Leadership, Intervention, & Change (LINC) program is a group/gang and violence desistance program. LINC works to serve youth and families in Seattle and South King County.

Since 2015, the LINC program has served over 570 young people in King County who are gang involved. Over one third of all LINC clients reduce gang activity/association, obtain employment, improve school attendance and school performance, and complete probation or other court ordered activity. 80% of LINC youth make progress towards completing their goals.

OJJDP CGM Core Strategies

In 2021, the LINC program served 133 participants between the ages of 14 and 24.

To reduce gang-related violence in King County and improve outcomes for young people who are group/gang-involved, LINC uses the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM).

The five OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM) core strategies provide an evidence-based structure for LINC’s collaborative regional approach.

The CGM was developed and refined in culturally diverse communities and has been implemented, evaluated, and tested across the U.S. since the 1990s. Its implementation has resulted in a reduction in gang-related violence and increases in pro-social outcomes for gang-involved individuals.
LINC’s regional adaptation of the CGM in King County has **three primary components:**

**Steering Committee**
The LINC Steering Committee oversees the implementation of the CGM in King County and collectively strategizes how to best support young people, removing barriers through legislative and policy reform and collaborative planning for future support of youth and families.

**Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Teams (MDITs)**
MDITs include regional agencies, community partners, and the Lead Agency: Center for Children & Youth Justice. A third-party independent evaluator provides monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance support.

"[We are] openly having a dialogue about 'what's in the best interest for this kid and how can we help get this kid to a better place, and a lot of these young men and women are amazing people who have stubbed their toe, and they need that help, and this program seems to be the best way to move forward with a plan that works."

– Chief Ted Boe, Co-Chair

**The LINC program focuses on fulfilling both short-term and long-term goals.**

**Short Term, LINC:**
- Creates individualized intervention plans with input from youth who are gang/group-involved
- Engages youth who are gang/group-involved in direct services to address their specific needs
- Connects youth and their families with services to support their needs and safety

**Long Term, LINC:**
- Improves coordination of agencies serving youth who are gang/group-involved
- Leverages existing resources to better serve youth who are gang/group-involved
- Reduces gang/group-related violence in the community
- Supports all five Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM) core strategies
- Creates systemic and community-wide change to reduce gang/group involvement
- Improves outcomes for youth and families

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