



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Community Partnership of the Ozarks Launches Gun Safety and Violence Reduction Web Resource

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Community Partnership of the Ozarks' Gun Safety and Violence Reduction initiative, a community-wide initiative focused on reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths in Springfield, has launched a new online resource to connect residents with **gun safety information, mental health resources, youth programs, and community support services.**

The Gun Safety and Violence Reduction initiative was formed through community conversations, data-driven research, and the urgent need to increase gun safety and reduce gun violence in the Springfield community. The new web page provides a centralized place for residents to access articles and resources, learn about upcoming events, and connect to the Locked N Loaded Podcast, a local podcast offering a street-level perspective on tackling gun violence.

The web page will also provide information about Gun Safety and Violence Reduction programs, including the **Breed Ballers** basketball program, which provides athletics and personal development programming, and the **Teen RISE** program, developed by the Drew Lewis Foundation, which provides customized support to young people as they build goals based on their personal values and priorities.

A monthly calendar will also soon be added to help residents stay informed about workshops, activities, and community events.

“A website focused on gun safety and violence reduction provides greater access for the community to learn about the work we are doing to reduce gun violence, especially with the mental health links available under the Resource tab,” said **Francine Pratt, CPO's Prosper Springfield Director.** “We want residents to have easier access to information, programs, and support services that can make a difference.”

The website also provides direct connections to CPO and Prosper Springfield resources related to education, health, housing, financial stability, transportation, and personal safety — all aimed at connecting residents with practical tools and services.

You can find this resource by clicking **Gun Safety & Violence Reduction Initiative** on CPO's Programs page, CPOZARKS.ORG/PROGRAMS or by going to the web page directly at CPOZARKS.ORG/GSVR

CPO's website also includes links to **gun safety tools, suicide prevention information, and Mental Health First Aid trainings** designed to increase support for both teens and adults. The addition of these gun safety resources reflects the Gun Safety and Violence Reduction initiative's commitment to reducing gun violence and promoting safer communities.

For more information, contact Prosper Springfield at 417-888-2020 or email Francine Pratt at fpratt@cpozarks.org

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***ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS:** The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.*