

TVTP CLOSEOUT FINAL REPORT

Project Name	FY2021 Targeted Violence & Terrorism Prevention Grant	Reporting Period
Project Owner	Howell Twp. Police Athletic League Inc.	10/01/2021 - 09/30/2023
Reporting POC	Christopher Hill	

Project Overview

The Howell Township Police Athletic League (HPAL) introduced a comprehensive program to involve young people, promote youth development, engage staff, teachers, and parents in enhancing youths' resilience against involvement in violent extremist ideologies, groups, and actions. This was achieved by offering training and activities to a select group of individuals who advocated for the acceptance and promotion of community-wide anti-bias principles. The initiative began by engaging middle and high school students from HPAL, providing them with education on the risks of recruitment by violent extremists. This was followed by a detailed lesson on understanding violent content and the opportunity to create their own content that supports values centered on equity. Key community members received training on identifying at-risk youth vulnerable to recruitment by hate groups and violent extremists, or those already on this path. These sessions addressed the reasons behind youth involvement with such groups and linked adults with local support services.

Key Accomplishments

- Youth Leadership Council participated in a national youth conference in January 2023, where chapters from across the country were invited to learn about TVTP and its initiatives.
- HPAL YLC members were given a guided tour by Homeland Security at the National Operations Center in Maryland.

- Young individuals completed understanding violent content literacy and Online Critical Thinking Coursework.

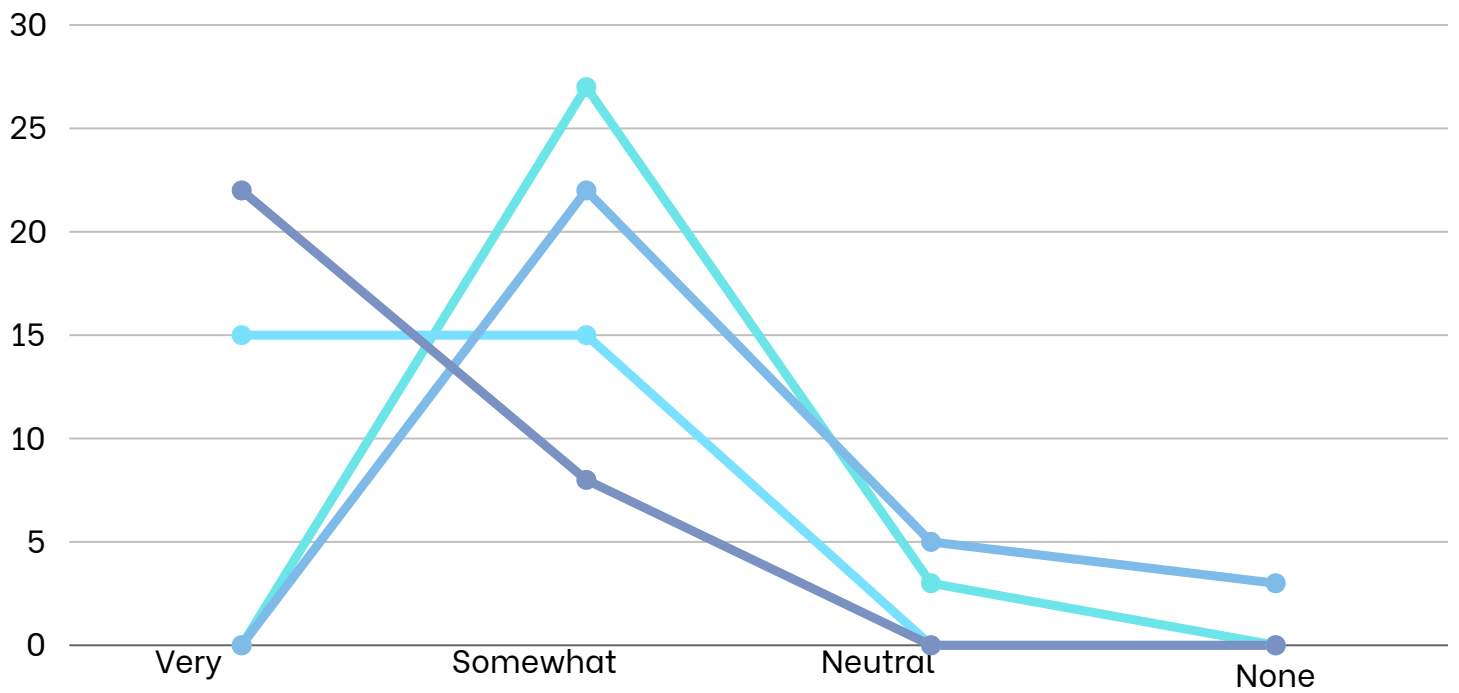
Survey Results

Knowledge of Targeted Violence and Terrorism/Promoting Acceptance Instead of Violence

Howell PAL's TVTP Grant year proved to be highly effective in enhancing Youth Leadership Council (YLC) participants' understanding of targeted violence and terrorism. Through PAL meetings, individuals were educated on the importance of promoting acceptance over violence. The trainings conducted during the program significantly impacted the thoughts and attitudes of the participants towards equity. This shift in mindset made it simpler for them to advocate for acceptance, ultimately contributing to a safer environment for everyone involved.

It is encouraging to note that 35 YLC members reported implementing the principles of promoting acceptance in their personal lives. This experience has taught them the value of being supportive rather than engaging in negative behavior. By choosing kindness and understanding, these individuals have realized that creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere requires effort, but the results are immensely rewarding. Such actions not only benefit the individuals themselves but also contribute to fostering a culture of acceptance and respect within their communities.

Knowledge of Cyberbullying



Item 1: Understanding the Definition of Cyberbullying with Confidence.

Item 2: Taken measures to educate themselves or others on online safety and preventing cyberbullying.

Items 3: Efficiency of online platforms in addressing and combating cyberbullying.

Item 4: The belief that nurturing a supportive online community can aid in decreasing the occurrence of cyberbullying.

Deliverables

Task	Audience Served	Status	Progress
Train Howell Police Athletic League (HPAL) Youth Leadership Council (YLC) on the prevalence and threat of violent extremism in the Howell NJ area and online.	200+	ACCOMPLISHED	Youth Leadership Council (YLC) met to discuss what is violent extremism, how to gather responses from the community for developing an emergency response plan. Throughout the grant this group met twice per month.
Train Howell PAL's YLC on understanding violent content to deconstruct false information spread by violent extremist groups.	50	ACCOMPLISHED	YLC met every other Wednesday throughout the grant term to discuss content on how to warn others about the risk of violent extremist recruitment and to affirm equity-focused values.
YLC to create their own content to warn others about the risk of violent extremist recruitment and to affirm equity-focused values.	65	ACCOMPLISHED	Youth Leadership Council (YLC) created 30 sec TVTP videos.
			HPAL met with the local School District and Police

Train Howell PAL Staff, Parents and Teachers on identifying vulnerable youth and supporting them in resisting recruitment into violent ideologies and/or groups.

20

ACCOMPLISHED

Department Liaison for youth services to go over the meeting agendas. Additionally, meetings were held with the state department for terrorism and the Federal Government, with Homeland Security also in attendance. The Department of Homeland Security also participated in the Youth Conference.

Youth led planning of special community events by YLC.

100+

ACCOMPLISHED

YLC lead meetings with special community guest.

Conduct youth led community event.

100+

ACCOMPLISHED

Our youth conducted a session on TVTP during the Region 6 National PAL Athletics Leagues Conference. The YLC also organized National Night Out, where participants joined the event and discussed messaging and its purpose.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

The main challenge faced by HPAL during the TVTP project implementation phase was the extensive amount of information required for the federal desk audit. Numerous efforts were made to tackle the issues concerning the desk audit. Through this experience, HPAL gained insight into the importance of auditing and its influence on the success and sustainability of our program.

Sustainability

HPAL has been dedicated to serving Howell Township for more than 40 years, offering a wide range of youth and community programs. These include an accredited preschool and afterschool activities. Being a well-regarded youth services provider in Howell Township, NJ, the organization secures funding from the local government, businesses, donors, and foundations. By incorporating the TVTP program into the YLC activities, HPAL can ensure the continuity of these programs even after the grant period ends. With TVTP grant funds mainly allocated for training and YLC management, the knowledge gained during this grant cycle will be retained by the organization to offer ongoing training and activities for future youth participants in the YLC program.

Thank you

We are sincerely grateful to the Department of Homeland Security for entrusting Howell PAL with the responsibility of administering the TVTP Grant. As threats against our youth persist, our students are discovering their own leadership abilities, thanks to the support, direction, and resources provided by you. Your generous contribution allows us to work together to create a greater impact and ensure that more young people have access to the opportunities they deserve.



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