

ANALYSIS

Item 12: Criminal Justice Commission Project Safe Neighborhoods

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$199,137 over a period of three years to reduce gun and gang violence in the cities of Portland and Gresham.

Analysis: The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program seeks to reduce gun violence at the local level. Coordinated through each U.S. Attorney's Office nationwide, the program supports law enforcement and community partnerships, strategic enforcement efforts that focus on the most violent offenders and/or the most violence-affected locations, prosecution and appropriate sanctions, and the prevention of additional violence through support of local prevention and re-entry efforts. The PSN Program is the U.S. Department of Justice's lead grant initiative in a suite of programs intended to reduce violent crime.

On May 3, 2021 the BJA made \$18 million available on a formula basis to each federal judicial district, based on its violent crime rate and population, through the PSN grant program. Grant-funded strategies are coordinated through each judicial district's U.S. Attorney's Office, which establishes a collaborative team of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and community partners to investigate, prosecute, and prevent violent crime in their jurisdictions. Oregon's grant would support programs that focus on reducing the risk of hospitalization for firearm or assault injuries, arrest for firearm or violent crime, and homicide by firearm. Additionally, funds would support continued prevention and intervention efforts targeting high-risk gang members, and on investigation and prosecution of criminal organizations that are engaged in human and/or drug trafficking and high levels of violent crime.

The Criminal Justice Commission applied for this grant as the fiscal agent for the U.S. Attorney's Office. The grant program requires the use of a fiscal agent to receive federal funding and to make subawards to or contract with the entities that will carry out the PSN strategy. The Legislature was not notified prior to the agency's grant submission on July 2, 2021. The three-year period of performance begins on October 1, 2021 and there are no match requirements. If successful, the agency will return to the Legislature to request Federal Funds expenditure limitation for expenditure of the grant award.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

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Criminal Justice Commission
McDonald

Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant totaling \$199,137 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for 2021 Project Safe Neighborhoods funding to reduce gun and group/gang violence.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is seeking retroactive authorization for a formula grant solicitation from the BJA Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program for fiscal year 2021. In total, the PSN program will award up to \$18.0 million nationwide. Allocations are based on Federal Judicial Districts and the District of Oregon has been allocated \$199,137 for competitive grant awards. CJC, acting as the fiscal agent for the District of Oregon, has applied for the full amount.

The intent of the grant is to reduce gun and group/gang violence in the Target Enforcement Area (TEA), including the City of Gresham and the portion of Portland in Multnomah County. The primary goal is to build capacity for programs whose efforts are focused on reducing the risk of re-hospitalization for firearm or assault injuries, arrest for firearm or violent crime, and homicide by firearm within the TEA. The four PSN pillars include: Community Engagement, Prevention & Intervention, Focused & Strategic Enforcement, and Accountability. Program strategies may include street outreach, violence interruption models, and hospital-based intervention. Efforts will also focus on the investigation and prosecution of criminal and/or transnational organizations engaged in high levels of violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking.

This grant opportunity was posted by BJA on May 3, 2021, with a closing date of July 6, 2021. CJC was selected as the fiscal agent for the District of Oregon by the U.S. Attorney's Office on June 6, 2021. Five days earlier, on June 1, a statewide notice went out informing agencies of a shift to the interim process for federal grants, effective immediately. However, CJC did not provide a 10-day notification to the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) and the Chief Financial Office (CFO) prior to their grant application submission on June 21, 2021. In recent discussions regarding CJC's retroactive grant requests, the agency's leadership expressed sincere regret about the oversight and assured both CFO and LFO this won't happen again.

There is no match requirement and, if successful, CJC will not need additional FTE to administer the grant. The performance period is three years; from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024. If retroactive authorization is granted and the grant application is successful, CJC will return to seek additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation in accordance with the interim guidelines.



Oregon

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8/23/2021

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Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is seeking retroactive approval to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The U.S. DOJ has issued a formula grant solicitation announcement from the BJA for FY 2021 Project Safe Neighborhoods. The Fiscal Year (FY) 21 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program for the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for District of Oregon was awarded an amount of \$199,137 for a project period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024.

The District of Oregon's goal for the FY 2021 PSN grant is the reduction of gun and group/gang violence in the Target Enforcement Area (TEA) which includes Portland and the City of Gresham, both located in Multnomah County.

The District has developed objectives and strategies in order meet its goal that are guided by the four PSN Pillars: Community Engagement, Prevention & Intervention, Focused & Strategic Enforcement, and Accountability.

The District of Oregon's primary project goal is to build capacity with and for programs whose efforts through, for example, street outreach, violence interruption models, and hospital-based intervention, are focused on reducing the risk of rehospitalization for firearm or assault injuries, arrest for firearm or violent crime, and death by homicide by firearm within the Targeted Enforcement Area (TEA) which includes Portland and the City of Gresham within Multnomah County.

The District of Oregon will be using the 30% set aside on continued intervention and prevention efforts targeting high risk gang members and/or evaluation and assessment of those focused efforts. For the District of Oregon, the PSN Team will be considered as the "Gang Task Force" as required by this grant's requirements. The PSN Team will be focused, at least in part, on the investigation and prosecution of criminal and/or transnational organizations that are engaged in high levels of violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, and drug trafficking

The competitive award amount for this project is \$199,137. The grant does not specify a date by which the grants will be announced, there is no match requirement, and CJC will need no additional FTE to administer the grant. The project period will be 36 months.

The Criminal Justice Commission is seeking retroactive approval to apply for a grant of \$199,137 to the U.S. DOJ, OJP, and BJA to be administered through the CJC.

This grant opportunity was not anticipated in the Commission's 2021-2023 Legislatively Adopted Budget. If the grant application is successful, the CJC requests additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Sanchagrin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Sanchagrin

Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission