

Defund CPD statement:

At Alternatives we uplift the power of healing individuals, restoring communities, and transforming systems. As an organization that has existed in Chicago for half a century and provides Restorative Justice and Behavioral Health services to primarily Black and Brown youth, Alternatives knows that the Chicago Police Department doesn't contribute towards the safety and wellbeing of the young people we serve. Nonetheless, last year, 39% of Chicago's city budget was allocated to the CPD. This is the highest percentage of a city budget allocated towards a police department in the entire country. To be clear, this comes out to \$1,556,686,263 of tax payer dollars spent on policing. This is why we support the disinvestment and reallocation of funding from CPD to resources that actually support our communities. As supporters of Chicago's young people, we demand that our local officials stop allocating funds for the militarization, expansion of, and surveillance by the police force and instead invest in community-run and school-based restorative justice and mental health programs.

Black Lives Matter Chicago has called for the “immediate disinvestment in CPD,” and we stand with Black Lives Matter Chicago in the demand for more resources for schools and youth.

- Fund community resources, infrastructure, and violence interruption jobs by laying off cops
- Do not use COVID relief funds for CPD or banks
- Cancel Chicago's contract with ShotSpotter and redirect the money to the Peace Book & Community Restoration Ordinance
- End all closed door negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

This is what we mean by “defund the police.”

Additional Resources:

<https://www.thecut.com/2020/06/what-does-defund-the-police-mean-the-phrase-explained.html>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/15/what-it-actually-means-to-defund-the-police.html>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/calls-reform-defund->