

Title Page

A. Program Area: A01 - Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces Programs
A02 - Law Enforcement Programs
B01 - Crime Prevention Programs
C01 - Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry Programs
D01 - Courts, Defense, Prosecution and Victim Service Programs
D02 - Specialized Dockets
E01 - Cross-Agency and Cross-System Collaboration, Training and Research Programs

B. Title of Project: Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force

C. Project Period: 1/1/2021 to: 12/31/2021 Extension:

D. Continuation of Subgrant Number: 2019-JG-A01-6444

E. Focus of Application: City County Township Village State

F. Budget Summary: OCJS Funds: \$150,000.00
Cash Match: \$0
Inkind Match: \$0
Total Budget: \$150,000.00

See Directives for Eligibility

G. Project Director: Prefix: Ms. First Name: Dawn M.I.: Last Name: Heartsong Suffix:
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H. Implementing Prefix: Mr. First Name: Calvin M.I.: D Last Name: Williams Suffix:
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I. Subgrantee: Prefix: Mr. First Name: Frank M.I.: G Last Name: Jackson Suffix:
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Phone: 216-664-3992 Ext. Fax: 216-420-7700 Subgrantee
Email: MayorJackson@city.cleveland.oh.us County: Cuyahoga Tax I.D.: 346000646

Vendor ID and Address code to be completed by OCJS: Duns Number: 074303483
Non-State Agency OAKS Vendor ID OAKS Address Code Primary Place of Performance:
City: Cleveland
State Agency OAKS Vendor ID Vendor Location State: Ohio
Zip: 44113 - 1648

Overage

Split Funding

Title Page

Please see the Request For Proposal (RFP) for this grant program for guidance on completing this section. The RFP can be found at www.ocjs.ohio.gov

Greater Cleveland continues to experience unacceptable narcotics-related violent crime including homicides, assaults, burglaries, and other related crimes. Experience has demonstrated that the challenges presented by the more sophisticated of these trafficking groups are beyond the capability of any one law enforcement agency. However, the coordinated approach made possible by the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force (NOLETF) allows for the full implementation of sophisticated investigative techniques and provides the resources necessary to respond to this challenge.

Fentanyl and heroin remain the dominate drugs preferred by drug traffickers. And, we have also seen an increase in the amount of cocaine, which has been adulterated with Fentanyl in the Greater Cleveland area. Importation and sales of bulk marijuana remains high due to the relatively low penalties and high profit margins. Because of its strategic location, the Greater Cleveland area is increasingly identified as a transshipment point for narcotics, which reach other communities within Ohio. In addition, due to the legalization of marijuana in California, Colorado and Oregon, Greater Cleveland has seen an increase in the availability of marijuana in many different forms such as wax, edibles, oils and butters and capsules.

The NOLETF continues to see an increase in methamphetamine use and sales within Cuyahoga County. The NOLETF has been successful in investigating and criminally charging several persons and DTO's for methamphetamine sales. The NOLETF will continue enforcement efforts to attempt to curb methamphetamine sales and use in the community. In Cuyahoga County Opioid related overdose deaths continue to plague the community. According to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office in 2019 there were 647 total overdose deaths in the county. That includes 448 Fentanyl related deaths, 223 Carfentanyl related deaths, 293 Cocaine related deaths, and 152 Heroin related deaths.

The major issues facing the NOLETF are as follows:

- 1) An increase in drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). Cuyahoga County residents account for over 20% of the overall state jail population but only 10% of the general population. Over 30% of the residents of the City of Cleveland (10% of Cuyahoga County) live at or below the poverty line. Only 34% of Cleveland school children finish high school. 80% of crimes committed in the City of Cleveland are drug related. These facts, combined with a steady supply of cocaine and heroin across the Mexican border, create a high demand for narcotics. Cash strapped governments in metropolitan Cleveland have little or no funding for long-term drug investigations. The confidential funds provided by the grant will be spent on undercover drug buys, source payments for information, and miscellaneous expenses in the field. Without the confidential funds, the task force would be unable to obtain the probable cause required for federal title III electronic surveillance warrants which are the basis for our multi-state and multi-national drug conspiracy investigations as well as dangerous forms of Fentanyl being shipped from overseas. These title III warrants are the most efficient tool in DTO dismantlements.
- 2) An increase in associated gang and drug violence. Through 2019, the City of Cleveland continued to experience gun violence which in many cases often related to gang violence fueled by the drug trade. NOLETF needs more resources to target and investigate violent gangs.
- 3) Budget cuts have reduced the number of law enforcement officers employed by many police departments. The overall manpower of Cleveland Police remains low. COVID-19 related costs have exacerbated this problem. Individual agencies simply do not have the resources to investigate these major cases on their own. The member agencies of the NOLETF serve as a force-multiplier. NOLETF has assisted in countless investigations of home invasions, murders, felonious assaults by firearm, and lower-level drug conspiracies in the surrounding suburbs. The task force targets entrenched sophisticated organized narcotics trafficking groups operating in the Cleveland area; especially those organized drug gangs with a propensity for violence. Not surprisingly, law enforcement in the Cuyahoga County area continues to identify drug trafficking and its related violence as the major crime problem facing the community.

The short-term consequences of not funding the NOLETF include a reduction in the number of investigations we are able to conduct. If we are unable to fund additional overtime hours or provide important confidential funds and equipment for investigations, we will not be able to complete the complex investigations necessary to disrupt and dismantle these organizations.

The long term consequences are an increase in narcotics-related violent crime in the Greater Cleveland area. If we are unable to

Problem Statement/Target Population

complete multiple long-term investigations, the DTOs and gangs will continue to grow and contribute to violent crime.

The target population includes residents of Cuyahoga County, however, most of the activity is concentrated in the City of Cleveland. Cleveland is one of the country's poorest cities, with 34 percent living below the poverty level.

Cleveland's violent crime rate far exceeds the national average per 100,000. For example, Cleveland's homicide rate per 100,000 was 33.72. The national average was 5.3. Cleveland is 6th nationally in the homicide rate. Cleveland is 6th in the nation for rape, 2nd for robbery, 23rd for aggravated assaults and 7th in the nation for total violent crimes.

Project Description

Please see the Request For Proposal (RFP) for this grant program for guidance on completing this section. The RFP can be found at www.ocjs.ohio.gov

1) The NOLETF will continue its mission to dismantle DTO's in 2021, NOLETF brings together state, federal, and local agents and investigators in collocated space, adjacent to federal prosecutors, with close communication with local prosecutors to ensure that the most sophisticated investigative and prosecutorial resources are directed against organized drug trafficking groups. The collocation of the investigators fosters the development of intelligence in a timely fashion which helps to facilitate the utilization of the information and provides maximum flexibility in selecting the means most likely to result in the disruption or dismantling of organized criminal activity. Among the evidence-based investigative tools used by the NOLETF are the following: -Intelligence Gathering -Search Warrants -Cultivating Information Sources -Arrests -Surveillance -Interviews of Sources/Witnesses -Debriefing of Defendants -Testimony in Grand Jury, Trials, Court -Evidence Gathering -Financial Investigations -Federal Title III Warrants -Seizure of evidence, drugs, weapons, assets -Undercover Operations -State/Federal Indictment, Prosecutions, Trials Court authorized electronic surveillance, one of the most effective and sophisticated investigative tools available, is a frequently used investigative technique. It should be noted that the NOLETF in conjunction with the FBI-Cleveland the US Attorney's Office, is consistently one of the leading narcotics investigations unit in the country utilizing the federal wiretap law according to former FBI Director James Comey. The variety of law enforcement agencies making up the NOLETF provides access to critical national intelligence which is used in local investigations and has promoted the NOLETF's participation in several national project investigations which substantially impact organizations that are shipping large quantities of controlled substances into the area. In 2019, Operation "Adios Narcos" indicted 18 individuals in four states, three Mexican nationals, seized 22 kilos of Cocaine, and half a million dollars. This was a long-term wiretap investigation. The NOLETF is also an initiative within the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). As such, the NOLETF participates in the Ohio HIDTA intelligence gathering, coordination and deconfliction program.

2) Intelligence gathered from our title III warrants relating to shootings, homicides and heroin-involved death investigations will be relayed to the Cleveland Police Gang Impact Squad, Narcotics Unit, and Homicide Units as well as the appropriate regional, state and federal agencies. This information will aid these units and agencies in arresting violent criminals and will result in the successful prosecutions for these crimes. Also NOLETF will institute a new program with our partner agencies specifically to target violent gangs. We will utilize all of the above evidence-based techniques that we currently utilize to target DTO's. In 2018, NOLETF conducted Operation " Casa Limpia" which resulted in the federal indictment of (4) individuals for federal weapons charges. This organization was proved to have direct ties to the MS-13 street gang. During the course of this investigation over (50) firearms destined for the streets of Greater Cleveland were seized.

3) The NOLETF will also continue and expand its outreach to smaller agencies in Cuyahoga, Lake, Summit and Medina counties. The task force allows the region to operate more efficiently by sharing information and resources. Smaller jurisdictions simply do not have the manpower or technological resources to handle the large scale investigations necessary to dismantle large drug trafficking organizations. We will also increase the number of training programs we offer to detectives in smaller cities. This action plan will address all three of the problems identified above. It will reduce the number of DTOs and the number of violent crimes associated with the DTOs. And, by sharing resources and training, we will further aid each of the agencies that are facing budget deficits. In order to ensure the NOLETF does not duplicate the efforts of other task forces, NOLETF communicates with the other task forces operating in Cuyahoga County. We all use the HIDTA de-confliction system. We have, on several occasions, assisted or collaborated on cases.

Cuyahoga County is a heavily populated county with a population of over 1.2 million, consisting of 23 west suburbs and 35 east suburbs. We basically have an east side task force and a west side task force that handle issues specific to their areas. The NOLETF investigates the entire county and surrounding counties.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) 2020

Organization: Cleveland Department of Public Safety

2020-JG-A01-00138

Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles

Please see the Request For Proposal (RFP) for this grant program for guidance on completing this section. The RFP can be found at www.ocjs.ohio.gov

Sustainability:

The NOLETF is a long standing multi-agency task force comprised of investigators from local, state and federal agencies. Participating agencies contribute over \$1,500,000 annually in salaries for investigators. The U. S Attorney's Office provides office space and utilities at a value of over \$150,000 per year. Participating agencies intend to continue providing as much manpower and other support as possible in order to ensure the sustainability of this program. Additionally, we will continue to apply for grant funding from any possible sources.

Accomplishments:

Since 2007 the NOLETF has:

- Opened over 55 OCDETF cases
- Completed over 80 TIII wiretap investigations. (The average wiretap investigation takes 6-12 months.)
- Executed dozens of search warrants and round ups resulting in hundreds of arrests.

Obstacles:

One of the major obstacles facing the NOLETF is related to staffing. Investigators leave the task force to take new assignments in their home jurisdictions or when they are promoted to another position. Partner agencies often have a difficult time replacing these outgoing investigators due to manpower shortages. Other agencies assist by adding additional investigators when possible, but this will always be a challenge.

Obstacles affecting the target population: As the illegal drug landscape shifts and changes, the NOLETF modifies its tactics to respond to these changes. We continue to complete training and learn how to best respond to different drug trafficking organizations.

Collaboration and community resources: As mentioned, partner agencies contribute a significant amount of resources to the Task Force. They will continue to supply investigators to the task force. These investigators will continue to be trained on the best methods of investigating and dismantling drug trafficking organizations.

Project Objectives

FIRST PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

The NOLETF will increase by one the number of Fentanyl cases investigated in 2021.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The number of Fentanyl cases the task force investigates in 2021. A case is a wiretap worthy investigation. They are labor intensive, requiring multiple months to complete, involving multiple search warrants, target background investigation, ping orders and surveillance in order to identify the entire drug trafficking organization and dismantle as much of it as possible . They can take 2,000

-
4,000 man hours to complete.

BASELINE NUMBER

The NOLETF investigated four Fentanyl cases in 2019.

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

The NOLETF will track the number of Fentanyl cases investigated and report it quarterly to the Grants Coordinator.

SECOND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

The NOLETF will maintain the number of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) investigated with a Gang Nexus in 2021.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The number of DTOs investigated by the task force with a Gang Nexus in 2020. These investigations are labor intensive, requiring multiple months to complete, involving multiple search warrants, target background investigation, ping orders and surveillance in order to identify the entire drug trafficking organization and dismantle as much of it as possible . They can take 2,000 - 4,000 man hours to complete.

BASELINE NUMBER

The NOLETF investigated three DTO with a Gang Nexus in 2019.

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

The NOLETF will track the number of DTOs with a Gang Nexus investigated and report it quarterly to the Grants Coordinator

THIRD PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

BASELINE NUMBER

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

Timeline/Activities

Task force Co-Commanders: Acting Lt. Joe Bovenzi, Special Agent Todd DeKatch, Grants Coordinator: Dawn Heartsong, Fiscal Manager: Amy Hewett

CONTINUOUSLY/AS NEEDED: Deconfliction is utilized for all potential suspects, suspect phone numbers and suspect locations. Deconfliction is also utilized for any event occurring from or during an investigation, such as, Execution of Search Warrants, Drug Buys and/or surveillance. Sgt. Bovenzi will ensure deconfliction is utilized.

AS NEEDED: Participating Task Force officers will present training and informational seminars when called upon. Participating Officers have given training to other law enforcement agencies and First Responders for Heroin Involved Investigations, Safe Handling of Heroin, Hotel Interdiction, Package Interdiction and Hidden Compartments.

MONTH 1: Heartsong: Accept JAG funds. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise drug investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch: Review Federal Title 21 Deputation.

MONTH 2: Bovenzi: Review Operation Plans, and investigative rpts. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Dekatch: Oversee tech contractor for Title III voicebox and monitoring equipment. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Review Operation Plans and investigative rpts, plan and coordinate large scale take downs involving multiple agencies.

MONTH 3: Bovenzi: Qtrly overtime rpt and statistical reporting. Bovenzi/Dekatch will hold a quarterly Heads of Agency meeting where the Heads of Agencies are given a complete "report card" of Task Force Activities, statistics, and budget matters. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/Dekatch: Supervise investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Dekatch: review of Federal Title 21 Deputation, maintain stats, prepare qtrly FBI report, attend HOA Collaboration Meeting.

MONTH 4: Bovenzi/Heartsong/Hewett: Qtrly grant rpts. Bovenzi/DeKatch; Supervise Task Force Officers, investigations and monitor overtime, supervise investigations, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Bovenzi/Negron: manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch: Assist with planning and execution of the Violence and Gun Reduction Program.

MONTH 5: Bovenzi: Manage Impress Fund and Maintain Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, coordinate large scale, multi agency take downs, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. DeKatch: Complete FBI Cleveland Gang Assessment.

MONTH 6: Bovenzi: Qtrly overtime rpts and statistical reporting. Bovenzi/Dekatch will hold a quarterly Heads of Agency meeting where the Heads of Agencies are given a complete "report card" of Task Force Activities, statistics, and budget matters. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. DeKatch: Prepare qtrly FBI reporting, Review of Federal Title 21 Deputation, firearms and tactics instruction.

MONTH 7: Bovenzi/Heartsong/Hewett: Qtrly grant rpts. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise drug investigations, supervise Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Bovenzi: Monitor overtime. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records.

MONTH 8: Bovenzi: Monitor overtime. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. DeKatch: Firearms and tactics instruction, complete FBI Cleveland Gang Assessment. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Maintain statistics.

MONTH 9: Bovenzi: Qtrly overtime reports and statistical reporting. Bovenzi/Dekatch will hold a quarterly Heads of Agency meeting where the Heads of Agencies are given a complete "report card" of Task Force Activities, statistics, and budget matters. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. DeKatch: Review of Federal Title 21 Deputations, attend HOA Collaboration Meeting.

Timeline/Activities

MONTH 10: Bovenzi/Heartsong/Hewett: Qtrly grant rpts. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch: Assist with Planning and execution of the Violence and Gun Reduction Program. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Performance Appraisal for federal agency personnel assigned to the task force.

MONTH 11: Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. Bovenzi: attend Task Force Commander Seminar. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch: Review and approve officer safety and intelligence reports.

MONTH 12: Bovenzi: Qtrly overtime rpts and statistical reporting. Bovenzi/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Bovenzi/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, collect and maintain stats. Bovenzi: Enter stats in DISCO. DeKatch: Supervise training, complete Task Force Statistical Accomplishments and Case Summaries. Bovenzi/Dekatch will hold a quarterly Heads of Agency meeting where the Heads of Agencies are given a complete "report card" of Task Force Activities, statistics, and budget matters.

Organization Capacity

Cleveland Police is the lead law enforcement agency in Northern Ohio's largest city. They have effectively managed numerous comprehensive, grant-funded programs. They were the fiscal agent for the multi-agency, \$5 million Byrne TVCI grant that funded the start-up of the Northern Ohio Violence Crime Consortium program. They annually manage over 30 grants worth more than \$15 million. As with all grants managed by Cleveland, a separate sub-fund will be established for this grant so that all drawdown and expenditures can be tracked separately from any other funding sources.

The Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force is a collaborative effort of local, state, and federal law enforcement. NOLETF is collocated in the offices of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. NOLETF targets major drug trafficking organizations operating in the Greater Cleveland Area and employs a multitude of methods to dismantle DTOs including Title III electronic surveillance, conventional surveillance, use of informants, money laundering investigations, and highway interdiction.

The NOLETF partners with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Domestic Highway Enforcement program and has utilized DHE resources and contacts to effect arrests and seizures along the southwest border and traditional drug corridors. The Cleveland Division of Police along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are the lead agency for NOLETF. They have established strong partnerships with all of the agencies that form the task force. The Ohio HIDTA provides investigative support for both task forces in the form of phone number analysis (this is the genesis of wire taps), research on targets, addresses, and de-confliction. The NOLETF is comprised of TFOs from local police agencies and federal agencies. The FBI has 6 agents assigned full time to the NOLETF. The five Cleveland police officers assigned full-time to this project fall under the umbrella of the Cleveland Police Narcotics Unit. In addition to the Cleveland detectives assigned to federal task forces full time, the Narcotics Unit is comprised of 4 squads: Heroin Invest Team, Prescription Compliance Squad, Gang Impact Squad and Package Interdiction, all of which have contributed in some way to support the NOLETF.

Since 2007 the NOLETF has:

- Opened over 55 OCDETF cases
- Completed over 80 TIII wiretap investigations. (The average wiretap investigation takes 6-12 months.)
- Dozens of search warrants and round ups resulting in hundreds of arrests.

Cleveland Police Lieutenant Kevin Kincaid became Co-Commander of The NOLETF upon his promotion in June of 2019. Prior to his promotion, Lt. Kincaid was assigned as the Sergeant / Officer in Charge of the 5th District Vice Unit. As the OIC of the 5th District Vice Unit, Lt. Kincaid supervised, planned, and directly participated in operations and investigations involving drug traffickers and street level Drug Trafficking Organizations. Lt. Kincaid has successfully completed the DEA Narcotics Investigator Course and is a certified Gang Investigator Specialist through the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission. He has attended numerous training and seminars related to Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Conspiracy Investigations. As a certified OPOTA Instructor, Lt. Kincaid has taught numerous courses as a guest instructor at the Cleveland Police Academy. Lt. Kincaid is a certified Supervisory Training Officer (STO / FTO) as well as a certified Hazardous Materials / Clandestine Laboratory Technician. Lt. Kincaid has successfully completed the International Association of Chiefs of Police "Leadership in Police Organizations" training program. Prior to becoming a Cleveland Police Officer, Lt. Kincaid served honorably in the United States Marine Corps and served as an Emergency Medical Technician for the City of Cleveland Division of EMS.

FBI Special Agent Todd DeKatch became Co-Commander of NOLETF in 2013. He was a Michigan State Trooper from 1995-1999. He became a Special Agent in 1999, Assigned to Cleveland Division's Akron Resident Agency till 2013. He served Temporary Duty Assignment as Supervisory Special Agent from 2009-2011 at FBIHQ Safe Streets and Gangs Unit. He is now the Supervisory Special Agent Squad 12/NOLETF.

Sgt. Joe Bovenzi is the Officer in Charge of the task force. Sgt. Bovenzi has been with the Cleveland Division of Police for 25 years. He was assigned as a Detective in the Second District Vice Unit for 10 years. He has been assigned to the Narcotics Unit for 10 years and has worked on the Major Case Squad and Package Interdiction Units. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March of 2013 and has been assigned as the OIC of the Hotel Interdiction Unit since 2013. He has completed HIDTA's Drug Unit Task Force Commanders Training, and attended numerous classes pertaining to Drug and Financial Investigations.

Collaboration Board

The Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force Collaboration Board (Head of Agencies Board) consists of representatives from the following agencies:

Cleveland Division of Police, U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Ohio, U.S. Border Patrol, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police Department, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office (letter of Commitment pending), Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Police Department, Bedford Police, Lakewood Police, Moreland Hills Police.

NOLETF Head of Agency meetings are held quarterly. Attending these meetings are the police chiefs for all local departments providing personnel to the NOLETF, along with senior supervisory agents for all of the federal and regional law enforcement agencies providing personnel to the NOLETF. In addition, The chief of the Narcotics Unit for the U.S. Attorney's Office and a representative from the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office attend the meetings. Minutes for all action taken at the Heads of Agency meeting are recorded. By having a Heads of Agency board fully engaged and supervising the NOLETF, in an era of dwindling financial dollars, achieving the state goals and objectives of the Task Force is insured or the participating departments and agencies would pull their resources.

Counties Served: NOLETF mainly serves Cuyahoga County. However, we serve Summit, Lake and Medina counties as needed or requested. We have conducted several investigations that have led into these other counties. Their sheriffs are not yet on the collaboration board.

Population Served: NOLETF serves a population of 2,193,573

Click the Browse button to upload attachments and/or letters, then click **Save** to attach to the application.

http://www.ocjsgnants.com/_Upload/476546_865720-FY20JAG-Cleveland-LettersofCommitment.pdf

http://www.ocjsgnants.com/_Upload/476546_865720_2-FY20JAG-Cleveland-MatchWaiverRequest.pdf

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary serves as a concise and accurate description of the proposed project. Information in the Summary is forwarded to the Governor's Office and other local, state and federal agencies for public information requests. Summary information must be submitted in the space provided.

The purpose statement is a clear concise statement that explains the purpose of the project. It describes what the applicant is going to do; the population that is going to be served; how it will be accomplished; and why it is important.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force is to bring together state, federal and local law enforcement agents and investigators in collocated space, adjacent to federal prosecutors, with close communication with local prosecutors to ensure that the most sophisticated investigative and prosecutorial resources are directed against organized drug trafficking groups. The collocation of the investigators fosters the development of intelligence in a timely fashion which helps to facilitate the utilization of the information and provides maximum flexibility in selecting the means most likely to result in the disruption or dismantling of organized criminal activity. Like most major metropolitan areas, Greater Cleveland experiences unacceptable narcotics-related violent crime including homicides, assaults, burglaries, and other related crimes. Experience has demonstrated that the challenges presented by the more sophisticated of these trafficking groups are beyond the capability of any one law enforcement agency. However, the coordinated approach made possible by the NOLETF (formerly known as the Caribbean Gang Task Force) allows for the full implementation of sophisticated investigative techniques and provides the resources necessary to respond to this challenge. Heroin has emerged to be the dominant drug preferred by drug traffickers. Methamphetamine abuse is increasing. Importation and sales of bulk marijuana remains high due to the relatively low penalties and high profit margins. Because of its strategic location, the Greater Cleveland area is increasingly identified as a transshipment point for narcotics, which reach other communities within Ohio. In addition, due to the legalization of marijuana in California, Colorado and Oregon, Greater Cleveland has seen an increase in the availability of marijuana in many different forms such as wax, edibles, oils and butters and capsules.

The task force targets organized gangs perpetrating these types of crimes and other entrenched sophisticated organized narcotics trafficking groups operating in the Greater Cleveland area; especially those organized drug gangs with a propensity for violence. Not surprisingly, law enforcement in the Cuyahoga County area continues to identify drug trafficking and its related violence as the major crime problem facing the community.

Fentanyl is shipped from overseas, contributing to DTOs profiting off the disease of addiction and causing Cleveland to see hundreds of fatal and non-fatal overdoses every year.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The greater Cleveland area has experienced unacceptable drug-related violent crime. An increase has been observed in the organized trafficking of heroin, cocaine, marijuana and non-traditional "club drugs". Experience has demonstrated that the challenges presented by sophisticated trafficking groups are beyond the capability of a law enforcement agency acting alone. However, the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force allows for the implementation of sophisticated investigative techniques, and provides the kind of resource necessary to respond to this challenge. The major issues the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force (NOLETF) faces are:

- 1) An increase in drug trafficking organizations.
- 2) An increase in associated drug and gang violence.
- 3) Budget cuts in police departments throughout the Cleveland metropolitan area

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The NOLETF is a multi-agency drug task force which brings together state, federal and local agents and investigators in co-located space, adjacent to federal prosecutors, to ensure that the most sophisticated investigative and prosecutorial resources are directed against organized drug trafficking groups. The co-location of the investigators fosters the development of intelligence in a timely fashion which helps to facilitate the use of the information and provides maximum flexibility in selecting the means most likely to result in the disruption or dismantling of organized criminal activity.

Executive Summary

In order to impact the major issues facing the task force, the NOLETF will:

- 1) Continue to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) in 2021;
- 2) Enforcement agencies to coordinate efforts to curtail drug related violence and target violent gangs ;
- 3) Continue to foster working relationships with smaller police departments in the metropolitan area by enlisting their participation in the Task Force or assisting with drug enforcement efforts on a case-by-case basis when the department cannot participate full-time in the task force, and increase training provided to these departments.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES / COLLABORATION

The Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force Collaboration Board (Head of Agencies Board) consists of representatives from the following agencies:

Cleveland Division of Police
US Attorney (Northern District of Ohio)
US Border Patrol
Internal Revenue Service
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
Cuyahoga County Sheriff (Letter of Commitment pending)
Ohio Adult Parole
Lakewood Police
Bedford Police
Moreland Police
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

Consultants/Contracts

Consultant and Contract rates cannot exceed \$81.25 per hour or \$650 per 8-hour day.

| Name | Hourly Fee | Hours | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lakewood Police | \$55.10 | 250 | \$13,775.00 |
| Moreland Hills Police | \$44.75 | 100 | \$4,475.00 |
| Cuyahoga County Sheriff | \$43.59 | 177 | \$7,715.43 |
| CMHA & RTA Police | \$40.34 | 100 | \$4,034.00 |

Consultants/Contracts Total: \$29,999.43

Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.

Partner law enforcement agencies will be reimbursed for part of the overtime incurred for investigators from six separate county and local law enforcement agencies. These officers will be working on the program on a full-time basis. Their home agencies will pay their base salaries and benefits but will be reimbursed for a portion of their accrued overtime.

The fifth row would not total so two were merged on one line. CMHA (Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority) is payed at a rate of 32.63 per hour. RTA (Regional Transit Authority) is paid at a rate of \$48.05 per hour.

Travel

Mileage rate cannot exceed federal mileage rate.

If this page is not applicable, check this box and click **SAVE**.

| A. Auto | No. Miles | Per Mile | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | | \$0 |
| | | | \$0 |
| B. Commercial | Destination | Fare | Total |
| Airfare | TBD various for invest. | \$2,520.00 | \$2,520.00 |
| | | | \$0 |
| C. Per Diem: (Meal & Lodging Only) | No. of days | Rate | Total |
| Lodging (2 people x 15 nights x \$160) | 30 | \$160.00 | \$4,800.00 |
| Meals (2 people x 15 days x \$56) | 30 | \$56.00 | \$1,680.00 |
| D. Other: (Specify) | No. Items | Rate | Total |
| | | | \$0 |
| | | | \$0 |
| Travel Total: | | | \$9,000.00 |

Provide justification for travel (Costs must relate to the project staff & objectives).

Travel expenses are not for training or conferences. It is required for travel outside the Cleveland area by investigators, analysts or supervisors assigned to the Task Force for investigative purposes. The purpose of such trips would be interview witnesses, arrests, court appearances, lead follow up, etc... We will not know the exact locations, dates, etc. until the investigations start and we know where the evidence leads us.

Other Costs

Audit costs are only supported for Non-Federal entities that expend \$750,000 or more in Federal funds in the organization's fiscal year and are required to arrange for a single organization-wide audit.

If this page is not applicable, check this box and click **SAVE**.

| Other Charges | Cost | Terms | Total |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Rent-Facilities | | | \$0 |
| Cost of Ownership | | | \$0 |
| Telephone | \$400.00 | 6 | \$2,400.00 |
| Utilities | | | \$0 |
| Bookkeeping/Audit | | | \$0 |
| Maintenance | | | \$0 |
| Clerical | | | \$0 |
| Auto Lease/ST Rental | | | \$0 |
| Equipment Lease/ST Rental | | | \$0 |
| Photocopying | | | \$0 |
| Printing | | | \$0 |
| Other (Specify) <u>Vehicle and equip repairs</u> | \$2,600.00 | 1 | \$2,600.00 |
| Other (Specify) <u>Professional Dues (OTFCA)</u> | \$550.00 | 1 | \$550.00 |
| Other (Specify) <u>GPS Monitoring fees</u> | \$350.00 | 1 | \$350.00 |
| | | Other Costs Total: | \$5,900.00 |

Provide justification for other costs; provide allocation methods where appropriate.

The \$2,600 will be used for undercover vehicle and equipment repairs as necessary. The \$2,400 will cover our current Verizon Data Plan for 6 Months. The \$550 will be used for Professional Dues (OTFCA). \$350 will be used for GPS monitoring fees.

Confidential Funds (Applies to Drug Task Force Projects Only)

If this page is not applicable, check this box and click **SAVE**.

| Implementing Agency Confidential Funds | Total |
|---|--------------------|
| \$65,539.14 | \$65,539.14 |
| Confidential Fund Total: | \$65,539.14 |

Provide justification for Confidential Funds.

Confidential funds are necessary for payment to informants, purchase of evidence (i.e., buy money for controlled purchases of drugs), surveillance costs (hotel rooms for drug buys, rental of undercover vehicles, payments for pen registers, trap and traces), and other investigative costs.

Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs may not be used for match.

✓ If this page is not applicable, check this box and click **SAVE**.

| Amount of Direct Costs Less Equipment | Percent 0 to 10% % | Total |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | \$0 |
| | Indirect Cost Total: | \$0 |

Provide justification for Indirect Cost.

Click the Browse button to upload a copy of your federally approved plan, then click **SAVE** to attach to the application.

Budget Request By Resource & Cost Category

| | 1. Matching Funds | | 2. OCJS Funds | 3. Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------|--------------|
| | Cash | Inkind | | |
| 1. Personnel | | | \$27,031.43 | \$27,031.43 |
| 2. Consultant/Contracts | | | \$29,999.43 | \$29,999.43 |
| 3. Travel | | | \$9,000.00 | \$9,000.00 |
| 4. Equipment | | | \$12,030.00 | \$12,030.00 |
| 5. Supplies | | | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| 6. Other Costs | | | \$5,900.00 | \$5,900.00 |
| 7. Confidential Funds | | | \$65,539.14 | \$65,539.14 |
| 8. Indirect Cost | | | | \$0 |
| 9. Total Project Budget | \$0 | \$0 | \$150,000.00 | \$150,000.00 |
| OCJS decision | | | | |

Please list other Federal, State and Local funding sources received or projected to be received by your Agency in support of the proposed project. If funding is pending please state the projected award date.

| Funding Source | Amount | Award Date | Projected Award Date (if applicable) |
|----------------|--------------|------------|---|
| FY19 JAG | \$75,000.00 | 1/1/2020 | |
| FY19 ODLEF | \$250,000.00 | | 6/1/2020 |

What other funding sources are received by your agency in support of your overall program?

Participating agencies contribute over \$1,500,000 per year in salaries for investigators.

The U.S. Attorney's office provides office space, utilities, etc at a value of more than \$150,000 per year.

The City of Cleveland has provided matching funds for these grants when required. We received \$226,022 from the Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Grant in 2009, \$250,000 from 2010 - 2015.

We have received approximately \$105,000 - \$150,000 annually through these Byrne JAG grants.

| | Amount | Percentage % |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| OCJS Funds | \$150,000.00 | 100.00 |
| Requested: | | |
| Cash Match: | \$0 | 0.00 |
| In-Kind Match: | \$0 | 0.00 |
| Total Project Budget: | \$150,000.00 | 100.00 |

Federal, State and Local Funding Sources-please provide information on funding that is received by your Agency that is relevant to this project.

Include the source, amount received, and year funds were awarded.

Participating agencies contribute over \$1,500,000 per year in salaries for investigators.

Budget Request By Resource & Cost Category

The U.S. Attorney's office provides office space, utilities, etc at a value of more than \$150,000 per year. The City of Cleveland has provided matching funds for these grants when required. We received \$226,022 from the Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Grant in 2009, \$250,000 from 2010 - 2015. We have received approximately \$105,000 - \$150,000 annually through these Byrne JAG grants.

Do you have other funding resources not identified above? Yes No

Identify the Source of Match: Match waiver requested