

COMMUNITY RESPONDER PILOT PROGRAM

Community responders are unarmed, civilian first responders who respond immediately, in person, to non-emergency health and social needs in the community without the police.

SERVICES

- Wellness checks
- Mental and emotional support
- De-escalation
- Connection to resources
- Community building



RESPONDERS

Responders are certified Community Health Workers (CHW) from the community, with backup support provided by licensed health professionals when needed.



WHEN & WHERE

The pilot will serve the 14208 zip code, and will initially operate 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. We anticipate launching the pilot in 2026.



GET INVOLVED

Live in 14208? We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think and join in:



communityresponders4ec@gmail.com



www.buffaloresponders.com



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY RESPONDER COALITION

Over 80% of 911 calls in Buffalo and 95% of calls in Erie County are not about crime or violence. Yet, police are often dispatched by default. Community responders have the time, skills, and credibility to provide a safer and more effective response, which in turn frees traditional responders to focus on their mission.



OUR MISSION

We are individuals and organizations dedicated to bringing community responders to Erie County and ensuring their success as an equal branch of the first response system.

OUR VISION

One day community responders will respond to every eligible call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, anywhere in Erie County, in 30 minutes or less, and will be accessible through every hotline (211, 311, 988, 911) and a direct phone number.



OUR VALUES

Community responders must be:

- Peer-driven & person-centered
- Culturally reflective
- Consent-based
- Timely
- Well-resourced
- Self-determined



COALITION MEMBERS

Bethel AME Church, Buffalo Center for Health Equity, Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition, Evergreen Health, Little People's Victory, Partnership for the Public Good, Peaceprints of WNY, VOICE Buffalo