

Safe City Academy

a program of Dorchester Youth Collaborative



FOUNDED: 2010

CURRENT ORGANIZATION BUDGET: \$125,000

CONTACT: Emmett Folgert, Executive Director
Greg Hill, Program Manager

PHONE: 617.288.1748

EMAIL: DorchesterDYC@gmail.com

WEB: www.dorchesteryouthcollaborative.org

Safe City Academy gets unemployed dropouts off the streets and into the classroom and the workplace with intense, personalized programming designed to meet their specific needs and challenges. By combining mentoring, individualized scholarships, work opportunities, and community engagement, Safe City Academy addresses a gap in effective interventions for young people who are at the highest risk for violence and illegal activity.

For young people who live in high-crime urban neighborhoods, the barriers to school completion and employment are significant, but the benefits of success are dramatic, for both the individual and the community.

- 75 percent of all crime in the United States is committed by high school drop-outs
- Lifetime cost of a drop-out to the state of Massachusetts is estimated at \$467,000 in lost taxes, state subsidies, health care costs, and incarceration costs
- 74 percent of Safe City participants report decreased criminal activity; being able to stay away from violence all or most of the time

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Safe City Academy aims to raise \$400,000 over the next two years to meet the need for personalized education and workforce skills training for school dropouts in Dorchester who are gang and court involved. Its focus will be to build capacity, grow enrollment, plan for long-term financial sustainability, and expand partnerships and resources for meaningful employment pathways.

TWO-YEAR GOALS

- Increase enrollment by 100 percent over two years and target 40 graduates per year
- Grow scholarship fund to support 50 additional students
- Establish new partnerships for increased work-study and job placement opportunities
- Increase and diversify funding for long-term sustainability
- Recruit and expand board membership

WAYS TO INVEST

FINANCIAL

- \$40,000 – Program Manager salary
- \$25,000 – Part-Time salary for experienced teacher
- \$2,500 – Full scholarship support for one student for one year
- \$200 – Certification exam fees for one student

IN-KIND

- Vocational and trade job Internships
- Building maintenance contracts for work-study opportunities
- Advisory Committee members
- Marketing and development support

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Founder Emmett Folgert brings extensive experience as a program developer, gang peace negotiator, and public policy advocate to Dorchester Youth Collaborative. An architect of the Boston Miracle, he was honored in 2012 by the White House as a Champion of Change working effectively to prevent youth violence. Program Manager Greg Hill joined DYC after working as a Community Field Coordinator for Boston Public Schools, where his work focused on truant students and their families. He brings his front-line experience working with students to his role at Safe City Academy.

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Safe City Academy has helped me become the man I wanted to be. I was given a scholarship each week, and they provided me with my first job working as a landscaper. My mentor continues to help me further my education, and also find work. If it wasn't for Greg asking me to join the program, my life would not have gone in this direction. The program helped me out significantly. I'd like to thank them for all they have done for me.

J'Shaun

SAFE CITY GRADUATE 2010
DYC PARTICIPANT SINCE 2003

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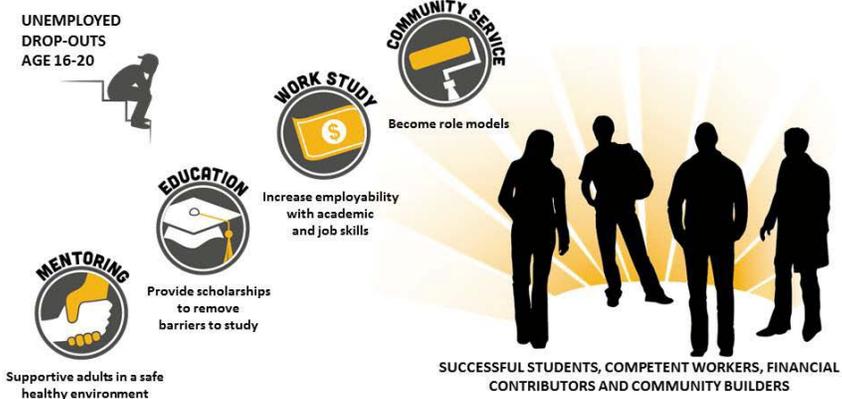


The Safe City Academy Model

OUR SOLUTION

Empowering young people with positive options for a future away from crime

Safe City
ACADEMY



Removing the Barriers to Study and Employment

Safe City's core innovation combines individualized education models with scholarship and paid work, helping participants meet their basic needs while completing their education and gaining employment skills.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT: Youth attend classes four evenings a week to work on credit-recovery, their GED credential, or Accuplacer test preparation (for placement at a post-secondary program). Safe City participants with consistent attendance receive an individualized scholarship of approximately \$30 a week to help with food, clothing, or transportation costs. This modest financial support has proven to remove a key barrier to participation in the program and creates accountability and commitment among students.

EMPLOYMENT: When contracts are available, work-study students commit up to 12 hours per week to learn basic job skills. Afternoon work-study crews can provide maintenance services to foreclosed properties, community service, or meet other neighborhood needs such as storm clean up or shoveling snow for elders. Work-study workshops include resume writing, interview skills, driver's education, and financial literacy. Safe City's successful partnership with the City of Boston created a uniquely revenue-neutral financial model, providing maintenance services to city-owned foreclosed properties. Safe City is actively seeking additional partnerships of this sort with city and private property owners.

Students who complete all their academic and employment commitments are able to earn up to \$100 total each week through the Safe City scholarship and work-study program. For many participants, this is the first paycheck they have ever earned.

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Safe City Academy is a powerful model that gives Boston's street-oriented youth a second chance. Participants start as unemployed school dropouts, financial burdens to their families, and a potential danger to their community. They grow into successful students, competent workers, household contributors, and community builders.

Emmett Folgert
 FOUNDER, DORCHESTER
 YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

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Uniquely Positioned to Meet a Critical Need

Safe City Academy meets a critical need in Boston by effectively working with young people who have no other positive options and are most likely to turn to crime, drugs, and violence. Many Safe City students do not meet the academic and work readiness requirements for other programs that provide education and opportunities for work. Safe City's individualized program addresses each student's specific needs and helps them to advance at their own pace. Often, after working with Safe City, students can move on to programs that otherwise would not have been open to them.

Furthermore, Safe City Academy's connection with Dorchester Youth Collaborative provides it with a unique connection to its students. Most Safe City students have visited the NYC drop-in center nearly every day for years and have a trusting relationship with NYC staff. Every student enrolled in Safe City is there because of a direct invitation from a mentor or friend already in the program. Recent Safe City graduates are hired as part-time assistants and are role models to incoming Safe City students, reinforcing the cycle of trust, understanding, and support. These connections translate into young people choosing to join the program and increase their chances for success.

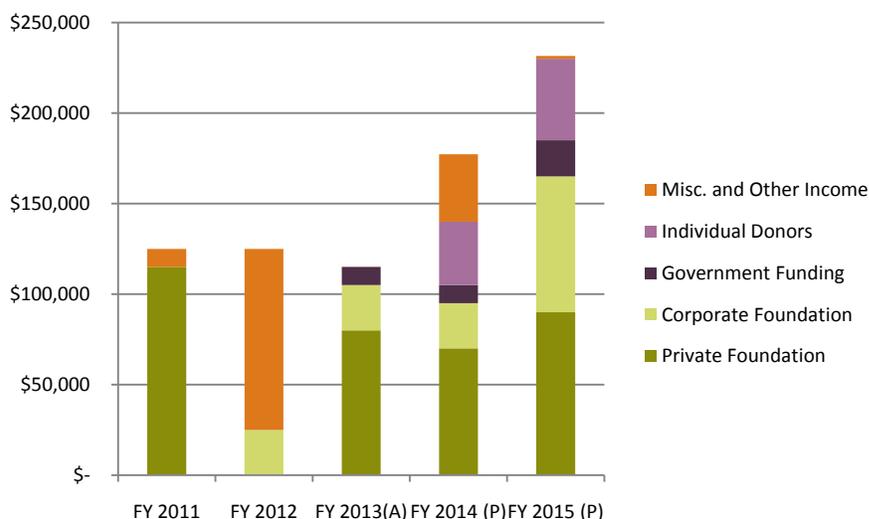
Financial Sustainability

The Safe City program was founded with initial seed funding from a major foundation. Today Dorchester Youth Collaborative and Safe City are working to diversify and increase funding sources to ensure robust long-term sustainability and build capacity to meet the high demand for the program. This year, Safe City has the support of the Amelia Peabody Foundation and the State Street Foundation as part of its Youth Violence Prevention Funder Collaborative.

KEY INVESTORS

- ANONYMOUS FUNDER
- AMELIA PEABODY FOUNDATION
- HAYDEN FOUNDATION
- STATE STREET FOUNDATION
- CITY OF BOSTON

FIGURE 1: Revenue by Source



**SUCCESS STORY:
CASIMIRO CABRAL**

Growing up in one of Boston’s most violent neighborhoods, Casimiro fell asleep to the sounds of sirens. Bullied and robbed throughout his teens, he lived in fear of becoming a victim as he witnessed the brutality of violence on the streets and in homes of his neighborhood. With no father in his life and his older brother in jail, he turned to Dorchester Youth Collaborative for mentors, support, and safety. By age 18 he was a drop-out and unemployed. Mentors at NYC whom Casimiro had known since he was 13 years old invited him to enter Safe City’s education and work-study program. In 10 months, Casimiro completed his education and work-study, placing in the top 8 percentile on his GED exam. He continued to work at Safe City as a tutor and later secured an internship with State Street through one of Safe City’s job placement partners. Today, Casimiro has a full-time job with health insurance benefits and is studying for his CFA certification. Casimiro thanks Safe City: “You challenged me to give more to my family, my friends, and my community. Thank you for giving me the drive.”



Program Performance and Organizational Health

Below is a summary of the key measures that Safe City Academy will track to demonstrate progress, capture lessons learned, and make course corrections as needed. Note: Fiscal year is July 1–June 30.

	FY 2013	FY 2014 (P)	FY 2015 (P)
PROGRAM PERFORMANCE			
Number of actively enrolled disconnected youth	25	40	50
Number of youth who achieve their education goal	15	25	40
Percentage of Safe City students participating in work-study program (when available).	75%	80%	80%
Percentage of students who move onto a job, internship, vocational training partner, or college	95%	95%	95%
ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY			
Number of Safe City staff	1.5	2.0	2.5
Develop and implement strategic fundraising plan	Develop	Implement	Revise and implement
Increase number of major donors making gifts of \$2,500+ for scholarship awards	2	5	8
Increase in corporate foundation and sponsorship dollars	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Develop Advisory Committee	Exploratory conversation	2–4 new members	2–4 new members
Total revenue	\$115,000	\$178,000	\$231,000

Social Impact

Currently, Safe City Academy uses the metrics below to measure its impact on youth participating in the program. In addition to these metrics, participants report increased confidence, improved decision-making skills, and greater ability to resolve conflict peacefully.

INDICATOR	2011
Report increased sense of self and personal responsibility	75%
Report decreased criminal activity	75%
Improve math and literacy scores	78%
Increase education at least one grade level	80%
Obtain a GED in one year	25%
Report a reduced threat of violence in their school or home life	74%
Able to stay away from violence all or most of the time	74%