment:** Rapid Resource, Impact, ODJFS
- **Medical/Clinical:** Grant Hospital/Trauma Clinic, OSU Starr, Southeast Mental Health
- **Drug and Alcohol:** Columbus Public Health Alcohol and Drug Services, Lighthouse Services
- **Mentoring/Case Management:** The VOICE project
- **Victim Assistance:** Ohio Attorney General and OCVJC

