

Reactive Media Statement – 7-22-21

Last night, residents of the North Lawndale community once again experienced the senseless gun violence that continues to plague our city in unprecedented ways. Not far from the READI Chicago site in North Lawndale, two mass shootings killed one person and injured nine others. We are working closely with authorities and members of the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) to help ensure the safety of our participants, staff, and community.

Here at NLEN, we know firsthand the trauma and devastation that gun violence creates for far too many families across Chicago. In the aftermath of last night's mass shootings, we are working closely with our READI Chicago outreach partner UCAN and partners in the community to deploy teams and support resources. Our priority is ensuring the safety of our participants and staff, and working to calm tensions in the community.

Gun violence continues to tear apart our communities and families. Despite this heartbreaking violence, we are seeing results keeping men safer through READI Chicago. Things won't change overnight—we need substantive investment in our community as we continue to work with our leadership, partners, and communities to heal and create a safer future.

We know that the people most likely to be involved in gun violence need access to mental health supports, employment, housing, coaching, and other support services to help them find a path forge a path away from the violence. We remain as committed as ever to continuing to invest in the futures of the men we serve, their families, and our communities. As a city, we all must do more to stop the cycle of gun violence.