

Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Application 2017

Organization: Cleveland Department of Public Safety

2017-DL-LEF-00037

Title Page

A. Program Area: ADM - Administration  
 ✓ LEF - Law Enforcement

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

C. Project Period: 7/1/2018 to: 6/30/2019

D. Type of Application: New ✓ Continuation of Subgrant Number: 2016-DL-LEF-5801

E. Focus of Application: ✓ City County Township Village State

F. Budget Summary: OCJS Funds: \$249,999.75  
 Cash Match: \$83,333.25  
 Inkind Match: \$0  
 Total Budget: \$333,333.00

See Directives for Eligibility

G. Project Director: Prefix: Ms. First Dawn M.I.: Last Heartsong Suffix:  
 Name: Name:  
 Title: Grants Coordinator Agency: Cleveland Department of Public Safety  
 Address: 1300 Ontario Street #828 City: Cleveland Zip: 44113 - 1648  
 Phone: 216-623-5126 Ext. Fax: 216-623-5853  
 Email: DHeartsong@city.cleveland.oh.us County: Cuyahoga

H. Implementing Prefix: Mr. First Calvin M.I.: D Last Williams Suffix:  
 Name: Name:  
 Title: Chief Agency: Cleveland Division of Police  
 Address: 1300 Ontario Street City: Cleveland Zip: 44113 - 1648  
 Phone: 216-623-5005 Ext. Fax: 216-623-5584  
 Email: CWilliams3@city.cleveland.oh.us County: Cuyahoga

I. Subgrantee: Prefix: Mr. First Frank M.I.: G Last Jackson Suffix:  
 Name: Name:  
 Title: Mayor Agency: City of Cleveland  
 Address: 601 Lakeside Ave - Room 230 City: Cleveland Zip: 44114 - 1015  
 Phone: 216-664-3990 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:

OAKS Vendor ID OAKS Address Code

Vendor Location

Duns Number: 074303483

Primary Place of Performance:

City: Cleveland  
 State: Ohio

Zip: 44114 - 101545

For additional information regarding extended zip codes [click here](#).

For a map of the congressional districts [click here](#).

For more information regarding congressional districts [click here](#).

Problem Statement/Target Population

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 have emerged to be 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.

In Cuyahoga County heroin deaths have tripled from 200 in 2015 in Cuyahoga County to approximately 600 in 2017. There have been nearly 300 overdose deaths in Cleveland alone as of December 31, 2017. Fentanyl deaths, which had tripled in 2015 with 89 cases, have skyrocketed in 2017.

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. These title III warrants are the most efficient tool in DTO dismantlements.

2) An increase in associated gang and drug violence. The associated violence to the drug trade result in nearly two shootings each day on the streets of Cleveland. From 2002 through December of 2017 there were 99,191 calls for service for shots fired in Cleveland. NOLETF needs more resources to targeted 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 considerably low. 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. The long term consequences are an increase in narcotics-related violent crime in the Greater Cleveland area.

Project Description

1) The NOLETF will continue its mission to dismantle DTO's in 2018, 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 2017 Operation Snow Globe resulted in the indictment of 26 individuals involved in the smuggling and trafficking of cocaine from Puerto Rico to the Greater Cleveland Area.

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.

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.

Project Objectives

Describe the outcomes or changes anticipated as a result of the proposed project. The achievement of the objectives should provide an outcome that reflects a measurable change for the target population due to the services offered by the program. Provide two objectives, with performance measures and baseline numbers that further the goal of the selected Program Area. Application will be evaluated on how effectively it:

- clearly identifies project objectives (measured change as a result of implementing the proposed project), performance measures (how you will measure that change, what instruments and/or tools are to be used, etc.), and any baseline data that exists. The project objectives should be logically and clearly linked to the identified problem and the proposed approach/response as discussed in the previous sections of the application. Performance indicators should be appropriate to the Objective and be a measure of success in accomplishing the Objective.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>	<b><u>OBJECTIVE</u></b>	<b><u>PERFORMANCE INDICATOR</u></b>	<b><u>BASELINE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>PERFORMANCE DATA COLLECTION</u></b>
	Measure of change that will result from the proposed project during project period.	Information collected to document expected changes.	Number documenting what occurred during the past year.	The method in which the data will be collected and the means by which it will be stored for later analysis.
<b>EXAMPLE: OBJECTIVE (Increase)</b>	Increase by 10 the number of crime prevention programs presented to residents in Cardinal County by December 31, 2012.	The number of crime prevention programs presented in Cardinal County.	Five crime prevention programs were presented to residents between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.	Data on each crime prevention program (program description, program coordinator, target audience, date of program, number of attendees, etc.) will be documented by the program's coordinator as it occurs, and all programs will be captured in spreadsheet format so that calculations can be made across the programs for the grant period.
<b>EXAMPLE: OBJECTIVE (Decrease)</b>	Achieve a 25% reduction in recidivism among those successfully completing the program by December 31, 2012.	The numbers of new crimes or technical violations that program participants are charged with up to 12 months after discharge from the program.	20% reduction in recidivism as defined by new charges or technical violations was achieved between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.	Program staff will receive a monthly report from the agency responsible for supervision documenting the number of new crimes or technical violations that participants are charged with. This information will be collected by program staff in a spreadsheet for ease of calculation for the grant period.
<b>EXAMPLE: OBJECTIVE (Maintain)</b>	Maintain the current level of client satisfaction with services being delivered between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013.	The level of client satisfaction as reported on the Client satisfaction survey administered upon termination from the program.	Participants reported a 95% satisfaction rate on delivered services between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011.	Program staff will distribute client satisfaction surveys to each program participant. Data will be collected from all returned surveys and these results will be entered into a spreadsheet for ease of calculation for the grant period.

**FIRST PROJECT OBJECTIVE****OBJECTIVE**

The NOLETf will maintain the number of heroin cases investigated during the grant period.

Project Objectives

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The number of heroin cases investigated. 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

Three heroin cases were investigated in 2017.

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

The OIC will maintain records of investigations. The OIC will forward this information to the Grants Coordinator quarterly.

SECOND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

The NOLETF will increase by two the number of cocaine cases investigated during the grant period.

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

The number of cocaine cases investigated. 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

Two cocaine cases were investigated in 2017.

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

The OIC will maintain records of investigations. The OIC will forward this information to the Grants Coordinator quarterly.

THIRD PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

BASELINE NUMBER

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

FOURTH PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

BASELINE NUMBER

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

FIFTH PROJECT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

Project Objectives

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

BASELINE NUMBER

HOW WILL PERFORMANCE DATA BE COLLECTED?

Timeline/Activities

Task force Co-Commanders: Lt. Michael Connelly, Special Agent Todd DeKatch, Grants Coordinator: Dawn Heartsong, Fiscal Manager: Michael Gehlmann

MONTH 1: Heartsong: Accept JAG funds. Connelly/DeKatch: Supervise drug investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records.

DeKatch: Review Federal Title 21 Deputation.

MONTH 2: Connelly: Review Operation Plans, and investigative rpts. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: Oversee tech contractor for Title III voicebox and monitoring equipment.

Connelly/ DeKatch: Review Operation Plans and investigative rpts, plan and coordinate large scale take downs involving multiple agencies.

MONTH 3: Connelly: Qtrly overtime rpt and Commander's Report, attend Heads of Agency meeting.

Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and NOLETF Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: review of Federal Title 21 Deputation, maintain stats, prepare qtrly FBI report.

MONTH 4: Connelly/Heartsong/Gehlmann: Qtrly grant rpts. Connelly/ DeKatch; Supervise Task Force Officers, investigations and monitor overtime, supervise investigations. Connelly/Negron: manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch; Assist with planning and execution of the Violence and Gun Reduction Program.

MONTH 5: Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Maintain Fiscal Records. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance, coordinate large scale, multi agency take downs. DeKatch: Complete FBI Cleveland Gang Assessment.

MONTH 6: Connelly: Qtrly overtime reports & Commander's Report. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Connelly/DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: Prepare qtrly FBI reporting, Review of Federal Title 21 Deputation, firearms and tactics instruction, maintain statistics.

MONTH 7: Connelly/Heartsong/Gehlmann: Qtrly grant rpts. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise drug investigations, supervise Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. Connelly: Monitor overtime. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records.

MONTH 8: Connelly: Monitor overtime. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records.

Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: Firearms and tactics instruction, complete FBI Cleveland Gang Assessment. Connelly/ DeKatch: Maintain statistics.

MONTH 9: Connelly: Qtrly overtime reports and Commander's Report, attend HOA meeting. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: Review of Federal Title 21 Deputations.

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

MONTH 11: Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. Connelly: attend Task Force Commander Seminar. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. DeKatch: Review and approve officer safety and intelligence reports.

MONTH 12: Connelly: Qtrly overtime rpts and Commander's Report. Connelly/Negron: Manage Impress Fund and Fiscal Records. Connelly/ DeKatch: Supervise investigations and Officers, ensure deconfliction compliance. DeKatch: Supervise training, complete Task Force Statistical Accomplishments and Case Summaries.

MONTH 13: Connelly/Heartsong/Gehlmann: Final Qtrly grant rpts. Also: Connelly will attend quarterly Unified Command Meetings.

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 support for the NOLETF and is the pass-through for ONDCP funds for DHE. The HIDTA also 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 seven 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 44 OCDETF cases
- Completed 57 TIII wiretap investigations. (The average wiretap investigation takes 6-12 months.)
- Dozens of search warrants and approximately 200 arrests.
- In 2017 Operation Snow Globe resulted in the indictment of 26 individuals involved in the smuggling and trafficking of cocaine from Puerto Rico to the Greater Cleveland Area.

Lt. Michael Connelly has been the Co-Commander of NOLETF since September of 2011. He has been a Cleveland Police Officer for 27 years including being the Major Case Squad Supervisor in the Narcotics Unit from 2005 - 2011. Lt. Connelly attended the DEA Drug Commander's Academy, US Army Training and Military Police Advanced Training; graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2013.

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.



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, Cuyahoga County Sheriff, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police, Euclid Police, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Police, Westlake Police, Lakewood Police, Moreland Hills Police, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Internal Revenue Service, US Customs and the Border Patrol, and the United States Attorney's Office (Northern District of Ohio).

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 serves four counties: Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake and Medina. Although we serve Summit, Lake and Medina currently and will continue to, their sheriffs are being invited to sit on the collaboration board.

Population Served: NOLETF serves a population of 2,224,276

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

[http://www.ocjsgroups.com/\\_Upload/360817-FY17ODLEF-ClevelandNOLETF-LtrsofCommitment.pdf](http://www.ocjsgroups.com/_Upload/360817-FY17ODLEF-ClevelandNOLETF-LtrsofCommitment.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. Because of its strategic location, the Greater Cleveland area is increasingly identified as a transshipment point for narcotics, which reach other communities within Ohio.

Fentanyl and heroin have emerged to be the dominate drugs preferred by drug traffickers. And, we have also seen in increase in the amount of cocaine, which has been adulterated with fentanyl in the Greater Cleveland area.

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.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Greater Cleveland continues to experience unacceptable narcotics-related violent crime.

Fentanyl and heroin have emerged to be the dominate drugs preferred by drug traffickers. And, we have also seen in 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.

In Cuyahoga County heroin deaths have tripled from 200 in 2015 in Cuyahoga County to approximately 600 in 2017. There have been nearly 300 overdose deaths in Cleveland alone as of December 31, 2017. Fentanyl deaths, which had tripled in 2015 with 89 cases, have skyrocketed in 2017.

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.

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

Executive Summary

- 1) Continue to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) in 2018;
- 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, Cuyahoga County Sheriff, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police, Euclid Police, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Police, Westlake Police, Lakewood Police, Moreland Hills Police, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Internal Revenue Service, US Customs and the Border Patrol, and the United States Attorney's Office (Northern District of Ohio).

Budget Request By Resource

	Amount	Percentage %
OCJS Funds Requested:	\$249,999.75	75.00%
Cash Match:	\$83,333.25	25.00%
In-Kind Match:	\$0	0.00%
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>	<b>\$333,333.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Identify the Source of Match: Cleveland Law Enforcement Trust Fund



Consultants/Contracts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Fee</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Total</u>
Partner Agency Overtime	\$46.00	1701	\$78,246.00
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
<b>Consultants/Contracts Total:</b>			<b>\$78,246.00</b>

Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.

This represents a partial reimbursement of overtime incurred for investigators from 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 nature of the investigations worked by the Task Force is overtime intensive. Although we have taken steps to reduce overtime it remains a necessary expense. 25% of this expense will be the local match.

Travel

A. Auto	No. Miles	Per Mile	Total
			\$0
			\$0
B. Commercial	Destination	Fare	Total
Airfare	various	\$2,290.00	\$2,290.00
			\$0
C. Per Diem: (Meal & Lodging Only)	No. of days	Rate	Total
Lodging	30	\$156.00	\$4,680.00
Meals	30	\$56.00	\$1,680.00
D. Other: (Specify)	No. Items	Rate	Total
Training Seminars	10	\$500.00	\$5,000.00
Fuel for Cleveland-owned NOLETf vehicles	1	\$600.00	\$600.00
<b>Travel Total:</b>			<b>\$14,250.00</b>

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

Travel expenses are required for travel outside the Cleveland area by investigators, analysts or supervisors assigned to the Task Force for investigative or training purposes. The purpose of such trips would be training, interview witnesses, arrests, court appearances, lead follow up, etc... The training seminar funding will be used to send task force officers to classes that will increase their knowledge and skills in investigating these major cases. These expenses are for Cleveland police officers who are members of the Task Force. 25% of this expense will be matching funds.

07/







Other Costs

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

<u>Other Charges</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Terms</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rent-Facilities			\$0
Cost of Ownership			\$0
Telephone			\$0
Utilities			\$0
Bookkeeping/Audit			\$0
Maintenance	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00
Clerical			\$0
Auto Lease/ST Rental			\$0
Equipment Lease/ST Rental			\$0
Photocopying			\$0
Printing			\$0
Other (Specify) <u>GPS Data Fees</u>	\$350.00	12	\$4,200.00
Other (Specify) <u>LETS Corp Cell/Storage</u>	\$3,895.00	1	\$3,895.00
Other (Specify) <u>Professional Dues</u>	\$400.00	1	\$400.00
		<b>Other Costs Total:</b>	<b>\$10,995.00</b>

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

Maintenance is for the Task Force vehicles. Data fees for GPS units used to track covert vehicles. LETS Corp fees for undercover cell phone and data storage. Professional dues will be paid for membership in the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association. 25% of this category will be matching funds.

**Confidential Funds (Applies to Drug Task Force Projects Only)**

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

<b>Implementing Agency</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Confidential Funds</b>	
\$119,000.00	\$119,000.00
<b>Confidential Fund Total:</b>	<b>\$119,000.00</b>

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. 25% of this category will be matching funds.

**Indirect Costs**

✓ 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

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

	1. Matching Funds		2. OCJS Funds	3. Total
	Cash	Inkind		
1. Personnel	\$19,067.00		\$57,201.00	\$76,268.00
2. Consultant/Contracts	\$19,561.50		\$58,684.50	\$78,246.00
3. Travel	\$3,562.50		\$10,687.50	\$14,250.00
4. Equipment	\$8,375.00		\$25,125.00	\$33,500.00
5. Supplies	\$268.50		\$805.50	\$1,074.00
6. Other Costs	\$2,748.75		\$8,246.25	\$10,995.00
7. Confidential Funds	\$29,750.00		\$89,250.00	\$119,000.00
8. Indirect Cost				\$0
9. Total Project Budget	\$83,333.25	\$0	\$249,999.75	\$333,333.00
OCJS decision				

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

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

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 in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. We were awarded a supplemental 2016 ODLEF grant in the amount of \$177,612.83. We have received approximately \$85,000 annually through Byrne JAG grants.

Do you have other funding resources not identified above?

Yes  No