

Gun Safety

June 2022

**PROTECT
CHILDREN
NOT
GUNS!**

**Liberty
Hill
FOUNDATION**

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Gun Safety

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We have created the following docket highlighting organizations that focus on gun safety. We believe these recommendations will enable you to make an effective impact on the social justice landscape by focusing on Los Angeles County as an epicenter for social change locally and nationally.

Please note that Liberty Hill is not able to recommend partisan organizations. All organizations are 501c3 unless otherwise noted; donor-advised fund holders are able to make gifts only through your DAF to 501c3, but 501c4 organizations are also listed here for context and reference.

As your partner in philanthropy, we believe in your power and potential to make lasting change in Los Angeles and beyond. Liberty Hill offers a variety of services to maximize your philanthropic goals, while providing in-house expertise on the landscape of social change nonprofits and strategic grantmaking practices. The Liberty Hill Foundation supports our donor-advised fund (DAF) clients through philanthropic advising and research, and recommends organizations rooted in communities that have been historically overlooked by traditional philanthropy.

As the leader in progressive philanthropy, Liberty Hill brings 40-plus years of social change expertise to the table to advise you on your giving decisions and ensure that your generous gifts are making the greatest impact possible. In addition to docket research, your DAF team can provide tools and opportunities to learn with peers through online discussions, strategic philanthropy workshops, and giving circles, such as the XX Fund for gender justice and equality, or the BLACC Fund for supporting emerging organizations in Black communities. Liberty Hill takes the guesswork out of giving, helping you make smart philanthropic decisions that will make the greatest impact.

If you are interested in learning more or opening a DAF with Liberty Hill, you can read more on our website [here](#) or contact advancement@libertyhill.org.

[The Community Justice Reform Coalition \(501c3\)](#)

[The Community Justice Action Fund \(501c4, f/s Tides Foundation\)](#)

Issue Area: Gun Safety, Racial Justice

The Community Justice Reform Coalition (CJRC), a collective action fund of the Tides Foundation, builds power for and with communities of color to end gun violence. CJRC was formed by activists and survivors of gun violence to help support and empower communities directly impacted by violence. CJRC focuses on building power and infrastructure to advance solutions that have proven effective in ending gun violence. CJRC achieves its mission by creating and coordinating organizing and communications strategies that engage and empower communities that are most impacted by gun violence. In 2021, the pandemics of COVID-19 and gun violence continued to exacerbate the most vulnerable communities in devastating ways. Even as cities locked down to stop the spread of COVID-19, they saw a historic rise in gun violence, including record shootings and gun sales. As Black and Brown communities battled this rising crisis, Community Justice Action Fund (501c4) launched and expanded the INVEST IN US NATIONAL COALITION to build collective power of national organizations invested in reducing violence to increase advocacy efforts for federal funding of community violence intervention (CVI) and prevention programs. Through these efforts, the coalition pushed for President Biden to invest \$5 billion toward CVI initiatives as part of his Build Back Better Plan and in the Break the Cycle of Violence Act.

[States United to Prevent Gun Violence est. 2000](#)

Budget: \$220,954

Issue Area: Gun Safety, State-based Policy Change

States United to Prevent Gun Violence was founded in 2000 by an affiliation of independent state gun violence prevention organizations drawn together to communicate, share expertise, and gain traction as a community in a common cause. As progress on meaningful federal legislation and action has ground to a halt, it is more urgent than ever that state gun violence prevention groups have the resources they need to effect change on the state and local levels. The independent state groups that have affiliated with States United know their states' legislators, press outlets, and most pressing issues. Their laser-sharp focus makes them uniquely qualified to be the go-to gun violence prevention experts in their own states. Their state affiliates provide a critically important voice to counter the gun lobby. States United serves to amplify that voice and elevate state leaders.

States United provides critical and necessary programs to help affiliate organizations across the country in three main ways: operations support, strategic support, and opportunities for networking. Most notably, their strategic support is crucial toward helping their organizers plan campaigns or advocate for a piece of legislation. States United compiled and analyzed CDC data on gun deaths for the years 2009-2018 for every state to look at race, age, sex, and geographic location with regard to both gun homicide and suicide. For gun violence prevention bills on the federal and state levels, States United board and staff provide compelling testimony to help pass meaningful legislation. As a part of the state affiliates network, California affiliate [Women Against Gun Violence](#) was created with the challenge of taking meaningful action to stem the public health epidemic of gun violence affecting communities, and New York affiliate [New Yorkers Against Gun Violence](#) pursues laws and policies to reduce gun violence at the state, local, and federal levels, engaging youth activists in their lobbying efforts.

Youth Over Guns est. 2018 (f/s New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund)

Issue Area: Gun Safety, Youth Organizing, Racial Justice

Youth Over Guns is a youth-led advocacy group formed by students of color shortly after the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. Their founding members include high school and college students from across New York City. In the aftermath of the Parkland shooting and the national outcry for gun violence prevention solutions, they demanded that leaders and other stakeholders invest resources into local, grassroots gun violence prevention organizations that work toward reducing gun violence in communities of color. Youth Over Guns mobilized and organized, and marched in June of 2018 with thousands of New Yorkers across the Brooklyn Bridge to raise awareness for the young people of color and underserved communities who have been impacted by the gun violence epidemic at disproportionately alarming rates. In New York State, Youth Over Guns is calling on legislators to end harsh and inequitable codes of conduct that are counterproductive, harmful, and often lead students on a destructive path toward conflict, violence, and the criminal justice system. It was instrumental in advocating for the Judith S. Kaye Safe and Supportive Schools Act to help keep students safe, prevent violence, and address the school-to-prison pipeline by providing New York's students with the support they need to thrive within their schools and also in their communities.

Hope and Heal Fund est. 2016 (f/s New Venture Fund)

Issue Area: Public Health, Racial Equity, Gun Safety

The Hope and Heal Fund harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities, corporate leaders, government, and philanthropy to ensure homes and communities in California are safe and free from death, injury, and trauma due to gun violence. It is the only state-based fund investing in a public health, racial equity, and community-based approach to preventing gun violence in California. Since launching, Hope and Heal Fund has invested over \$1 million in best practices and strategic solutions to prevent and interrupt gun violence in all forms — suicide, domestic violence, and community violence. The Hope and Heal Fund works with community leaders and thought leaders to provide communities with actionable data, resources, and capacity to achieve success.

Approximately 3,000 Californians die each year from gunfire, and the state has witnessed an unprecedented surge in gun sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, along with troubling increases in gun homicides and intimate partner deaths. To stop this troubling trend, Hope and Heal Fund wants to dig deeper to address not only the root causes of violence but also the easy access to guns in Black and Brown communities, and within homes across the state. The organization believes that the key to driving down gun violence and firearm suicides is a bottom-up approach that demands collaboration, not competition, among community residents and a government systems approach that addresses all forms of gun violence.