



# NORTHEAST OHIO GUN SAFETY COALITION



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2026**

## **Academy of Medicine Education Foundation Receives Historic \$300,000 Grant from Begun Foundation for Violence Prevention**

Largest grant in Foundation history will expand hospital-based violence intervention programs at MetroHealth and University Hospitals

CLEVELAND, Ohio — The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation announced today that it has received a transformational \$300,000 grant from the Semi J. and Ruth W. Begun Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, the largest single grant in the organization’s history. The funding will go to members of the organization’s Northeast Ohio Gun Safety Coalition.

Specifically, the funding will support violence interrupters working directly in the emergency departments of Cleveland’s Level 1 trauma centers at MetroHealth and University Hospitals. The initiative is designed to intervene at the critical moment when victims of violence enter the healthcare system, helping prevent retaliation, reduce repeat violent injuries, and connect patients with community-based support services.

Violence interrupters are trained community members who work alongside healthcare providers to de-escalate conflicts, provide immediate emotional support, and guide patients toward long-term resources such as counseling, housing assistance, education, and employment opportunities.

“This historic investment represents a major step forward in addressing violence as a public health issue,” said Jen Johns, MPH, the Executive Director of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), “By placing violence interrupters directly in trauma centers, we can meet victims at one of the most vulnerable moments in their lives and help break cycles of violence before they continue.”

Cleveland Peacemakers Inc., will be responsible for identifying the hospital responders funded by the grant. “Cleveland Peacemakers Inc. is grateful for the generous gift from the Begun Foundation and is excited to leverage these funds to strengthen and expand our

efforts to build safer communities and decrease gun violence, by engaging young people at a pivotal time, through our Hospital Responders. These resources will ensure that our organization will be able to provide this critical service in partnership with both MetroHealth and University Hospitals,” said Kevin McDaniel, interim Executive Director.

The program will strengthen collaboration between healthcare systems and community violence prevention organizations, creating a coordinated response focused on healing, prevention, and long-term recovery.

Hospital-based violence intervention programs have demonstrated meaningful impact across the country, and this initiative will help save lives while strengthening communities.

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation supports programs and partnerships that improve community health outcomes, advance medical education, and address critical public health challenges throughout Northeast Ohio.

The new initiative is expected to launch this fall and will serve patients and families affected by violence across the region for a two-year period.

**Media Contact:**

Jen Johns, MPH

[Jjohns@amcno.org](mailto:Jjohns@amcno.org)

216-520-1000