

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM**

The Budget Advisory Commission will be held in City Hall Hearing Room 2 and the meeting can be viewed on Zoom see details below.

Commission Members:

Mandela Bliss, Larisa Casillas, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Karen Roye, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly, Will Bao, Danforth Dougherty, Susan Flores

City Representative(s):

Tiffany Kirk Patrick, Walter Silva, & Asti Jenkins – Finance Department

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Admin Matters – (15 min)**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of minutes**
- 4. Annual Elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Finance and Management Chair Liaison (15 Min)**
- 5. Update on Public Safety and Presentation/Discussion from Dr Holly Joshi, Chief of Oakland Department of Violence Prevention, (30 min)**
- 6. Report/Discussion from East Bay Polling Institute (30 min)**
- 7. Vote on Final BAC Survey (Please read in advance) (10 min)**
- 8. BAC Vote on accepting proposed donation of \$2,000 to support BAC survey outreach (5 min)**
- 9. Proposals for future agenda items (5 min)**
Protocol:
 - ✓ BAC Leadership maintains ongoing agenda item register
 - ✓ Topics may be proposed here for consideration
 - ✓ For approved topics, agenda materials must be submitted to Chair 10 days in advance of regular BAC meetings to make Brown Act Agenda Notification
 - ✓ Chair sends final agenda packet to liaison for review and approval the Monday preceding the scheduled Wednesday meeting; if Monday is a city observed holiday materials must be submitted the preceding Friday.
- 10. Open Forum – 10 min**
- 11. Adjournment**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Oct 14, 2026 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Wed, 27 occurrence(s)

Oct 14, 2026 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/tZYqc-](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/tZYqc-yprjMiGN1aM05NFgTXes6X3Anylyzz/ics?icsToken=DK1Rm9s6ThfTnPCBcQAALAAAAHnCAa5Bfgf_khYo-BiKyKcNAumJkTQDi3eX8w0iAg-5y5xpjPKk0DAj3D6uRxbnFdBw1WcWfpT6EAQXgDAwMDAwMg)

[yprjMiGN1aM05NFgTXes6X3Anylyzz/ics?icsToken=DK1Rm9s6ThfTnPCBcQAALAAAAHnCAa5Bfgf_khYo-BiKyKcNAumJkTQDi3eX8w0iAg-5y5xpjPKk0DAj3D6uRxbnFdBw1WcWfpT6EAQXgDAwMDAwMg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/tZYqc-yprjMiGN1aM05NFgTXes6X3Anylyzz/ics?icsToken=DK1Rm9s6ThfTnPCBcQAALAAAAHnCAa5Bfgf_khYo-BiKyKcNAumJkTQDi3eX8w0iAg-5y5xpjPKk0DAj3D6uRxbnFdBw1WcWfpT6EAQXgDAwMDAwMg)

Topic: Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC)

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82745108829>

Phone one-tap:

+16699006833..82745108829# US (San Jose)

+16694449171..82745108829# US

Join via audio:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

Webinar ID: 827 4510 8829

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82745108829>

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) held **Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

The Budget Advisory Commission was held in City Hall Hearing Room 2.

Commission Members:

Mandela Bliss, Larisa Casillas, Mike Forbes, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Karen Roye, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly, Danforth Dougherty, Susana Flores, Will Bao

City's Representative(s):

Tiffany Kirk Patrick, Walter Silva, and Asti Jenkins – *Finance Department*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome and Administrative Items / Roll Call (5 minutes)

- The meeting was called to order.
- Commissioners present: Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Karen Roye, Mandela Bliss, Danforth Dougherty, Suzanne Flores, Larisa Casillas, Will Bao, Vanessa Zamora, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton
- Absent: Mike Forbes, Rana Bader Matly
- Quorum was established with 10 out of 12 commissioners present.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes see attachment

2. Election of Chair to Fill Vacancy Action Item (10 minutes)

- Chairperson Mike Petouhoff was formally appointed to lead the commission following the departure of the previous Chair. Stephisha Ycoy-Walton was subsequently nominated and confirmed as Vice Chair. Commissioners commended both leaders for their demonstrated dedication, collaborative approach, and strong ties to the community.
- Vice Chair Walton introduced herself, noting her work as a financial advisor, her role as a parent, and her active involvement in Oakland's civic and political landscape. She emphasized her commitment to community engagement and advancing equity.
- Commissioners expressed enthusiasm about the direction and opportunities ahead under the newly established leadership team.

3. Discussion and One Action Item (15 minutes)

- The Chair reviewed the current ad hoc committees:
 - Community Outreach, chaired by Larisa
 - Transition Age Youth (TAY), chaired by Karen with participation from Vice Chair Ycoy-Walton
 - Economic Development and Public Safety, chaired by Chair Petouhoff
 - Trenching Standards, a smaller committee led by Chair Forbes with support from Susanna
 - The commission discussed potential new committees, including:
 - An after-action review of the budget mid-cycle process
 - A review of the City's budget website, reflecting a request from Council Member Brown
 - Staff clarified commissioner term limits and appointments:
 - Commissioners serve two three-year terms, for a total of six years
 - Flexibility may apply to partial initial terms
 - Staff will issue formal notices regarding term statuses in advance of the October election
 - A special meeting date for September was debated due to a city holiday occurring on the originally scheduled Wednesday, September 9. After discussion, the commission agreed to hold the meeting on September 15, allowing for adequate staff notice and commissioner availability. Location was left to be determined, with options for City Hall or potentially an off-site venue.
-

4. Updates and Presentations:

- **Council Finance & Management Committee - 5 min**
- **FY27-29 Resident Survey Updates see attachment- 30 min**

Larisa presented the revised resident survey, aimed at gathering community input on budget priorities ahead of a November 4 launch and December 4 closing. Key changes include:

 - Clear, simple language explaining budget structure and constraints to residents.
 - Questions designed to link budget items to residents' everyday experiences (e.g., street lighting, potholes).
 - Priority questions focus on what residents would choose to increase rather than cut, addressing previous feedback.
 - Demographic questions placed toward the end to encourage survey completion without alienating respondents.
 - Commissioner feedback emphasized:

- Adding “developer” as a housing status alongside renter/owner/unhoused.
- Including the option to select multiple races or identify other identities.
- Incorporating an open-ended question or free-form responses to capture unprompted community priorities.
- Addressing accessibility for visually impaired individuals and unhoused community members, including in-person outreach efforts.
- Concerns about how unrestricted budget funds were framed, and requests for clearer connection between budget allocations and priority areas.
- Suggestions to shorten the survey, as a length of approximately 20 minutes may deter participation.
- Including climate resiliency as a priority area given its growing impact on Oakland communities.
- Methods for community dissemination and feedback collection were discussed, with plans to engage community groups, youth, and use multi-language translations (at least Spanish and Chinese, with potential to expand). Commissioners stressed the importance of transparent, actionable insights from the survey data and linking findings to council priorities and economic development strategy.
- **Economic Development & Public Safety Report see attachment- 20 min**
 Chair Forbes shared updates on the Economic Development and Public Safety ad hoc report, which includes intersections with lead-based paint exposure, food deserts, workforce development, and violence prevention strategies. Notable points:
 - Oakland shows unique and severe impacts from lead-based paint compared to other cities.
 - Recommendations include convening public forums to educate and engage community members before the official budget process.
 - The report connects public safety with economic opportunity and health disparities.
 - The commission aims to present a refined report after consultation with city staff, including the mayor’s office and violence prevention experts.
 - A poster session with community Q&A was proposed to support public understanding.
 - Commissioners recognized the considerable research incorporated but recommended narrowing recommendations, improving draft formatting, and clearly linking proposals to budget lines to make them more tangible to policymakers.
 - Chair Forbes emphasized the proactive nature of the report as shaping 2027 budget priorities and educational outreach well before formal budget approval.

- It was proposed to work with city staff to edit and polish the report further, returning it to the commission for reconsideration and final approval.
- **Transitional Age Youth see attachments - 20 min**
 Commissioner Karen presented on the TAY ad hoc committee's focus: improving the city's visibility of investments and outcomes for transitional age youth (ages 16–24/25), a population often obscured in broader budget and program reporting. The committee proposes a limited feasibility review of existing public reports and data from:
 - Kids First
 - Measure NN
 - Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development
 - Economic and Workforce Development
- The review would assess:
 - What age-specific expenditure and outcome data are already collected
 - The ability to separately identify TAY populations
 - The staff costs or burden for further analysis
 - Whether additional steps would be useful
- Key points:
 - The review does not imply new funding, new program creation, or system expansions without full commission approval.
 - The committee sought authorization to work with budget and program staff, commissions (including Parks and Library), and related entities on this effort.
 - The motion to authorize this limited feasibility review passed unanimously with 10 votes.

Public comments recognized the importance of transparency, accountability, and information access for TAY populations to support informed advocacy and policymaking.

Motion: Motion for TAY ad-hoc to work with budget staff and appropriate program staff and commissions and their secretaries on a limited feasibility review. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Casillas.

Vote: Unanimously passed with 10 votes

- **Trenching Policy Recommendation Report see attachment- 5 min**
 - **Deferred to next meeting**
- **Open Forum - 10 min**
 - The Chair mentioned outreach to the East Bay Polling Institute about a professional community poll including budget questions, potentially to be featured at the September meeting to complement the commission survey.

- Requests to preview or discuss the updated Consolidated Fiscal Policy (CFP) draft before city council considerations are raised; staff will follow up on its availability.
- The meeting ended early with appreciation extended to staff, especially Tiffany, for logistical support and minutes preparation to be completed and distributed for review.

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

CITY OF OAKLAND

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of the City of Oakland Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) held **Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 at 6:00 PM.**

The Budget Advisory Commission was held in City Hall Hearing Room 2.

Commission Members:

Mandela Bliss, Larisa Casillas, Mike Forbes, Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Karen Roye, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly, Danforth Dougherty, Susana Flores, Will Bao

City's Representative(s):

Tiffany Kirk Patrick, Walter Silva, and Asti Jenkins – *Finance Department*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome and Administrative Items / Roll Call (5 minutes)

- The meeting was called to order.
- Commissioners present: Ben Gould, Mike Petouhoff, Danforth Dougherty, Suzanne Flores, Larisa Casillas, Will Bao, Stephisha Ycoy-Walton, Vanessa Zamora, Rana Bader Matly
- Absent: Mike Forbes, Mandela Bliss, Karen Roye,
- Quorum was established with 9 out of 12 commissioners present.
- Check in on goals set from start of year
 - Chair and commissioners discussed the importance of balancing improving the City and the commission's actual conditions with enhancing public image
 - A key focus was the rising healthcare costs impacting the city budget, highlighted by recent negotiations with the Oakland Police Officers Association involving wage increases coupled with officers assuming a greater share of healthcare expenses
 - The Chair urged members to engage actively in ad hoc committees while considering scheduling and quorum needs
- Update on Remote meeting support from staff
 - Discussion confirmed that meetings remain in City Hall due to staff work location policies, though commissioners expressed concern about accessibility for community members, especially considering parking and feelings of safety.

- Alternatives such as remote meetings or ad hoc gatherings in community venues were noted but constrained by logistical and staffing issues. The Commission seeks creative solutions to increase public participation.
- Update on Commissioner Protocol Terms: 3 years not 2 under BAC enabling Ordinance
 - Clarifications on commissioner term limits are pending, with updates expected soon to assist upcoming elections.
 - See policy at link below and forward any questions to Mike and Tiffany ii.
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/files/assets/city/v/1/boards-and-commissions/documents/bac/budget-advisory-commission-establishing-ordinance-13337-c.m.s.pdf>
- Approval of Prior Minutes
 - Deferred to next meeting

2. FY27-29 Resident Survey (30 minutes)

Larissa Casillas presented on the biennial resident survey for the 2027–2029 budget cycle, emphasizing its role in shaping City Council and mayoral budget priorities. The survey draft was shared in the agenda and solicited public feedback, focusing on identifying gaps and additional questions meaningful to residents. It was noted that the survey will be translated into Spanish and Mandarin to broaden accessibility. Public speakers from diverse community groups provided input on:

- Concerns about specific departmental budget allocations (e.g., Adult Managing and Aging staffing and funding sources).
- The need to include questions on surveillance technologies like Flock and community trust in public safety measures.
- Requests for improved outreach by holding meetings in the community rather than City Hall to increase participation from underrepresented areas, especially the Flatlands.
- Suggestions to add survey questions addressing aging-related issues such as transportation, nutrition, social isolation, physical accessibility, disability accommodations, and language access.
- The importance of including demographic questions relevant to disability and LGBTQ+ communities.
- Calls for attention to food quality and equity issues, community partnerships to improve survey reach, and concerns about accessibility of meetings.

The survey outreach approach aims to incorporate public focus groups and to collect broad input for Council and mayoral consideration.

- Discussion of Potential East Bay Polling Institute and Potential attendance at Oct mtg

3. Report and vote on Public Safety, Economic Development and Violence Prevention Report and staff collaboration (30 minutes)

The Chair and ad hoc members updated on recent meetings with city staff, including the mayor and violence prevention director Dr. Holly Joshi. Key points include:

- Acknowledgment of the overlap between historic redlining, food deserts, crime concentration, and other social determinants influencing public safety challenges.
 - Validation of the report's recommendation to separate violent and non-violent crime responses, with support for expanding Project Ceasefire / Project Lifeline to reach a higher percentage of at-risk individuals.
 - The need to consolidate multiple recommendations into a manageable framework, with a strong emphasis on public education and community engagement as foundational for meaningful safety improvements.
 - The mayor demonstrated strong support and expressed urgency to begin community education sessions and district-level town halls involving city staff and community partners to explain budget decisions and build public understanding.
 - The group considered creating a sub-quorum ad hoc for organizing town halls, complementing existing efforts such as the resident survey and budget town halls.
 - Commissioners raised the need to ensure translated materials and interpreters are available at town halls to engage non-English-speakers effectively.
 - Commissioners provided constructive feedback on the report's length and data citations, strongly supporting a focus on public education as the core recommendation with other topic areas integrated under that umbrella.
 - The Commission voted (8 yes, 1 abstain) to endorse the report's direction with authorization for the ad hoc committee to finalize edits and coordinate next steps with the mayor's office.
-

4. Trenching Policy Recommendation Report and Vote (10 minutes)

Chair introduced a proposal to address repeated street trenching issues that damage newly paved roads, costing the city roughly \$6 million annually to repair. Key elements discussed:

- Streets function as utility corridors and are routinely trenched for various utility and development projects, but inadequate repair and soil compaction lead to accelerated pavement failures.
- Examples from cities Emeryville and Fremont show effective permitting standards requiring financial assurance (e.g., performance bonds) and third-party inspections to ensure trench repairs meet city standards. These include strict enforcement with penalties if repairs are neglected.
- Oakland has existing municipal code allowing bonding for excavation permits, but enforcement and verification mechanisms currently appear insufficient or under-resourced, leading to costly "leakage" of funds and premature paving expenditures.

- The Commission seeks to develop a citywide trenching technical standard, enhance enforcement of financial assurances, and work with city staff to draft a municipal ordinance for Council approval.
- Commissioners emphasized the importance of coordination with Oakland's Department of Transportation and other departments and considering impacts on private utilities such as PG&E and East Bay MUD, which have separate processes.
- It is recognized that this policy would improve fiscal prudence by stretching paving funds and preventing the city from subsidizing third-party trench damages.
- The Commission voted unanimously to authorize the trenching ad hoc to engage city staff, assess current practices, improve enforcement protocols, and return with refined recommendations for future Council consideration.

Open Forum - 10 min

- Public comment urged sustained funding and prioritization of cultural affairs, film rebates, and community-based violence prevention efforts.
- Suggestions included improving survey question phrasing for actionable budget insights and better capturing community priorities regarding arts, infrastructure, and safety.
- Commissioners proposed adding an agenda planning item for the next meeting to better track ongoing topics, including review of legal opinions, work plans, and minutes.
- Scheduling adjustments anticipated for the November meeting due to Veterans Day city holiday, with possible alternate dates discussed.
- Potential engagement with East Bay Polling Institute for additional professional polling to complement the resident survey was proposed for an upcoming meeting.

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Attachment 1. Summary of Recommendations — Crime Focus of Each Measure

Each recommendation is rated by whether it primarily targets property crime, violent crime, or both. Workforce and employment measures (1.1–1.5) address property crime, consistent with Raphael & Winter-Ebmer (2001) and Thompson & Jozefowicz (2024). De-escalation, focused deterrence, lead abatement, and nutrition (1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2) address violent crime, consistent with the University of Chicago Crime Lab's finding that most gun violence arises from in-the-moment conflict. Only the status quo, reentry (1.8), and OPD deployment (4) are primary on both — which is why the portfolio, not any single measure, is the recommendation. Rotate the page to read.

Which Recommendations Address Property Crime, Violent Crime, or Both			
Recommendation		Property Crime	Violent Crime
Status quo	Sworn officer staffing (law enforcement)	●	●
1 Economic Development & Violence Prevention			
1.1	EDAP funding & geographically and age targeted job creation	●	●
1.2	Chamber Workforce Development partnership and focus	●	●
1.3	Leverage community colleges and new Samuel Merritt campus for targeted job creation	●	●
1.4	Expand Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program	●	●
1.5	Public Safety Ambassadors in business districts	●	●
1.6	Violence de-escalation education in schools; OPD training review	●	●
1.7	Focused Deterrence: Project Ceasefire & Life Line	●	●
1.8	Improve & focus job training and support for those coming out of prison (reentry)	●	●
2 Safe & Healthy Communities			
2.1	Lead-based paint abatement	●	●
2.2	Fresh food access / nutrition	●	●
2.3	Leverage parks, libraries & digital access as "third places" for youth and platforms to reach areas of highest need	●	●
3 OPD Ambulance Integration & MACRO Wrap-Around Services			
3.1	Consolidate ambulance services to improve equity and capture insurance revenue for Oakland	●	●
3.2	Use revenue in part to enable MACRO to achieve envisioned purpose, and keep all fire stations open to preserve response time	●	●
4 Improved Deployment of OPD Sworn Officers			
5 Public Education & Engagement (Enabling)			
	Primary focus	●	●
	Indirect/supportive contribution	●	●

Property-crime ratings follow Stephen Raphael & Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, "Identifying the Effect of Unemployment on Crime," Journal of Law and Economics 44, no. 1 (2001): 259-283, and Alexi Thompson & James J. Jozefowicz, "The Effect of Unemployment on Crime: Evidence from the Chicago Crime Lab," University of Chicago Crime Lab, Unforgiving Places: The Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence (2023), along with lead-crime and nutrition research. Workforce measures also reduce violent crime indirectly.

Source: Oakland Budget Advisory Commission, based on the report narrative and cited research. Ratings are illustrative.

Figure 1 from the full report. Filled circle = primary focus; half circle = indirect/supportive contribution. Red arrow and circle highlight Recommendation 1.7, Focused Deterrence (Project Ceasefire & Life Line), which can begin immediately. Ratings are illustrative.

The City of Oakland- Department of Violence Prevention

Building a CVI Ecosystem: A Collaborative Approach to Reducing Violence





-
- 7 years old
 - Public Health Approach
 - \$25 million



Department of Violence Prevention Charter Mandates



01

Reduce Homicides
and Shootings.

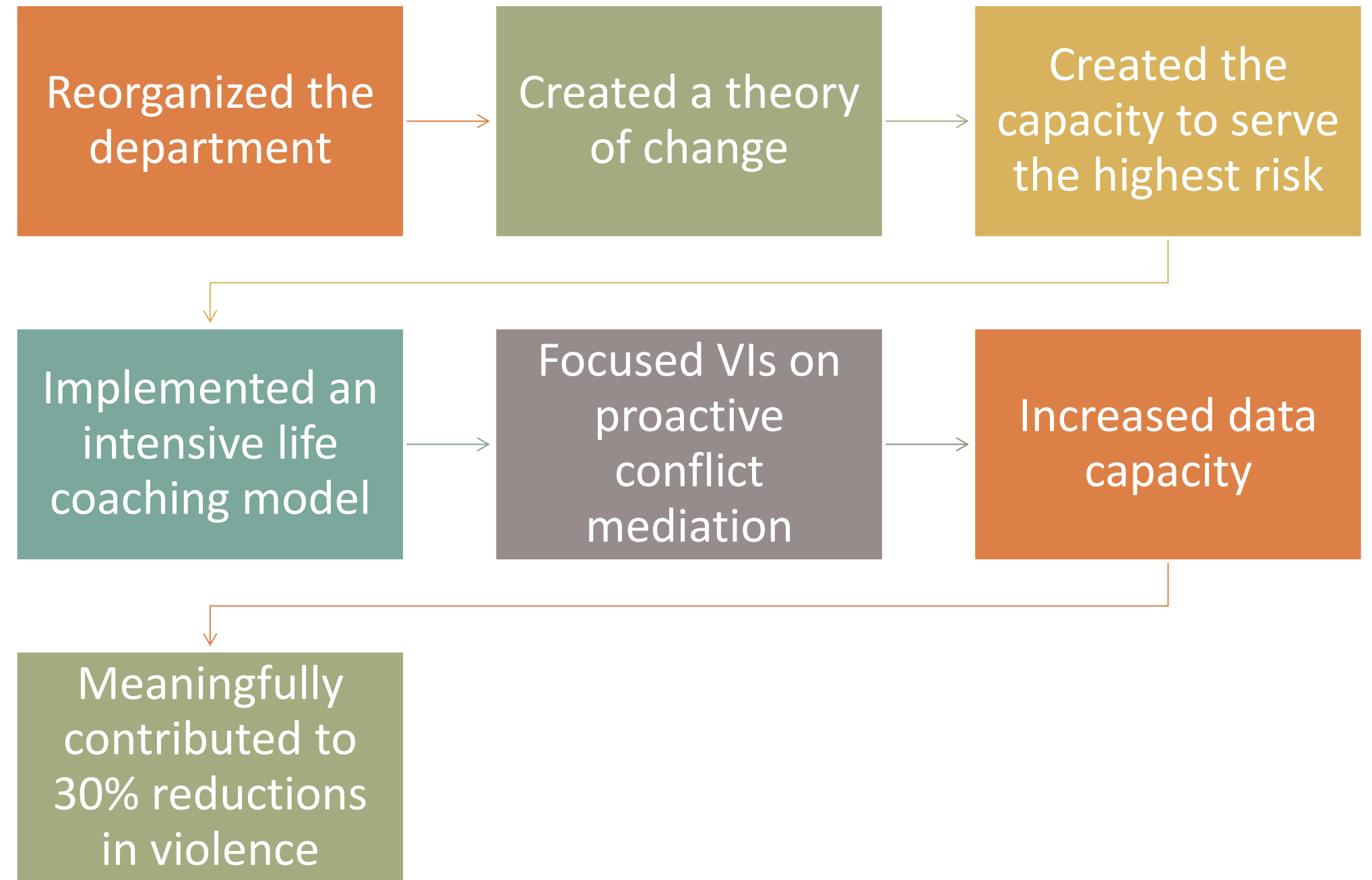
02

Reduce Gender
Based Violence and
Commercial Sexual
Exploitation.

03

Address community
trauma associated
with these forms of
violence.

2024: The Big Pivot *Leading Change*



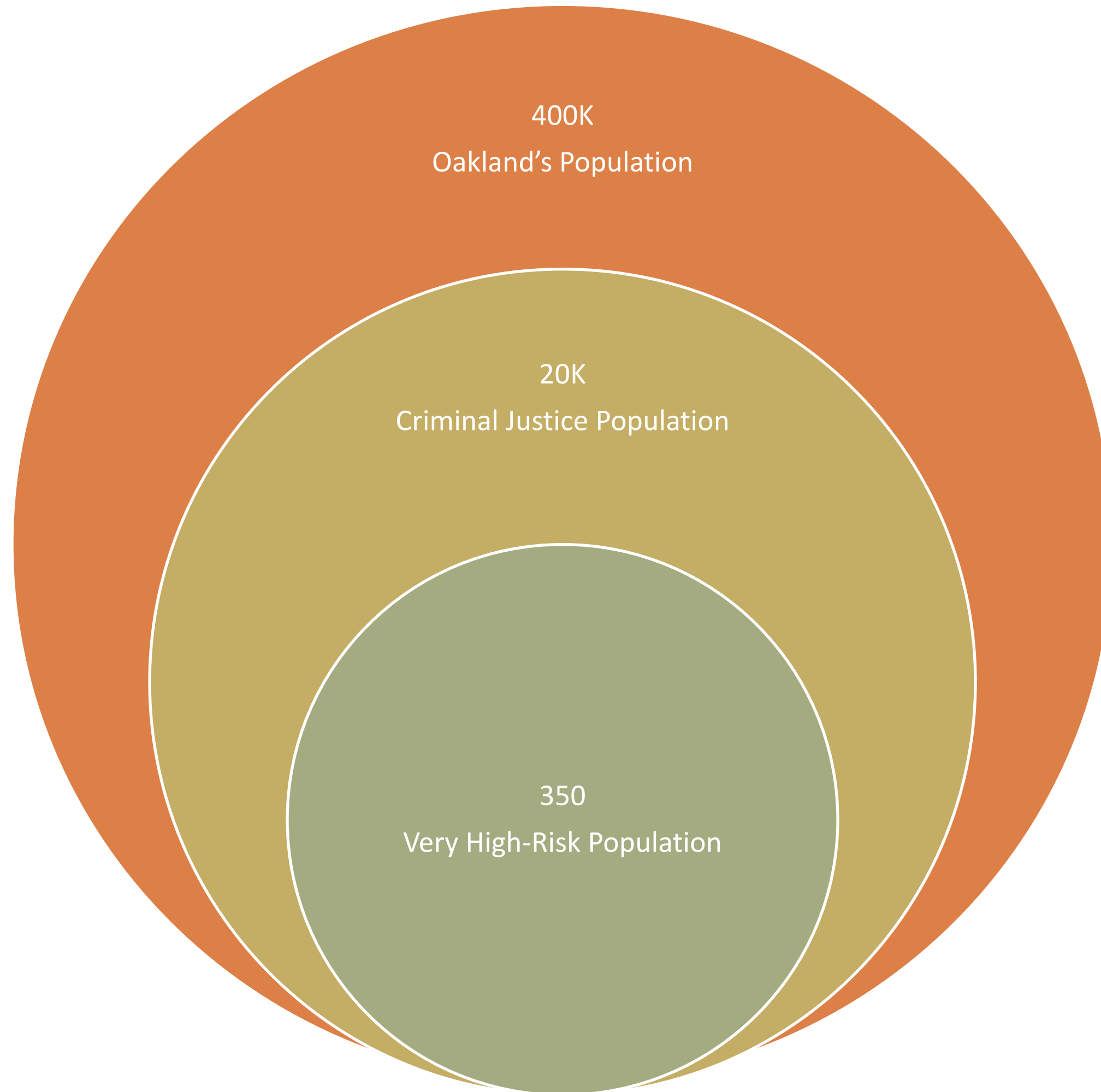
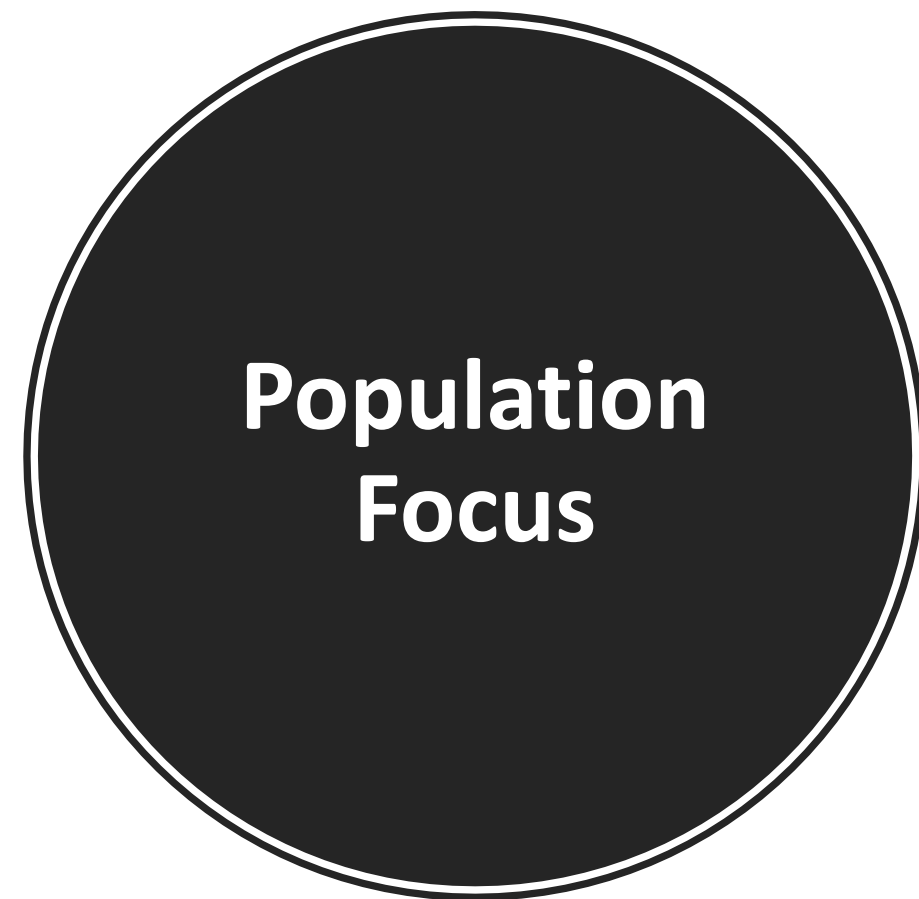


Our Premises

The majority of individuals who are involved in violence *want a way out.*

The reasons individuals participate in violence are varied, but they are *rooted in survival instincts* and prior trauma.

By identifying and addressing the primary drivers of participation in violence for each individual, we can *change behavior and reduce violence.*



Ceasefire Oakland Strategy





City

Direct Services Team

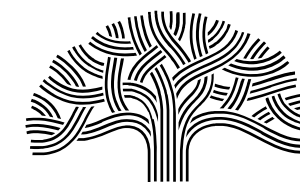
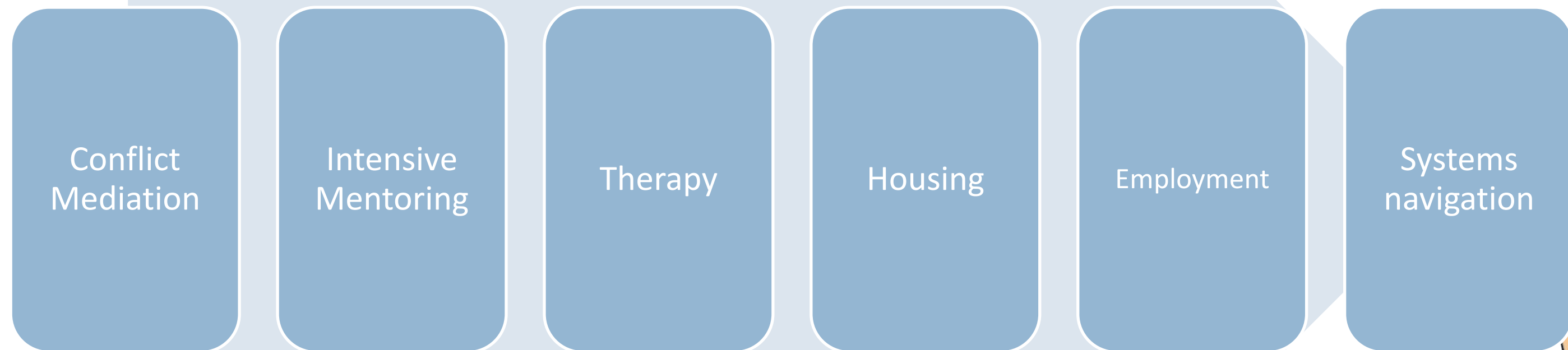
- Violence Interrupters
- Life Coaches
- Gender Based Violence Specialists

Ecosystem

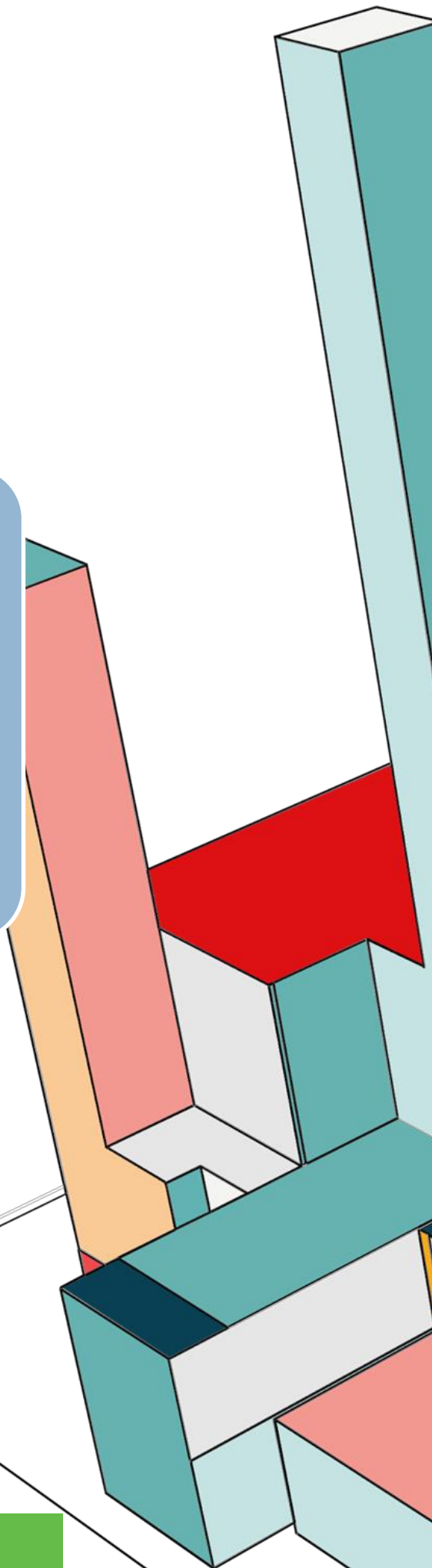
CBO Supports

- Direct Grants
- Training/Capacity Building
- Convening
- Collaboration

Pathways Out of Violence



CITY OF
OAKLAND



Standards of Practice: *Violence interrupters*



- *Relentless pursuit*
- Proactive conflict identification and mediation
- De-escalating and preventing retaliatory violence
- High visibility presence at hot spots including funerals, memorials



Standard of Practice: *Life coaches* work closely with individuals who are at the *highest risk for violence*.

- Intensive, Relationship-centered
- 12-18 months
- Daily communication
- In person visits 2x per week

BAPTIST CHURCH



Key Performance Indicators

Communication

- # who received a FD communication
- # who received outreach attempts
- # who received offer of support

Violence Interruption

- # of mediation conversations
- # of conflicts worked on
- # of shootings worked on
- # of shooting scenes responded to

Life Coaching

- % enrolled
- % w/ 5 contacts per week
- % w/ 2 in persons
- % w/ life maps in 45 days

Data Collection and Analysis



Weekly internal performance management reviews



Quarterly partnership performance meetings led by the Mayor's Office and UPenn Consultants



Independent Evaluations every few years



Expected Outcomes

- Reduced affiliation with street groups
- Reduced perpetration of violence
- Reduced victimization
- Reduced recidivism
- Increased health and safety

Violent crime is reduced

Oakland experienced a 50% reduction in Homicides in 2 years

2026: Scaling & Innovation

Leading Growth and Creativity

Full
Implementation

Workforce Pilot

GBV Integration

Housing Pilot

Expanded R&E

Training
Bureau
Peace Academy

East Bay Polling Institute

Overview | October 2026

About EBPI

- New (founded in early 2026), public-interest polling institute focused on better understanding public opinion in the East Bay.
- Aims to equip policymakers and other stakeholders with impartial, high-quality public opinion data to support more informed decisions.
- Takes inspiration and builds on from similar nonpartisan efforts here and elsewhere — like the nonpartisan [Colorado Polling Institute](#), and the Oakland Chamber's Pulse of Oakland survey.
- Fiscally sponsored & 100% volunteer-run nonprofit project: All polling questions and data (including detailed cross-tabs) published on the EBPI website. Polling questions developed with input from community leaders, elected officials, and other stakeholders.

Our approach

- We aim to conduct ~2x surveys / year, exploring public opinion not only in Oakland, but also across the broader East Bay.
- Partner with high-quality polling firms to conduct public surveys; first survey (of 700 Oakland voters, with council district-level sampling) conducted in February '26 by EMC Research.
- Our approach is to marry questions about experience, sentiment, and opinion to more deeply understand not only the “what” of public opinion, but also the “why”
- Key findings from our first poll included city-wide focus on public safety; concern about Oakland’s fiscal situation and public schools; support for a strong mayor system; and a high level of civic engagement.
- We anticipate running a next survey in late '26 / early '27 (with survey geography and focus still TBD)

Thank you!

We welcome questions — and are eager to explore opportunities to help apply high-quality public opinion data in support of our community.

Date: October 7, 2026
To: Budget Advisory Commission
From: BAC Community Education & Engagement Ad Hoc Committee
Re: BAC Budget Priority Survey

Commissioners,

On behalf of the BAC Community Education & Engagement Ad Hoc Committee, I am presenting you with our final draft of the BAC budget priority survey. The input solicited from community members has been incorporated, as well as other suggestions from allies, including other commissioners, staff, and city council members.

I have taken a stab at shortening the survey.

At our October 14, 2026 meeting, the ad hoc committee will request you vote to approve the survey and trust us as we move forward with outreach activities.

Budget Advisory Commission – DRAFT SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The results of the survey will be reported to the Mayor and City Council to inform their budget priorities. The Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) will share final results with the City Council no later than three weeks after the survey closes, or during the first week Council returns from Winter Break.

The Oakland [Budget Advisory Commission](#) (BAC) is a group of volunteer residents who propose budget policy and process recommendations to Oakland's city leadership. The BAC is required to survey Oakland residents on their budget priorities at the start of every two-year budget cycle.

The City's Budget Process

Oakland operates on a two-year budget cycle. In odd years (2023, 2025, 2027) the Mayor develops a budget for the City Council and Oakland residents. Each city council member shares their own budget priorities with constituents through district meetings and budget forums, while also holding budget-specific meetings for public input, and department reports.

Budget Timeline

- February - BAC presents its survey findings to City Leadership
- March - City Council has a budget retreat and budget priorities are developed
- April - Five-year forecast is presented to the City Council's Finance Committee
- May - Mayor releases their proposed two-year budget (2027-2029) and City Council hosts budget forums. *This is a great opportunity for residents to become involved, share their own priorities with the City Council.*
- June - City Council develops alternative budget proposals. Residents give input on alternative budget proposals by attending meetings at City Hall, via Zoom, or in writing. The final budget is adopted by June 30.
- July 1 - New fiscal year begins.

Budget Structural Deficit

The city has a structural budget deficit. A structural deficit happens when a city's ongoing costs grow faster than its ongoing revenue. Unlike a one-time budget gap caused by an emergency or economic downturn, a structural deficit doesn't fix itself over time. The gap will continue to grow without action, such as spending cuts, new revenue, or both.

TELL US ABOUT YOU

1. Are you a resident of the city of Oakland? *Required question; if No, end survey*
2. Generally speaking, how would you rate Oakland as a place to live?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Poor
3. Do you approve or disapprove of the overall job being done by Oakland City government in providing services to the people who live here?
 - a. Approve
 - b. Disapprove

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

4. Gender
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Nonbinary
 - d. Prefer not to say
5. Age (years)
 - a. 14-18
 - b. 19-25
 - c. 26-30
 - d. 31-39
 - e. 40-49
 - f. 50-59
 - g. 60-69
 - h. 70-79
 - i. 80-89
 - j. 90-plus
6. Race
 - a. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - b. Asian
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin

- e. Middle Eastern or North African (MENA)
 - f. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - g. European/White
 - h. Mixed race
 - i. Prefer not to say
 - j. Other:
7. Sexual orientation:
- a. Asexual
 - b. Bisexual
 - c. Heterosexual
 - d. Gay
 - e. Lesbian
8. City council district
- a. 1 (Councilmember Unger)
 - b. 2 (Councilmember Wang)
 - c. 3 (Councilmember Fife)
 - d. 4 (Councilmember Ramachandran)
 - e. 5 (Councilmember Gallo)
 - f. 6 (Councilmember Jenkins)
 - g. 7 (Councilmember Houston)
9. Are you registered to vote in Oakland
- a. Yes
 - b. No

LIFE IN OAKLAND

As residents, we experience budget decisions every day through services and programs we rely on, the infrastructure around us, and even the culture of our city. The following questions ask you to reflect on your experience of life in Oakland: What is going well and what can be improved.

Where do you believe the city overspends?

Where do you believe the city underspends?

Streets

1. Your streets are paved.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
2. Your streets are free of potholes.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
3. Your streets are free of litter.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
4. Your neighborhood streets are well-lit at night.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

5. Stop signs in your neighborhood make it feel safe to cross the street.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
6. Crosswalks in your neighborhood are visible.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
7. Crosswalks in your neighborhood are safe to cross.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
8. Street signals are working.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
9. Traffic speeds in your neighborhood feel safe for everyone.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

Graffiti and Cleanliness

10. If you have ever called 311 to report an issue, how satisfied were you with the response?
Very dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Neutral – Satisfied – Very satisfied— I don't know
11. How satisfied are you with the city's current response time and effectiveness in removing graffiti in your neighborhood?

Very dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Neutral – Satisfied – Very satisfied— I don't know

12. How much of a priority should graffiti removal be in the city's budget?
Not a priority – Low priority – Medium priority – High priority— I don't know

Business & Shopping

13. You shop regularly in Oakland.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
14. You frequently eat out in Oakland.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know
15. Where do you go to shop, if you don't shop in Oakland? (open-ended)
16. Where do you go out to eat, if you don't eat out in Oakland? (open-ended)
17. What else would you like to share about why you do not shop in Oakland?
18. What else would you like to share about why you do not eat out in Oakland?
19. Please rank the following in order of importance when considering to shop or eat out in Oakland.
- a. The selection of brands available (1 not important → 5 very important)
 - b. The number of available options for eating out (1 not important → 5 very important)
 - c. Homeless people on the street (1 not important → 5 very important)
 - d. Trash on the street (1 not important → 5 very important)
 - e. Feeling safe from crime (1 not important → 5 very important)

Safety

20. You feel safe in your neighborhood.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

21. You feel safe in Oakland.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

22. *If you disagree or strongly disagree*, what would make you feel safer?
(open-ended)

23. Are there Public Safety Ambassadors in or around your local business district?
No – Yes – Do not know

24. *If yes*, do you feel more safe with Public Safety Ambassador presence?
No – Yes – Do not know

25. Is there anything else you'd like decision-makers to know about your budget priorities around safety measures?

Surveillance (traffic cameras, FLOCK cameras, etc)

26. Please rank the following from 1 (highest priority) to 6 (lowest priority) for how the city should spend public safety dollars:

- ___ Flock camera / license plate reader expansion
- ___ Speed camera expansion
- ___ Community violence intervention programs
- ___ Youth programs and after-school services
- ___ Mental health crisis response teams (non-police)
- ___ Street lighting and infrastructure improvements

27. Is there anything else you'd like decision-makers to know about your budget priorities around surveillance technology?

Housing & Food Security

28. You worry that you could be priced out of the neighborhood.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

29. You have experienced food insecurity in the last six months.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

30. You have had to visit a food bank in the last year.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

Homelessness/Encampments

31. How much of a priority is it for the city to address unsheltered homelessness and encampments?

Not a priority—Low priority—Medium priority—High priority— I don't know

32. How well is the city currently meeting the needs of unhoused residents (e.g., outreach, shelter, sanitation, mental health/substance use services)?

Very poorly—Poorly—Adequately—Well—Very well

Health & Well-being

33. Parks and green spaces in my neighborhood meet my needs.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

34. The city should prioritize funding to maintain or expand parks and green spaces.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

35. Children and youth in your neighborhood have a park where they can safely play.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

36. The city should prioritize funding to maintain or increase safety in our parks for children and youth.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

37. There are trees in your neighborhood.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

38. There is green space in your neighborhood.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

39. The city should prioritize funding more trees and greenery.

Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

40. What else would you like city leadership to know about your budget priorities on parks, green spaces, and open space?

Senior Services

41. If the city had to prioritize funding across the following senior services, how would you rank them?
- a. Transportation
 - b. Meal programs
 - c. Senior centers
 - d. Health/wellness programs
 - e. Housing assistance
 - f. Social/recreational programming
 - g. Caregiver support
 - h. Elder abuse prevention
42. Given limited funding, would you rather see resources concentrated on: fewer services done well, or spread across more services with lighter funding each?
Fewer services done well — Spread across more services — I don't know

Transition-Age Youth (16-25)

43. Transition-age youth (16–25), including those exiting foster care, need more visible support in Oakland.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree — I don't know
44. The city should track how well it's serving this age group to know what is working.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree — I don't know
45. What other priorities would you like to see funded for transition-age youth?

Community & Belonging

46. Funding programs that help neighbors connect with each other (e.g., block parties, neighborhood associations, community gatherings) should be a city budget priority.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree — I don't know

Arts & Culture

47. Funding cultural and arts programs should be a city budget priority.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree — I don't know
48. Have you attended an art or cultural event in [city] in the last 12 months?
Yes — No — I don't know

49. Do you think the city's current spending on arts and cultural programs is:
Too Low — About Right — Too High — I don't know

Library

50. Funding libraries (books, programs, hours of operation, staffing) should be a budget priority for the city.
Strongly Agree — Agree — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

51. What else would you like the city council to know about funding libraries?

Trust and Transparency

52. The city's spending reflects my priorities
Strongly Agree — Agree — Neutral — Disagree — Strongly Disagree— I don't know

53. How informed do you feel about how the city spends its budget?
Very informed -- Somewhat informed -- Not very informed -- Not at all informed— I don't know

54. What would increase your trust in how the city manages its budget?

55. What process or engagement would you like to see implemented to ensure that the city's decisions best reflect your needs and values?

YOUR PRIORITIES (open-ended question)

In the next two years, what are the most important issues facing Oakland residents that you would like to see prioritized in the City's budget? (open-ended)

Ongoing communication

What is the best way for you to receive information on the city's budget?

- Regular town halls
- Emails from city council member
- Emails from Mayor's office

- Email updates from BAC or Budget Department (add space for email)
- Online dashboards
- Other:

Please share your email with us to stay in touch:

10. Did you take this survey last year?

- a. Yes
- b. No

11. How did you hear about the survey last year?

- a. My council member
- b. Member of the BAC
- c. A community organization
- d. Other
- e. Don't remember

12. How did you hear about the survey?

- a. My council member
- b. Member of the BAC
- c. A community organization
- d. Other
- e. Don't remember

13. In May 2025, City Council members hosted budget presentations in their districts.

Did you attend any?

- a. Yes
- b. No

14. Did you attend any public meetings at either the Main Public Library or at 81st Avenue Public Library for the 2025 budget cycle?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Demographic information

15. Housing status

- a. Own home
- b. Renter
- c. Other (couch surfing, living in car, etc):

16. Married/single/domestic partner

- a. Married
- b. Single
- c. Domestic partner
- d. Other:

17. Level of education

- a. Completed high school
- b. Completed some college
- c. Completed 2-year college
- d. Completed 4-year college
- e. Completed some graduate school
- f. Completed graduate school (MA/MS)
- g. Completed some post-graduate
- h. Completed post-graduate (PhD, JD, MD)

18. What is your total household income?

- a. \$0 to \$49,999
- b. \$50,000-\$99,999
- c. \$100,000-150,000
- d. \$150,000+
- e. Prefer not to answer

19. How long have you lived in Oakland?

- a. 0-5 years
- b. 6-10 years
- c. 10-15 years
- d. 15-20 years
- e. 20-25 years
- f. 25-30 years
- g. 30-plus years

20. Occupation:

Thank you for completing the survey. Your time is greatly appreciated!