

# Evaluation of the APPS Comprehensive Strategy: Phase III

August 25, 2017 - Version 2

## INTRODUCTION

In April 2013, the City of Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks contracted with Drs. L. Shon Burch and Gary Timko of Quality Performance, LLC to conduct a three-phased evaluation of the Applications for Purpose Pride and Success (APPS) comprehensive strategy for reducing gang activity in Columbus, Ohio.

Phase I was completed in October 2013 and focused on (1) documenting the structure and implementation of APPS to date and identifying opportunities for improvement and (2) establishing an evaluation framework that would allow for the collection of data needed to demonstrate APPS's progress, outcomes, and impact.

Phase II began in April 2014 and focused on (1) determining progress made with the implementation of APPS, (2) improving APPS's data collection tools and processes, and (3) assessing the extent to which APPS had been achieving its short-term and intermediate-term outcomes.

Phase III will begin in October 2017 and will continue to focus on (1) gauging progress made with the implementation of the strategy and (2) assessing the extent to which APPS has been achieving its short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes and its impact to date on helping to reduce youth violence in targeted areas of Columbus, Ohio. This proposal outlines the work being proposed to be completed by Dr. Burch for Phase III of the evaluation.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

APPS was started in the summer of 2011 by the City of Columbus as a response to the increase in youth violence in the city the previous summer (2010). APPS's mission is:

*To enrich the lives of youth (ages 14-21) and young adults by connecting them to services and programs focused on building life skills, character development, jobs, postsecondary education, and other components that further enhance the recreational programs we currently provide. This goal will be achieved by developing partnerships, expanding and leveraging resources, and creating programs that reflect best practices in promoting education and reducing crime and violence.*

APPS was modeled after the Los Angeles gang reduction and youth development program and has employed a comprehensive approach to addressing youth violence in the 43207, 43203, 43223, and 43211 zip codes of Columbus. It includes three main components: (1) Prevention, or engaging youth who are not yet involved in violence and gangs in prosocial activities and community services that will reduce the likelihood of them joining or being affiliated with gangs; (2) Intervention, or providing case management and supportive services for youth who have already been involved in violence or gangs, in an effort to reduce the likelihood that they continue engaging in violent and gang activities; and (3) Suppression, or community-wide suppression of youth violence and gang-related activities.

## SCOPE OF SERVICES

The following scope of services details the work to be completed by Dr. L. Shon Burch as part of Phase III of the evaluation of APPS. Included in this section are evaluation questions, data collection and analysis methods, timelines, and the budget.

## Evaluation Questions

The following evaluation questions will guide data collection and analysis, and the reporting of findings for Phase III of the evaluation:

1. What progress has been made to date with the APPS in the following areas:
  - a. Structure and implementation of the APPS strategy
  - b. Service providers and partners and their roles
  - c. Communication between APPS staff, service providers, and partner organizations
  - d. Data collection tools and processes and reporting
  - e. Community awareness
2. How well is APPS achieving its goals and outcomes?
  - a. To what extent is APPS helping to reduce gang activity and youth violence in the targeted areas?
  - b. To what extent does participation in APPS help youth change their attitudes and behavior related to involvement in gang activity and violence?
3. What lessons learned have resulted from implementing the APPS strategy?
4. What opportunities exist for improving the APPS strategy?



METHODS	TIMELINE 2017-2018												BUDGET	
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		Oct
<b>Case Studies</b>														
Dr. Burch will work with APPS staff and partners to identify up to five (5) youth who participated in case management through APPS, to determine the extent to which (1) their behavior changed due to participating in APPS, (2) behavior changes were sustained beyond participation in APPS, Data about youth's participation, progress, and outcomes will be collected through interviews with youth, interviews with key informants identified by youth, and document reviews (e.g., case management notes, school records, etc.). APPS staff and partners will assist with identifying youth and providing their contact information.						X	X	X						\$3,125
<b>Assessment of Data Collection Tools and Processes</b>														
Dr. Burch will work with the Coordinator, staff, and partners of APPS to assess (1) what data are being collected by APPS staff, (2) what tools are being used to collect data, (3) the extent to which data is being collected uniformly across partner sites, (4) the extent to which progress and outcomes are being reported. Dr. Burch will use the findings of the assessment to recommend how data collection tools and processes can be improved to strengthen what can be concluded about the progress, outcomes, and impact of APPS.							X	X	X					\$2,000
<b>Secondary Data Analysis</b>														
Dr. Burch will work with APPS staff to collect data from data systems being used to (1) develop a demographic profile of youth being served by APPS and (2) conduct baseline and ongoing assessments of the extent to which APPS's goals and outcomes are being achieved. The statistical methods to be used to analyze the outcomes and impact of the APPS strategy will be dependent upon the types, sources, and robustness of the data being collected. More detailed plans for data analysis will be developed upon completion of the Assessment of Data Collection Tools and Processes.								X	X	X	X			\$3,500

METHODS	TIMELINE 2017-2018													BUDGET
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
<b>Project Meetings</b>														
Dr. Burch will meet with the APPS coordinator monthly to review progress being made with the evaluation and to discuss any challenges experienced or necessary revisions to the evaluation plan. Dr. Burch will prepare for, take notes of, and travel to the meetings. APPS will provide space for the meetings.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,625
<b>Report</b>														
Dr. Burch will produce a draft report for review and feedback by APPS staff and partners. A final report will be finalized within two weeks of receiving the feedback of APPS staff and partners on the draft. The final report will incorporate the findings of the evaluation and recommendations based on the data collection and analyses. The report will be submitted in electronic form and suitable for black and white printing.												X	X	\$5,000
													<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24,250</b>