

Government Alliance for Safe Communities (GASC) & Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS)

Investing in community violence intervention strategies:
new evidence from Illinois' Government Alliance for Safe
Communities Confirmation

June 8th, 11am CT



Corners

CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD
ENGAGED RESEARCH & SCIENCE



The Government Alliance for Safe Communities (GASC) is an unprecedented collaboration between leaders at the State of Illinois, Cook County and the City of Chicago.



Since 2021, we have been working towards a more **equitable and comprehensive government approach** to community safety in our region where **violence prevention and community violence intervention programs** are a **permanent and central feature** of the community safety ecosystem.



Participating Agencies



COOK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT



COOK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE
**Justice Advisory
Council**



Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP)

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)

Cook County Office of the President - Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC)

City of Chicago, Mayor's Office of Community Safety

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

GASC connects public stakeholders and partners to strengthen the community safety ecosystem.



GASC exists because active **coordination, collaboration** and **communication** are essential to effectively and **sustainably reduce gun violence and increase community safety** in the communities and municipalities most impacted by the gun violence crisis in our region.

Four main workgroups carry out the work of GASC:



Grants Management



Performance Management



Capacity Building



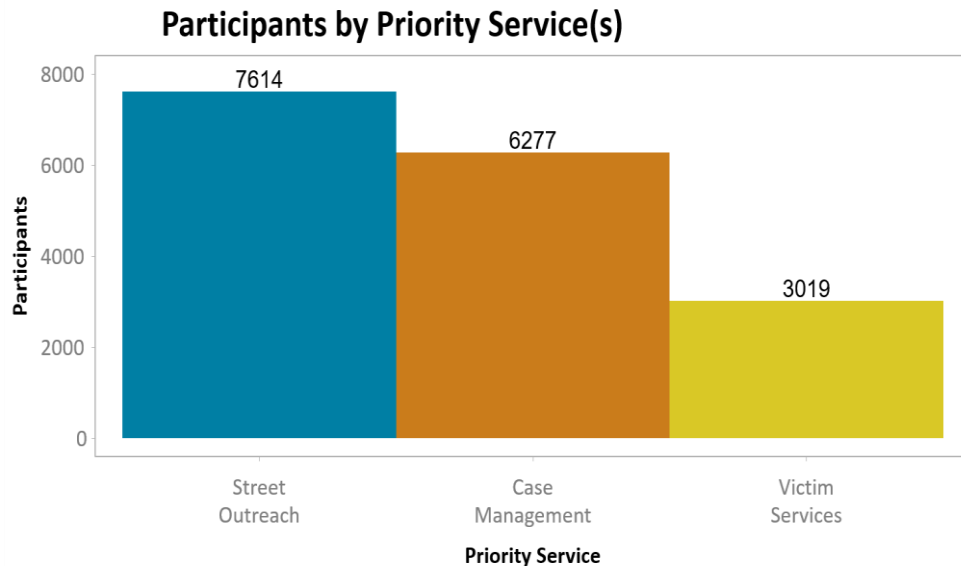
Communications



GASC Investment & Impact

- For FY26 GASC agencies have budgeted investments of **~\$95M in CVI Programming.**
- In 2025, **GASC grantees served 11,391 participants.**
 - About one-third of participants were between the ages of 18-24
 - Over 70% were male
 - Over 80% were Black or African American

*Participant data collected through GASC grantee self-reporting.





GASC Roadmap 2026 - Highlights

- ❑ Organize 3 **Community of Practice Convenings** (April, July/Aug, Oct/Nov)
- ❑ Continue enhancing and **aligning grant processes** across GASC
- ❑ Create a webinar to train grantees on how to use the **CVI Metric Tool**
- ❑ Launch Cohorts 2, 3, and 4 of the **Capacity Building Network**
- ❑ Maintain and upgrade the **GASC Resource Library**
- ❑ Release the **GASC Quarterly Newsletter**
- ❑ Develop and approve governance related documents:
 - ❑ IGA/Charter
 - ❑ GASC Budget
 - ❑ Renew DUAs





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Government Alliance for Safe Communities: 2025 Impact Report



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Northwestern

Impact Evaluation Research Questions

1. How did public funding support scaling for grantee CVI programs in priority communities?
2. Did communities with organizations receiving coordinated ARPA funding experience positive outcomes? How does the scale of this impact change in communities with multiple ARPA-funded programs?

Data included in this report

Impact evaluation

- Grant Funding Data
- Public Safety Data
- Grantee Programmatic Data (CVI Metric Tool)

Analyses in this Report

Changes in CVI-SO programming in response to funding, in particular:

- Number of participants
- Participant demographics
- Service provision

Reach and intensity of CVI-SO programming across and between neighborhoods

Changes in levels of violence where CVI-SO participants are served by GASC-funded programs



Data Limitations & Caveats

Data Limitations

Missingness

Duplication

Geographic Availability

Differences in FYs

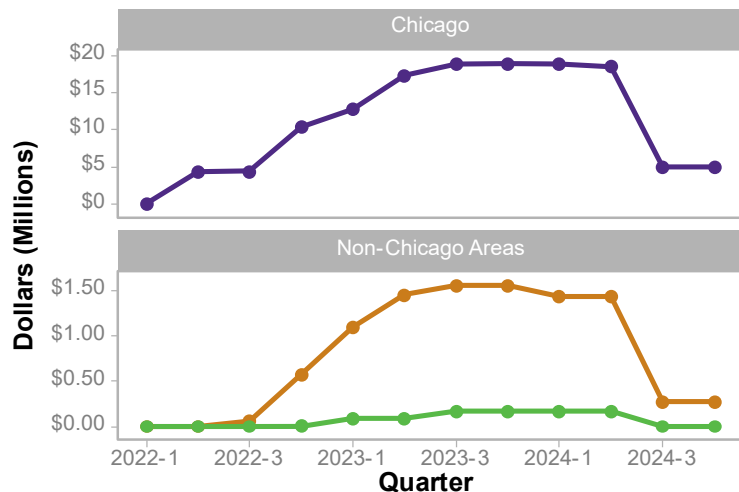
Analyses are **descriptive** rather than
causal

Finding #1:

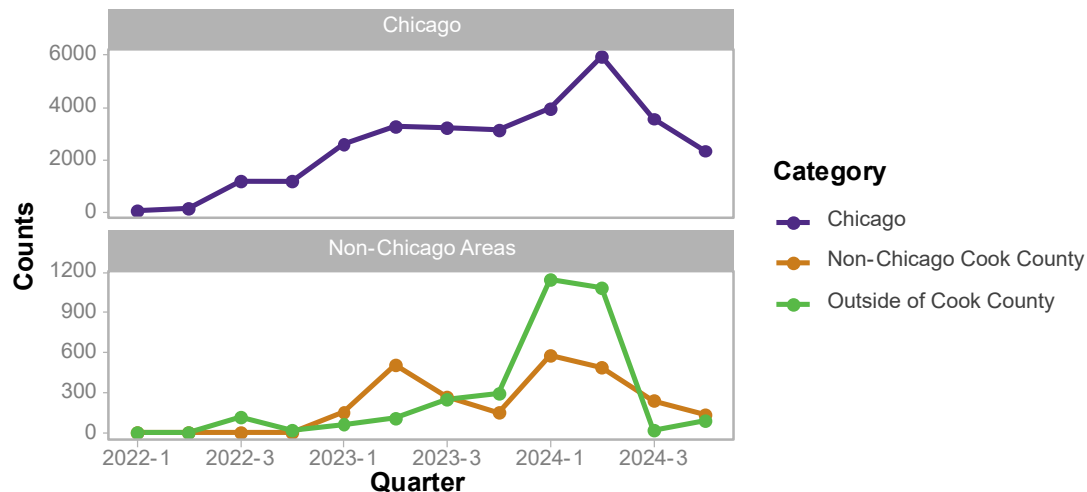
**GASC grant funding grew
CVI-SO programs across Chicago**

GASC funding supported CVI-SO services for thousands of individuals

Dollars Invested Over Time

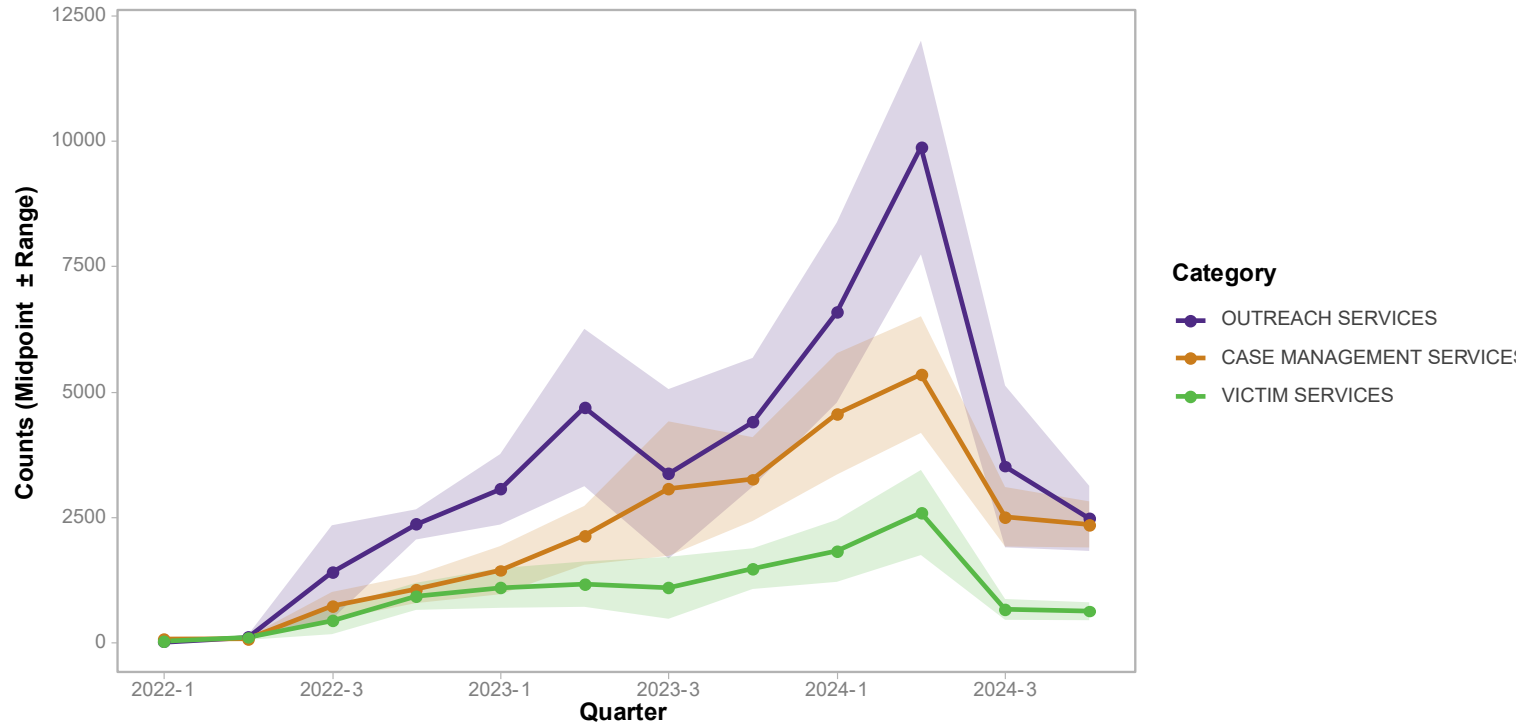


New Participants Over Time

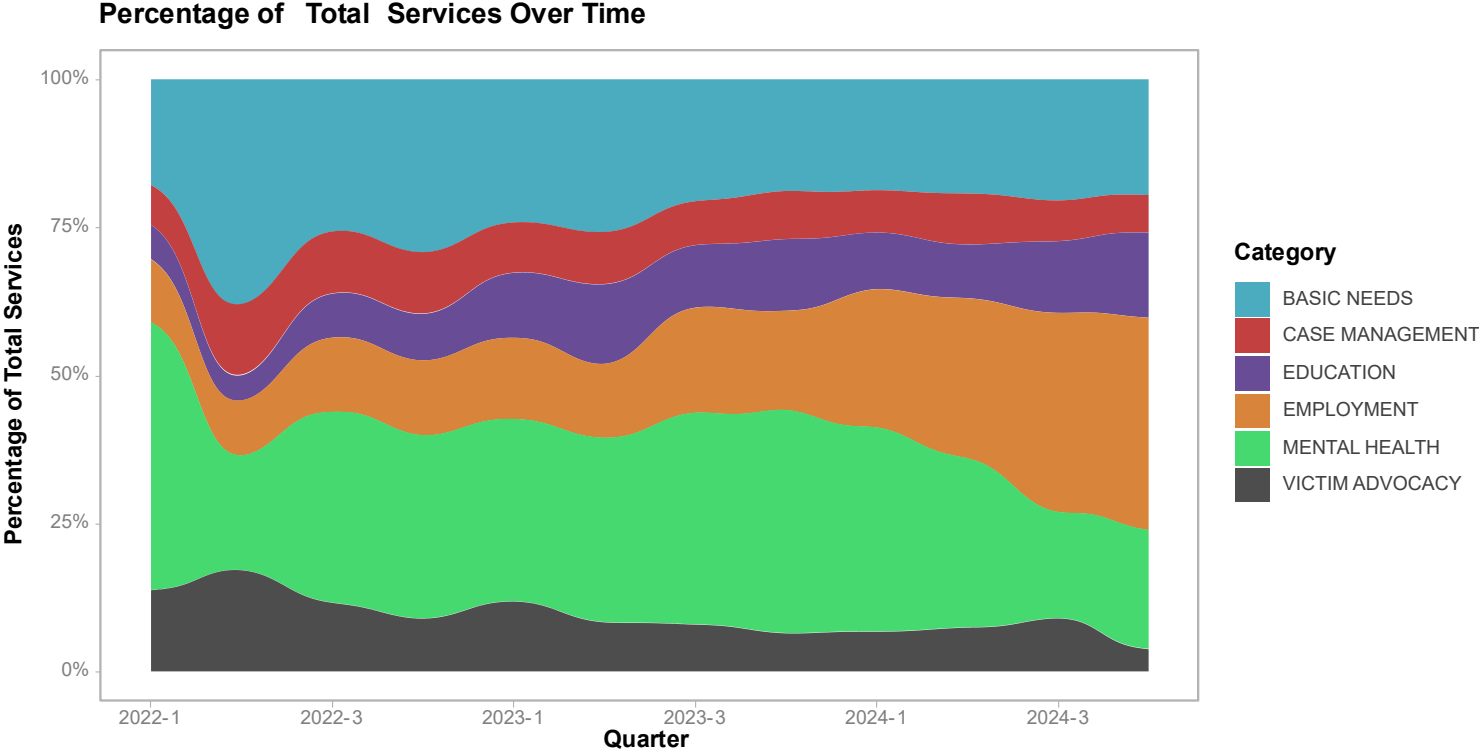


Participants receive mostly Outreach- and Case Management-related services

Summary - Level Services Over Time



Services have grown, with a shift towards employment and mental health

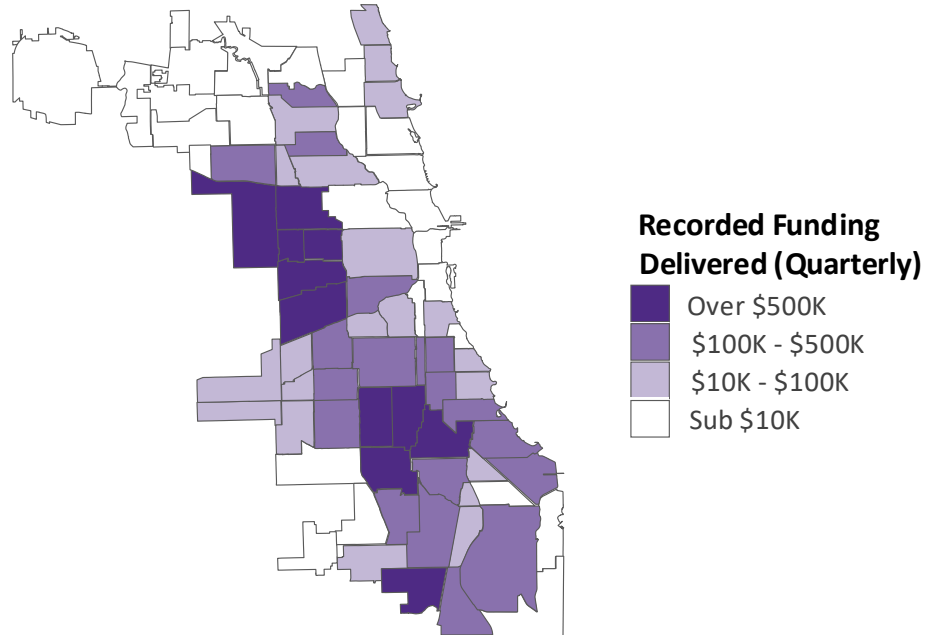


Finding #2:

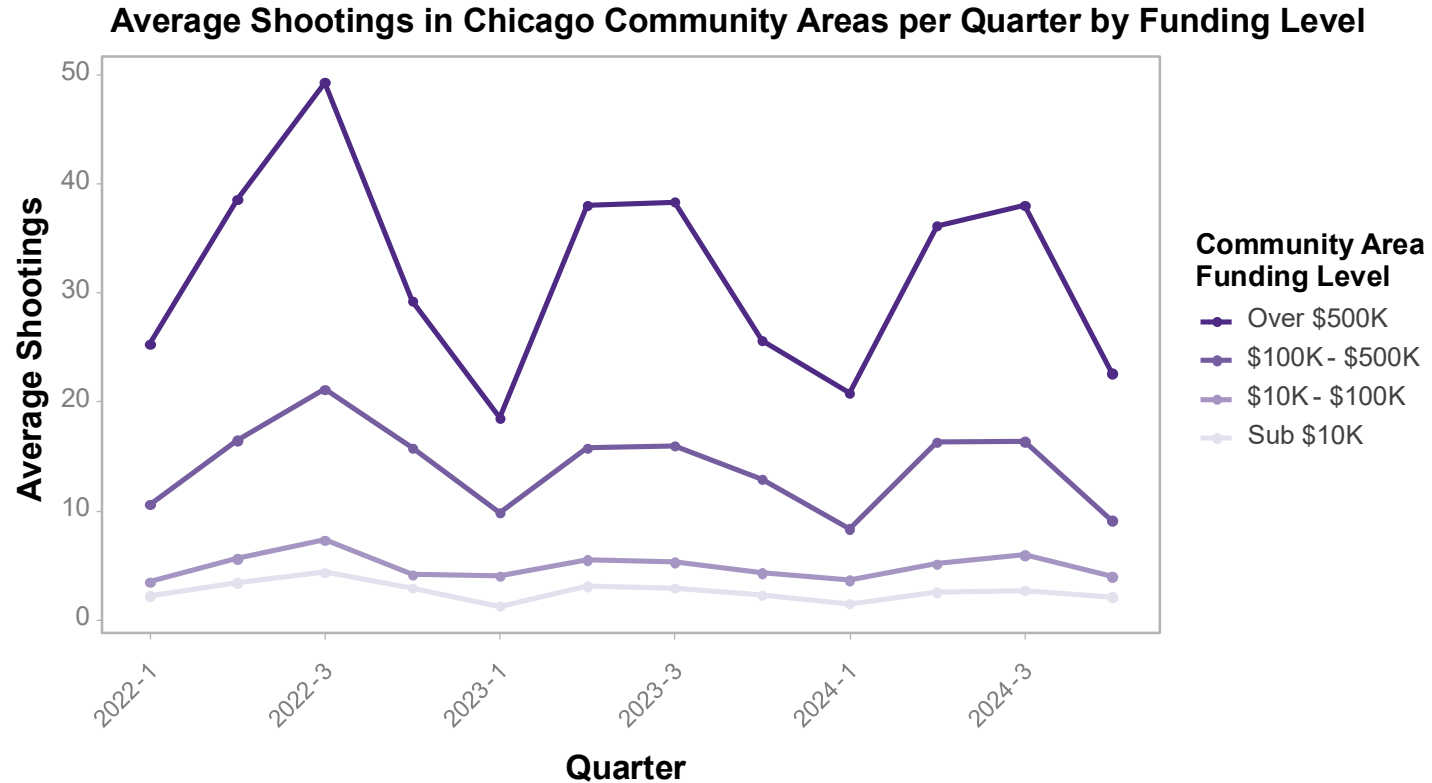
**GASC funds are going to
communities with the highest need**

Chicago priority areas receive the most funding

Average Quarterly Distribution of GASC Funds



Funding went to areas with highest levels of violence

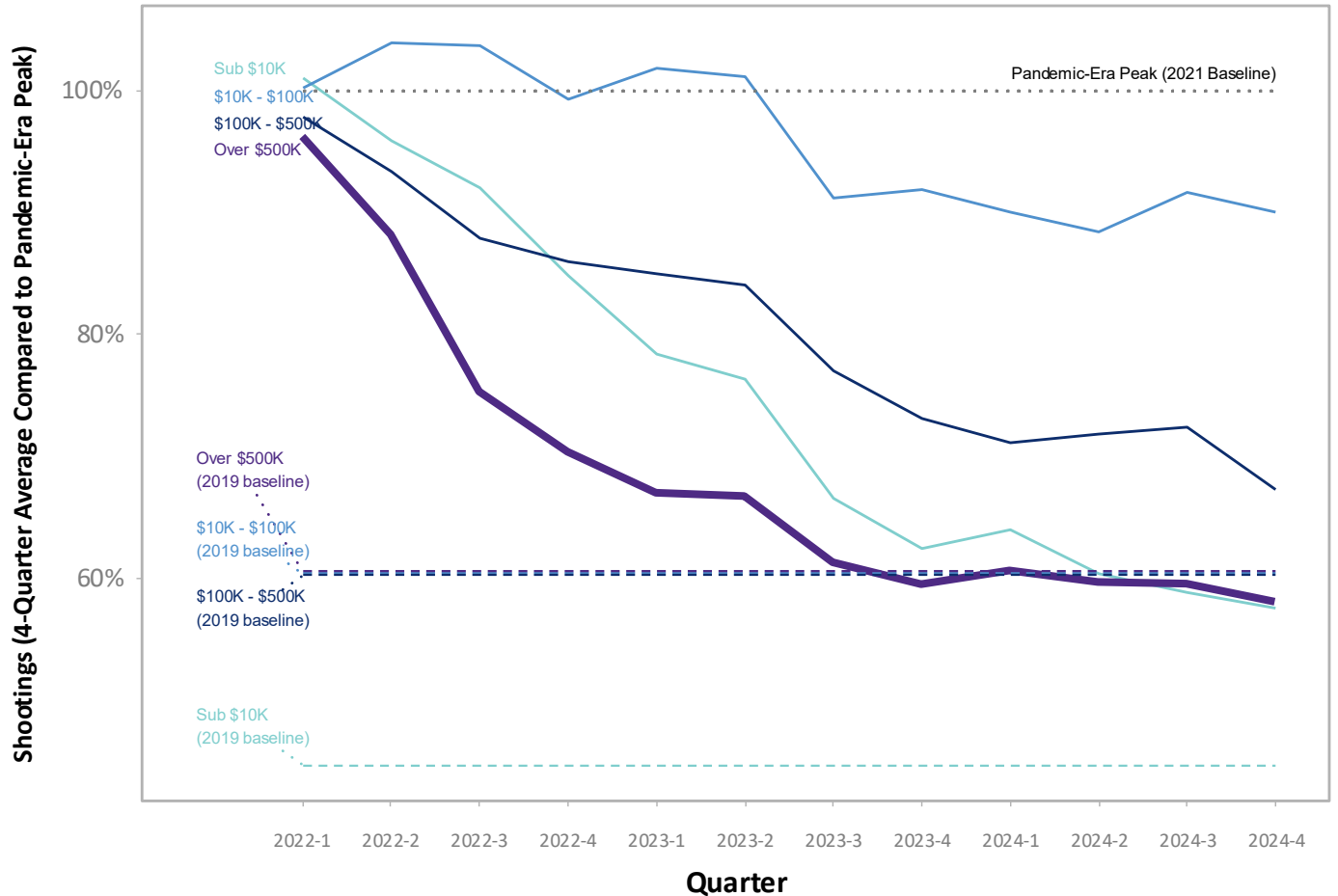


Finding #3:

Chicago community areas with the highest average GASC investment showed large public safety gains.

Shootings in the highest-funded communities dropped to below pre-pandemic levels.

Change in 4-Quarter Average Shootings Since Pandemic-Era Peak





What do these findings mean for the GASC?



With federal dollars sunsetting, agencies must plan for **sustainable funding to protect progress.**



Continued strategic coordination is essential for **maintaining and scaling investments** into communities with the highest levels of need.



Increasing the pool of evidence on the effectiveness of investment into CVI and violence prevention in making communities safer.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION