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**INVEST IN OUR FUTURE**



**IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE**

We need to invest more time and resources in our youth if we want to change our future.

We want to give these youth the tools needed to change their lives, open doors of opportunity, and tap into potential that they may have never known existed.

Black children and young men ages 15 to 34 are victims of gun homicides at

**20X**

the rate of white children and young men.

Research shows it is the **mentors who make the difference** in helping young people. Mentors provide support and guidance while assisting the youth in realizing their potential.

*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

**SAVING OUR CHILDREN IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF CHANGING THE CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE.**

DC should create a mentoring program targeted at reducing youth violence.

**UNDER THIS PROGRAM:**

- The mentors will have extensive in-person training in conflict resolution.
- The mentors will make a two-year commitment to work in this program and are provided with housing in the communities they serve.
- The mentors will be available 24 hours a day and should have access to churches and community centers that are always open.
- The staff have to be committed – 100 percent all in. This is about a commitment to changing and affecting lives.

The program will work in collaboration with Cure Violence DC and the DC Peace Academy.



Similar programs in California have led to an **84% drop** in gun-related injuries and a **35% decrease** in victimization.

*Credible messenger mentoring to promote the health of youth involved in the juvenile legal system: A narrative review*