

PROGRAM ABSTRACT

NAME OF PROGRAM: New, Innovative Crime Reduction

FUNDING AVAILABLE: To Be Announced

ELIGIBILITY: Units of State and Local Government

PROBLEM STATEMENT

West Virginia has had an emergent trend of chronic drug and violent crime threats plaguing communities across the state. It is becoming increasingly apparent that current enforcement and prevention efforts are not enough to slow these increasing problems. In order to get ahead of crime problems in West Virginia, law enforcement, along with community partners, must begin to look at new, and innovative ideas, incorporating evidence based practices, to make the mountain state a safer place for all who reside here.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

A new, innovative program require a cross-sector partnership, so that it includes both system-based (law enforcement) partners and community-based (schools, faith-based organizations, community groups, victim services) partners. The program will focus on developing and implementing new strategies to prevent and respond to emerging drug and violent crime problems in the state.

Goal

Projects will specifically target persistently distressed neighborhoods that have significant crime challenges that generate a significant proportion of crime or type of crime within the community impeding broader neighborhood development goals. Through data supported, evidence based practices, the program will look at new and innovative ways to address the crimes in that specified area, including a piece for offender reentry and/or in instances of non-violent offenders, alternatives for diversion are offered such as drug court or alternatives to detention.

Objectives

1. Direct resources to a specifically targeted, persistently distressed neighborhood that has significant crime challenges which generate a significant proportion of crime or type of crime within the community impeding broader neighborhood development goals

2. Utilize data supported, evidence based strategies which have not been previously implemented in West Virginia, and can be easily replicated.
3. Utilize cross-sector partnerships, between community and system based groups, to more effectively address crime problems in the targeted sector.
4. Include an offender reentry component and/or in instances of non-violent offenders, alternatives for diversion are offered such as drug court or alternatives to detention

Activities

While enforcement resources are always in limited supply, current fiscal conditions in West Virginia have rendered these resources scarcer than ever. The sharing and efficient management of those resources available is, therefore, critical to the success of this program. Key elements are as follows:

1. The use of clearly defined criteria to identify, select, and prioritize target area.
2. Forming collaborative partnerships, which is defined as the coming together of multi-disciplinary groups to focus on a specific project where effective implementation involves all identified partners.
3. Offering community drug education.
4. Resource sharing through all available means with all project partners.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM POLICIES AS SET FORTH THE JAG ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

1. Grants will be awarded with a 25% matching requirement. Match must be a cash match.
2. All projects must reapply each year in the competitive application process.
3. Personnel

Personnel positions will only be reimbursed at annual entry level salary and benefits up to a maximum of \$28,000 per position. Grantees must certify what entry level is for their department.

Applicants requesting a full-time officer's position must be prepared to hire an additional officer to "backfill" the vacated position. Reimbursement for salary expenses will begin once the grant position is backfilled. Backfill is not required for non-profit organizations.

Overtime will be available for full-time drug officers in situations where the department is picking up the salary expenses. Overtime is not available for part-time drug officers.

Applications for the New, Innovative Crime Reduction programs will only be eligible if projects include positions, either requested or budgeted, for both law enforcement and community based partners. Application without both sectors represented will not be considered.

4. Organization

Each project must have a control board whose membership shall be made up of the head of each agency involved in the project or his designee.

Control boards must meet at least quarterly and minutes shall be kept of these meetings and forwarded to the Division of Justice and Community Services with the regular monthly progress reports. July, August and September will be Quarter 1, October, November and December will be Quarter 2, and so on. At least one control board meeting must be held during this time frame. If control board meeting minutes are not submitted to DJCS by the end of the month, then the month's reimbursement shall be forfeited. Funds will be forfeited as long as the control board meeting minutes are delinquent. If the control board meeting is not held during one quarter, then the next quarter the control board must hold two meetings (one of which must be held in the first month of the quarter) and provide minutes from both in order to prevent an interruption in reimbursement. These forfeited monies will be deobligated and **cannot** be recouped at any time.

DJCS REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All projects must:

- Submit monthly progress reports detailing progress and activities during the month.
- Submit monthly financial reports detailing expenditures during the month.
- Submit quarterly progress report summarizing the overall achievements of the reporting period.
- Submit annual progress report summarizing the overall achievements of the project.

DJCS will conduct at least one on-site monitoring visit to examine overall activities and a report will be issued on the findings/recommendations. Projects will be monitored more often if problems develop.