

Working Together to Address Violence among Our Youth



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City of Savannah's Interagency Collaboration & Savannah GPS Alignment

Advances Savannah GPS Goal 1: Increase Public Safety and Our Collective Sense of Security

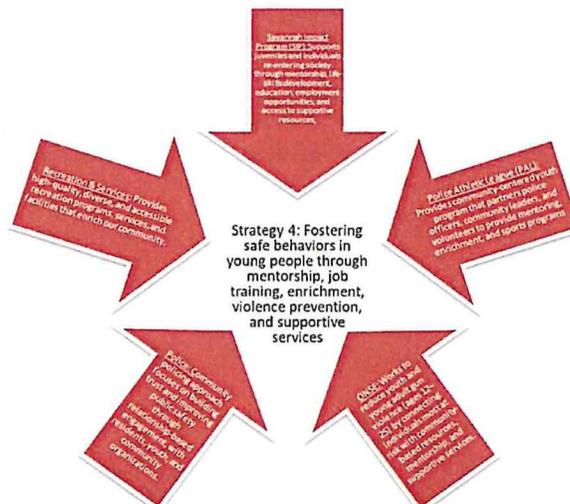


SAVANNAH
Recreation and Leisure Services



SAVANNAH IMPACT PROGRAM

SAVANNAH
Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement



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Recreation's Role in Juvenile Public Safety

Core Approach:

- **Prevention First:** Safe spaces, structured activities, and trusted adult relationships
- **High-Risk Time Coverage:** After-school hours, evenings, weekends, and summer months
- **Programs & Access:** Citywide programs with low or reduced fees to remove barriers

Implementation Through Collaboration

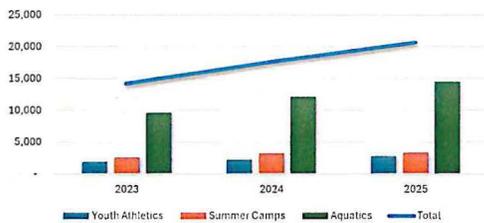
- PAL programs operate within Recreation facilities and leagues
- ONSSE delivers enrichment activities within community centers, including Path-Forward, Teen Summer Nights, and Grow and Glow programming
- Police partner in relationship-based activities including Coffee with a Cop, Parking Lot Parties, and holiday events



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Recreation's Impact: Strengthening Youth Engagement & Public Safety

Registered Program Participants



- Core youth programs (Athletics, Camps, Aquatics) increased approximately 45% since 2023
- Afterschool drop-in programs maintained approximately 34,000 contacts in 2024 and 2025
- Youth workforce pipeline:
 - 60 Youth employed in 2024
 - 64 Youth employed in 2025

Extended & Preventative Programming



Summer Teen Nights
(Age 12-17)



Coaching Boys into Men
(Age 12-17)



Girls Flag Football
(Age 6-14)



Lifeguard Training
(Age 15+)

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Next Steps: Strengthening Youth Engagement & Public Safety

2026 Coordinated Programming & Accountability:

- **Bi-monthly Interagency Meetings:** Align programming schedules, facility usage, and outreach efforts across partner agencies
- **Joint Staff Training:** Implement shared training focused on trauma-informed youth engagement, de-escalation and conflict resolution, and youth development best practices
- **Youth Safety & Engagement Hubs:** Explore partnerships with nonprofits and grant-funded organizations to deliver violence-prevention and enrichment programming within community centers
- **Increase Marketing and Social Media Reach:** Develop dedicated social media and outreach strategies for Recreation and ONSE to serve as the primary platforms for youth and family focused programs and interagency initiatives



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City of Savannah's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

Mission: *ONSE is dedicated to reducing youth gun violence and increasing neighborhood safety by working with local government, the justice system, community partners, and concerned citizens to build awareness, engage in outreach to youth and families, and connect individuals to services, supports, and opportunities to advance toward positive outcomes.*

Whom We Serve: Youth and young adults between the ages of 12 and 25, who are identified as high-risk. High-risk is defined as those who have a history of involvement in violent crimes as a perpetrator or victim, or who have been regularly exposed to violence because of their personal associations. Although high-risk youth and young adults are the highest priority, ONSE also serves youth and young adults who have not been identified as high-risk, but are at risk, through programming and engagement.

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SPD & ONSE Collaboration: Enhancing Public Safety Together

Programs	ONSE	SPD
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Engagements- ONSE conducts conflict resolution and de-escalation activities regarding violence prevention (23) Monthly SPD Public Safety Meeting- ONSE personnel attends bi-weekly meetings hosted by SPD to stay current on activity involving high-risk youth and young adults (20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Engagements- SPD shares data with ONSE that allows for identifying schools where an uptick in negative activity/behavior has been seen and/or where individuals who are high-risk attend. Monthly SPD Public Safety Meeting- SPD shares individuals who they have identified as needing supportive services and intervention to prevent them from committing violence
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-risk Youth Response- ONSE responds at the request of SPD to assist in intervention efforts in reducing the probability of any retaliatory acts of violence either at the scene or hospital (28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-risk Youth Response- As part of their procedures when responding to an aggravated violent act involving youth and young adults, 12-25, SPD notifies ONSE for assistance in community violence intervention efforts.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Walks- ONSE coordinates community walks in areas where recent acts of gun violence have occurred involving youth and young adults (3) Community Cookouts- ONSE coordinate and host cookouts while engaging citizens with supportive services and resources Community Resource Fairs- ONSE hosts and participates in SIP's community resource fairs that promote safety and resiliency (29) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Walks- SPD personnel accompanies ONSE and community members during these walks to promote safety and shares data to direct the efforts Community Cookouts- SPD personnel shares data to help ONSE direct these efforts to the right locations/communities Community Resource Fairs- SPD participates as resource provider as well as invites ONSE to participate in their fairs

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ONSE 2025 Programming



- Real Talk Sessions**- These sessions are bi-weekly engagements held in middle and high schools within the city limits of Savannah and offer a structured curriculum that fosters critical thinking and conflict resolution skills for youth violence prevention. **Served:** Ages 12-25 at-risk and high-risk

- Grow and Glow (Pilot)**- A pilot, designed to empower young ladies ages 12-19 by providing relevant and impactful career, education, and mentorship resources. Grow & Glow engages young women with fun, resiliency-based programming that focuses on lessons around self-perception, education, career readiness, and social skills. **Served:** Ages 12-25 at-risk and high-risk



- Young Artist of Savannah United**- The Young Artists of Savannah United (YASU) program, a 7-week program designed to teach and motivate youth to find their voices through theater. In this program, youth learn the basics of theater, the history of the art form, and the fundamentals of being on stage. Following seven weeks of rehearsals, the youth provide performances of their show throughout Savannah. **Served:** Ages 12-18 at-risk and high-risk

- Path Forward**- Path Forward is a structured, year-long redirection program for young men, with an eight-week paid summer component, designed to reduce violence among high-risk youth aged 17 to 20. The program provides participants with access to resources to secure well-paying jobs, explore educational opportunities, and foster personal growth through counseling services and resilience training. **Served:** Ages 17-20 high-risk

- Neighborhood Improvement Teams (NIT)**- This program, which runs during the summer as part of the 100 Days of Summer Campaign, keeps youth and young adults engaged in positive neighborhood beautification activities, provides them with basic income, and exposes them to the information and skills they need to make better decisions for themselves and their futures. **Served:** Ages 14-25 at-risk and high-risk



- High-risk Youth Response**- ONSE responds to incidents of gun violence involving youth and young adults ages 12 to 25, to disrupt any possible cycle of violence by reducing the probability of retaliation. The strategy focuses on violence intervention, de-escalation, and connection to resources and social services. **Served:** Ages 12-25 high-risk

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2025 Program Outcomes: ONSE Direct Services

Youth Engagement Programming

Program	Participants Enrolled	Engagements	Unique Engagements
Young Artist of Savannah United (YASU)	12	865	519
Path Forward	13	400	13
Neighborhood Improvement Teams (N.I.T)	87	276	87
Grow and Glow	132	217	57
Total	244	1758	676

High-risk Youth Response and Intervention Referrals

Intervention/Referral Type	Responses	Engagements	Currently Engaged	Accepted Services	Services Received	Re-engaged in Violence
Adult Court	0	3	3	3	9	1
Community/Parent	4	4	4	4	7	0
Hospital	28	35	23	24	31	0
Juvenile Court	0	14	13	13	35	2
School-Based	4	15	13	13	22	0
SPD Referral	24	29	21	21	25	0
Total	60	100	77	78	129	3

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2025 Program Outcomes: ONSE Community Partnerships

Violence Reduction Grants

Grantee	Program Sessions	Individuals Served
Chatham County Safety Net	268	788
Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club	91	108
Heads Up Guidance Services	42	13
Life Skills For Empowerment Center	185	111
Offender Alumni Association	24	33
T.I.P. Organization	44	15
The Mediation Center	5	89
Total	659	1157

School Engagements

Quarter	Month	School	Number of Students Engaged
Qtr 1	February	Beach High School	1
Qtr 1	February	Building Bridges Middle School	9
Qtr 1	February	Savannah High School	19
Qtr 1	March	Beach High School	32
Qtr 1	March	Building Bridges Middle School	10
Qtr 1	March	Savannah High School	10
Qtr 1	March	WREP	4
Qtr 2	April	Beach High School	13
Qtr 2	April	Building Bridges Middle School	12
Qtr 2	April	Savannah High School	11
Qtr 3	September	DeRenne Middle School	21
Qtr 3	September	WREP	12
Qtr 4	October	Building Bridges Middle School	8
Qtr 4	October	DeRenne Middle School	23
Qtr 4	October	Savannah High School	14
Qtr 4	October	WREP	11
Qtr 4	November	Beach High School	36
Qtr 4	November	Building Bridges Middle School	18
Qtr 4	November	DeRenne Middle School	36
Qtr 4	November	WREP	9
Qtr 4	December	Beach High School	19
Qtr 4	December	DeRenne Middle School	16
Total			350

Community Engagements

Name of Event	Citizen Engagements
Bridge to Success: Parent Engagement (Building Bridges HS)	26
Chatham Apprentice	47
Chatham Apprentice Program	50
Community Lunch and Learn	40
Cuyler Brownsville (WOS)	45
Hudson Hill (OoO)	5
Leadership Real Talk - PARC	12
Liberty City (OoO)	20
Mario Land (WOS)	60
Mario Land Community Cookout	100
Mentor Meet-Up Mixer	7
Montgomery Landings Community Cookout	60
National Gun Violence Week	13
National Voter Registration Day	25
PARC (OoO)	14
Parent University	26
Pray For My Hood (Faith-Based)	15
Savannah Gardens (WOS)	150
SCCPSS Expo	109
SCCPSS Family Community Resource Fair	20
Speak Out Savannah	4
Summer Teen Night Enrichments	224
Tompkins/Cuyler- Brownsville (OoO)	4
Trauma Sensitive Yoga Tharros Place	3
Trunk or Treat at Daffin Park	100
Twilight Hoops	63
Youth Spring Extravaganza	45
Youth Winter Extravaganza	125
Total	1412

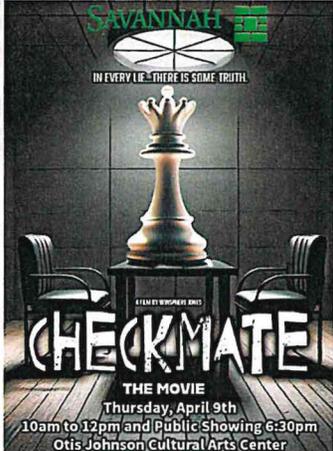
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2025 Major Outcomes and Highlights

- 2,327 unique engagements through outreach and programming
- 3% recidivism rate from intervention and referrals
- 80% success rate with Path Forward participants
- Increased N.I.T participation by 36% from 2024
- Selected as presenters at the 2026 National Youth Advocacy and Resilience Conference (3/1- 3/3)
- Added (11) community mentors to assist in continued mentorship after direct programming
- Through VRG, 1,157 youth and young adults were served during 659 sessions

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Upcoming Events



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