



E-Update

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Officials Testify to Violence-Free Zone Results:

The Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Violence-Free Zone program not only has reduced violence in schools in five urban centers, but also has had significant impacts on crime rates in surrounding communities. Schools with the VFZ program also are showing improvements in student educational achievement, officials reported at a briefing November 16 in Washington, DC. Highlights of the testimonies:

- The city of Milwaukee had the largest drop in crime in the past 25 years. The VFZ program, while not the only factor, was a key factor, according to the Milwaukee District Attorney. Milwaukee Superintendent of Schools William Andrekopoulos noted that 20-25% of Milwaukee's high school students are now in schools with the VFZ, and it impacts the entire city.
- In Richmond, VA, motor vehicle thefts dropped 61% around the school that had the Violence-Free Zone. Assistant Police Chief David McCoy reported. Arrests at the school dropped 99%. In Milwaukee, motor vehicle thefts around the six VFZ schools dropped 25%, significantly surpassing the city average,
- Dallas schools with the program not only saw reductions in gang activity and violence, but achieved increases in educational achievement, reported Dallas School Board member Ron Price.

In addition to city officials, young people from the five VFZ site cities of Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Milwaukee, and Richmond, VA told how the program has changed their lives. Site leaders from each of the cities reported on what they do to implement the program.

CNE's Compassion Capital Fund Grant Renewed for Third Year:

The Center has opened a new round of competition for faith-based and community organizations in Washington, DC who want to receive technical assistance and subawards from CNE. The Center, through a competitive process, has been awarded funds to serve as an intermediary organization between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and nonprofits serving Wards 5, 6, 7 & 8 in Washington, D.C. The organizations must be providing services in the areas of at-risk youth, the homeless, elders-in-need, families and individuals in transition from welfare to work, substance abusers, ex-offenders, or promotion of healthy marriages. CNE will select up to 20 organizations to receive subawards averaging about \$10,000, and will provide technical assistance in areas of organizational and financial management.

Woodson Radio Show:

The Bob Woodson Show – What Works and Why is webcast every Tuesday at 1 p.m. ET. The first shows have focused on the problem of youth violence and looked at solutions, and are archived online. To access the shows, go to the CNE website www.cneonline.org and click on the Radio icon button. To comment or suggest show ideas, email Bob at bwoodsonshow@cneonline.org.