

**Terms of Reference:**  
**Research on Youth Involvement with Guns in Miami-Dade County**

**Objective:** Gang Alternative, Inc. (GA) seeks a consultant to conduct research on youth involvement with guns in Miami-Dade County. The research will focus on understanding the contextual factors that lead to youth engagement with guns, guided by the Office of Justice Program's Reducing Youth Gun Violence Report. The findings will inform medium and long-term planning for holistic prevention and intervention efforts.

**Key Areas of Research:**

**Circumstances Surrounding Youth Gun Violence:**

Investigate the circumstances and broader significance surrounding incidents of youth gun violence, including factors such as access to and use of guns, the role of drugs and drug dealing, types of guns involved, and the level of gun deaths associated with various contexts (e.g., domestic arguments, suicide, accidents).

Explore the effect of social maladjustment or lack of training in proper gun handling among young people.

**Hypothesis Testing:**

Test hypotheses speculated as causes of increased youth violence in other communities in the US, including:

- A cycle of fear.
- Lack of opportunity.
- Culture of violence, encompassing:
  - Generational violence: Patterns of violence passed down through families or communities across generations.
  - Systemic violence: Structural inequalities and injustices, including racial and social injustices, that contribute to or perpetuate violence.
- Lack of faith in law enforcement
- Youth perspective on violence

**Qualitative Data Collection:**

- Emphasize qualitative data collection methods, including interviews, focus groups, and participant observation, to gather rich, in-depth insights into the lived experiences and perspectives of youth involved with guns, as well as community members and stakeholders.
- Employ ethnographic approaches to understand the cultural, social, and environmental factors influencing youth involvement with guns.

**Quantitative Data Analysis**

- Supplement qualitative data with quantitative analysis to provide statistical insights into the prevalence and patterns of youth involvement with guns.



- Quantify key variables related to youth gun violence, such as incidence rates, demographics of affected populations, and correlations between violence and systemic factors.

#### **Needs Assessment**

- Identify the needs of at-risk youth and communities affected by gun violence, including their access to resources and services for prevention and intervention.
- Assess gaps in existing services and resources, as well as barriers to accessing them.

#### **Mapping Hot Spots**

- Identify geographical hot spots of youth gun violence in Miami-Dade County, analyzing patterns and trends to inform targeted intervention strategies.

#### **Challenges and Intergenerational Factors**

- Explore the challenges faced by at-risk youth and their families, including intergenerational factors contributing to youth involvement with guns.
- Examine the role of social determinants of health and well-being in shaping youth trajectories and behaviors related to gun violence.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Demonstrate proactive leadership in identifying and engaging local stakeholders to facilitate data collection, including surveys and interviews, aligning with the research objectives.
- Present findings from quantitative qualitative data collection and analysis, including insights into the contextual factors influencing youth involvement with guns.
- Provide in-depth exploration of identified hypotheses and their relevance to Miami-Dade County.
- Include recommendations for prevention and intervention strategies based on research findings.
- Document the identified needs of at-risk youth and communities, along with available resources and services for prevention and intervention.
- Create maps or visual representations of hot spots of youth gun violence and associated challenges.
- Prepare an executive summary highlighting key findings and recommendations for stakeholders.
- Deliver a presentation to GA and relevant stakeholders to disseminate research findings and facilitate discussion.

#### **Evaluation Metrics:**

- Quality and depth of quantitative and qualitative data collected and analyzed, ensuring comprehensive insights into youth gun violence.
- Relevance and applicability of research findings to addressing youth gun violence in Miami-Dade County, demonstrating a thorough understanding of local context and needs.



- Clarity, practicality, and effectiveness of recommendations for prevention and intervention strategies, tailored to address identified challenges and opportunities.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in identifying and engaging stakeholders to facilitate data collection, including surveys and interviews, aligning with the research objectives.
- Stakeholder engagement and feedback on the research process and outcomes, indicating successful collaboration and communication throughout the project.

**Qualifications for Consultant:**

- Demonstrated expertise in conducting research on youth violence or related social issues, with a focus on qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis.
- Proven track record of effectively engaging stakeholders and coordinating data collection efforts in community-based research projects.
- In-depth understanding of the factors contributing to youth involvement in gun violence, including systemic injustices, social determinants, and intergenerational influences.
- Familiarity with research methodologies and tools for assessing community needs, identifying hotspots, and mapping resources.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build rapport and establish productive relationships with diverse stakeholders, including community members, organizations, and law enforcement.
- Strong analytical skills to interpret complex data and generate actionable insights for addressing youth gun violence effectively.
- Ability to conduct local data collection in the community, including surveys, interviews, and other participatory methods.
- Proactive leadership style with a commitment to taking ownership of identifying and engaging stakeholders to facilitate data collection, including surveys and interviews, to support the research objectives.
- Sensitivity to cultural diversity and an understanding of the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, particularly in Miami-Dade County.
- Ability to work collaboratively with Gang Alternative, Inc. (GA), community leaders, and other stakeholders to integrate research findings into actionable recommendations and interventions.
- A relevant graduate degree in sociology, criminology, public health, or a related field is preferred but not required. Relevant experience and demonstrated skills will be considered.
- Adherence to ethical standards and professional conduct in all research activities, ensuring confidentiality and respect for participants' rights and privacy.
- Flexibility and adaptability to work in dynamic and challenging environments, with a focus on achieving measurable impact and outcomes in addressing youth gun violence.
- Proficiency in data analysis software (e.g., SPSS, NVivo) and Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) for documentation and reporting purposes.



- Willingness to learn and adapt to new technologies and tools as needed for the role.

**Contract amount:** \$120,000

**Contract duration:** July 2024 to December 2024

**Submission process:**

- Applications will be accepted from individuals or firms.
- Deadline for submission is June 14. Application packages should be emailed to [info@myga.org](mailto:info@myga.org) with the Subject Line: VICE Community Mobilizer Application.
- Interested individuals or firms are to prepare a comprehensive application package, including the following components:
  - i. Letter of Interest outlining qualifications, relevant experience, and approach to fulfilling the consultancy requirements.
  - ii. Details of educational background, certifications, and any relevant professional affiliations.
  - iii. Summary of relevant experience, emphasizing past projects or roles demonstrating expertise in areas pertinent to the consultancy.
  - iv. Outline of the proposed approach to addressing the objectives and deliverables as indicated in consultancy scope of work. This should encompass methodologies, timelines, and any innovative strategies intended for implementation.
  - v. Applicants should provide a list of references from previous clients or employers who can vouch for their skills and capabilities, to be contacted if necessary.
- Shortlisted candidates may be invited to participate in interviews or presentations to further assess their suitability for the consultancy.
- Successful candidates will receive further instructions regarding the next steps in the consultancy process.