

HAZLETON INTEGRATION PROJECT (HIP)

Building a Safer Hazleton Through Prevention

Executive Summary by Rossanna Gabriel, Executive Director

Hazleton continues to grow in population, businesses, and diversity. Available data indicate that our overall crime rate compares well with many communities of similar size. As our city grows, we have an opportunity to strengthen public safety by investing in prevention, supporting victims, and creating opportunities for children, youth, and families.

What We Recommend:

Invest in Prevention: Continue Supporting organizations that offer after-school and summer programs, sports, mentoring, leadership development, workforce readiness, and family support services that help young people build positive futures.

Expand Mental Health Services: Increase access to counseling, trauma-informed care, and substance use prevention programs for children, youth, and families.

Improve Access to Victim Services: Many comprehensive victim services are located outside of Hazleton. Expand local services, bilingual assistance, and transportation support so every victim can receive timely help.

Strengthen Community Partnerships: Encourage collaboration among schools, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, businesses, faith communities, and local government to coordinate prevention efforts.

Continue Building Community Trust: Promote multilingual services and strengthening relationships between residents and public institutions so victims feel safe reporting crimes and seeking assistance.

*The safest communities are not only those that respond to crime. Also those that

invest in prevention, strengthen families, support victims, and provide young people with opportunities to succeed.

Some possible Priorities

- Increase funding for community-based youth prevention programs.
- Expand mental health and substance use prevention services.
- Improve access to bilingual victim services and transportation assistance.
- Support partnerships that address the root causes of crime through education, mentoring, recreation, and family support.

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