

RISE Project: Reimagining Intimacy through Social Engagement

While gun violence overall has decreased in New York City, the use of guns in intimate partner violence remains unchanged—and in some neighborhoods is rising. In the past, people have looked at intimate partner violence and gun violence as separate problems requiring different responses, but the fact is that neighborhoods impacted by high rates of gun violence also have the highest levels of reported domestic violence incidents.

A partnership between the Center for Court Innovation and the Mayor's Office to Prevent Gun Violence, the RISE Project is a part of the New York City's Crisis Management System anti-gun violence network and works in partnership with gun violence prevention programs throughout the city. The RISE Project seeks to break down siloes and respond to the intersection of gun violence and intimate partner violence to support healthy relationships. RISE's approach is community-centered, survivor-informed, and holistic, rooted in principles of safety, accountability, and transformative justice.

Supporting Healthy Community Norms

The RISE Project supports healthy relationship norms and the prevention of intimate partner violence at the community level through public education campaigns, community programming, and efforts focused on community healing. RISE draws on public health, community organizing and transformative justice models to create a holistic approach to violence. We provide:

- *Community workshops* on intimate partner violence and healthy relationships to local organizations, schools, and the community at large;

- *Youth programming* that provides education and intervention around dating violence and healthy relationships at local schools and in partnership with community-based programs;
- *Community events*, such as open mics, sip 'n' paints, and yoga, to create a space for community dialogue, healing, and a focus on healthy relationships;
- *Public messaging* supporting healthy relationships through neighborhood-level media, print, and social media campaigns.

Engaging Individuals Who Cause Harm

There are few non-mandated programs for individuals who have caused harm. RISE staff focus on voluntary engagement with individuals who have caused harm, working to increase accountability and shift behaviors through:

- *Individual counseling* on a voluntary basis for individuals who are looking for support and assistance to change unhealthy behaviors and prevent violence in their intimate relationships;
- *Gender-based groups* focused on reducing and preventing violence in intimate relationships and covering issues including complex trauma, gender identity, power, and control.

Crisis Response

RISE staff are available to respond in crisis situations. This may include a brief intervention to provide short-term safety planning, connection to resources for individuals experiencing harm, connection to services for other affected community members, and strategic community activations such as community responses, speak outs, and healing events when incidents occur.

Capacity Building

The RISE Project aims to build community capacity to prevent violence, support healthy relationship norms, and reduce tolerance for intimate partner violence through:

- *Tailored training:* RISE provides training on intimate partner violence and healthy relationships to all of the Mayor's Office to Prevent Gun Violence sites and is available to the community at large. Project staff serve as an on-site resource for strengthening the sites' response to intimate partner violence.
- *Coordination of resources:* By coordinating resources, we build connections and increase community access to domestic violence and intimate partner violence services in marginalized neighborhoods.
- *Technical assistance:* We provide assistance to anti-gun violence initiative staff who need guidance on responses to situations that arise among participants, family, or neighbors. Staff serve as neighborhood resources, working to strengthen community response to intimate partner violence.

Outcomes

In the RISE Projects first year the project engaged over 5,000 residents throughout the city. It provided over 75 trainings and workshops and participating in over 100 community events.

For More Information

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