



## The UNITY RoadMap: An Overview

The *UNITY RoadMap* is a framework for mapping out solutions to effectively and sustainably prevent violence. It was developed after the UNITY assessment, *An Assessment of Youth Violence Prevention Activities in USA Cities* (Weiss, B; 2008) --conducted with mayors, police chiefs, public health directors, and school superintendents-- revealed that although youth violence is a serious concern, cities generally characterize their responses as inadequate. The *RoadMap* builds on similar tools that have been effective for other challenging issues – similar in their complexity. In fact, many of the categories were drawn from the AIDS Program Efforts Index (API) developed by The POLICY project, USAID, and UNAIDS to measure the effort put into national HIV/AIDS programs throughout the world. Various components of the *UNITY RoadMap* have undergone a literature review and/or been informed by interviews with violence prevention practitioners and city representatives. The *UNITY RoadMap* has been reviewed by city representatives and refined accordingly. Organized by Partnerships, Prevention, and Strategy, there are nine *RoadMap* elements, each selected for its importance in affecting and sustaining efforts to prevent violence *before* it occurs.

### WHO? Partnerships

- ❖ **HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP:** The mayor and other local leaders insist that the violence stops, provide necessary supports and resources, and hold people accountable.
- ❖ **COLLABORATION & STAFFING:** There is a formal structure for multidisciplinary collaboration to coordinate priorities and actions across multiple jurisdictions and there is dedicated staffing in place to support collaboration and implement priorities.
- ❖ **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Members of the community—youth and adults, community based organizations, the faith community, the business sector, and survivors—are actively engaged in setting priorities and ongoing activities.

### WHAT? Prevention

- ❖ **PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES, & POLICIES:** There are effective and far-reaching efforts in place to prevent violence, particularly in highly-impacted neighborhoods.
- ❖ **TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING:** Participants, practitioners, and policy makers have the skills and capacities necessary to work across multiple disciplines and in partnership with community to implement effective prevention programs, policies, and practices.
- ❖ **COMMUNICATION:** The case has been made for preventing violence before it occurs and people are aware of what's being done to prevent it.

### HOW? Strategy

- ❖ **STRATEGIC PLAN:** There is a plan in place that prioritizes prevention, is well-known, and informs priorities and actions for multiple departments, agencies, jurisdictions, and community groups.
- ❖ **DATA & EVALUATION:** Efforts are informed by data and continuously improved through ongoing evaluation.
- ❖ **FUNDING:** Adequate resources support collaboration and staffing; community engagement; the implementation of programs, policies, and practices; skills development and capacity building; communications; strategic planning; and data and evaluation.

For more information on the *UNITY RoadMap*:

<http://preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-30/288.html>

For more information on UNITY: <http://preventioninstitute.org/initiatives/unity.html>

*UNITY builds support for effective, sustainable efforts to prevent violence before it occurs so that urban youth can thrive in safe environments with supportive relationships and opportunities for success. It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the CDC's national youth violence prevention initiative, Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE), and in part by The California Wellness Foundation.*