



Community Violence Intervention Leadership Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find the application for the CVILA?

The application is available [here](#).

2. What is the application deadline?

The deadline to apply to join Cohort 3 or Cohort 5 is August 30, 2024.

3. What is the timeframe for Cohort 3? For Cohort 5?

Cohort 3 will run from December 2024 to April 2025. Cohort 5 will run from January 2026 to May 2026.

4. Why can't I select which cohort I want to apply for specifically? Can I express a preference between Cohort 3 or Cohort 5?

Because there is more interest in the CVILA than we can accommodate, and a research design that requires us to randomly assign applications between cohorts, we are not able to accommodate preferences. If you are admitted and have an extenuating circumstance that prevents you from participating in the cohort you were invited to, please let the program team know right away and we will work with you as best we can.

5. If I am not admitted, can I apply multiple times?

Yes! We like to celebrate growth! If you were previously denied admission, we encourage you to apply again.

6. I am not sure if my role qualifies as a senior or executive leader. How does the CVILA define senior or executive leader?

We assess leadership based on the person's ability to make and influence strategic decisions within their organization. Senior and executive leaders often have oversight of budgets, human resources management, fundraising, external engagement with decision-makers, and organizational policy development.

7. Are applicants required to live in Chicago to be eligible?

No, applicants are not required to live in Chicago to be eligible. We consider applicants from across the United States and the Caribbean.

8. Are there priority considerations for certain cities?

No. To date, leaders from 32 different localities have participated in the CVILA – including rural, urban, mid-sized and large cities. With each cohort we are looking to expand the diversity of localities represented.

9. Is my organization still eligible to apply if its operating budget is below \$300,000?

We recognize there are impactful organizations whose budgets are below \$300,000. We encourage you to apply if you feel you meet the majority of the eligibility and selection criteria.



10. Does the CVILA conduct site visits as a part of the application process?

Admission is based on an applicant's response to the application questions, their letter of recommendation, and insight from references. If the CVILA team is in your city, we'd be happy to visit your program, but a site visit is not a requirement in the application process.

11. Is there a specific template for the letter of recommendation?

No, there is no specific template for the letter of recommendation. Recommenders should highlight the applicant's qualifications, impact in their community, and share specific examples of leadership.

12. What are some examples of capstone projects from past cohorts?

Students have developed capstones on topics such as building a state-level data infrastructure for CVI monitoring and decision-making, launching a radio program to elevate the voices of CVI leaders, and identifying risk mitigation models to motivate investment into grassroots CVI organizations.

13. Are the monthly advisor meetings virtual or are they built into the schedule during the in-person sessions?

Advisors and students arrange meetings based on their availability. Meetings are typically virtual. If a student is matched with an advisor in or near your city, we encourage in-person meetings where possible.