



People First!

An Oakland Power Projects Report
on Policing and Emergencies



Brooke Anderson Photography

Critical Resistance for Stop Urban Shield Coalition

**CRITICAL
RESISTANCE** 



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About Critical Resistance

Critical Resistance is a national grassroots organization that is dedicated to building a movement to end the reliance on the interlocking systems of imprisonment, surveillance, and policing—what we call the prison industrial complex (PIC)—as a response to political, social, and economic problems. Our approach combines organizing and advocacy to dismantle current structures of imprisonment and policing, changing how communities and decision-makers understand punishment and safety, and building new institutions and practices to transform and prevent interpersonal, communal, and social harm.

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The Oakland Power Projects

Policing is failing Oakland. Critical Resistance's Oakland chapter spent more than two years fighting a successful campaign against gang injunctions in Oakland as part of the Stop the Injunctions Coalition. In the spring of 2013, as the city abandoned its two temporary injunctions (in North Oakland and the Fruitvale) and moved on to other policing schemes that continue to fail the people of Oakland, Critical Resistance began to consider taking up new work.

Through a steady and intentional process, Critical Resistance members talked to close allies from the Stop the Injunctions Coalition to get a sense of the perception and experience of the current policing landscape in Oakland. With this information and a rigorous analysis of the Oakland political landscape the group developed the Oakland Power Projects.

Organized into short, medium and long-term steps, the Oakland Power Projects work to make our families and neighborhoods stable and healthy without relying on the cops. Since 2014, Critical Resistance



Oakland has been using the Oakland Power Projects, its participatory research process, and its political education and skill-building incubator project model to reduce our reliance on policing.

The Oakland Power Projects help Oakland and Bay Area residents invest in practices, relationships, and resources that build community power and well-being.

By identifying current harms, amplifying existing resources, and developing new practices that do not rely on policing solutions, the projects remind us that we can make our families and neighborhoods safe and healthy without relying on the cops.

About this report topic and emergency preparedness in the Bay Area

In this report, we will explore the impact of policing on Bay area communities, highlight the real emergencies that communities are facing, and explore what emergency responses systems people are currently using and what is desired by communities.

Since 2013, Critical Resistance has been part of a campaign called Stop Urban Shield that is fighting to halt the militarization of policing, emergency preparedness and disaster response. Urban Shield is a regional, national and global weapons expo and SWAT training that takes place in the Bay Area. It brings together law enforcement agencies and first responders from across the country and world – including from the apartheid state of Israel – in order for them to train and skill share on repression tactics, military operations and police-coordinated disaster and emergency response. Urban Shield was created by Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern in 2007, and has been held in Alameda County every year since.

Not only does Urban Shield increase the capacity, the technology and the weaponry of policing that is used daily against Black, Brown, poor, immigrant, queer, trans and homeless communities, but it also crowds out other opportunities and options for emergency preparedness and disaster response that does not centralize policing and militarization. For this reason, Critical Resistance decided to begin an Oakland Power Project survey process to suss out the impacts of this kind of police presence, coordination and militarization on Bay Area communities, to identify what emergencies communities face, and to uplift what skills, resources and tools they seek to be prepared to handle emergency events or crises.

This report closes with recommendations for potential emergency preparedness projects that centralize people first and the life affirming skills, resources and practices communities need to be confident and prepared. Given the harms and risks associated with law enforcement, explored in the first half of the survey, the Oakland Power Projects recommendations seek to reduce involvement of law enforcement in emergency preparedness and to uplift alternative measures and investments.



Berkeley residents protesting Urban Shield at a City Council meeting.

Urban Shield Task Force

As a result of the Stop Urban Shield Coalition's efforts and mounting public outcry against Urban Shield's promotion of racism, police militarization, and violence, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, led by Supervisor Keith Carson, convened a Task Force in January of 2017 to assess Urban Shield in three main areas:

1. **Compliance:** Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines set out in the UASI grant? Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?
2. **Emergency Preparedness:** In the event of an emergency/ attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, public health and other emergency response departments, be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield? Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?
3. **Community Relations:** What is the impact of Urban Shield on the community's relationship with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness responders such as the public health department; health care agencies; public education agencies; public transportation agencies; fire departments; and emergency medical services?

The Task Force was overwhelmingly made up of government agencies and individuals who have a stake in maintaining the Urban Shield program; as such, the overwhelming majority of the Task Force's composition did not reflect communities that are impacted by the very concerns of police violence and militarization that the Task Force was initially formed to address. As a result, **the Task Force voted that it was in no position to accomplish "Goal 3: Community Relations," nor to make any recommendations or assessments related to Urban Shield's impact on communities.**

This report seeks to provide decision makers and the public at large with the voices and experiences not represented by the Task Force on Urban Shield. It highlights impacted communities' experience with policing and militarization, as well as where community members and organizations see gaps and needs in Bay Area emergency preparedness and response programs that foster community strength and resilience.

ALAMEDA COUNTY CAN END URBAN SHIELD

FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, Alameda County has invested the lion's share of its disaster preparedness resources in the highly militarized war games and trade expo called Urban Shield.

Public officials and the Sheriff's Department claim that they are prioritizing emergency response. But let's take a look at the numbers:

For 2016, Bay Area counties received a total of:

\$28,400,000

from DHS through the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program

\$5,915,179

went to Alameda County, and of that:

\$4,801,339

went to "Enhanced Homeland Security Exercise, Evaluation, and Training."

**URBAN SHIELD MAKES UP
THE BULK OF THIS MONEY.**

This doesn't have to be the case...

According to UASI's own guidelines, these funds can be used for different things. Currently, investment for program areas that are about response and preparedness is:

Medical and
Public Health:

\$0

Emergency Planning and
Community Preparedness:

\$0

This means that

81%

of funding is being used for militarized training, and nothing is being invested in the areas that would actually build community strength and preparedness.

Alameda County decision makers can take the lead in shifting disaster preparedness priorities toward community strength and resilience and away from war games and militarization. Rejecting funding for Urban Shield is a positive step in the right direction for our communities.

STOP URBAN SHIELD.ORG

Interviewees and survey process

Critical Resistance reached out to San Francisco and Alameda County community organizations who we have worked with on the Stop Urban Shield campaign or who have expressed interest in challenging police militarization. Our first round of data collection, which appears in this report, was gathered by Critical Resistance members through written surveys and one phone interview. To date, 15 organizations have participated in these conversations. They represent organizations dedicated to working with:

- **YOUTH OF COLOR:** Raza youth in East Oakland (Xicana Moratorium Coalition), Undocumented Asian Pacific Islander (API) youth (ASPIRE), Queer and trans API young people (API Equality – Northern California) across the San Francisco Bay Area, 1st and 2nd generation immigrants with histories from all over South Asia (ASATA), and youth fighting military recruitment and militarism in the Bay Area (BAY-Peace)
- Inter-generational **BLACK GRASSROOTS ORGANIZERS** across Oakland, Pittsburgh and Antioch (Black Organizing Project)
- Those experiencing **HOMELESSNESS** and **POVERTY** in North Oakland (North Oakland Restorative Justice Council), San Francisco (Hospitality House)
- **THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED IMPRISONMENT**, including formerly imprisoned students who attend University of California Berkeley (Berkeley Underground Scholars), formerly imprisoned people and their loved ones (Ella Baker Center, Black Organizing Project, Hospitality House, Xicana Moratorium Coalition, and more), and more generally those impacted by violence, militarism and racism (AFSC).
- **IMMIGRANT AND WORKER JUSTICE:** Sex worker medical and social service providers in San Francisco (St. James Infirmary); immigrant and worker justice advocacy in Oakland (Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy); Lower class and mono lingual Chinese immigrants in San Francisco (Chinese for Affirmative Action)

We asked:

- How have organizations experienced policing and its impact?
- What emergencies have organizations face and how did they respond to it?
- What strategies, services and trainings do they practice and recommend to strengthen effective emergency response?
- What skills, resources and trainings do they need to better respond to community needs and to be prepared for emergencies?



Findings: The impact of policing and police profiling on communities

Groups and organizations identified that their communities are impacted daily by the presence of policing and its attendant violence. Themes that emerged across organizations included:

- Police presence and contact is pervasive in public resource sites (schools, hospitals, as well as public transportation) and public spaces (streets, neighborhoods).
- Organizations were especially aware of police profiling and harassment targeting youth of color, youth in sex trades, transwomen of color, immigrants and people who use drugs.
- Communities experience multiple scales of policing, not just singular agencies. Groups specifically cited local police collaboration with county, state or federal agencies (including, for example: local police collaboration with Alameda County Sheriff; SWAT teams; Immigrations and Customs Enforcement / ICE; Drug Enforcement Agency / DEA; or Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms/ATF).
- Six organizations identified that militarized policing targeting immigrants – in the form of ICE raids, racist federal policies, deportation and detention – as a threat their communities face.
- Militarized policing was identified through military tanks in neighborhoods; SWAT house raids with military weaponry; military armed police in schools, hospitals, and on public transit (BART, Muni, and ACT); and block shut-downs and barricades patrolled by law enforcement with tactical military gear.
- Militarized policing is not new or locally-exclusive for Black, Asian Pacific and Raza communities whose elder generations have lived through U.S.-led wars, imperialism and militarization abroad or here in the U.S.
- Policing leads to arrests, court sentences, and, ultimately imprisonment. For communities that are impacted by imprisonment, policing represents the threat of this harm, which fractures communities and divides families.

“Our community sees a lot of anti-gang policing much of which includes SWAT and the “war on drugs” [and] brings a real crazy presence of SWAT raids into our community.”

—XICANA MORATORIUM COALITION

Here are some excerpts from interviews on these themes:

Policing of public space and communities

We generally see a lot of police activity in the neighborhoods we serve. It is not unusual to see someone being arrested in the neighborhood. It is not unusual to see police in plainclothes as well. We see several law enforcement agencies in the Tenderloin, such as federal police, San Francisco Police Department, the County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol, and University of California Police.

—Hospitality House

Because of the societal stigma associated with our population, some of our members have been profiled on campus and in the surrounding areas of the University by The University of California Police Department and the Berkeley Police Department.

—Underground Scholars

[Our community is impacted by] everyday police harassment, in particular of trans women of color sex workers, drug users...Our clinic location is down the street from the Tenderloin police station, so we often see police harass other people on the street: homeless people, youth of color. Many of our participants at St James have been arrested, harassed and raped by police.

—St James Infirmary

Low-income communities of color face the brunt of state sanctioned violence. Police militarization serves to increase the severity and efficiency of that violence.

—Ella Baker Center

A number of youth in 67 Sueños – most of whom are from East Oakland – have directly experienced SWAT raids and ICE. Several staff and interns in Healing Justice are formerly incarcerated, and experience many restrictions post-incarceration.

—American Friends Service Committee

Communities are impacted by multiple scales of policing, specifically local police collaboration with county, state and federal agencies

OUSD renewed a contract that said that they would deputize an Oakland School Police Department (OSPD) police officer with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) who will essentially help the DEA do work on drug trafficking cases outside of the schools. These are undercover cops, specifically targeting drug trafficking and sex trafficking in Oakland and the East Bay, but they're using an OSPD to do them. So they're contracted with that for two years, and it's likely that same officer that's been in the community doing these undercover ops will be returned back to schools and be the same exact officer in the schools.

—Black Organizing Project

A number of youth in 67 Sueños – most of whom are from East Oakland – have directly experienced SWAT raids and ICE. Several staff and interns in Healing Justice are formerly incarcerated, and experience many restrictions post-incarceration.

—American Friends Service Committee

Militarized policing targeting immigrants

Police and sheriff collaboration with ICE are of grave concern to our communities... ICE raids in collaboration with police raise concerns about the degree of local cooperation with racist federal policies.

—Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy (FAME)

Locally, CAA has been supporting Chinese nationals accused of spying and espionage by the US government and subject to harassment, arrest, and detention.

—Chinese for Affirmative Action

Since many of our members are from immigrant backgrounds, we also experience the effects of U.S. imperialism and militarization in other communities. Many folks come because of the wars in SE Asia or legacies of imperialism in the Philippines and across the Asia Pacific.

—API Equality - Northern California

We often have military tanks, SWAT raids with military weaponry, drug raids with military grade weaponry, Fully armed police in our schools and often stationed in our schools and in hospitals many of our folks most frequent.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

Emergencies that communities face

We then asked people about emergency situations that their communities or organizations face. Here's what organizations identified:

- Medical events, including drug overdose, cardiac arrest, shootings, and stabbings.
- Mental health crises.
- Verbal and physical conflicts, ranging from between social groups to escalated individual frustrations.
- Interpersonal violence.
- Sex-trafficking.
- Gentrification, forced evictions and homelessness.
- Police contact and surveillance, use of force and detention.
- State disinvestment from communities.

“We do have call networks, family preparedness plans, and de-escalation tools. Because we have encountered many cases where police hasn’t helped, community is getting ready to face unethical ICE raids.”

—ASPIRE

Here are some excerpts from interviews:

[We've experienced] someone going through mental health crisis broke our glass door at our old location in SOMA/Mission.

—St. James Infirmary

We experience a number of incidents routinely. Sometimes it is a medical emergency such as an overdose, or someone going into cardiac arrest. Other times it is a hostile and aggressive person refusing to leave our site. Other times it may be a scenario involving violence.

—Hospitality House

[We experience] daily intercommunal violence, and class-based violence where wealthier people bring police presence in against poorer families in the neighborhood or against houseless people.

—North Oakland Restorative Justice Committee

[T]here are many cases of 1) health emergencies due to mental health and 2) responding after physical and verbal street violence

—API Equality - Northern California

There was a case when a member of ASPIRE was traveling close to the border on train and immigration got on the train and were inspecting people. He was sent into the system and put in a detention center. This was before DACA happened. Nobody knew about his whereabouts because when you are put into a detention center and you are constantly moved around.

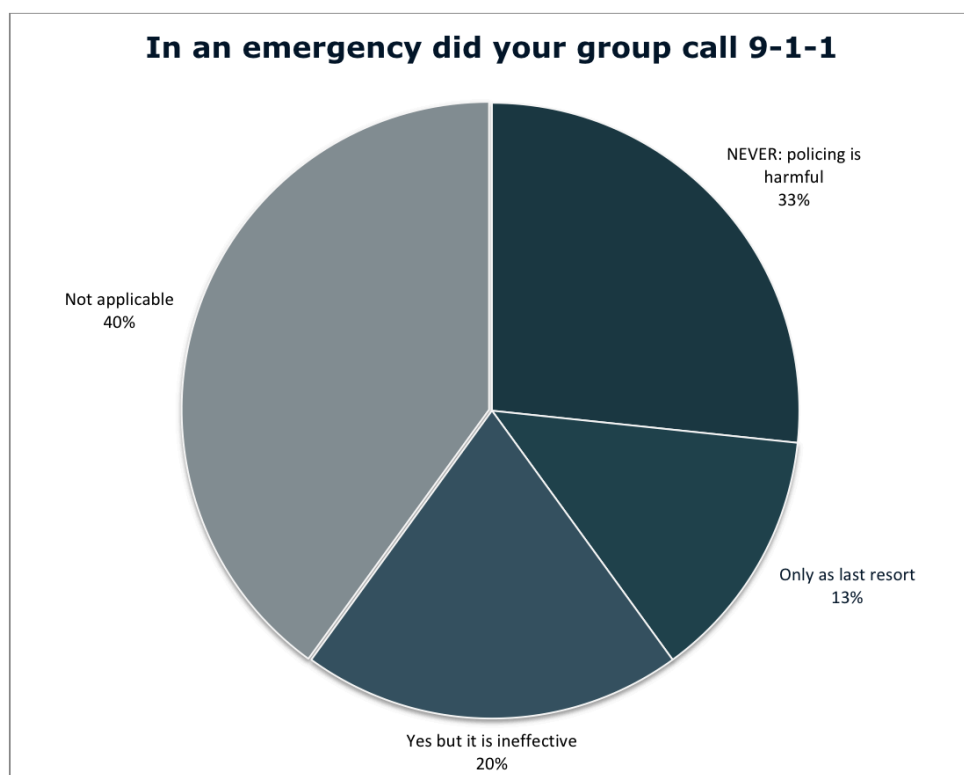
—ASPIRE

Our communities have been so disinvested in. There have been a disinvestment of things that people have a public right to. And those disinvestments lead to a need for services. But honestly, if we actually had economic justice instead of state violence in its broadest forms people would not even be in a state of constant crisis. ... So, on one hand the most immediate things people need there are basic needs – services, access to affordable housing, access to affordable food and all that stuff. In the more long-term thinking, it is not just crisis services.

—Black Organizing Project

To understand how and when people utilize state sponsored emergency services, we asked if people called the police and utilized 911 to address the emergencies they faced:

- Four organizations stated that they do not utilize 911 as an emergency response resource because of the harm that police could have on people's safety and because they escalate situations.
- Two organizations said that they will only call 911 if all other options are unsuccessful and that police involvement is something to avoid if they can. They tell the people that they have called 911 and generally the people leave before the police arrive.
- Three organizations that have called 911 shared that the response is not consistent and that there is a lack of follow through on behalf of the police as to what happened to the people they escorted or arrested.



Here are some excerpts:

In cases like this, you don't call 911 because for safety reasons we don't want to give more information to these agencies in the case that they pick you up on your immigration status instead of if you were a victim. In cases of people being a victim of crime, you can file a report but people who are undocumented and call 911 have been swept up with the person committing a crime (say domestic violence). You protect yourself because there's no real chance that when the police comes they will be on your side.

—ASPIRE

Cops would have only escalated tensions and would have not fixed any relationships for the two parties that are permanent members of the community and have to continue engaging and also people would have gotten criminalized and that would have not fixed anything.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

Had an accident and broke her leg at home in Oakland. Her parents called the ambulance. No one in the house knew how to drive. After her father came home from work in San Francisco, the ambulance still didn't arrive. Her father needed to carry her down the stairs and into the car and he took her to the hospital himself. [in another case], fight at home between siblings, youth's mother called 911. Police showed up after 3 hours at door and spoke to the siblings.

—Bay Peace

A number of organizations shared skills and tactics they already have in place to respond effectively in an emergency without law enforcement involvement.

These included:

- skilled de-escalation and peacekeepers,
- mechanisms to review emergencies and establish protocols,
- rapid response networks, and
- healthcare trainings.

Here are some interview excerpts on these topics:

Skilled mediation/de-escalation and peacekeepers

Staff at our program are trained in first aid/CPR as well as conflict resolution and non-violent de-escalation. With any instances involving a hostile or threatening scenario –when safe to do so—staff will initially attempt to speak and calm individuals through non-violent de-escalation techniques. Many staff already have existing rapport with our participants and are able to use that existing rapport, to better connect and diffuse hostile situations.

—Hospitality House

We have had many de-escalation trainings and discussions on alternatives to calling the police

—St. James Infirmary

We do have family preparedness plans, and de-escalation tools. Because we have encountered many cases where police hasn't helped, community is getting ready to face unethical ICE raids.

—ASPIRE

Some of our staff are trained to deescalate interactions with police/ICE and we have a policy of non-cooperation.

—Chinese for Affirmative Action

Oftentimes, community members will show up one-on-one to respond to trauma, take folks to the hospital, or gather resources until the situation has stabilized.

—API Equality - Northern California

We have peacekeepers in the space that watch out for everyone, have eyes on the kids, eyes on what is happening, what needs to be dealt with from a community perspective.

—Black Organizing Project



API Equality at the Trans March.

Mechanisms to review emergencies and establish protocols

We looked at the event and what happened: what created the escalation? We determined how we want to handle things like that? From there, we developed codes of conduct and practices in the organization. What is our code of conduct? How do we want to handle emergencies?

We developed an internal culture of community that looks out for each other.

—Black Organizing Project

Rapid response networks

We provide infrastructure post shooting or pre-eviction with tables, tents, sound system, food, generator.

—North Oakland Restorative Justice Council

We are currently working on our own community-call network for different resources and skills within our peoples. We would like to offer more safety-plan trainings in the coming year.

—API Equality - Northern California

ASPIRE has developed a rapid response network that helps with alerting communities, providing support, and leading campaigns for people who get swept up and sent to detention centers. Among different coalitions we have family preparedness plans – contacts for mixed status families/ and also getting the numbers of contact person who can pick up your kid from school. Know your rights tool kit and other resources for when you encounter ICE and documents of organizations and pro-bono lawyers lists. We've also developed/use print and visual media – red cards and stickers for folks about knowing your rights and what to do when you encounter ICE or police.

—ASPIRE

Healthcare Trainings

We host our own Narcan/overdose prevention trainings.

—St. James Infirmary

What communities need to face emergencies

Communities identified what they need to face the emergencies and hardships they experience. In summary, these themes emerged:

- Housing and Shelter: Affordable Housing, Emergency Shelter and Addressing Displacement / Gentrification
- Relief from policing, including ICE
- High speed and accessible medical response and care that can competently serve undocumented, queer, gender non-conforming people, communities of color (with varying levels of police or prison records) and immigrant communities without threat of criminalization.
- Community-based and Family Networks for Community Crises and Interpersonal Violence
- Emergency Preparedness, Response Resources and Crisis Skills

Here are some excerpts from interviews on these themes:

Housing and Shelter

We need emergency shelter for participants who do not have housing for the night.

—St. James Infirmary

Accountability systems and community support systems in the cases they need emergency housing.

—ASPIRE

[We] also need to be able to have better networks that would allow us to support families.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

Relief from policing, including ICE

[We need] community response to police/ICE.

—Chinese for Affirmative Action

[We need] circulating information and how to deal with the panic of an ICE raid or when we see people deported and when there's ICE activity.

—ASPIRE

Immigrant communities need rapid-response networks to deal with ICE activity.

—Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy

Federal agents often ICE have a heavy presence in our community...We also need to be able to have better networks that would allow us to support families in cases of forced evictions, ICE detentions, drug raids, etc. so that we can prevent these on going cases to happen unnoticed and unsupported or often responded to after the fact.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

“Our community at large can be better prepared for emergencies by increasing critical emergency trainings, as well as conflict resolution trainings.”

—HOSPITALITY HOUSE

High speed and accessible medical response and care

Trauma response that is competent to talk about gender, sexuality, race, immigration, and more intersections. Community medics that are trained in non-western medicine (who we can access on a regular basis).

—API Equality - Northern California

Accessible medical center and medics in community. I'd also like to mention that they have to be competent to serving undocumented people because often times they are victims of crime that they do not report to the police in case they get deported. Competent childcare/medical providers that know how to handle the situation and talking with the undocumented community.

—ASPIRE

Accessible medical centers in areas that have a high concentration of Chinese-speakers that are not in Chinatown. Often times, these services are available, but inaccessible to people who don't speak English or don't understand how these systems operate. All of these services need to be provided in-language and with cultural competency.

—Chinese for Affirmative Action

[We need] high Speed medical response and medics in the community. When medical emergencies happen (shootings, stabbings, other forms of violence, drug overdose) our community does not have access to support or trainings to address these situations...What people probably need more are services when people are in crisis. When people are having mental health crisis, we need mental health services and support.

—Black Organizing Project

Our neighborhood does not have enough mental health crises support. Currently, when there is a mental health crisis police respond.

—Hospitality House

Invest in mental health services.

—North Oakland Restorative Justice Council

[We see a need for] outreach programs that will pick up people in crisis.

—St. James Infirmary

“Policing of our communities is really bad. It has been history of our communities since early slave patrols on. We have seen so many instances of brutality and murder of Black people. We started our organization shortly after Oscar Grant was murdered by BART police... Historically law enforcement has meant harm.”

—BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT

Community-based and Family Networks for Community Crises and Interpersonal Violence

Support for community call networks (for folks to know who to call in crisis).

—API Equality - Northern California

We need to be able to address instances of violence in the community with out engaging cops.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

We also have youth that have been victimized by sex trafficking: figuring out how to support folks and families that are dealing with that.

—Black Organizing Project

Emergency preparedness, response resources and crisis skills

We are in need of preparedness skills and resources to become less dependent on the University in times of an emergency: medic skills, behavioral health de-escalation, and emergency preparedness training. In regards to emergency preparedness skills or resources, we lack that type of infrastructure as an organization because the University provides most of those things.

—Berkeley Underground Scholars

We could always use more resources around disaster preparedness: we are not prepared.

—Black Organizing Project

We need all the emergency response resources possible in case of emergency: earthquake kits, call networks, mental health crisis support, all for free if possible.

—St. James Infirmary

Provide funding support for organizations that are doing this work to continue building up scale for more free opportunities for our communities to be trained.

—Xicana Moratorium Coalition

Fire response, environmental disaster response.

—Chinese for Affirmative Action

More community partners to call upon, more alternative systems with 24 hour services.

—North Oakland Restorative Justice Council

Recommendations

We asked people what skills, resources and practices could be built, created or strengthened to fill these needs, which generally fell under:

- What people are already doing to prepare for emergencies (see previous).
- What people need less of to withstand emergencies.
- What skills, resources and practices communities need to increase for emergency preparedness.

Across the board, groups want less policing, ICE, incarceration and militarization in their communities

Defund OPD budget.

—North Oakland Restorative Justice Council

Dis-invest from the police or the militarization of our communities here in the U.S. and abroad.

—API Equality - Northern California

DEFUND ICE. Stop giving power to ice and police. Stop passing anti-immigrant policies. Stop giving local enforcement that much power.

—ASPIRE

On one hand, in the most immediate things people need, there's basic things like services, access to affordable housing, access to healthy food and health care and all that other stuff, but I think in more long-term thinking it's not just crisis services, it's that we need to stop investing in incarceration and punishment, and actually create opportunities for people to have what they have a right to—they should have a right to safe housing, and people should have access to livable wage jobs, and people should be able to live in communities where they can breathe clean air. All of those kinds of things that should be human rights—to me, that's where the real solution lies.

—Black Organizing Project



Black Organizing Project.

Organizations called for more trainings, community networks and public resources for community power.

Critical Resistance compiled our survey findings and organized responses by themes and topics. We saw two main categories: 1) trainings for community power and 2) community support networks that provide skills and relationships. The following recommendations are potential investments and projects that could increase community confidence and preparedness to handle the emergencies that they face, without escalating law enforcement involvement.

Trainings for community power:

To address conflict and violence, we need trainings on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• De-escalation• Community-based conflict mediation• Community accountability, addressing harm and interpersonal violence without relying on the police
To address medical emergencies and behavioral health crises, we need trainings on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medic, CPR and first aid skills and kits• Narcan and overdose prevention trainings• Mental health support and response• Safety plan trainings for queer and trans folks for getting around on the street, in homes and in transit.
To be prepared for natural disasters, we need trainings on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural disaster emergency preparedness (and response) skills and resources• Earthquake preparedness training and kits• Family and emergency network planning: rapid response and phone trees
To protect communities from policing, we need trainings on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know your rights and legal services• Community defense, limiting police contact, and response to police and ICE interactions• How to advocate for one another• How to respond when experiencing or seeing ICE activity, raids and deportations• Family and emergency network planning: rapid response and phone trees

Community support networks

Within communities, organizations want to see strong and organized networks of people that are re-sourced to support one another without fear criminalization or the violence of policing.

Networks:

To handle mental health crises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• De-escalation• Community-based conflict mediation• Community accountability, addressing harm and interpersonal violence without relying on the police
To handle acute health emergencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note: equipped with medical kits and materials to treat acute emergencies such as gunshot wounds and stabbings
To respond to ICE raids and to get people out of detention.
To be prepared for environmental disasters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note: equipped with earthquake and emergency kits

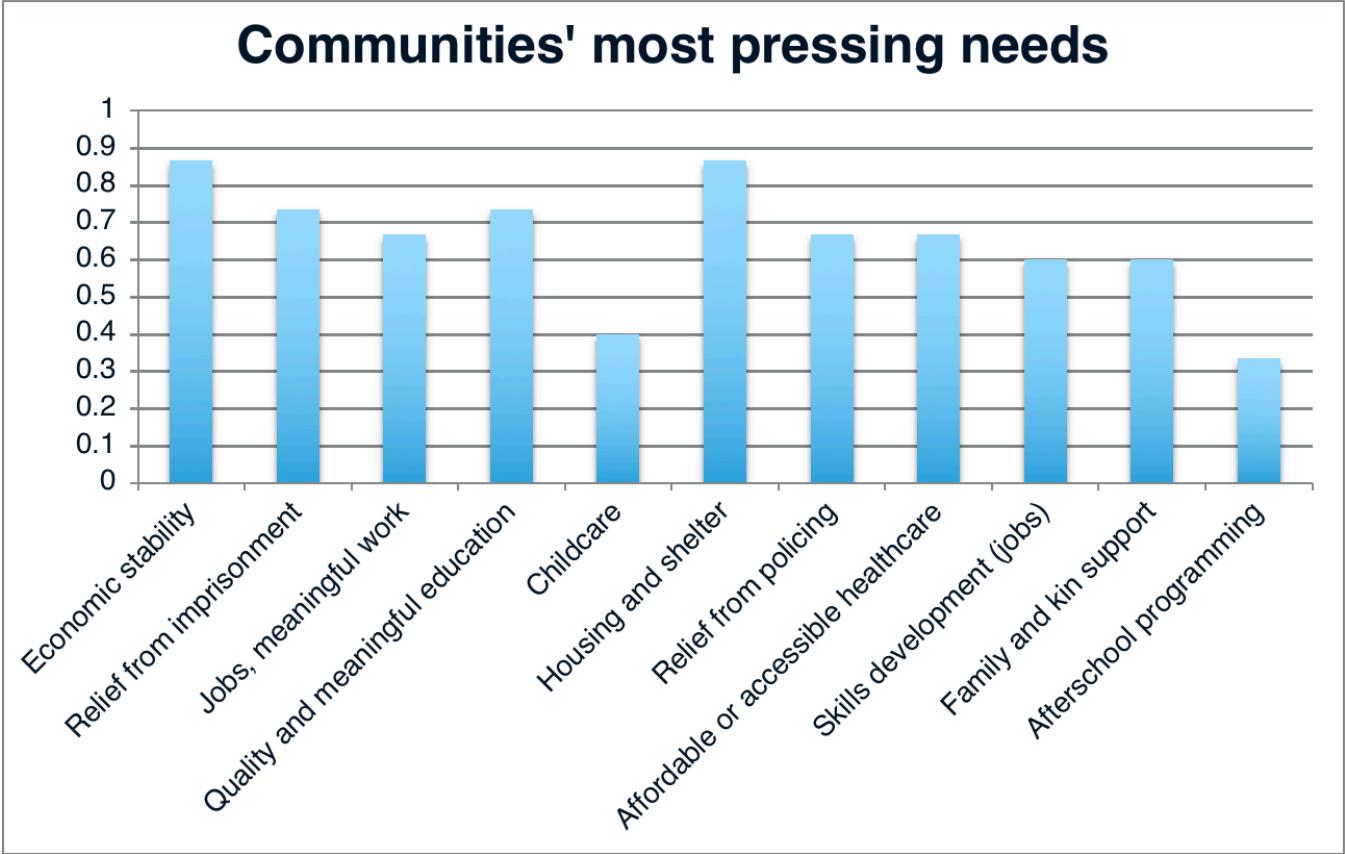


Earthquake preparedness and first aid instruction at the Stop Urban Shield 2017 Community Preparedness Fair.

In closing, we asked about people’s general conditions and needs, in order to understand the relationships between conditions communities face and the emergency needs they might have.

When asked to select their communities most pressing needs, organizations identified their communities need these broader life-affirming investments for general stability and emergency resiliency.

Investing in Positive Futures: Economic Stability, Relief from Imprisonment, Meaningful Work and Job Opportunities, Education and Afterschool Programming, and Childcare.



“Oftentimes, community members will show up one-on-one to respond to trauma, take folks to the hospital, or gather resources until the situation has stabilized.”

—API EQUALITY – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Here are some related survey excerpts:

By funding more education, schools, and community-safety and preparedness systems
—API Equality - Northern California

A lot of our approach is to build community and to build relationships with people and to connect people also to each other. And so that folks know what's around them and who's around them. And when people know each other, ... and [our surveys founds] when people have more relationships and the know each other and they feel connected, then they feel more safe.

And we've also heard that people want jobs and they want jobs for young people. That there has been such a disinvestment and like giving people something that actually allows them to thrive.

...We need to stop investing in incarceration and punishment and actually create opportunities for people to have what they have a right to. They should have a right to safe housing and they should have access to livable wage jobs. And people should be able to live in communities where they can breathe clean air and all of those kinds of things that should be human rights. That is where the real solution lies. And also creating the opportunities for people to build relationships with each other.

Where there is disinvestment there is an impact on people – physical, material, mental and spiritual impact on people. In that, crises happen and then police are flooded in and eventually land is taken. I think there is a correlation between gentrification and policing. The antidote to that is actually justice and community.

—Black Organizing Project

We need to supplement immediate crises response efforts with a proactive engagement with the underlying causes of these emergencies.

—Ella Baker Center

City could fund more program aimed at addressing anger management. And also fund more employment related programs.

—Hospitality House

In Conclusion, and Next Steps

In conclusion, we recommend investments in demilitarized emergency preparedness and a defunding and deprioritization from Urban Shield and all militarized emergency preparedness that hinge on law enforcement centralization and coordination.

The recommendations of “Trainings for Community Power” and “Community Networks” illustrate creative, life-affirming investments that our cities, counties, and communities could make in order to better prepare Bay area residents for emergencies and crises, without the attendant harms of law enforcement.

Through the Oakland Power Projects, Critical Resistance will be having more conversations with community organizations and bringing people together to further discuss these recommendations and identify which could increase community’s emergency readiness. We hope these conversations and gatherings will build connections across groups and communities for moving a project forward. In the coming months, Critical Resistance will work to move one or more of these projects ahead with interviewees and ally organizations.



“Defund OPD, invest in
mental health services.”

—NORTH OAKLAND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
COUNCIL



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