

# CREATING SOLUTIONS TO BUILD SAFER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Every community deserves to be safe, healthy, and supported. Creating safer, more resilient communities often means having access to evidence-informed strategies to help address challenges related to substance use disorder, lack of affordable housing, community and interpersonal violence, and reentry from the criminal justice system. When equipped with the data and knowledge necessary to support each other and improve services, our local leaders are well-positioned to improve systems, connect people with resources, and create lasting change.

At **American Institutes for Research® (AIR®)**, we apply our expertise in these areas to state and local contexts, supporting community- and faith-based and nonprofit organizations, human services providers, and government institutions. Throughout our work, we embed deep partnership and center individuals with real-life experience in the relevant systems. For community leaders focused on reducing violence, improving reentry outcomes, addressing substance use or promoting safe and affordable housing, AIR experts can turn ideas into action.

## APPLYING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT AND ADVANCE SAFE, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Using evidence to drive innovation and transform systems, AIR's approach is driven by decades of experience in social and behavioral sciences. Our experts tailor support to local contexts, using proven national best practices and research-based insights.



### HOUSING INTERVENTIONS

We engage local stakeholders to inform evaluations of housing interventions that build the evidence and yield actionable insights for communities to advance solutions towards housing security.



### SUBSTANCE USE

Our efforts in substance use disorder focus on evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies designed to address unmet needs and mitigate harm within communities.



### VIOLENCE PREVENTION

We collaborate with hospitals, law enforcement, city mayors and community leaders to generate and use rigorous evidence to reduce gun violence leveraging a public health approach.

**AIR and Decision Information Resources** are partnering with **Harris County Public Health** to study how community-based violence intervention programs can reduce crime and support healthy communities. We are evaluating the implementation, cost, and impact of the Holistic Assistance Response Team and Relentless Interrupters Serving Everyone, to help guide Harris County's future evidence-informed strategic planning and resource allocation decisions.

## HOW AIR CAN SUPPORT COMMUNITIES



### Strategic Planning

Building strong, resilient communities means setting clear goals, identifying resources, and making informed decisions. From surveys and readiness assessments to dashboards and communication materials, AIR provides the tools to support strategic planning.



### Communities of Practice

AIR brings together leaders, service providers, and other decisionmakers to share their knowledge and learn from one another through communities of practice at the local, state, and national level.



### Continuous Improvement Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation provide critical information on what's working and where to improve. AIR experts can evaluate data, analyze outcomes, and develop tools to track and examine programmatic data effectively to make any needed adjustments.



### Professional Development and Training

We support practitioners, community organizers, government officials, employers, law enforcement, and other partners in gaining the necessary insights and skills to improve outcomes for the individuals they serve and their communities. Training programs led by AIR are designed to meet the needs of various learners, audiences and local context.



### Cost and Resource Allocation

AIR staff assist clients with comprehensive fiscal planning and mapping strategies aimed at reducing costs and efficiently allocating resources to initiatives that increase safety and well-being.



### Research-Practice Partnerships

Establishing a long-term collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, including law enforcement and behavioral health specialists, sets communities up for success. Our experts collaborate with various partners to co-create research, evaluation, and communication plans aimed at finding solutions to local challenges.



### Facilitated Discussion around Shared Values

AIR possesses extensive experience in facilitating discussions and visioning activities that identify shared values and actions, enabling collaboration among various community members, including residents, police, school officials, emergency services, and vested organizations to create a unified vision for community resilience.



To learn more about creating safe, resilient communities, visit <https://www.air.org/our-work/human-services/justice-systems>. Reach out to explore how we can work together to strengthen your community.

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