

For Immediate Release

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**Center for Victims calls for
Expansion of regional gun violence reduction
Programs as new data shows dramatic downward trend**

Local statistics and our data is showing that Allegheny County Violence Prevention and Intervention strategies are having an impact. ***This is the exact moment to recognize all the success these programs have been having. Now is the time to make a commitment to continuing and expanding in 2024”***

-Laurie MacDonald, President and CEO, Center for Victims

As the preeminent regional authority on instances of violence and crime in Pennsylvania, Center for Victims (CV) is cautiously celebrating a nearly 27% drop in homicides in the City of Pittsburgh in 2023, and a 16% drop in homicides countywide. With support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Allegheny County and numerous other sources, Center for Victims and other smaller community-based organizations have been at the forefront of Violence Intervention, Prevention and Coordinated Community Violence Prevention and Intervention efforts.

Reversing soaring gun violence has required resources, focus, and vigilance: we implore an expansion of these lifesaving efforts that are just now beginning to pay dividends for residents. While violence has ebbed slightly from the all-time modern high in 2022, the level of community violence and gun violence in our neighborhoods is still far too great and continues to exceed the available support of local organizations.

Center for Victims calls on the state government as well as local officials, nonprofits, foundations, and community members to expand these successful programs and continue to work towards peaceful communities free of violence.

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Located in Allegheny County, Center for Victims is the largest, most comprehensive Victims Service organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a regional leader in violence reduction efforts. In addition, each year we provide supportive services, court accompaniment, counseling and housing, assistance filing for victims compensation and a myriad of life-saving services to more than 17,000 crime victims and their families.