# SCC-PG: Building Community Response to Violence through the Rokwire Smart **City Platform**

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#### Introduction

Violence-prevention software is often created without collaborating with communities in which they are intended to serve. Unlike many other violenceprevention technologies, we work extensively with the community to hear their concerns and stories, and to-create technology to fit their needs.

• Q: How can we use a smart city platform - Rokwire - that is effective at reducing community violence?

Technology privacy model needs to be extended to cover cases where data are accessed and analyzed for research or for community needs.

- Q: How can we create an opensource framework that others can easily use to modularly build civic applications?
- Q: How can we borrow from web 3.0 concepts to develop a community sustained system of engagement and development?

#### **Intellectual Merit**

- Efforts allow researchers to focus on social science issues, such as how best to design smartphone apps to reduce violence, as well as technological issues, such as how to assure data privacy.
- These efforts represent a testbed to help facilitate Rokwire's use in communities, thus greatly enhancing the potential for researchers to address questions of violence reduction best addressed at scale
- The Rokwire platform will eventually be used to address other key issues for both communities and researchers to improve individual quality of life and community wellbeing.

### **Step 1: Initial Outreach and Problem Scoping**

We took a listen-first approach to understand the community's experiences and to design technology that fit the community's needs.

## **Step 2: Iterative Workshopping**

Working with key community partners, we hosted a series of user experience co-creation workshops to develop the technology's features and keep the community's needs at the center of the app creation process.

# **Step 3: Application Feature Development**



#### 2022 S&CC Principal Investigators' Meeting









## **Broader Impacts & Sustainability**

- Social: The project plans to reduce gun violence by supporting community mentorship, via a) increasing the reach and efficacy of trusted community mentors, b) celebrating positive youth stories, and c) providing a frictionless tool for community-engaged violence interruption.
- Technological: we will develop a technology infrastructure (e.g., using web 3.0 concepts) to empower communities to "own" their technology and be sovereigns of their data.
- Scale up to additional and similar community-building violence interrupters in the Champaign, IL area, and eventually to partners in Peoria IL, Chicago, IL, and Sacramento, CA.

#### **Next Steps**

- Conduct a broad community-survey to evaluate the community-wide utility of the features sets created.
- User experience test the technology to create a highly functional and userfriendly application that can help build community and reduce crime.
- Scaling and sustainability planning



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