

**House Public Safety and Violence  
Prevention Task Force Testimony**  
Subject Matter: Restore, Reinvest and  
Renew (R3) Program Grantees



**m**etropolitan<sup>TM</sup>  
family services  
— S O U T H W E S T —

families **m**powered

# Overview

In July of 2021, in leadership with the Blue Island Robbins Neighborhood Network (BIRNN), the Southwest Center was awarded \$1,169,729 to mobilize and expand resources to address critical service gaps for residents of **Blue Island, Robbins, Posen, Dolton, Ford Heights, Harvey, and surrounding suburban communities.**

## R3 Southwest:

- **Supports** capacity building and sustainability for smaller community-based organizations who are uniquely qualified to work within these communities because of their history within and their hyper-local grassroots efforts;
- **Targets** service gaps unique to this SW Cook County region; and
- **Strengthens** coordination across multiple systems to optimize care for unique community needs, many of which are consequences of the historical overuse of criminal justice responses and the social/ and economic disinvestment in these communities.

# Key Service Areas, Staffing & Activities

Service Areas	R3 Program Staffing
Civil Legal Aid	Staff Attorney, Paralegal Services
Case Management	Community Navigators
Community Navigation	Grassroots Outreach
Behavioral Health	Masters Level Social Worker
Workforce Development	Career Coach, Job Developer, Financial/Life Coach

## Program Activities:

- **Legal Aid**- legal representation, navigation and advocacy capacities, and pro-bono (volunteer attorneys) capacities to implement a community lawyering approach
- **Workforce Development**- financial coaching, job coaching, intensive case management, employment placement, retention support and post-placement financial planning
- **Case Management**- screening, resource/support linkage
- **Community Navigation**- grassroots outreach to enable trusted community members to become trusted service providers, ie. attending community events/meetings, mailings, and collaborating with faith-based, violence prevention and other community providers.
- **Behavioral Health Services**- individual, group and family counseling and access psychiatric care.

# R3 Southwest Sub-Awards

Our R3 team strives to build trusting relationships with individuals, groups and communities to provide comprehensive services that promotes community safety and equitable access to economic opportunities.

R3 Southwest collaborates with five partners to ensure participants are thoughtfully linked to services and resources that address their multifaceted needs:

Organization Name	R3 Program Area
iCan Dream Center- Project Thrive	Workforce & Youth Development
Pathlights/Catholic Charities	Violence Prevention (Older Adult and Caretaker Violence Prevention)
Blue Island Public Library	Early Intervention (Early Childhood Literacy- Family Literacy and Community building)
CLC Hope Center	Workforce Development/Economic Development
Together We Cope	Housing support

# Southwest R3 Investment Facts

**SOUTHWEST CENTER R3 GRANT FUNDING:** \$1,169,729

**ORIGINAL AWARD PERIOD:** 2/01/2021 – 1/ 31/2022

**AMENDED AWARD PERIOD:** 8/01/2021 – 1/ 31/2023

## **R3 SOUTHWEST GY22 PARTNER INVESTMENT FACTS**

Funds 5 Community Partner Communities; **Avg. investment \$47,480**

iCan Dream Center- Project Thrive- **\$63,795**

Pathlights/Catholic Charities- **\$34,287**

Blue Island Public Library- **\$49,720**

CLC Hope Center- **\$39,600**

Together We Cope- **\$50,000**

Communities Served: **Blue Island, Robbins, Posen, Dolton, Harvey, Ford Heights, Matteson, Markham, Riverdale, Hazel Crest, Calumet Park, South Holland, Chicago Heights**

Year 1 Partner Investment: **\$237,402**

Year 2 Partner Commitment: **\$318,297**

**In Year 2, we are committed to funding 2-3 additional sub-awards in the areas of Violence Prevention, Housing/Homelessness and Youth Development with additional \$150,615**

# Grassroots Outreach

In addition to our sub-award partners, R3 Southwest has established strategic partnerships community providers and leveraging each others resources and expertise to provide a comprehensive approach for families with complex needs.

Strategic Community Partners	Expanded Service Provision
Roseland Ceasefire	R3 SW provides wraparound service to families impacted by community violence, including housing assistance, case management and workforce development services.
Salvation Army of Blue Island	Housing and Bill Payment Assistance
Solid Ground Behavioral Services	Behavioral Health Services for children age 5-13 diagnosed with Autism

# Client & Program Insights

92 clients served between August 2021- December 2021

- Case Management- 54
- Behavioral Health - 22
- Legal Aid- 25
- Workforce Development- 22
  - Including 13 youth with developmental/emotional delays aged 16-24 who have participated and/or completed CNA Certificate Programs

In addition to our overall client count, 145 community members participated in sustainable gardening workshops to increase individual income opportunities and to address inequitable access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

## Workforce Development:

- R3 Southwest has established relationships with community-based employers, including:
  - Amazon
  - Donson Machine
  - Skills for Chicagoland's Future
  - Roseland Ceasefire
    - In an effort to increase it's violence prevention reach, Ceasefire recruits are connected with our career coach and complete job readiness training while receiving payment and support through our workforce development team

## Case Management:

- Aided clients with finding housing, emergency shelter, and financial, transportation, and food assistance.

## Behavioral Health:

- Clinician is providing individual, family and group interventions, including, anger management groups for individuals either mandated through court or through referrals and trauma informed counseling.