



# American Rescue Plan Safe and Thriving Communities

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## Cook County Policy Roadmap

### Strategic Goal:

Create safe communities and an equitable and fair justice system for all residents.

### Key Agencies:

Cook County Public Defender's Office  
(PD)

Department of Emergency  
Management and Regional Security  
(EMRS)

Justice Advisory Council (JAC)

**FY22 Allocation: \$65 Million**



At Cook County, we believe in the right to safety and well-being for all our residents. We acknowledge that due to historical biases in our justice system, Black and Latine youth have been disproportionately targeted for arrest and prosecution. This has created a destabilizing effect in many of our communities. With American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investments, we can address these historical injustices by focusing on the root causes of crime and prioritizing community safety. We are committed to reducing our justice-involved population while also making significant investments to improve public safety. We will accomplish this by focusing on community investment, violence prevention and anti-recidivism efforts to ensure that all Cook County residents have a safe place to live.



# Projects Include:

## Gun Crimes Strategies Unit

The Gun Crimes Strategies Unit (GCSU) embeds Assistant State's Attorneys in six of Chicago's most violent police districts. Expansion of the Gun Crimes Strategies Unit will allow the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to expand the reach and efforts of the GCSU to help combat the rise in violence and shootings within the City and the South Suburbs.

## Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction Grants

We will respond to high levels of gun violence with thoughtful and robust investment. In 2022, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council will award up to \$65 million in grants for programs designed to prevent and reduce gun violence in Chicago and Suburban Cook County. This grant program has been designed to be inclusive of large and small programs and organizations and will fund a variety of violence prevention strategies including mental health and employment services, street outreach and case management as well as other programs which support residents at-risk of being involved in community violence.

## Strengthening Chicago's Youth Juvenile Justice Collaborative Expansion

We will continue to reduce violence and minimize justice involvement of youth who have experienced violence or trauma or are at high risk of exposure to violence. Services include trauma-informed care coordination for 500 justice-involved youth per year over three years, including youth on diversion (arrested for a felony or violent misdemeanor) or youth granted deferred prosecution. Services include intake, assessment, connection to evidence-based programming and pro-social services, emergency assistance, family support services, and post-discharge monitoring.

These examples represent a fraction of our efforts to support our communities and residents this year. For more information on initiatives backed by American Rescue Plan Act funding or for the entire plan details, please visit [www.engagecookcounty.com](http://www.engagecookcounty.com)



**COOK COUNTY**  
**BOARD PRESIDENT**  
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