

**ATTACHMENT 1
PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

The County of Kent, Michigan (Kent County), and the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan (City), are submitting a joint application for FFY 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds. It has been agreed that Kent County will receive \$88,439, and the City will receive \$88,438 for projects. It was further agreed that the City will administer the grant award and retain the allowable ten (10) percent for administrative costs (\$19,653).

The following information describes the City's proposal to support a neighborhood-based public safety program and Kent County's intent to purchase audiovisual and technology equipment to enhance capabilities of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Kent County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) which serves as a coordination center for disaster and emergency response.

	1) Neighborhood-Based Public Safety	2) Audiovisual and Technology Equipment – EOC
Targeted Population	The City of Grand Rapids Community Development Target Area, where at least 55% of residents have low- to moderate incomes.	All residents and visitors who utilize areas within the County of Kent.
Goals	To increase public safety in neighborhoods.	To enhance the capabilities of the KCSO EOC to connect command staff and external partner agencies simultaneously, enhance situational awareness, and support real-time information sharing and decision making.
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 and the Grand Rapids Police Department.	Acquisition of advanced audiovisual equipment and technology supplies for the EOC, including integrated video display systems and secure conferencing platforms with real-time data-sharing capabilities, for the purpose enhancing public safety.

Neighborhood-Based Public Safety

Subrecipients 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 workgroup. Awards are approved by the City Commission. JAG funds will be used to support the City's Neighborhood

Investment Plan outcome of improving neighborhood safety. The application for funding was released in February 2026. Recommendations will be made in late March with final awards approved in May 2026. The period of performance for subawards under the FFY 2025 JAG award will be July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Audiovisual and Technology Equipment – EOC

There are no subrecipients.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Neighborhood-Based Public Safety

The FY 2027 – 2031 (FFY 2026 – 2030) Consolidated Housing and Community Development (HCD) Plan, also known as the “Consolidated Plan,” serves as the City of Grand Rapids’ strategic framework for housing and community development investment over a five-year timeframe. Public input on housing and community development needs to inform the HCD Plan was gathered through multiple means. Engagement included five (5) topic-specific focus groups, a survey in English and Spanish, a public hearing on housing and community development needs, public notices in the Grand Rapids Press and El Vocero Hispano, as well as an email invitation for comment to all current City subrecipients and other interested parties. Additionally, the City of Grand Rapids held a 30-day public comment period on the full draft HCD Plan, including a public hearing for community input. The HCD Plan identifies eight (8) outcome areas centered on decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanded economic opportunities. Outcome seven (7), “Improve neighborhood safety”, specifically focuses on supporting efforts that enhance resident safety and quality of life in neighborhoods.

The City intends to utilize \$88,438 from the grant to support neighborhood safety, community organizing, and public safety education at approximately three (3) local neighborhood associations. Neighborhood improvement activities are also supported by the City of Grand Rapids Community Development Department (CDD) 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.

Audiovisual and Technology Equipment – EOC

The Kent County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) recognizes the importance of addressing gaps in resources and technology to effectively fulfill its public safety responsibilities. The KCSO has proactively assessed best practices, policies, and personnel training, implementing changes such as deploying body-worn cameras, emphasizing training, and pursuing law enforcement accreditation. The KCSO’s jurisdiction encompasses the city of Grand Rapids and neighboring communities where they are responsible for enforcing state laws, community policing, education, and proactive patrols to ensure community well-being and safety.

Kent County faces diverse and evolving challenges related to public safety that necessitate a proactive and integrated approach from law enforcement. Full scale emergency management

responses that involve multiple agency partners require real-time coordination, communication, and information sharing. Limitations in current systems often result in delayed and inefficient responses to critical incidents.

The KCSO plays a critical role in supporting the operations of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the regional Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC). The grant request for audiovisual equipment and technology supplies for the EOC will extend the capacity of the KCSO, RTIC, and EOC to more effectively communicate and coordinate response efforts during emergencies or disasters. The addition of audiovisual equipment and other technology upgrades will enable the EOC and RTIC to have seamless integration with various command units, real-time communication with external partners for coordinated briefings and operational planning, and connection to a secure platform for multi-agency incident management. This will support KCSO in effectively fulfilling emergency management responsibilities, improving interagency coordination, and functioning as a critical information hub during emergencies and complex incidents.

To support this initiative, the KCSO intends to utilize \$88,439 from the grant to acquire audiovisual and technology supplies for the EOC including the following:

1. Dedicated room computer and hardware rack
2. 60" wall-mounted monitors
3. Auxiliary HDMI inputs on walls
4. Magnatag county map
5. Five-time-zone digital clock
6. Sound ceiling panels
7. Integrated Owl room camera

The KCSO will procure the supplies in accordance with 2 CFR 200.320 and applicable Department of Justice requirements.

CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES

The City's Neighborhood-Based Public Safety program is a collaboration between the City of Grand Rapids CDD, the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD), and local neighborhood associations. Staff of each neighborhood association complete training on crime prevention and organizing techniques through the GRPD. GRPD staff 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. The KCSO is also responsible for court security, corrections, 911 dispatching, and community policing. Additionally, the KCSO operates specialty units trained in dive rescue, marine patrol, and emergency management.

The KCSO has successfully implemented prior grant-funded technologies and is committed to data-driven, innovative public safety strategies. The department has the experience, infrastructure, and personnel in place to implement and maintain technologies such as the proposed audiovisual equipment and supplies, ensuring their integration into the EOC maximizes community benefit and regional collaboration.

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 three (3) 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: 550 people will be informed or educated on public safety topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted safety training for groups or individuals ▪ In-home safety assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training agenda that includes date and location of the training ▪ Sign-in sheets ▪ Written report for home training with name(s) of residents, address, and description of safety features discussed
Indicator 1a: 415 people will indicate the public safety information received was beneficial.	<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 or safer as a result of the training, etc.)
Indicator 1b: 100 housing units or public spaces will receive safety improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hedges/shrubs trimmed to improve visibility ▪ Security lighting installed ▪ Window pins installed ▪ Business security surveillance system 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

Subrecipients of the City of Grand Rapids are required to report quarterly on the performance measures identified in their agreement with the City. The reports include a narrative describing the work completed that quarter and examples of both successes and challenges faced. In addition to the outcomes outlined in their agreement, they also complete a quarterly Justice

Assistance Grant (JAG) Supplemental Performance Report. This report includes the same information collected through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) and JustGrants. City staff review reported information and submit reports quarterly through the PMT.

Audiovisual and Technology Equipment - EOC

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

Project Outcome: Audiovisual and Technology Equipment		
Output or Indicator	Examples of Activities	Plans for Data Collection and Documentation
<p>Output 1: Audiovisual equipment and technology supplies are procured and installed within the EOC to improve real-time communication and coordination during emergencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deploy secure conferencing and communication platforms ▪ Integrate Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), video feeds, and intelligence systems ▪ Expand system capabilities into breakout coordination rooms ▪ Train personnel and partner agencies on system use ▪ Test the system effectiveness during tactical operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documentation of installation and system configuration ▪ Training attendance logs and materials ▪ System acceptance testing results
<p>Indicator 1a: Improved coordination, decision-making, and operational efficiency during critical incidents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Command staff utilizing integrated systems during incident management ▪ Coordinated operations with EOC, RTIC, and partner agencies ▪ Use of breakout rooms for operational group coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After-action reports comparing pre- and post-implementation performance ▪ Supervisor and command staff evaluations ▪ EOC incident debrief reports