



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor



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City Partners with Chevron to Fund Youth Violence Prevention Efforts

NEW ORLEANS—Today, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, in partnership with Chevron, announced two grant recipients through NOLA FOR LIFE’s Connecting Students to Supports program. Launched in December 2016, the Connecting Students to Supports program funds non-profit organizations that provide services to high school students who are at risk of involvement in violence. **Communities In Schools of Greater New Orleans** was awarded a \$136,500 grant to provide case management services that help kids complete school and succeed in life. **The Children’s Bureau of New Orleans** was awarded a \$25,000 grant in support of their efforts to enhance access to mental health and wellness, as well as improve the quality of life for children and families.

“Violence prevention and public safety have remained top priorities for this administration since we took office in 2010,” said **Mayor Mitch Landrieu**. “Connecting Students to Supports is a critical component of NOLA FOR LIFE’s work to protect our children. We’re grateful for the commitment of our teachers and school administrators who work every day to determine which children may be in need, and work to end the cycle of violence. We are also proud to partner with Chevron to support these non-profit organizations working to better our community.”

Chevron has committed a total of \$270,000 in funding for the Connecting Students to Supports program. In addition to providing the two grant awards, the Connecting Students to Supports program partnered with the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) to provide \$70,000 to deliver data management and needs assessments. The remaining \$38,500 will be used to address additional needs of the Connecting Students to Supports program. Chevron has shown a longstanding commitment to advancing the mission of violence prevention in New Orleans. In 2013, the company gave \$1 million to the NOLA FOR LIFE fund.

“Chevron believes every child deserves to have the tools and support they need to overcome obstacles they may be facing, excel in school, and succeed in life,” said **Leah Brown, Public Affairs Manager for Chevron’s Gulf of Mexico Business Unit**. “We’re proud to invest in NOLA FOR LIFE and these prevention, mental health and wellness services as part of our commitment to giving children an opportunity for a better future.”

In May 2015, NOLA FOR LIFE began collaborating with KIPP New Orleans Schools, New Orleans College Preparatory Academies, ReNEW Accelerated High School, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court (OPJC), LPHI and other partners to develop an early warning system that identifies students with the highest risk of being perpetrators or victims of fatal violence in the future. The students with the highest prevalence of these risk factors will be connected as needed to case

management services with Communities In Schools and mental health services with the Children's Bureau.

The early warning system is based on the 31 risk factors for youth violence identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The partners on this project prioritized eight of those risk factors following a review of national research on risk of youth violence and an intensive review of the backgrounds of local students who had been shooting victims or perpetrators. Those factors include involvement in the juvenile justice system, truancy and school disciplinary infractions. Based on these risk factors, it was determined that case management and mental health services were most needed to address those issues.

“Connecting Students to Supports drives home the NOLA FOR LIFE pillar of investing in prevention methods. It gives New Orleans youth access to greater opportunities and decreases their chances of being trapped in the criminal justice system.” **said Criminal Justice Commissioner Calvin Johnson.** “These important partnerships speak to this administration’s commitment to creating a city for tomorrow and a place where our children have the best chance at success.”

The Children's Bureau and Communities In Schools will begin working with the identified high school students this semester, and that work will continue through the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year, summer 2017 and duration of 2017-2018 school year.

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About NOLA FOR LIFE

Launched in May 2012, NOLA FOR LIFE is New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu's comprehensive strategy to tackle the city's historically high murder rate. Recognizing that law enforcement alone cannot solve the murder problem, NOLA FOR LIFE takes a holistic approach to get to the root of the problem and implements initiatives in five main categories: Stop the Shooting, Invest in Prevention, Promote Jobs and Opportunity, Strengthen the NOPD and Get Involved and Rebuild Neighborhoods. In the four years since NOLA FOR LIFE launched, there have been 86 fewer murders and an 18% lower murder rate than in the four years prior to NOLA FOR LIFE. In 2011, 55 percent of New Orleans murders were gang or group related, while that number has been cut in half today. For more information, visit www.nolaforlife.org external link and tune in to NOLA FOR LIFE original programming 24/7 on Cox Cable Channel 99.

In June 2016, the City of New Orleans released the NOLA FOR LIFE 2016 Four-Year Progress Report, which details why certain initiatives were selected, who they are reaching and the results they have produced. View the Progress Report: http://nolaforlife.org/files/nolaforlife_progressreport_2016_long_070816-web/.

About Children's Bureau of New Orleans

Children's Bureau helps strengthen children, youth and families and the communities in which they live by providing high quality mental health services that address various mental health

needs including grief and trauma, behavior concerns, and depression. With a strong commitment to ensuring that these services are accessible to everyone, Children's Bureau delivers services in schools, homes, and other locations convenient for families. For more information, please visit <http://www.childrensbureaunola.org/>.

About Communities In Schools of Greater New Orleans

Communities In Schools of Greater New Orleans surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. As the nation's largest and most effective dropout prevention organization, Communities In Schools trains and places highly qualified site coordinators and support staff into local schools to connect students and their families to basic and critical community resources. Communities In Schools works in grades Pre-K through 12th grade across 18 New Orleans area public schools and one in Baton Rouge, serving a total of 6,000 students. By helping students stay in school and achieve their fullest potential, Communities In Schools is building a stronger America with a bright future. For more information, please visit <http://www.cisneworleans.org/>.