

**#DEFUNDPOLICE**  
**#FUNDTHEPEOPLE**  
**#DEFENDBLACKLIVES**

*Concrete Steps Toward Divestment from  
Policing & Investment in Community Safety*



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<b>Northeast</b> Boston, MA New York City, NY Philadelphia, PA Washington, D.C.	<b>South</b> Durham, NC Miami, FL Nashville, TN New Orleans, LA Oklahoma City, OK
<b>Northwest</b> Portland, OR Seattle, WA Bellingham, WA	<b>Canada</b> Montreal Regina Toronto
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# WHAT IS **#DEFUNDPOLICE?**

#DefundPolice is a demand that has gained popularity in response to recent police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. It is rooted in the failure of decades of commissions, investigations, police reforms, and oversight to prevent their deaths.

It is also a response to the fact that, in the face of a pandemic and the most devastating economic crisis of a generation, in which cities, counties, and states are experiencing drastic losses in revenues, many life-saving programs are on the chopping block while officials increase or maintain police budgets.

It is a demand to #DefendBlackLives by shutting off resources to institutions that harm Black people and redirecting them to meeting Black communities' needs and increasing our collective safety.

#DefundPolice is a demand to cut funding and resources from police departments and other law enforcement and invest in things that actually make our communities safer: quality, affordable, and accessible housing, universal quality health care, including community-based mental health services, income support to stay safe during the pandemic, safe living wage employment, education, and youth programming. It is rooted in a larger Invest/Divest framework articulated in the Movement for Black Lives' [Vision for Black Lives](#).

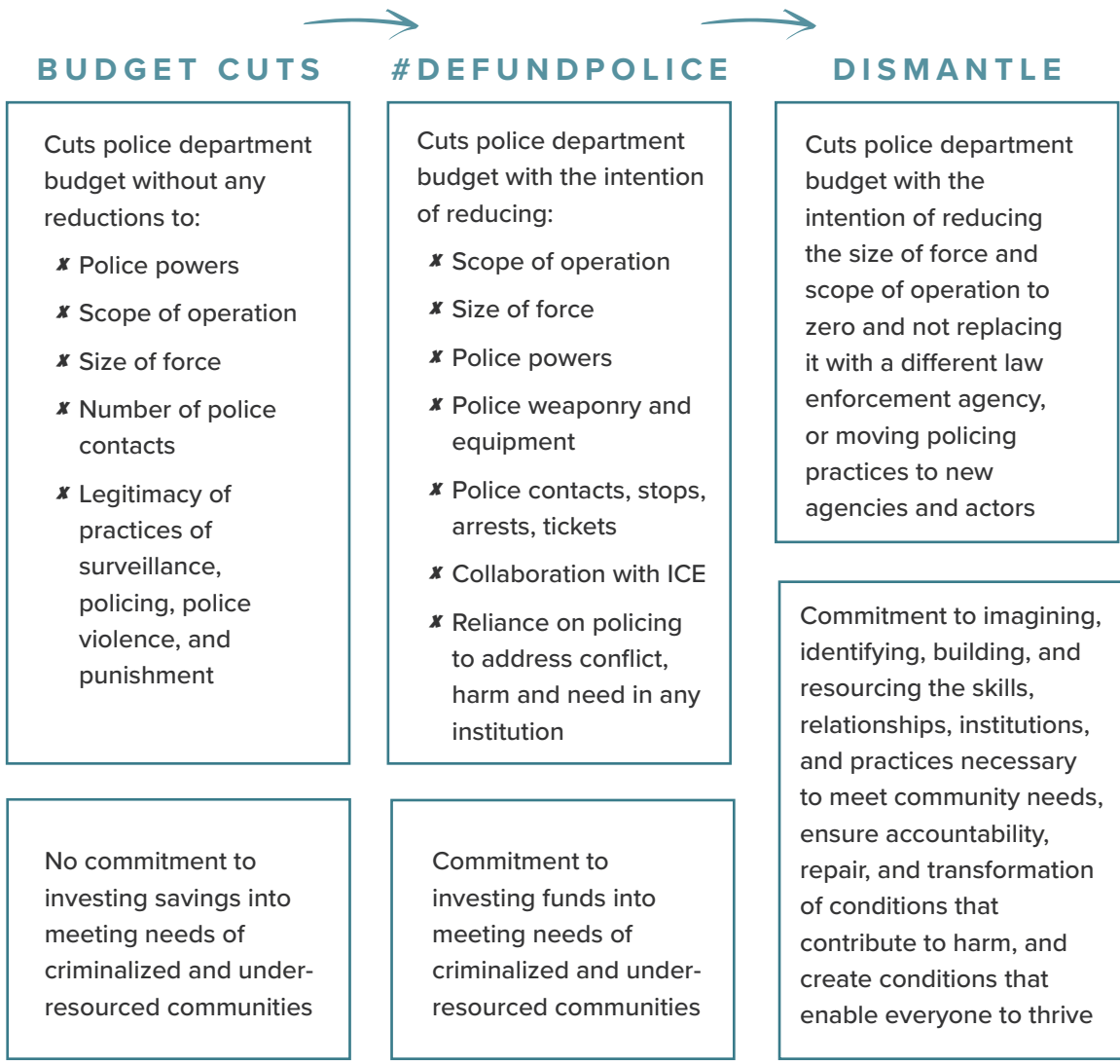
**#DefundPolice is a strategy that goes beyond dollars and cents—it is not just about decreasing police budgets, it is about reducing the power, scope, and size of police departments. It is about delegitimizing institutions of surveillance, policing and punishment, and these strategies, no matter who is deploying them, to produce safety. It is a strategy (part of the HOW) to advance a long term vision of abolition of police through divestment from policing as a practice, dismantling policing institutions, and building community-based responses to harm, need, and conflict that do not rely on surveillance, policing and punishment.**

And while #DefundPolice focuses on law enforcement agencies, **we are also calling for defunding** of jails, prisons, detention centers, immigration enforcement, sites of involuntary commitment and incarceration of disabled people. **We are also calling for defunding the military-industrial complex**—visit [War Resisters](#), [Dissenters](#) and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) to learn more about work to reduce military spending and military collaboration with police.

We also recognize the need to resist the expansion of policing—both in terms of the presence of officers, and of policing ideologies and technologies—into many institutions, including social services, health care provisions, and educational settings, and professions, including social workers, medical providers, and teachers. We need to be careful not to just transfer policing functions, practices, and technologies to different people and places.

Defunding is not just about cutting city budgets across the board as an austerity measure in the midst of an economic crisis—it is about reinvesting money cut from police departments into community-based services that meet basic needs and advance safety without using methods of policing, surveillance, punishment, and coercion. It is also about investing in cultural life, arts, recreation, and the things that make and strengthen community and our dreams for our future.

When we say #DefundPolice, we mean reducing the size, budgets, and power of all institutions that surveil, police, punish, incarcerate and kill Black people to zero, and *investing in and building entirely new community infrastructures* that will produce genuine safety and sustainability for our communities.



## **ABOLITION**



# HOW TO #DEFUNDPOLICE?

## POLICE ARE FUNDED THROUGH:

- \$ City and county budgets
- \$ State funds
- \$ Federal grants
- \$ Fines and fees
- \$ Asset forfeiture (when police take property they claim was involved in criminalized activity, and sell it for a profit)
- \$ Contracts and collaborations with private and public institutions (like private clubs or ICE)
- \$ Corporate, philanthropic and private donations

**WHERE DOES THE POLICE GET FUNDING?**

In the wake of the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many more, we are calling to #DefundPolice. Here's how.

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGETS**  
Law enforcement, jails, and prisons get the majority of their funding through allocations in federal, state, and local budgets funded by taxpayer dollars and passed by our elected officials.  
*Demand that elected officials reduce funding for law enforcement, jails, and prisons and refuse donations from law enforcement and the prison industry*

**FINES & FEES**  
Law enforcement, jails, and prisons take money directly from Black and Brown communities by assessing abusive fines and fees, collecting commissions on prison and jail communication, and marking up commissary and vending sales.  
*Demand that elected officials eliminate fees, prohibit commissions, and end mark ups*

**SERVICE CONTRACTS**  
Law enforcement is paid to provide security to other government agencies and corporations. Jails and prisons are paid to jail people for other agencies, including Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE).  
*Demand that all government agencies and corporations cancel contracts with law enforcement, jails, and prisons*

**CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE**  
Law enforcement takes money, cars, and even real estate directly from Black and Brown people by alleging that it is involved in a crime. They do not have to arrest or bring criminal charges against the owner to keep the property, and the legal cost of getting it back is often prohibitive.  
*Demand that elected officials end civil asset forfeiture*

**CORPORATE SUPPORT**  
Law enforcement, jail, and prison funding is supplemented by corporate investments in infrastructure. Corporations also fund law enforcement and corrections trade associations that advocate violence.  
*Demand that corporations cut ties with law enforcement, jails, and prisons and investors stop investing in those that do not*

Worth Rises works to dismantle the prison industry and end the exploitation of those it targets, namely Black and Brown people.

**WORTH RISES**

[www.worthrises.org](http://www.worthrises.org)

# **10 THINGS WE CAN DO TO #DEFUNDPOLICE**

- 1.** Demand that our city, county, and state representatives commit to reducing police budgets over the long term, with the goal of getting to zero
- 2.** Demand that our city, county, and state representatives remove police from schools and other public institutions and spaces
- 3.** Demand that our city, county, and state representatives eliminate policing practices from other institutions, including health care and social services
- 4.** Demand that our city, county, and state representatives stop applying for or accepting state or federal funds for police or police equipment
- 5.** Demand that Congress reduce funding to state and local police departments and increase funding for housing, health care, education, employment and income support
- 6.** Demand that federal funds for policing be repurposed to meet community needs
- 7.** Demand that all government agencies end contracts with law enforcement, jails and prisons
- 8.** Demand an end to civil asset forfeiture
- 9.** Demand that corporations cut ties with police departments
- 10.** Demand that public and private funders invest in community-based responses to harm, housing, health care, employment, income support, and community needs instead of law enforcement-based programs

# **CAUTION**

- ✘ Sometimes budget advocacy focuses on the amount of money cities pay out in settlements to people who have been harmed by police. **Highlighting the amount of police “misconduct” settlements, or insisting that they be paid out of police budgets, will not stop police from harming people - but it may harm people who deserve compensation and repair for harms resulting from police violence.** Departments are deeply invested in continuing the practices that produce police violence, so instead of ending them, they will just fight harder against compensation for survivors and families of people killed by police, leaving the people we want to protect with even less recourse. Also, remember that when we see an amount in a city budget for settlements, it’s usually for compensation for harm that has occurred in the past - to survivors and family members who are entitled to justice. **There are many other places to cut police budgets - let’s ensure that until police violence no longer exists, we continue to make compensation and reparations to people and communities harmed.**
- ✘ **Calls for individual officers to be mandated to carry private liability insurance are also likely to result in harm to survivors of police violence and family members.** Private insurance companies have one primary motivation - profit. Their practice is often to deny as many claims as possible, and to make every effort to assign blame to individuals seeking care and compensation for harm by the institutions they insure so they can block or reduce awards. We have seen how police departments try to defame people seeking redress for police violence - imagine how much more private insurance companies will do so to protect their bottom lines. Unlike public entities, there are fewer mechanisms to put pressure on them to do right by police violence survivors. **Let’s focus on reducing the size, scope and powers of police to harm us, and ensure that survivors and families don’t have to fight private corporations to get the compensation and care they deserve.**



# STEPS TO #DEFUNDPOLICE

## STEP 0: DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL

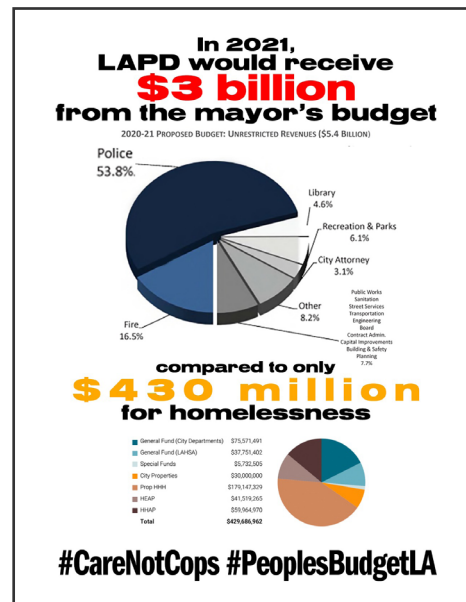
Before you start - find out who else is working on budget issues in your area, and reach out to learn more about their work and whether it addresses police budgets.

## STEP 1: GET THE NUMBERS

Find out how much of your city, county or state's budget is spent on policing. See if your city is listed in the Action Center on Race and the Economy's [database](#). If not, contact us at [interruptingcriminalization@gmail.com](mailto:interruptingcriminalization@gmail.com) if you need help with this.

Check out these examples:

- \* Chicago
- \* New York
- \* Los Angeles



## STEP 2: CRUNCH THE NUMBERS

Set a goal for reducing the police budget. It can be based on:

- » The amount of a **proposed increase** to the police budget in the midst of cuts to other programs
  - \* The **cost of a specific police program** (like training a new class of officers) or unit (like police in schools or “quality of life” patrols)
  - \* The **cost of a program that is being cut** while the police budget remains the same or increases (like a youth program, or public health program)
  - \* The **cost of meeting community needs during the pandemic** (like temporary safe housing for unhoused people, income supports, increased health care costs)

## STEP 3: BUILD POWER

- » Find out how the budget is created and decided in your community
  - \* See this [example from Los Angeles](#)
- » Hold budget teach-ins with your constituents and community
- » Survey your community about what they want public funds to be spent on
  - \* See this [example from Chicago](#)
  - \* See this [example from Milwaukee](#)
- » Create easy to understand graphics showing how much money is spent on police and how much is spent on community programs
- » Target elected officials with demands to #DefundPolice
  - \* See this [example from Philadelphia](#)
  - \* See this [example from Minneapolis](#) (images below)



# COMMON #DEFUNDPOLICE

## DEMANDS ACROSS THE CONTINENT

### **SHRINK POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGETS**




- ✘ Stop police department budget increases
- ✘ Substantially reduce police budgets (by a specific dollar amount or percentage) this year, with commitments to
  - » not vote for increased funding in the future
  - » make further cuts in the future
  - » immediately invest in education, health care, housing, jobs and youth programs, childcare, income support, public transit, and community-based violence prevention and response programs
- ✘ Cut overtime budgets
- ✘ Cut police public relations and legal defense budgets

### **SHRINK POLICE DEPARTMENT SIZE**




- ✘ Enact police department hiring freezes
- ✘ Cancel new police cadet classes
- ✘ Terminate salaries and pensions of officers who repeatedly or seriously harm community members
- ✘ Cut specific units such as: “quality of life” and “party” patrols, parking enforcement, vice and gang units, and reallocate funding to community-based violence prevention and violence interruptor programs unaffiliated with law enforcement


## ***SHRINK POLICE DEPARTMENT SCOPE***

- 
- ✘ End contracts that provide for police presence in schools, colleges and universities, parks, public transit, and public housing
  - ✘ End expansion of police functions to homeless outreach/sweeps, responses to unmet mental health or economic needs, youth engagement, and enforcement of public health orders
  - ✘ Shut down units specifically targeting protesters or charged with surveilling particular communities
  - ✘ Stop collaboration with ICE, Joint Terrorism Taskforces, and other surveillance structures

## ***SHRINK POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT***

- 
- ✘ Block new military and surveillance equipment acquisition, including under the Department of Defense 1033 program
  - ✘ Defund license plate reader, facial recognition, and other surveillance equipment

## ***SHRINK POLICE DEPARTMENTS' POWER***

- 
- ✘ Increase police department budget transparency
  - ✘ Create participatory budgeting processes that allow communities to designate funding to public and community-based public safety infrastructure and programs outside law enforcement
  - ✘ Open police contract negotiations to public scrutiny, participation and approval
  - ✘ Decriminalize public order and survival-based offenses
  - ✘ Repeal Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights

# WHAT DO WE WANT TO FUND *INSTEAD OF POLICING?*

The call to #DefundPolice is inherently a call to #FundThePeople and resource a public safety infrastructure that protects and sustains our communities.

We know, and the research shows, that what actually brings peace and safety is safe, accessible, quality, and stable housing, well-funded public schools and other public institutions like libraries and cultural centers, accessible and quality health care for all, including community-based, non-coercive mental health services, and ending the criminalization of unmet mental health needs and drug use. Additionally, many communities are already relying on non-police intervention and violence prevention programs that we know to be both effective and highly under-resourced compared to police.

The COVID19 pandemic and the pandemic of police violence have both revealed the deadly impacts of structural racial violence, and the need for deep investments in Black communities. These investments must address deep health disparities, and include primary and preventative care, as well as accessible community-based mental health care, including care that specifically addresses the trauma of ongoing police violence and its aftermath.

Here are just a few examples of existing programs that we can invest in now and build. **This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Some of these programs still have some degree of involvement or engagement with law enforcement - to be clear, our goal is to create programs that are not affiliated with or in any way controlled or “screened” by law enforcement. For more information on non-law enforcement based responses to harm, please visit [transformharm.org](https://transformharm.org).** Each community will have different needs and different programs that work to meet those needs - there is no one-size-fits-all approach that can be scaled up nationwide. But there are many programs that work, many seeds we can plant and grow, and many experiments we need to enter, fail, and try again until we find what we need.

**Current systems were built over centuries with huge investments of resources and political will. We currently spend \$100 billion a year on law enforcement in the U.S. We need time and resources to dream and build a new public safety infrastructure that will generate genuine safety in our communities.**

# ALTERNATIVES TO 911/MEETING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

## CAHOOTS

CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) provides mobile crisis intervention 24/7 in the Eugene-Springfield, Oregon metro area, and recently expanded to Portland. CAHOOTS is dispatched through the Eugene police-fire-ambulance communications center, and within the Springfield urban growth boundary, dispatched through the Springfield non-emergency number.

CAHOOTS responds to “non-criminal crises, including homelessness, intoxication, disorientation, substance abuse and mental illness problems, and dispute resolution.” Each team consists of a medic (either a nurse or an EMT) and a crisis worker (who has at least several years experience in the mental health field). CAHOOTS provides immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical need or psychological crisis, assessment, information, referral, advocacy & (in some cases) transportation to the next step in treatment. The annual operating budget for the CAHOOTS program supporting 40 staff members, who are available 24/7 in some areas, is \$1.5 million dollars. Staff members earn \$18/hr, plus benefits, which is significantly less than the cost of hiring additional police officers. All of the services provided to the community are free of charge, confidential and voluntary.

**However, as the Durham Beyond Policing Coalition notes, “unlike the CAHOOTS model, which in recent years has developed a partnership with local police, our proposal advocates for zero collaboration between the police and community crisis intervention units, as interactions with the police can often escalate already dire situations. We believe having a healthcare provider onsite without punitive authority is the best model for ensuring the safety of all parties.”**

## SALT LAKE CITY

Salt Lake City, Utah has partnered with a local university and Optum Health to establish a 24 hour crisis line that takes over 100 calls a day from people in distress, or from their friends or family. Mobile Outreach Service Teams (MOST), including a licensed mental health professional and a Certified Peer Specialist — a person with their own experience as a mental health patient who has been trained by the state to help others in crisis - are dispatched to assist. Additionally, law enforcement monitors 911 calls to divert mental health calls to the outreach teams. The program cost for the first year was \$2.3 million.

## SACRAMENTO

Mental Health First (MH) is a cutting-edge new model for non-police response to mental health crises. The goal of MH First is to respond to mental health crises including, but not limited to, psychiatric emergencies, substance use disorder support, and domestic violence situations that require victim extraction.

## PARACHUTE NYC

Parachute NYC was a citywide community-based program by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, through which a mix of clinicians and peer specialists offer support to people aged 18-65 experiencing a psychiatric crisis. Four mobile crisis teams provided immediate and ongoing support for up to two years, while four crisis respite centers operated as short-term places to stay when people were feeling that a crisis was imminent. The program also created a peer-operated support line. Unfortunately, the city did not replace private funding once a seed grant expired.

## FIREWEED COLLECTIVE

Fireweed Collective offers mental health education and mutual aid through a Healing Justice lens. We help support the emotional wellness of all people, and center the needs of those most marginalized by our society. Our work seeks to disrupt the harm of systems of abuse and oppression, often reproduced by the mental health system. We strive to cultivate a culture of care, free of violence, where the ultimate goal is not just to survive, but to thrive as individuals and as communities. We envision a world in which all communities get to self-determine the source of their care, medicine, and wellness.

# ***VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS***

## **CURE VIOLENCE INTERRUPTERS**

Cure Violence is guided by clear understandings that violence is a health issue, that individuals and communities can change for the better, that community partners and strategic partnerships are keys to success, and that rigorous, scientific, professional ways of working are essential for effectiveness. Trained violence interrupters and outreach workers prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community, and following up to ensure that the conflict does not reignite. Trained, culturally-appropriate outreach workers work with the highest risk people to make them less likely to commit violence by meeting them where they are at, talking to them about the costs of using violence, and helping them to obtain the social services they need – such as job training and drug treatment. Workers engage leaders in the community as well as community residents, local business owners, faith leaders, service providers, and the high risk people, conveying the message that the residents, groups, and the community do not support the use of violence.

Multiple independent studies have shown substantial reductions in violence. Here are a few highlights:

- ✦ 45% violent crime (Trinidad & Tobago)
- ✦ 63% shootings (New York City)
- ✦ 30% shootings (Philadelphia)
- ✦ 48% shootings — in first week of program (Chicago)

## **COMMON JUSTICE**

Common Justice develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and foster racial equity without relying on incarceration. Locally, they operate the first alternative-to-incarceration and victim-service program in the United States that focuses on violent felonies in the adult courts. Nationally, they leverage the lessons from direct service to transform the justice system through partnerships, advocacy, and elevating the experience and power of those most impacted. Rigorous and hopeful, they build practical strategies to hold people accountable for harm, break cycles of violence, and secure safety, healing, and justice for survivors and their communities.



## API CHAYA

API Chaya is a Seattle-based organization that empowers survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking to gain safety, connection, and wellness. They build power by educating and mobilizing South Asian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and all immigrant communities to end exploitation, creating a world where all people can heal and thrive. The Community Solutions program exists to increase the capacity of community members to respond to harm in ways that center the healing and dignity of all those involved, including those who have caused harm. Community Solutions works outside the criminal legal system to build alternatives for healing and accountability for survivors of sexual violence, those who have harmed them, and the community that surround them both.

## OAKLAND POWER PROJECTS

Oakland Power Projects engages Oakland residents in building community power to reject policing as the default response to harm by working with residents and organizations to highlight or create alternatives that actually work. We do this by connecting with communities and facilitating a three-step process of identifying current harms, amplifying existing resources, and developing new practices that do not rely on policing or law enforcement.

# ***VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS***

## COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SAFE SPACES

Collective Action for Safe Spaces (CASS) is a grassroots organization that uses comprehensive, community-based solutions through an intersectional lens to eliminate public gendered harassment and assault in the DC metropolitan area.

# POTENTIAL PITFALLS

## ON THE ROAD TO REAL SAFETY

### 10 TIPS FOR NAVIGATING THE PUSHBACKS, THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO DEFUNDING POLICE

There are many pitfalls on the path to a new world, each of which could take our pursuit of real safety wildly off course, or end the journey altogether for the time being. The following list names 10 of these pitfalls and offers initial guidance for how to stay on course. Advancing a #DefundPolice strategy requires us to watch out for:

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**1. Watered Down Translations:** “Defunding” is a broad term that can be and is being watered down. When the definition is weakened, it is likely to result in the state offering only gradual cuts over many years, an outcome that makes the road ahead much steeper. If watered down translations prevail, communities will be fighting to preserve these gradual and potentially too small cuts for months and years to come.

**2. The Shell Game:** Defunding is not just a numbers game of shifting money from the police budget to “community-police partnerships” or to programs that perpetuate policing like the foster system or coercive mental health or drug treatment programs. Our goal is to delegitimize policing institutions and policing practices, not simply move money from one to another. The Shell Game has the potential to confuse our goals and throw us off course.

**3. Federal Entrenchment:** Often funding for police departments comes from the federal government through grants for law enforcement that can’t be moved to other purposes. However, sometimes these dollars are flexible, and we should strongly advocate that they be made available to be used for community programs that actually promote public safety. We can’t let the ‘federal dollars’ narrative keep us from advancing our vision and fighting for reinvestment, from every available source. There are more resources for the journey to real safety than many realize.

**4. Contract Traps:** Often law enforcement association contracts create obstacles to cutting police budgets - so we need to develop strategies that directly target contract negotiations and provisions. We also need strategies that target parts of the police budget that are not hamstrung by contract provisions. Without these deeper layers of work, lawyers and conservative budget managers can use technicalities to block our way forward.

**5. Lack of Imagination:** This pitfall is solely on us. **We must be crystal clear:** What kinds of investments do we want in our communities? How are we identifying the programs we want officials to invest in instead of policing? The easiest thing to do is to move money from one city, county, or state program to another - but do these programs meet our community needs? When the road gets foggy and we need to sharpen our vision of the steps ahead, we must ask:

- ✘ Do we want money to move from police to public housing (which is often heavily policed - by law enforcement AND by public housing authorities) or to community-based quality, affordable, and long-term housing without long waiting lists?
- ✘ Do we want money to move from police to hospitals and mental health providers who incarcerate disabled people or to community-based, voluntary harm-reduction focused community mental health providers?
- ✘ Are community-based violence interruption programs, drug treatment, or youth engagement programs tied to police or prosecutors who serve as a “stick” to gain compliance, or are they rooted in deepening relationships and resources in our communities?
- ✘ Do our community based organizations have the capacity to meet community needs? To apply for and receive city or county funding? What can we be doing to increase our capacity and get rid of red tape and burdensome requirements for government funding? How can we ensure that it is not used as a tool to infuse surveillance and policing into our community organizing work?

**6. Absence of Firewalls:** Keeping our sights clear is paramount. But we also have to strengthen the road itself. It is vital to EXPLICITLY decouple social programs from policing. We need firewalls. For example, youth programming should not be tied to policing. Ever. Wherever we can build these boundaries, we must. Or else the road to real safety will become more worn down and harder to follow, rather than easier to travel over time.

**7. Failure to Build Capacity:** How are we building our communities' capacity for community-based, transformative approaches to harm, need and conflict? Are we actually creating the muscles needed for real safety to take root and grow? If we focus only on critique, we will miss the work of sustainable capacity building that real safety requires. This is like stopping on the journey when we are really just getting started.

**8. Leaving Survivors Behind:** How are victim-rights/survivor-focused groups going to react to the proposals to defund law enforcement? Many of these groups rely on those funding streams to exist. We must build bridges that help them join our movement, so they too can be on the road to real safety, which is what so many of them desire most.

**9. Budget Jargon:** Community members are not \*budget experts\* and might find themselves feeling uninformed when leaders start discussing line items and revenue sources. But if we delegate these fights to policy folks, then the power and vision of organizing leaves the discussion. We must work with community members to understand the brass tacks, so that even when the road to real safety narrows, everyone has the confidence they need to stay on the journey.

**10. Straight up Sabotage:** The road to real safety is not itself safe. Undermining from the police, from the right wing and from liberal politicians is a real threat. We must anticipate it. The more we strengthen our relationships, spell out our shared values and guidelines for treating each other, and protect our common vision, then the less likely it is that we will get knocked off the road or, worse yet, provoked into pushing one another off course.

# DEMANDS AND STRATEGIES

## BEING USED ACROSS THE CONTINENT TO #DEFUNDPOLICE

### MIDWEST

#### Chicago, IL

[DefundCPD.wordpress.com](https://DefundCPD.wordpress.com)

Graphic by [@bekawekaflame](#) (inspired by: [@\\_erichu](#) and [@sanojabh](#); template by: [@sanojabh](#))

#### Louisville, KY

Black Lives Matter Louisville: [#BreonnaTaylor](#)

#### Detroit, MI

Detroit Will Breathe - [11 Demands](#)

#### Minneapolis, MN

[Black Visions Collective](#) & [Reclaim the Block](#): [City Council Demands](#)

#### St Louis, MO

Activists, including [Rep. Rasheen Aldridge \(D-St. Louis\)](#), advance a five-point plan.

[Close the Workhouse](#): [Graphic](#)

### NORTHEAST

#### Boston, MA

[#DefundBOSCops](#)

#### New York City, NY

[Communities United for Police Reform: Letter to the Mayor & City Council](#)

[#DefundTheNYPD City Council Member Commitment Tracker](#).

#### Philadelphia, PA

[#PhillyWeRise: Flood the Inboxes Campaign](#)

#### Washington, D.C.

BYP100DC, Black Lives Matter DC; [Defund MPD](#)

## NORTHWEST

### Portland, OR

Care Not Cops: [Platform](#) & [Report](#), [Portland African American Leadership Forum](#)

### Seattle, WA

COVID19 Mutual Aid: Defund Seattle Police [Campaign](#)

### Bellingham, WA

[Racial Justice Coalition](#), Defund BPD

## WEST COAST

### Los Angeles, CA

People's Budget LA (BLMLA, People's City Council of LA, et al.): [Campaign Toolkit](#)

### Oakland, CA

[#DefundOPD](#): [Campaign](#)

## SOUTHWEST

### Austin, TX

[Austin Justice Coalition](#): [Petition](#)

### Albuquerque, NM

Red Nation [Petition](#)

### Dallas, TX

In Defense of Black Lives: [Petition](#)

### Phoenix, AZ

Poder in Action: [Organization](#) & [Letter-writing Campaign](#)

### San Antonio, TX

Black Lives Matter supporters [demand](#) the San Antonio City Council defund police.

## SOUTH

### Durham, NC

BYP100 Durham: Petition

Durham Beyond Policing (BYP100, SONG, Jewish Voice for Peace, C.I.P., All Of Us Or None, Sanctuary Beyond Walls, SpiritHouse, SURJ, UE 150): Report

### Miami, FL

Dream Defenders: Free the Block Campaign & Petition

### Nashville, TN

Nashville People's Budget Coalition: Report

### New Orleans, LA

DefundNOPD

### Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma protesters demand significant reform to combat police brutality and killings.

## CANADA

### Montreal

Call for action to defund the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM)

### Regina

Petition to defund the Regina Police Service

### Toronto

Motion to defund the Toronto Police Service

# RESOURCES

[Anti-Police Terror Project, Defund OPD \(2017\)](#)

[AFSC, Coins, Cops and Communities Toolkit \(2016\)](#)

[AFSC, Chicago Police Spending \(2014\)](#)

[Boston Review: “The Struggle to Abolish the Police Is Not New”](#)

[BYP 100, Law for Black Lives, Center for Popular Democracy, Freedom to Thrive: Reimagining Safety and Security in Our Communities \(2017\)](#)

[Calls to reform, defund, dismantle and abolish the police, explained.](#)

[Conflict Transformation’s Posters about Police Alternatives in different scenarios](#)

[Critical Resistance Abolition Toolkit - Table of Contents](#)

[CRISES ACT](#)

[#DefundCPD](#)

[Exercises for Imagining a World Beyond Police](#)

[Freedom Labs \(L4BL, Policy Link, and Center for Popular Democracy\) Invest/Divest training materials](#)

[Gentlemen’s Quarterly, How Would Prison Abolition Actually Work?](#)

[Law for Black Lives, Invest/Divest Checklist](#)

[Local Progress, Reform-Transform Budget Scorecard](#)

[MPD150 - What are we talking about when we talk about “a police-free future?”](#)



# RESOURCES

[MPD150 - Toolkit: Planting the Seeds of a Police Free Future \(curriculum draft\)](#)

[No New Jails San Francisco: Close 850 Bryant: Savings Created by Decriminalizing San Francisco and Investing in Community Care](#)

[The Peoples' Artist Collective Zine "A Community Compilation on Police Abolition"](#)

[Transformharm.org](#)

[We Charge Genocide, Questions for Chicago Police Department \(2014\)](#)

Women on the Rise: [From Cuffs to Care](#) (jail campaign):

[Here's Where the Movement to Defund Police Is Gaining Momentum](#)

[Defunding Police: What It Takes to End Police Violence](#)

[Durham Mayor Pro Tempore On Defunding The Police In Her City](#)

[Building a Police-Free Future: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police](#)

[Defund12.org](#)

**INTERRUPTING CRIMINALIZATION:  
RESEARCH IN ACTION**

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is an initiative at the Barnard Center for Research on Women working to gather and disseminate information, build analysis, and inform strategy and campaigns to address mass incarceration and criminalization of women and LGBTQ people of color. We work in partnership with organizations, movements, and philanthropic partners challenging criminalization at the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality. Interrupting Criminalization is a member of the Movement for Black Lives. For more information, please visit: [Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action](#) and [InterruptingCriminalization.com](#). You can also email us [here](#).



**THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES (M4BL)**

is an ecosystem of individuals and organizations creating a shared vision and policy agenda to win rights, recognition, and resources for Black people. In doing so, the movement makes it possible for us, and therefore everyone, to live healthy and fruitful lives. For more information please visit [m4bl.org](#).

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