



Background

Atlanta is one of two civic sites, along with Baltimore, where the Annie E. Casey Foundation has a special connection and long-term commitment to child and family well-being. The Foundation is particularly focused on a set of neighborhoods in the southwest corner of the city called Neighborhood Planning Unit V (NPU-V), which includes Adair Park, Mechanicsville, Peopletown, Pittsburgh, Summerhill and Capitol Gateway.

Since 2001, Casey's Atlanta Civic Site has been working to increase opportunities for low-income families in the area by focusing on neighborhood revitalization, strengthening local organizations to galvanize community involvement and promoting high-quality early childhood education and child development. As part of those efforts, we are partnering with residents to address neighborhood safety and develop coordinated, community-based responses to trauma.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), gun violence is the leading cause of death for young black males, ages 15 to 24. It is an epidemic that disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color at an alarming rate. This is true for southwest Atlanta, which continues to experience a disproportionate burden of violence — and its damaging effects on investment, civic participation and community development. The direct and indirect effects of repeated violence and unhealed past traumas leave many residents suffering.

Community Safety Committee

In 2016, the Foundation conducted an exploratory research and design process with a committee of volunteer stakeholders and community members to determine how best to equip residents and other leaders in the community with the tools they need to effectively address violence. In 2017, the Foundation will build on this work by piloting two components that emerged from the community design process.

- **A community-based trauma response pilot** that integrates trained residents with other entities including first responders (police, fire and emergency services), city agencies, health care institutions, nonprofits and other community-based groups. Community members are trained in trauma response protocols, such as providing comfort and helping to stabilize those affected by a homicide or other act of violence. Trauma responders provide information, are a conduit for referrals to clinical services and help begin the process of healing. Providing a listening ear for those who are affected or notifying loved ones and neighbors of the passing of a community member are among the many roles a trauma responder may assume.
- **A cadre of trained residents, known as 'circle keepers,'** who hold regularly scheduled healing circles in response to acute incidents of violence. Healing circles are facilitated gatherings that bring people

together to support their healing through sharing and contemplation of a question or issue. The practice includes several listening and reflection rituals that allow multiple perspectives to be heard. When used in response to a specific conflict or wrongdoing, healing circles provide an opportunity for victims, direct and indirect, to be heard and hear from victimizers.

The goal of these and other violence prevention and intervention activities is to ensure NPU-V neighborhoods are safe, thriving communities for children and families.

Scope of Services

The Casey Foundation is seeking proposals from a community-based nonprofit organization or other entity to implement the activities below in NPU-V, with a specific focus on the Peoplestown, Pittsburgh and Mechanicsville neighborhoods. A grant of up to \$60,000 will be awarded to fund this scope of services from June 15, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Applicants should describe their qualifications to implement the following.

- Hire and train six – nine circle keepers to convene and facilitate bi-monthly gatherings of the neighborhood-specific circles and response circles (circle keepers will receive stipends).
- Recruit and orient community members to participate in ongoing healing circles (not eligible for a stipend).
- Support ongoing professional development for circle keepers.
- Recruit, train and support 18 – 24 volunteer community members as a trauma response network (not eligible for a stipend).
- Build relationships with first responders and work to design and implement a deployment strategy for community members trained in trauma response protocols.
- Coordinate trauma response activities for acute incidents in the community.
- Identify referral partner organizations, conduct site visits and develop agreements.
- Coordinate networking sessions for trained residents, circle keepers and referral organizations.
- Document activities, responses and resident involvement.
- Ensure that updates on the community safety work are provided at neighborhood association meetings.
- Participate in related community safety activities including Safety Advisory Committee meetings.

Application

Your application must include all of the following elements.

1. Cover letter, on your stationery, signed by your director.
2. Narrative (no more than five pages) that includes:
 - Organizational overview (describe your mission, a brief history of your organization, the geographic area served and your target population)

- Statement of qualifications (describe your organizational capacity, experience with NPU-V neighborhoods, experience with trauma-informed practices and previous work addressing violence and community safety)
 - Plan for implementing the scope of services described above
 - Plan for measuring project results that utilizes the program population and results statement from the Safety Committee:
 - Program Population: Residents and stakeholders in NPU-V neighborhoods who are affected by a severe traumatic event
 - Outcome/Results Statement: After a traumatic event, residents use tools and resources to care for each other and reclaim community spaces as safe places
 - Details about your willingness to continue the project for the following calendar years (Casey hopes to attract further resources for this project to continue its operation through 2020).
 - Details about your capacity to complete timely and thorough reporting for funding sources and any experience with public sector funding source compliance.
3. Project Budget (expenses and income)
4. Appendices:
- Current Secretary of State Certificate
 - Verification of tax-exempt status (IRS determination letter)
 - List of board of directors and officers
 - Organization's operating budget, including funding sources
 - Latest financial statement (audited, preferred) and IRS 990 Form
 - Consultant/subcontractor commitment letters (if applicable)
 - Bios of key staff
 - Partner support letters (if applicable)

Questions

Interested applicants should plan to attend an information session on **Monday, May 8 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** at the Dunbar Neighborhood Center, 477 Windsor Street, Suite 302, Atlanta, GA 30312. To RSVP for the informational session, please contact Kasi Van Heel at KVanHeel.intern@aecf.org.

How to Submit

Completed applications should be submitted via email (preferred) or in person to Kristina Sales by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017**.

Kristina Sales
 Atlanta Civic Site
 The Annie E. Casey Foundation
 477 Windsor Street SW
 Suite 304
 Atlanta, GA 30312
ksales@aecf.org
 (678) 686-0145

Additional Information

For applicants who are interested in additional background information, the Foundation's Safety Advisory Committee has identified the following articles, resources and models:

- “Gathering of Wisdom Keepers,” Oakland, CA 2015 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcS0SV5LfAo>
- “Peacemaking Circles: Evaluating a Native American Restorative Justice Practice in a State Criminal Court Setting in Brooklyn”, Suvi Hynynen Lambson, January 2015
- “Process Evaluation for the Office of Neighborhood Safety,” National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Wolf, A .M ., Del Prado Lippman, A ., Glesmann, C ., & Castro, E ., July 2015
- “A Comparison of Four Restorative Conferencing Models”, US Department of Justice, Gordon Bazemore and Mark Umbreit, February 2001
- “Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience: A Framework For Addressing And Preventing Community Trauma,” Prevention Institute, Howard Pinderhughes, Ph.D., Rachel A. Davis, M.S.W., and Myesha Williams, M.S.W.
- “Addressing and Preventing Trauma at the Community Level – An Interview with Howard Pinderhughes,” Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth, April 2013
- “Healing Together in Salinas,” The Californian, April 15, 2016
- National Compadres Network, Circle Keeper Training, www.nationalcompadresnetwork.org
- Point One North, Circle Keeper Training, www.pointonenorth.com
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Psychological First Aid Training, www.nctsn.org
- National Center for PTSC, Psychological First Aid, www.ptsd.va.gov
- Additional Models Examined - Crisis and Response Support Network, Oakland, CA; Youth Alive, Oakland, CA; Oakland UNITE, Oakland, CA; Partners Advancing Community Together, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA