

PROGRAM NARRATIVE AND IDENTIFIERS

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

The County of Kent, Michigan and the City of Grand Rapids (City) are submitting a joint application for FFY 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds. It has been agreed that Kent County will receive \$55,830 and the City will receive \$55,829 for projects. It was further agreed that the City will administer the grant award and retain the allowable ten (10) percent for administrative costs.

The Kent County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) and the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) are both NIBRS compliant. Documentation of compliance are included in this application.

The following information describes the City’s proposal to support a neighborhood-based public safety program with these funds, and Kent County’s intent to purchase software to improve its Internal Investigations process and departmental transparency.

	1) Neighborhood-Based Public Safety	2) Internal Investigations Software
Targeted Population:	City of Grand Rapids General Target Area where at least 51% of residents have low-to moderate-incomes.	County of Kent
Goals:	To increase public safety in neighborhoods	To improve the Internal Investigations process
Strategies:	Community organizing and education including organization of block clubs, neighborhood watch, home security surveys, and distribution of crime alert materials. Organizers will work closely with neighborhood residents, Community Police Officers and Police Captains.	The Kent County Sheriff’s Office will purchase software (including training and software support) allowing for standardized processes and reports for citizen complaints and use of force reviews. A central database will enable improved and accurate data analysis, monitoring for early interventions, and improved transparency.
Identifiers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Based Programs • Crime Prevention • Education • Environmental Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Software/Hardware • Equipment - General • Law Enforcement Professionalism • System Improvements

Neighborhood-Based Public Safety

Subawardees of the City of Grand Rapids will be identified through the City Community Development Department’s annual funding process. Agencies apply for funding and applications are reviewed by the City Commission funding review committee. Awards are approved by the City Commission. JAG funds will be used to support the City’s Neighborhood Investment Plan outcome of increasing civic engagement and public safety. The application for funding will be released January 2021. Recommendations will be made in late March or early April with final awards being approved in May 2021. The period of performance for subawards under the FFY 2020 JAG award will be July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Internal Investigations Software

There are no subawardees.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**Neighborhood-Based Public Safety**

In 2016, Kent County, the City of Grand Rapids and the City of Wyoming worked together to develop a Regional Consolidated Housing and Community Development (HCD) Plan for FY 2016-2020 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021). The five-year strategy provides the basis for assessing performance and tracking results in meeting the goals of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Public input on housing and community development needs to inform development of the FFY 2016 – 2020 Regional Consolidated Plan was gathered through multiple means. Nine different focus groups were conducted during July and August of 2015. A survey that was distributed in electronic and hard copy format, in both English and Spanish, received 1,970 responses from residents throughout Kent County between August 3, 2015 and September 3, 2015. A public hearing on housing and community development needs was held before the Grand Rapids City Commission on September 8, 2015. In addition to public notices in the Grand Rapids Press (daily general circulation paper), The Grand Rapids Times (an African-American weekly paper), and El Vocero Hispano (a Hispanic weekly paper), an email invitation for comment was extended to all current City subrecipients/contractors and to other City partners. Kent County and the cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming held a joint 30-day public comment period on the full draft FFY 2016 – FFY 2020 Housing and Community Development Plan from December 16, 2015 – January 14, 2016. Each jurisdiction held a separate public hearing for citizen input. A hearing was held before the Grand Rapids City Commission on January 12, 2016. The HCD Plan identifies the goal of *increasing civic engagement and public safety*. This goal supports quality of life and sense of community in neighborhoods by decreasing or preventing crime. Crime Prevention Education and Neighborhood Organizing were both identified as high priority needs in the cities of Wyoming and Grand Rapids.

Neighborhood improvement activities are also supported by the City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Neighborhood-Based Public Safety program is coordinated through the Grand Rapids Police Department which employs an individual responsible for training neighborhood association Crime Prevention Organizers and monitoring activities. Funding for the position at the Police Department is provided through the City's General Operating Fund.

Internal Investigations Software

The Kent County Sheriff's Department determines funding priorities annually by analyzing gaps in resources and technology.

The KCSO employs over 650 employees. Due to the large number of personnel responsible for covering a highly populated jurisdiction, the KCSO receives citizen complaints and investigates complaints against deputies routinely. These investigations include citizen complaints, use of force reviews, pursuit reviews, Prison Rape Elimination Action (PREA), inmate complaints, jail death complaints and other policy compliance reviews.

The KCSO has been known as an area innovator for technology, implementing numerous software programs to streamline processes throughout the county. Over the past several years the KCSO has initiated several new software systems including an electronic warrant process, records management system, in car camera system, personnel scheduling system, CAD dispatching software, fingerprint scanning system, electronic ticketing system, and new investigative database system.

The need to implement an improved procedure for Internal Investigations has been identified. The current process for assigning and tracking internal investigations is outdated and not capable of running analytic reports. The lack of sufficient software proves difficult to identify early intervention opportunities and address employee needs. Citizen complaints are handled and investigated in several different fashions and filed in several different locations depending on the severity and outcome of the investigation.

The purchase of Internal Investigations software would modernize the citizen complaint process and allow for more accurate reporting of complaints against KCSO personnel. This software would allow complaints at all levels to be investigated and stored in a central database, providing for accurate data mining and early intervention where necessary. This software would also standardize the investigation processes and reports.

Use of Force incidents would also be reported, stored, and easily accessed in this software. This, too, would allow for early intervention if a problem area or employee were identified. The use of force information would be easily assessable and allow reports to be run to improve transparency and reporting.

Therefore, it is the KCSO’s intent to purchase Internal Investigations software, on-site training and two years of software support for approximately \$59,000.

CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

The City’s Neighborhood-Based Public Safety program is a collaboration between the Community Development Department and the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD). Staff of each neighborhood association complete training on crime prevention and organizing techniques through the GRPD. Staff at GRPD provide continued training and programming for neighborhood associations on a variety of public safety topics.

The Kent County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) is responsible for law enforcement services in a geographic area that includes most of the population of Kent County, the fourth largest county in Michigan. In addition to its primary patrol duties, the KCSO routinely deploys specialty units to assist other municipal public safety agencies within Kent County. KCSO is also responsible for court security, corrections, 911 dispatching, and community policing. These collaborations inform funding priorities of the KCSO.

PLAN FOR COLLECTING THE DATA REQUIRED FOR THIS SOLICITATION’S PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Neighborhood–Based Public Safety

This project is a partnership among the City of Grand Rapids (Congressional District 3) and approximately two (2) local neighborhood associations to increase neighborhood safety through community organizing and education techniques. Public Safety activities include but are not limited to organizing block clubs and neighborhood watch, conducting home security surveys, preparing and distributing crime alert materials, and identifying and resolving public safety issues. These neighborhood associations are Michigan nonprofit corporations employing Crime Prevention Organizers who work closely with neighborhood residents, Community Police Officers and geographically assigned Police Captains.

Project Outcome: Increase Public Safety		
Output or Indicator	Examples of Activities	Plans for Data Collection and Documentation
Output 1: 350 people will receive training on personal safety and/or safety design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted safety training for groups or individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training agenda that includes date and location of the training ▪ Sign-in sheets

features and practices for their homes (home security survey, CPTED).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In-home safety assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report for home training with name(s) of residents, address, and description of safety features discussed
Indicator 1a: 250 people will report feeling safer in their home or community as a result of the training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted safety training for groups or individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Household survey ▪ Training Evaluation (was the training useful, does the individual feel more prepared, does the individual feel safer as a result of the training, etc.)
Indicator 1b: 100 housing units will receive safety improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hedges/shrubs trimmed to improve visibility ▪ Security lighting installed ▪ Window pins installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report, complete with name(s) of residents, address, and description of safety improvements put into place ▪ Before and after photographs
Output 2: 100 people, businesses, or organizations will be educated on public safety design features and practices for non-residential and public spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational trainings pertaining to non-residential and public spaces safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training agenda ▪ Sign-in sheets ▪ Written report for training, complete with name(s) of people, businesses, or organizations, and description of safety design features discussed
Indicator 2: 60 locations where public safety design features or practices will be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New neighborhood watch program implemented ▪ Business security surveillance system installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written statement (e.g., letter, email) from resident, business owner or police department that design feature or practice put into place ▪ Before and after photographs
Output 3: 50 significant public safety issues (e.g. gangs, drug sales) will be identified in the neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drug sales, gang violence, and domestic terrorism ▪ Significant housing code violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written statement from the police department ▪ Copy of police report
Indicator 3: 30 significant public safety issues will be resolved successfully for at least six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perpetrator incarceration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained file detailing the initial report, quarterly progress, and a 6-month report ▪ Written statement from resident, business owner or police department

Subawardees of the City of Grand Rapids are required to report quarterly on the performance measures identified in their agreement with the City. They provide narrative around the work they have completed that quarter and include examples of both successes and challenges faced. In addition to the outcomes outlined in their agreement, they also complete a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Supplemental Performance Report. This report is also collected quarterly and includes the same information collected through the BJA Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). City staff review reported information and submit reports quarterly through the PMT.

Internal Investigations Software

The KCSO’s will provide necessary documentation to the City for reporting purposes.

Outputs:

- Purchase and installation of new Internal Investigations software, measured by the paid invoice.
- # of staff trained on new software, measured by a sign-in sheet.

Outcomes:

- Standardized and centralized Internal Investigations
- Accurate tracking and reporting
- Increased Department transparency
- Early Intervention areas identified and addressed