



## Background

The **National TenPoint Training Institute** offers the training and technical assistance necessary to empower institutions and organizations of faith to establish local TenPoint Coalitions. Coalitions become invaluable partners in the pursuit of justice and safer communities. Using its proven strategy, the Institute provides a ten-point plan for clergy and lay people, law enforcement agencies, criminal justice officials and youth service providers to collaborate in reducing black on black youth crime..

The **TenPoint** strategy and demonstration model is based upon the *TenPoint Plan to Mobilize the Churches* authored by Eugene F. Rivers III in 1991. Since its inception, the plan has resulted in over 25 years of successful work with high risk youth resulting in well-documented replication and crime reduction outcomes in key locations throughout the U.S.

In 1999, the **TenPoint** model was recognized for its success in Boston, Massachusetts, the initial launch site, as a *Promising Strategy to Reduce Gun Violence* by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Most recently in 2017, the plan was again recognized by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, DC, for collaboration and significant crime reduction results achieved using the model as executed by the work of the Indianapolis TenPoint Coalition slated for replication by the state's Attorney General throughout Indiana.

Several core principles undergird the successful implementation and sustainability of the **TenPoint model**, the most essential of which is the collaboration between clergy and law enforcement agencies.

*Being there* explains the powerful lure of gangs. According to a local drug lord, "When Johnny goes to school in the morning, I'm here, you're not... I win, you lose." Being there provides an alternative to gangs, a central principle of the **TenPoint model** and implementation training.

Each local **TenPoint site** provides a safe, orderly and clean *sanctuary* from violence and other negative inner-city environmental pressures.

The staff of each local **TenPoint Coalition** maintains *high expectations* for the behavior and achievements of the youth they serve and for themselves as role models. Leaders and participants in each coalition are dedicated and committed to collaboration and measurable results.

The **TenPoint model builds upon individual strengths** which recognize that youth, their families and their community have abilities and resources that can enhance their own well-being. Programming in local **TenPoint Coalitions** seek to realize this potential.

A *variety of programming* options are available to target at- and high risk youth is served by local **TenPoint Coalitions**. These programs are adaptive to neighborhood dynamics and may include sports activities, cultural-based and transformational mentoring in black history, court advocacy, prison re-entry programs, etc.

Local **TenPoint Coalitions** vigorously **reject violence**. Participation by youth and ex-offenders is not unconditional. Each site implements integrates principles of non-violence, mobilization and intervention which deals severely with perpetrators of violence and threats to public safety.

## PRIORITIES

The **National TenPoint Training Institute** places great priority upon bridging divides which may threaten public safety and trust between those who serve and are served. The Institute further believes that positive youth development is critical for African American youth as they navigate through a social, political, and historical landscape grounded in systemic inequities and racism. Understanding these variables, the **National TenPoint Training Institute**, and thus, its plan is uniquely qualified to negotiate collaboration and transformation between:

- Inner-city churches and institutions of faith which seek to be a catalyst to build community trust with law enforcement
- Concerned adults and alienated youth
- Different gangs, neighborhoods and cultures

## Getting Involved

Faith-based or law enforcement organizations interested in exploring a relationship with the National TenPoint Training Institute may request a visit by Reverend Eugene F. Rivers III. A series of training visits and seminars, run by institute staff may be arranged for coalitions of churches or law enforcement agencies interested in joining the national network.

### **National TenPoint Training Institute**

welcomes the involvement of any church that:

1. Shares the values and goals of the **TenPoint model**
2. Believes it could benefit from the guidance and experience offered by the Institute, and
3. Is committed to combining its efforts with those of other local churches and faith communities to develop a functioning coalition.

## PREREQUISITES

### **Institute Training and Technical Assistance**

Each potential **TenPoint Plan** site begins with on-site visitation and infrastructure assessment. Subsequent training and support include but is not limited to conference planning and hosting, consulting, seminars and workshops, and experiential learning.

### **Non-Discrimination**

**TenPoint Coalitions** serve the entire spectrum of the local community and all its high-risk youth, regardless of their religious belief, affiliation or other differences.

Coalitions of churches that establish a formal long-term relationship with the Institute and demonstrate the following characteristics will be eligible to become affiliates:

- A commitment to working with high-risk youth and young adults
- The potential to engage churches, law enforcement agencies and youth in a collaborative effort to reduce youth violence
- A commitment to implementing at least one of the first three points in the **TenPoint Plan** and to expanding implementation as the organization grows.
- A commitment to being in compliance with Memorandum of Agreement with the Institute

The **National TenPoint Training Institute** is a program of the Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies.

Please email [president@nafj.org](mailto:president@nafj.org) for further details.