

BREAD's Roadmap for Change

Gun Violence

Problem: Gun violence is not just a problem; it is an epidemic in Columbus. There are approximately two shootings per day and 1 murder every 3 days. The majority of people who are killed are from 3 neighborhoods: Linden, the Hilltop, and the Near East side. To date, the police have not been able to significantly reduce the gun violence. We know we cannot arrest our way out of this crisis.

Solution: The Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is designed to reduce homicide and gun violence, minimize harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. The National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC) can work with local agencies over a 2 year period to implement GVI and reduce murders and violence.

Juvenile Justice

Problem: Columbus City Schools has over 20,000 out-of-school suspensions annually. This results in ongoing classroom disruptions, students dropping out, and potentially getting into petty crimes while suspended, all contributing to the school to prison pipeline.

Solution: Restorative Practices are an alternative to suspensions. Restorative Practices “reduce crime, violence and bullying, improve human behavior, strengthen civil society, provide effective leadership, restore relationships, and repair harm” (International Institute for Restorative Practices). With teachers, staff, security, and community members trained by the IIRP, we can begin to heal our community and prevent conflict.

“Welcome Columbus”/The One ID Columbus Coalition

Problem: In Columbus, “between 81,000 and 118,000 residents” do not have valid ID. Lack of photo ID can be a barrier to accessing many services and activities, such as health care, banking, libraries, food pantries, visitation at schools and local government buildings, and emergency housing (Jones-Heckman).

Solution: In order to make photo ID accessible to all residents, a municipal ID program could be instituted. Such programs feature greater flexibility in the types of documents that applicants can present to qualify for an ID while still preventing identity fraud.

Jobs/ “Hire and Better Pay! Don’t Throw Away!”

Problem: Unemployment in North Linden is five times higher than all of Central Ohio's rate of about 4 percent. Poverty is high in many areas of our city even among those who are employed; too many people are working at low-paying jobs that don’t allow them to support their families. This is especially true for people with criminal backgrounds who struggle to find employers that will hire them.

Solution: Set up worker-owned cooperatives located in Linden and commit to employing people most vulnerable to barriers of unemployment and under-employment. For the past two years, BREAD has been working with Ohio State University and Linden representatives toward a goal of creating a worker-owned food hub that would align with OSU's commitment to address food insecurity while creating jobs and capturing wealth in local neighborhoods like Linden with high levels of disinvestment.

Elder Care/ “Come Together, Close the Gap!”

Problem: In some neighborhoods in Franklin County, people on average are dying 27 years younger than in other neighborhoods (Kirwan Institute). There are many determinants that cause this gap, but seniors not having equal access to support and services is an injustice that must be addressed.

Solution: Expand the SPARC program in the Columbus Fire Department that places social workers with EMS and First Responders on 911 calls in order to connect older adults to available services. This program has proven success in reducing calls and connecting more seniors. Two (2) additional social workers should be hired to address the most at risk neighborhoods and ensure that the preventable needs of vulnerable older adults are met.

Affordable Housing/ “Families First and Housing Now”

Problem: In Franklin County, there are 54,000 low-income families spending half or more of their paychecks on housing! This includes renters and homeowners. (Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio).

Solution: We want to see the City of Columbus encourage developers to set aside new housing units for families that make less than \$42,000 a year. We also want the City to increase funding to the Affordable Housing Trust by at least \$5 million per year beginning with a boost of \$32.5 million