



Gang Prevention in Fairfax County: An Updated Strategy to Address Recent Trends

Presentation to the BOS

Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

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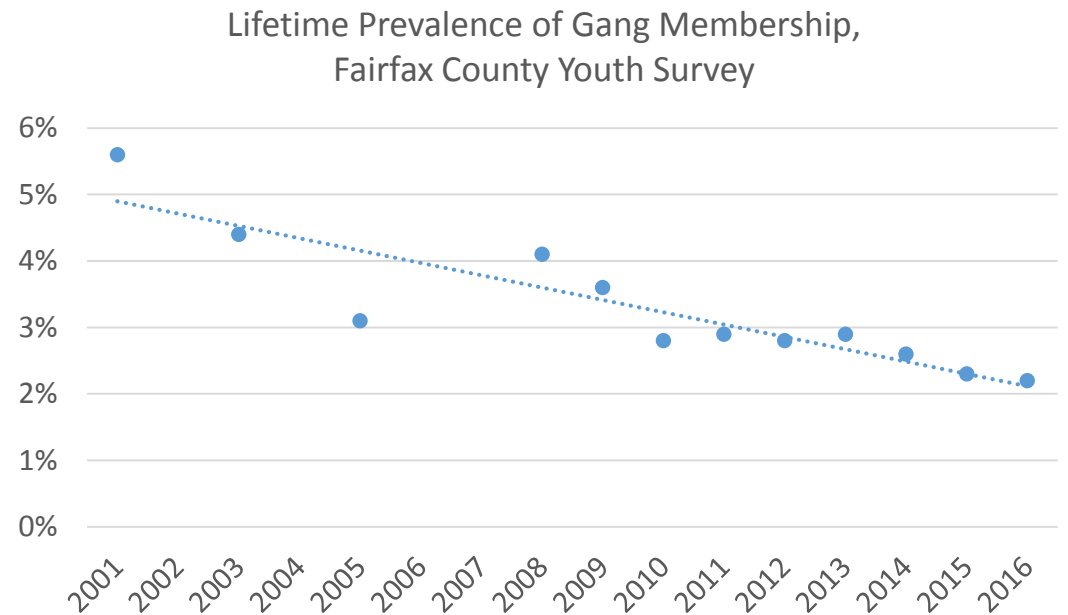
January 9, 2018

Fairfax County Gang Prevention Plan

- The Board of Supervisors asked for recommendations to be presented on gang prevention Carryover funding (\$500,000)
- The Leadership Team met from July through December 2017 to create a plan that builds on ongoing work, addresses gaps, and responds to emerging trends
- **ASK:** BOS approval to use Carryover funds to begin implementation in FY 2018 of an enhanced gang prevention strategy

Despite a recent uptick, gang activity overall remains low in Fairfax County.

- The Board's ongoing investment in fighting gangs is highlighted by:
 - Primary **prevention** activities, such as the Middle School After-School program;
 - **Interventions** for individuals at risk, such as the Intervention, Prevention, and Education program; and
 - **Suppression** through a well-resourced and effective Gang Unit.



Our existing strategy needs to be refined to adequately address recent trends.

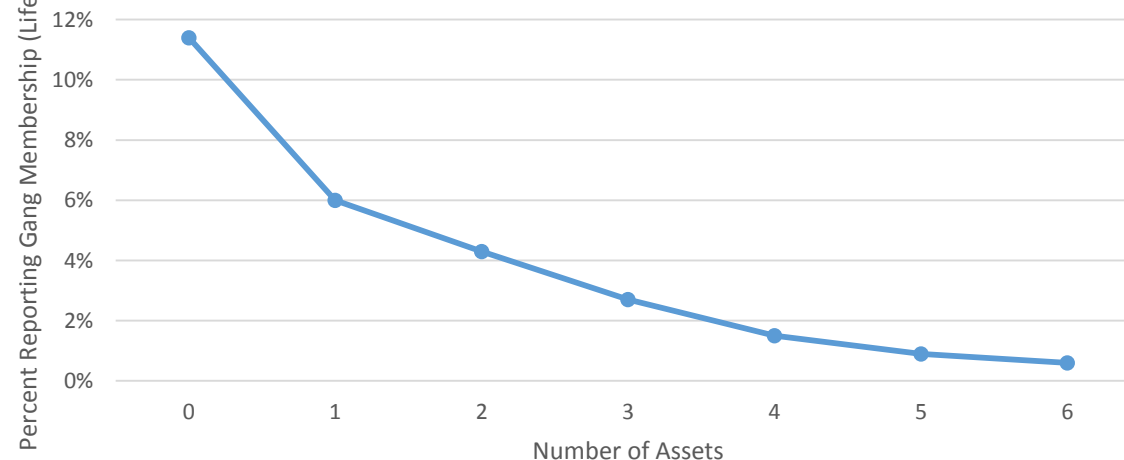
- Gangs are exploiting young people who recently immigrated to the US to reunite with their families, targeting them for recruitment.
- Recruitment and gang operations are evolving with advances in technology and social media.
- Reductions in federal spending for regional coordination hinder prevention and suppression efforts.
- **Our proposed strategies are focused on addressing these issues in order to maximize impact.**

Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Current Work Includes:

- Presentations and awareness activities in schools and the community
- Gang prevention within the FCPS curriculum
- Out of school time programming, including Middle School After School Program
- Resilience development programming and messaging (e.g., Three to Succeed)

Three to Succeed: Gang Membership,
8th, 10th, 12th Graders, 2016 Fairfax County Youth
Survey



Assets

- High personal integrity
- Performing community service
- Having teachers recognize good work
- Having community adults to talk to
- Participating in extracurricular activities
- Having parents available for help

Education, Awareness, and Prevention

Enhancement Objective: Target messaging and training to key youth and gatekeepers.

No New Funding Requested:

- Coordinated approach to supporting reunifying families*
- Updated gang prevention website
- Training and TA for after-school providers and community stakeholders
- Ongoing assessment of Middle School After-School Program

New Funding Requested:

Strategy	FY18	Recurring
Social media to counter recruitment	\$50,000	\$0
Targeted public awareness and outreach	\$100,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$150,000	\$25,000

*Future funding may be necessary. If so, staff will return to the Board with a proposal.

Targeted Prevention and Intervention

Current Work Includes:

- Intervention, Prevention, and Education Program
- Place-based initiatives (e.g., Opportunity Neighborhoods)
- Road DAWG summer camp
- Alternative Accountability Program (restorative justice)
- Reunification programs and services
- Domestic violence and sex trafficking efforts
- Trauma-informed services and systems

Targeted Prevention and Intervention

Enhancement Objective: Intervene with individuals most at risk for gang recruitment and involvement.

No New Funding Requested:

- Enhanced Road DAWG program

New Funding Requested:

Strategy	FY18	Recurring
Expanded Intervention, Prevention, and Education program	\$80,000	\$185,000
Expanded parent liaison services, including family reunification and parent education programming	\$80,000	\$140,000
Expanded intensive services for reunifying families	\$65,000	\$146,500
Targeted elementary school outreach	\$20,000	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$245,000	\$491,500

Enforcement and Suppression

Current Work Includes:

- Police Department Gang Unit
- Regional Gang Task Force

Enhancement Objective: Improve the collection and use of data to support the continuous improvement and evolution of prevention and suppression strategies.

New Funding Requested:

Strategy	FY18	Recurring
Crime and other data analysis (1 FTE)	\$75,000	\$130,000

Data and Coordination

Current Work Includes:

- Police data collection and updates
- Regional Task Force coordination and cooperation
- Fairfax County gang coordinator position

Enhancement Objective: Enhance interagency and regional coordination to address the issue.

No New Funding Requested:

- Cross-agency team
- Standardized data collection and reporting
- Advocacy for enhanced ORR data and info
- Advocacy for federal funding and support for regional task force

Proposed Funding Overview

Strategic Area	Number of Strategies	FY18	Recurring
Education, Awareness, and Prevention	7	\$150,000	\$25,000
Targeted Prevention and Intervention	5	\$245,000	\$491,500
Enforcement and Suppression	1	\$75,000	\$130,000
Data and Coordination	4	\$0	\$0
TOTAL		\$470,000	\$646,500