



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

City of Cleveland

2026 Budget

Community Relations Board
Executive Director Angela Shute-Woodson



Introduction

Departmental Overview

- The CRB provides services to all 5 police districts across the city working with residents on conflict mediation, promoting block clubs, and providing criminal violence interruption.

Divisional/Sectional Responsibilities and Priorities

- CRB is responsible for promoting understanding and cooperation among racially and culturally diverse groups within the community.
- The board aims to alleviate inequalities, prejudice, and other sources of intergroup conflict.

Staffing Levels and Vacancies

- CRB has 24 fulltime staff positions and 5 fulltime grant funded positions and serves 14 board members. Of the 24 fulltime positions there are currently 18 fulltime staff and we presently have 5 vacancies.



Snap Shot of CRB

District Representatives- Cover the Five Police Districts in the City, conduct mediation of neighbors, assist with navigation of City Services, to block club development, coordination of Community Builders events for resident leaders, assisting resident lead Community District Police Relations Committees to insuring quality of life for all residents.

Outreach Specialist Team - Since 2008 the Teams responsibilities include violence interruption, community engagement, critical incident stress management/debriefing and other overall outreach strategies. CRB also performs mediation, de-escalation and redirection activities within the community, schools and neighborhood resource recreation centers. Through mentorship activities in schools and neighborhoods, They provides youth and young adults with employment connections, training, and coordinate reentry services for **returning citizens (*formerly incarcerated youth and young adults)*.

Cultural Liaisons- The Liaisons are the conduit that provides information and assistance to residents of Asian, Faith , Hispanic and LGBTQ+ cultures. Services are to assist with translation of City Services, to advocate of services for residents, to hosting cultural events especially uplifting heritage months. The Liaisons also provide support to families in crisis due to violence, hardship, etc.

Youth Diversion-The program began in 1999. The program's goal is to divert youth offenders who have committed misdemeanor, low level felony and status offenses from official court process.

The Youth Community Diversion Program addresses the youth's illegal behavior and resolves the matter unofficially. The youth are given accountability based assignments in an effort to prevent further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Current Financial Overview

Budget Summary 2025

Total (Year-to-Date)	\$2,675,388
• Personnel (salary and benefits)	\$1,934,131
• Training	\$ 5,634
• Contractual	\$ 630,745
• Material (supplies)	\$ 51,615*
• Interdepartmental Charges	\$ 53,264

*addl Police and Marketing Events; south East Side Mayor’s Initiative add on

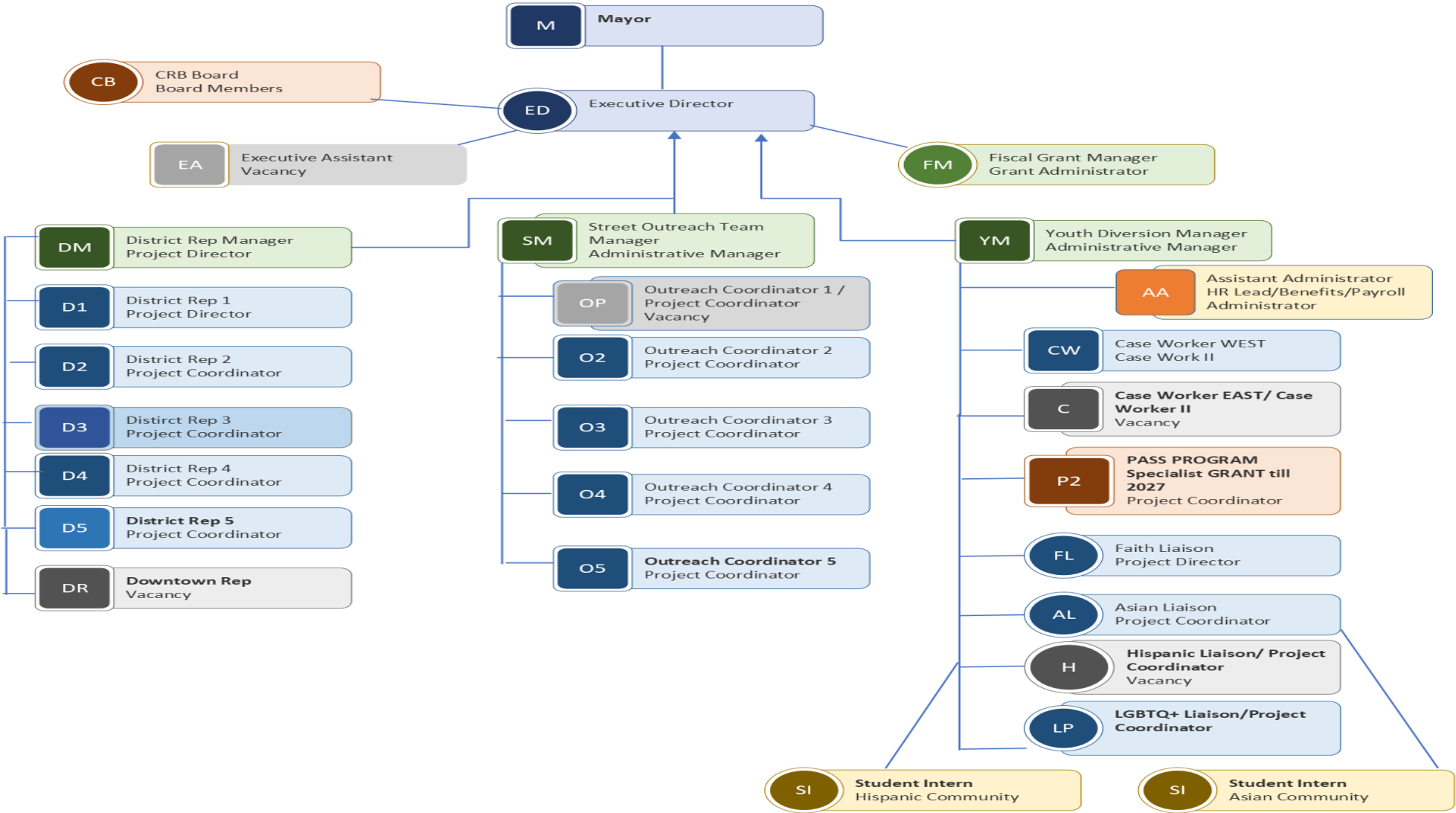
Budget Summary 2026

Total (Year-to-Date)	\$4,052,902
• Personnel (salary and benefits)	\$2,469,389
• Training	\$ 40,000
• Contractual	\$ 1,192,596
• Material (supplies)	\$ 75,400*
• Interdepartmental Charges	\$ 88,189

*addl Police and Marketing Events; south East Side Mayor’s Initiative add on



Organizational Chart



Budget Request Details

Total Amount Requested- total increase \$418,552

Breakdown of how the funds will be allocated

- **Personnel**- increase by \$226,863 to offer competitive wages to compete with competitive markets and decrease employee turnover. CRB employees have exceeded performance targets by increasing the number of block clubs. Participation in neighborhood events, mediations, conflict resolutions, increased business and neighborhood relations. Have assisted in the drop of the crime rate throughout the city. And to add two interns to assist with languages interpretation of our cultural residents.
- **Training** – training remains the same for this year and staff will continue in obtaining certification to grow with the work within CRB. Renewal of State Mediation Certificates needed, CVI(Community Violent Interrupters) Certification renewal in 2026, Social Workers licensed credit hours renewals.
- **Contractual Services** – this item will stay the same. To maintain the coverage/engagement to prevent youth violence on Public Square, Downtown library , to CMSD High School public transits stops it was a need to increase CVI(Community Violent Interrupters)/Creditable Messenger assistance with youth, to more structure programming to serve youth re-entering back to the Community. .



Justification for Request

The to increase the work among Street Outreach and youth engagement, continue the training that helps Staff with mediation and community engagement. To add more professional partners to provide their expertise in programming for residents and youth. Investing in professional development not only benefits the employee but it also contributes to the success of the City of Cleveland.

Program

Youth Intervention
Cultural Liaisons (Asian & Hispanic)

Current Staffing/Partners

7 CRB Staff- 5 Contractors
1 Language Liaison

2026 Staffing/Partners

9 CRB Staff- 8 Contractors
2 Language Liaisons- 2 Interns



Return of Investment

Investment: Total budget \$4,052,902 was spent on 18 staff members, 5 contracted professional services, and professional development trainings to support community outreach, violence interruption and prevention, and youth diversion.

Outputs:

- Service all 5 police districts for community outreach and violence interruption and prevention.
- Connected over residents to city services and programs
- Currently covering CMSD 10 High Schools and 20 K-8th Schools with staff on-site 5 days a week.
- Assisted 115 individuals in securing permanent housing (which includes the Garden Valley victims)
- Worked with 73 youth diversion cases by assisting with community service, job placement, and mentorship
- Hosted over 27 Cultural, Faith Based, and Community events
- Partnerships with Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Ohio Department of Youth Services and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
- Crime with youth have decreased for the second year
- 110 Attendees of Community Builders



Return of Investment

Outputs Continued:

- Service all 5 police districts for community outreach and violence interruption and prevention.
- Connected over residents to city services and programs
- Working with Ohio DYS facilities with 27 Youth in which 19 were plugged into workforce training or a job.
- Currently covering CMSD 10 High Schools and 20 K-8th Schools with staff on-site 5 days a week. Decrease in school fights by 40%.
- Assisted 115 individuals in securing permanent housing (which includes the Garden Valley victims)
- 894* Youth engaged and 317* one on one's with Youth in CMSD. (*as of 9-30-25)
- Worked with 97* youth diversion cases by assisting with community service, job placement, and mentorship (* as of 9-30-25)
- Hosted over 27 Cultural, Faith Based, and Community events
- Partnerships with Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Ohio Department of Youth Services and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
- Crime with youth have decreased for the second year.



Return of Investment

Conclusion: Every dollar for the Community Relations Board allocated has a significant community impact

- The reprint of Quality of Life booklets with updated legislation and new Council information
- Strengthened relationships among community members, fostering a sense of belonging
- Creating support networks of residents
- Bridging gaps with residents and police
- Improvement in community safety or well-being
- Increase participation in community events and programs
- Increase cultural awareness
- Maintaining our data infrastructure for data collection, monitoring of the work.
- Increase employability with youth and young adults
- Successful outreach to attract additional funding and support from local businesses and organizations
- Hosted over 10 coffee with cops, support 5 police precincts with various community events

The Outcomes of the Community Relations Board is multifaceted, contributing to both individual and community well-being. Our outreach fosters collaboration, addresses needs, builds strong and healthier communities, and bridges relationships with residents and police.



Questions & Answers

