

Advance Peace Evidence-Based Practices

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Advance Peace Evidence-Based Practices

The Advance Peace (AP) model is an evidence-based gun violence interruption strategy building relationships with the few individuals who are most likely to be involved in cyclical and retaliatory gun violence. AP interrupts this cycle and saves lives.

The Advance Peace strategy provides Fellows with 13 evidence-based interventions that together play an important role in preventing further involvement in crime.¹ A primary characteristic of the target population is a lack of connection to resources and positive adult role models. Without the chance to envision another way of living or access to the resources that would allow for choice of an alternative way of life, the possibility of change is extremely low.

The elements of the Advance Peace strategy are designed to work together to help Fellows build connections to caring adults, obtain services they need to address needs such as past trauma, educational failure, or lack of housing, and build a pathway to a healthier life that is free of violence.

The centerpiece of the Advance Peace strategy is a high-touch and personalized 18-month Peacemaker Fellowship®. The Peacemaker Fellowship® is grounded in evidence-based practice and includes seven intensive daily touchpoints between program staff, volunteers, and Participating Fellows. Participants are intentionally given the title of Fellow to communicate the value and real-life opportunity of the Fellowship and underscore that they are active partners in this process.

Advance Peace Strategy

The model includes the following strategies:

Street Outreach: Staff identified as Neighborhood Change Agents (NCAs) seek out and connect with those most likely to be perpetrators or victims of gun violence.

Life Skills Training/Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT): Staff provide Life Skills Training and CBT to Fellows to enable them to shift their thinking and behavior so that they can more constructively engage with conflict and become a positive influence in their families and communities.

Transformative Travel – Cultural, Civic, and Educational Excursions: Many Fellows have never had the opportunity to travel beyond the boundaries of their neighborhood. Transformative travel experiences provide Fellows with a wider awareness of opportunities and experiences that are available to them outside of their familiar day-to-day environments.

Transformative Travel

One of the evidence-based components of the seven daily touchpoints is transformative travel which includes cultural, civic, and educational excursions. Many Fellows have never had the opportunity to travel beyond the boundaries of their neighborhood. Transformative travel experiences provide Fellows with a wider awareness of opportunities and experiences that are available to them outside of their familiar day-to-day environments.

Transformative Travel provides an opportunity for Fellows to experience life outside of their city of origin and to safely interact with other Fellows from rival neighborhoods. Since the Fellowship's inception in Lansing, there have been over 8 excursions to locations including: **Okemos, Detroit, Chicago, Alabama, Georgia, New York, and Paris.**

To qualify for an excursion, Fellows must be active participants in the program, have completed a LifeMAP (Life management action plan), and have established healthy relationships with local AP staff. For out-of-state travel, Fellows must meet all the above criteria and be willing to travel with other Fellows from rival neighborhoods.

On excursions, Fellows participate in one or more activities such as completing community service projects, taking college tours, attending, or presenting at conferences, meeting with government officials, and participating in virtual restorative justice dialogues.

In addition to engaging Fellows in a range of eye-opening activities, excursions serve as a time for Fellows to bond with each other, especially with their rivals, an experience that is often transformative.

Effectiveness of Strategy

The individual components of the strategy are research-based and evidence-informed to ensure successful outcomes for participants.

Transformative Travel is an extrinsic motivator to help Fellows identify and accomplish short-term goals, demonstrate to AP staff that they are committed to healing themselves, and building healthy relations with others.ⁱⁱ

Street outreach is a promising practice for violence reduction when used in combination with referral to appropriate services.ⁱⁱⁱ

Intensive Case Management is a client-centered, goal-oriented process of assessing an individual's need for services and collaborating with community service providers to help them obtain those services.^{iv}

Life Skills/CBT is a well-documented evidence-based practice for reducing violent behavior, which teaches individuals the skills to recognize distorted thinking, better understand others' behavior and motivations, and use problem solving to enhance self-control and reduce problematic behavior.^v

Mentoring is demonstrated to support the healthy development of youth by addressing their need for positive adult interaction and role modeling.^{vi}

Subsidized Employment Training provides work experience, training in soft skills and self-esteem.

The Advance Peace approach was piloted in Richmond, CA and has since been replicated in cities across the nation. An outcome evaluation of the Advance Peace Fellowship measured the effectiveness of the Advance Peace model. Gun homicides and assaults declined by 22% in all Advance Peace zones combined and declined by 10% citywide. Additionally, the evaluation showed that 90% of participants had no new gun charges, 44% had no new arrests, and 100% received social services while in the Fellowship.^{vii}

In Lansing, the Fellowship has already proven to be successful in helping to reduce fatal homicides by over 60% since the implementation in October 2022.^{viii}

Endnotes

ⁱ <https://advancepeacelansinghingham.org/advance-peace-approach>.

ⁱⁱ Corburn, J., Boggan, D., Muttaqi, K. et al. A healing-centered approach to preventing urban gun violence: The Advance Peace Model. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 8, 142 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-021-00820-y>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Webster, D. W., Whitehill, J. M., Vernick, J. S., & Parker, E. M. (2012). Evaluation of Baltimore's Safe Streets Program: effects on attitudes, participants' experiences, and gun violence. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence.

^{iv} Case Management with At-Risk Youth - UCLA School Mental Health. http://www.smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/case_mgmt_qt/Case_Management_with_At-risk_Youth.pdf.

^v Lipsey, M. W., Landenberger, N. A., & Wilson, S. J. (2007). Effects of cognitive-behavioral programs for criminal offenders. *Campbell systematic reviews*, 3(1), 1-27.

^{vi} Herrera, Carla, David L. DuBois, and Jean Baldwin Grossman. "The Role of Risk: Mentoring Experiences and Outcomes for Youth with Varying Risk Profiles." MDRC, 2013.

^{vii} Jason Corburn & Amanda Fukutome-Lopez. Outcome Evaluation of Advance Peace Sacramento, 2018-19. UC Berkeley, IURD. March 2020.

^{viii} <https://advancepeacelansinghingham.org/local-data/>.