

# **BYRNE/JAG AUTHORIZED PURPOSE AREA #1.**

## **Prevention and Education**

### **Program Title: Community Crime Prevention**

#### ***A. Problem Statement***

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's official crime statistics known as TIBRS (Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System), a significant increase in violent and drug crime occurred between 2001 and 2005. During this five (5) year period, weapons related offenses rose 20% while drug violations rose 45%. Also, over this five-year period, crimes against the person rose 12%. Solutions are being sought at the state and community levels. Although no city or county is immune to violence, the problem is most acute in our largest cities. Efforts are being made to present coordinated and cooperative programs to address every facet of the drug and violent crime problem in our communities.

#### ***B. Program Description***

The projects funded in this program area seek to develop and empower community partnerships through enhanced police leadership, and the establishment of projects that implement high quality police services. The partnership concept is central to the effective implementation of this program, which is designed to increase public awareness of criminal activities, their causes, and possible solutions. Projects would target the general population via mass media and/or public service announcements, or specific segments of the population, such as women, at risk youth, or the elderly.

#### ***C. Program Goals and Objectives***

**Goal 1:** Improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by bolstering the relationship between law enforcement and the community, thereby controlling crime and reducing victimization.

**Goal 2:** Reduce incidents of crime and victimization by increasing community awareness of criminal activities, their causes, and possible solutions.

**Goal 3:** Reduce the incidents of criminal activity in high crime areas by focusing on youthful offenders and at-risk youth.

**Objective 1.1.** Increase community access to police through the operation of on-site precincts in high crime and/or densely populated low-income communities. These officers will work in partnership with Neighborhood Watch programs to ensure the safety of their neighborhood. Additionally, law enforcement will partner with other units of local government or community agencies to implement innovative approaches to reduce crime.

**Objective 2.1.** Increase communities' awareness of criminal activities and their willingness to collaborate with law enforcement through the use of training and/or education programs aimed at the general public.

**Objective 3.1.** Divert at-risk youth from criminal activity and increase their ability to succeed as adults without becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

#### ***D. Activities***

Negotiate with housing authorities or landlords to provide space for a community substation. This places officers closer to the people they serve, reduces response time, and reduces residents' fear of crime. It further fosters the "partnership" concept, and enables residents to feel a part of a visible, active "team effort" in controlling crime.

Conduct community forums to gauge the knowledge and desire of the citizens to learn about the causes of drug and violent crimes. Organized meetings will identify problems, goals, objectives, and a plan to meet the needs of the community. Law enforcement will make efforts to bring city/county representatives of services to the neighborhood. Partner with or contract with various media outlets (radio, television, newspaper, etc...) for public service ads that address pertinent issues.

Support in-school and after-school programs that target diverting at-risk youth from criminal activity. Programs such as G.R.E.A.T., D.A.R.E.; and mentoring programs such as Explorer POSTs and others have been identified as effective. Create and support other programs that assist in preventing or minimizing victimization. Make age and content-appropriate presentations at schools or after school programs to identify the risks associated with criminal behavior and/or drug use.

#### ***E. Performance Measures***

**Measure 1.1.1.** The number of officers assigned to high crime and/or low-income densely populated housing projects during each fiscal year of implementation.

**Measure 1.1.2.** The number of substations for police officers that will be developed.

**Measure 1.1.3.** Completed surveys reflect citizen satisfaction with police/community partnership initiatives and expressed reduced fears of assault, burglary, or vandalism.

**Measure 1.1.4.** Areas receiving additional officers and/or new substations will experience a decrease in the number of burglaries, assaults, and vandalism incidents. This decrease will be measured by comparing frequency of these offenses from the previous fiscal year with those during the year of grant implementation.

**Measure 2.1.1.** Residents of the project's target area indicate in surveys that they perceive positive changes in the frequency of burglaries, assaults and vandalism.

**Measure 2.1.2.** Residents of the project's target area indicate in surveys that they perceive positive changes in their levels of fear of crime.

**Measure 2.1.2.** Project reports the formation of a broad-based community organization.

**Measure 2.1.3.** The number of training or education programs conducted.

**Measure 2.1.4.** Number of attendees at presentations or meetings for the general public.

**Measure 3.1.1.** Increase in the number of students receiving anti-drug/violence/gang instruction.

**Measure 3.1.2.** Increase the overall Grade Point Averages of students trained under the project.

**Measure 3.1.3.** Participating students indicate that involvement with the project helped them increase their leadership skills or other skills for adult living without becoming involved with the criminal justice system.

### ***F. Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods***

Projects funded through this program must:

- Collect all data on participants needed to report implementation of the key project components and the required performance measures for projects of this type.
- Annual reports will be used to analyze effectiveness of the program.
- Collect and report statistics and anecdotal data to be available for replication of the program.
- Projects must adhere to the activities spelled out in contract narratives, and in OCJP's and BJA's program requirements; they will be monitored for compliance.
- Data must be collected and reported for use in program evaluation to determine need for expansion or modification of the program.
- All projects funded will receive on-site monitoring visits at least two times per year.