

Title Page

A. Program Area: ✓ PSN - Project Safe Neighborhood
B. Title of Project: Cleveland Homicide Review Commission
C. Project Period: 7/1/2023 to: 6/30/2024
D. Type of Application: New ✓ Continuation of Subgrant Number: 2021-PS-PSN-435
E. Focus of Application: ✓ City County Township Village State
F. Budget Summary: OCJS Funds: \$19,329.80
 Cash Match: \$0
 Inkind Match: \$0
 Total Budget: \$19,329.80

See Directives for Eligibility

G. Project Director: **Prefix:** Ms. **First Name:** Dawn **M.I.:** **Last Name:** Heartsong **Suffix:**
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I. Subgrantee: **Prefix:** Mr. **First Name:** Justin **M.I.:** M **Last Name:** Bibb **Suffix:**
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Phone: 216-664-3544 Ext. **Fax:** 216-623-5853 **Subgrantee**
Email: RPuente@clevelandohio.gov **County:** Cuyahoga **Tax I.D.:** 346000646

Vendor ID and Address code to be completed by OCJS:

OAKS Vendor ID **OAKS Address Code** 018
0000100896
Vendor Location
EFT-18
Overage ()
Split Funding ()

Unique Entity Identifier: YR5DREGHLC Y7
Primary Place of Performance:
City: Cleveland
State: Ohio
Zip: 44113 - 1603

Problem Statement/Target Population

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

Increases in violent crime in Cleveland since the beginning of the pandemic made national news, including an article on the front page of the New York Times.

From 2019 to 2020, homicides increased 43.09%, from 123 to 176. That is the highest number of homicides in 30 years. Homicides with a firearm increased 50.47% from 107 to 161. During the same time, felonious assaults with a firearm increased 56.30% from 936 to 1,463.

That trend was slightly better in 2021 and 2022 for homicides, although still 39% higher than pre-pandemic levels. Felonious assaults continued to rise in 2021 and 2022.

The city of Cleveland has struggled with sustained levels of violent crime well above the national average. The violence has reached such high levels that the Major Cities Chiefs Association found Cleveland to be one of the top ten deadliest city in the nation in multiple years.

Cleveland's violent crime rate far exceeds the national average per 100,000. For example, Cleveland's homicide rate per 100,000 is 33.72. The national average is 5.3. Cleveland is 6th nationally in the homicide rate for 2017 (the latest year available). Cleveland is 6th in the nation for rape, 2nd for robbery, 23rd for aggravated assaults and 7th in the nation for total violent crimes.

Cleveland saw a precipitous increase in violent crimes from 2010 to 2016:

- Homicides increased from 74 to 133
- Rapes increased from 507 to 542
- Robberies increased from 3,212 to 3,216
- Felonious Assaults increased from 2,319 to 2,896

As with the national trend, the violent crime rate went down slightly in 2017 and 2018. This was partially due to the national up-cycle in the economy and employment. Now, unfortunately, violent crime rates are on the rise again

The City of Cleveland is located in Cuyahoga County. The County has 1,235,072 residents and Cleveland comprises 385,282 of those residents. Despite being only 31% of the County's total population, Cleveland police agencies' felony submissions comprise approximately 51% of the cases submitted to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office (CCPO).

Additionally, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is reporting a precipitous rise in gun-related deaths and gun-related homicides across the County, which has worsened markedly in the past few years, both in aggregate numbers and per capita rates per 100,000 population (these rates exceed those of most major cities in the United States).

Some of the socio-economic conditions in Cleveland contribute to the sustained levels of violence. Based on U.S. Census data, Cleveland remains one of the country's poorest cities with 30.4 percent of the population living below the poverty level. In many households and neighborhoods, a culture of generational poverty and despair influences every choice and opportunity.

One of the most important resources currently available is the leadership of partnering agencies who have worked together to design and implement numerous programs to combat violent crimes. A few of these include:

- Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) – Cleveland is a PSN site, partnering with local agencies in a three-pronged enforcement, prevention and reentry strategy.
- Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium (NOVCC). Cleveland is one of the eight cities that make up NOVCC. It was NOVCC leadership that assisted us in implementing the program we wish to fund with this grant.
- Violent Gun Reduction and Interdiction Program (V-GRIP). V-GRIP is a partnership with Cleveland Police, the FBI, ATF, County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Highway Patrol and U.S. Border Patrol. The goal is to target the city's most violent criminals and attempt to remove as many firearms as possible. Using intelligence information to determine areas where known violent offenders may be operating, law enforcement officers and community leaders (including religious leaders) canvass door-to-door in one neighborhood. We have found that when residents know we are going to every door in the neighborhood and working with neighborhood leaders, they are more likely to provide information about criminal activities.
- Repeat Offender Violent Enforcement (RAVEN). RAVEN is an effective program where high risk parolees are targeted using intelligence information to determine if they are "back in the game."
- Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) – Cleveland has been working for over five years with the U.S. Attorney's Office of Northern Ohio, ATF, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and other partners to set up a CGIC in Cleveland.
- Operation Legend. Cleveland was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice to be an Operation Legend site, bringing federal resources to target violent crime utilizing a task force of federal, state and local law enforcement officers.

Although we have seen a positive impact with these, and other programs, there is more we can do to make Cleveland a safer city to live, work and play.

Problem Statement/Target Population

One of the needs of this specific program is for funding for witness protection. Many witnesses are afraid to speak out about homicides for fear of retaliation. We started to respond to this need, but additional funding is needed.

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

The Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) is implementing the Cleveland Homicide Review Commission (CHRC) in conjunction with the Northern Ohio Violent Crime Consortium (NOVCC). Established in 2007, the purpose of the NOVCC is to reduce violent crime through a coordinated and effective intelligence-led, data driven, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-agency strategy.

With FY16 PSN funding, NOVCC cities were given the opportunity to implement evidence-based strategies designed to prevent and reduce violent crime. Cleveland decided to implement the Cleveland Homicide Review Commission (CHRC) based on the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) which received an effective rating by www.crimesolutions.gov. "The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission strives to reduce homicides and non-fatal shootings through a multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency homicide review process. The MHRC is comprised of law enforcement professionals, criminal justice professionals and community service providers who meet regularly to exchange information regarding the city's homicides and other violent crimes to identify methods of prevention from both public health and criminal justice perspectives. The MHRC makes recommendations based on trends identified through the case review process. These recommendations range from micro-level strategies and tactics to macro-level policy change." (<http://city.milwaukee.gov/hrc#.WyJar1MvzBI>). The MHRC has been replicated and adapted in several additional cities nationwide and the CHRC has heavily relied on the Homicide Review Training Manual 2.1 developed by Milwaukee to establish the operating procedures for Cleveland's commission, sometimes even using the same language used by Milwaukee.

The purpose of the CHRC is:

- To solve homicides in a more efficient and effective manner.
- To gain a better understanding of homicide through strategic problem -solving analysis.
- To develop innovative and effective responses and prevention strategies that result in a reduction of homicides .
- To help better focus available prevention and intervention resources .

The underlying assumptions that support the establishment of the CHRC are as follows:

- Homicide is preventable.
- A collaborative and well-coordinated effort of community, nonprofit, business, government, academic, legal, and medical partnerships will lead to lasting change.
- Data-driven strategies are essential.
- Multi-level responses help ensure meaningful, robust, and sustainable results over the long term

Operating Structure:

The Core Management Team (CMT) of the CHRC is responsible for coordination of all CHRC activities including data collection and analysis, recruitment of participating agencies, preparation and facilitation of review committee sessions, implementation of recommendations, and progress reporting.

The Governing Committee (GC) of the CHRC meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing, approving, and enacting organizational improvements designed to achieve the objectives of the CHRC. The GC is composed of decision makers with the authority to formally approve recommendations and allocate resources necessary to implement recommendations. Currently, members of the GC are Cleveland Chief of Police, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. Reviewers include staff of the CDP Homicide Unit and three review committees that meet at different times to hear presentations on and discuss homicide cases and make recommendations on agency and community changes that will help to achieve the objectives of the CHRC. Membership on the Review Committees have core members that attend all sessions with others invited based on their involvement in the cases reviewed.

Initial Review: The first level of review is conducted by Homicide Unit detectives.

Law Enforcement Review: Criminal justice professionals meet monthly to review both open and closed cases. These in-depth case reviews of homicides examine the victims, offenders, associates, witnesses, circumstances, and setting of homicide events. At this stage, the reviews result in recommendations usually related to only the criminal justice system.

Service Provider Reviews: Service providers and law enforcement meet quarterly to review closed or cleared case including government and nonprofit organizations that address mental health, substance abuse, education, health, criminal justice, etc.

Project Description

issue.

Typically there is a lag time between the homicide incident and the reviews because of length of time spent on investigating and closing case and limited meeting times.

Community Member Reviews: Community members and law enforcement meet quarterly to review closed cases including residents, community leaders, block watch captains, advocates, business owners, etc.

Selection of cases and session preparation:

The CPD selects cases for review. Case information is entered into a database and a PowerPoint presentation is created for each case. Law Enforcement Reviews are held monthly and Service Provider and Community Reviews are held quarterly.

The CHRC was implemented in February of 2018, starting with Law Enforcement Review meetings. The Service Provider Review phase started at the end of April, 2019. The Community Member Review portion had to be postponed due to COVID-19. We are now working with someone from John Hopkins University to assist us in implementing this portion..

NEW THIS YEAR: We are reviewing old cases and have found that they are often connected to other homicides . A recent one was connected to six homicides! This is allowing us to target violent, repeat offenders as we follow the nexus of multiple players and can take down entire operations. This has national implications as we investigate drug trafficking originations in partnership with the DEA.

Executive Summary**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The city of Cleveland has struggled with sustained levels of violent crime well above the national average. The violence has reached such high levels that the Major Cities Chiefs Association found Cleveland to be the 5th deadliest city in the nation . Cleveland's violent crime rate far exceeds the national average per 100,000. For example, Cleveland's homicide rate per 100,000 is 33.72. The national average is 5.3. Cleveland is 6th nationally in the homicide rate for. Cleveland is 6th in the nation for rape, 2nd for robbery, 23rd for aggravated assaults and 7th in the nation for total violent crimes.

The City of Cleveland is located in Cuyahoga County. The County has 1,249,352 residents and Cleveland comprises 385,351 of those residents. Despite being only 31% of the County's total population, Cleveland police agencies' felony submissions comprise approximately 51% of the cases submitted to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office (CCPO).

Additionally, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is reporting a precipitous rise in gun -related deaths and gun-related homicides across the County, which has worsened markedly in the past few years, both in aggregate numbers and per capita rates per 100,000 population (these rates exceed those of most major cities in the United States).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

With FY16 PSN funding, NOVCC cities were given the opportunity to implement three evidence-based strategies designed to prevent and reduce violent crime. The city of Cleveland decided to implement the Cleveland Homicide Review Commission (CHRC) based on the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) which received an effective rating by www.crimesolutions.gov. "The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission strives to reduce homicides and non-fatal shootings through a multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency homicide review process. The MHRC is comprised of law enforcement professionals, criminal justice professionals and community service providers who meet regularly to exchange information regarding the city's homicides and other violent crimes to identify methods of prevention from both public health and criminal justice perspectives. The MHRC makes recommendations based on trends identified through the case review process. These recommendations range from micro-level strategies and tactics to macro-level policy change." (<http://city.milwaukee.gov/hrc#>. WyJar1MvzBI). The MHRC has been

replicated and adapted in several additional cities nationwide and the CHRC has heavily relied on the Homicide Review Training Manual 2.1 developed by Milwaukee to establish the operating procedures for Cleveland's commission , sometimes even using the same language used by Milwaukee.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES / COLLABORATION

The collaboration board for this program is the Core Management Team (CMT) of the CHRC. It includes representatives from CDP, NOVCC, and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office (CCPO), and is responsible for coordination of all CHRC activities including data collection and analysis, recruitment of participating agencies, preparation and facilitation of review committee sessions, implementation of recommendations, and progress reporting.

Additionally, there is a Governing Committee (GC) of the CHRC that meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing, approving, and enacting organizational improvements designed to achieve the objectives of the CHRC. The GC is composed of decision makers with the authority to formally approve recommendations and allocate resources necessary to implement recommendations of the VCRC. Initially, members of the GC are Cleveland Chief of Police, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.

Personnel Costs

Salaries and Personnel:

Name/ Vacant	Title	No. Hrs.	Hrly Rate	Total
Aaron Reese	Sergeant	12	\$61.83	\$741.96
Teresa Gomez	Sergeant	10	\$61.83	\$618.30
Joe Rini	Sergeant	10	\$61.83	\$618.30
Various Detectives (see note)	Overtime	25	\$46.46	\$1,161.50
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
				\$0
			Salary Subtotal:	\$3,140.06

Employer's Share of Fringe Benefits:

Fringe Benefits	Rate (%)	Total Yearly Wages	Total Cost
PERS (government agencies)	19.5%	\$3,140.06	\$612.31
FICA (private agencies)	%		\$0
Retirement (private agencies)	%		\$0
Worker's Compensation	%		\$0
Unemployment Comp. (max 2.00% on the first \$9,500)	%		\$0
Medicare	1.45%	\$3,140.06	\$45.53
Health Insurance			\$0
		<i>Fill in the formula: \$ (Monthly Rate) x (# Months) x (FTE)</i>	\$0
		Fringe Subtotal:	\$657.84
		Personnel Total:	\$3,797.90

Provide justification for each position; list job duties.

The three sergeants are supervisors in the Homicide Unit, and members of the Homicide Review Commission. They will need to work on an overtime basis investigating some of the cases.

Homicide Detectives and District Detectives will put together case information, investigate cases and attend some of the review meetings. It is estimated numerous detectives will need a total of 25 hours to work on the program. We will not know which detectives will work the cases until the cases are reviewed and we know which district the cases are in.

Fringe rates are standard for police officers.

Consultants/Contracts

Name	Hourly Fee	Hours	Total
FrontLine Services	\$80.00	81.25	\$6,500.00
May Dugan	\$80.00	81.25	\$6,500.00
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
Consultants/Contracts Total:			\$13,000.00

Provide justification, method of procurement and basis of selection.

We will contract with these agencies to provide witness relocation services . The hourly fee and number of hours listed are only because that is the only way funds can be put into the budget. We will provide each agency with \$4,240 for witness relocation costs.

The actual costs will be for Section 8 housing vouchers. Section 8 housing voucher costs are 35% of the income of the family. Using Cleveland's average income of \$21,500 per year, that would be \$7,525 per year for each family, or \$627 per month. Each agency can provide housing for a total of 10.36 months (\$6,505 available / \$627 per month = 10.36 months). Since the voucher costs are based on income, we will not know the exact costs until we know the income of each witness.

One of the needs of this specific program is for funding for witness protection. Many witnesses are afraid to speak out about homicides for fear of retaliation. There are currently no funds set aside for witness protection programs such as witness relocation.

This will assist in helping witnesses feel comfortable in coming forward with important information .

These agencies were selected because they offer this type of service . Their role will be to work with the witnesses and HUD to find the best possible location for them. They also have the partnerships and resources in place to assist the witnesses with other, free services, such as employment, job training, and counseling.

Equipment

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

	Item(s) Being Purchased	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Laptop Computer		1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Projector		1	\$800.00	\$800.00
				\$0
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				Equipment Total:
				\$1,800.00

Provide justification for the equipment requested.

One laptop and one projector are needed for the Homicide Review Commission. They will be used for presentations at HRC meetings throughout the city. It will allow the prosecutor and commander to pre-load case information and presentations, and take them to the various police districts.

Budget Request By Resource & Cost Category

	1. Matching Funds		2. OCJS Funds	3. Total
	Cash	Inkind		
1. Personnel			\$3,797.90	\$3,797.90
2. Consultant/Contracts			\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
3. Travel			\$0	\$0
4. Equipment			\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
5. Supplies			\$731.90	\$731.90
6. Other Costs			\$0	\$0
7. Indirect Cost			\$0	\$0
8. Total Project Budget	\$0	\$0	\$19,329.80	\$19,329.80
OCJS decision				

	Amount	Percentage %
OCJS Funds Requested:	\$19,329.80	100.00%
Cash Match:	\$0	0.00%
In-Kind Match:	\$0	0.00%
Total Project Budget:	\$19,329.80	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 applied for.

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

- FY18 PSN - \$37,000
- FY19 PSN - \$20,375
- FY20 PSN - \$22,077.55
- FY21 PSN - \$17,529

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