



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division Funding Announcement: ***Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, FY2020***

Purpose

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications for projects that are designed to create and foster safer neighborhoods through a sustained reduction in violent crime, including, but not limited to, addressing criminal gangs and felonious possession and use of firearms.

Available Funding

Federal funds are authorized under 34 U.S.C. 60702 Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program (PSN). PSN funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible Organizations

Applications may be submitted by public and private institutions of higher education, independent school districts, non-profit corporations (including hospitals and faith-based organizations), and units of local government, which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with the authority to establish a budget and impose taxes.

All applications submitted by local law enforcement agencies/offices must be submitted by a unit of government affiliated with the agency, including an authorizing resolution from that unit of government. For example, police departments must apply under their municipal government, and community supervision and corrections departments, district attorneys, and judicial districts must apply through their affiliated county government (or one of the counties, in the case of agencies that serve more than one county).

Application Process

Applicants must access the PSO's eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see *Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide*, available [here](#).

Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	03/25/2019
Online System Opening Date	03/25/2019
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	04/24/2019 at 5:00pm CST

Project Period

Projects may not exceed a 12 month project period.

Funding Levels

Minimum: None

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Eligible Activities and Costs

Funds may only be used to foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies, including the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district, entities representing members of the community affected by increased violence, victims' advocates, and researchers to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes by

1. Developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts focused on identified subsets of individuals or organizations responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area;
2. Developing evidence-based and data-driven intervention and prevention initiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activities which may include street-level outreach, conflict mediation, provision of treatment and social services, and the changing of community norms, in order to reduce violence; and
3. Collecting data on outcomes achieved through the Program, including the effect on the violent crime rate, incarceration rate, and recidivism rate of the jurisdiction.

Eligible Costs:

1. Salary, wage, and fringe benefits of individuals supporting the PSN Project;
2. Overtime compensation of individuals supporting the PSN project;
3. Workshops and events associated with the support of the PSN project (pending approval by Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance)
4. Travel associated with implementation and evaluation of the PSN project;
5. Equipment purchased to support the execution of the PSN project; and
6. Printing, publication, and duplication of materials that support the PSN project.

Program-Specific Requirements

Local Government Certification of Compliance with 8 U.S.C. 1373. Applicants must upload a [Certification of Compliance with 8 U.S.C. § 1373](#) signed by the Chief Legal Officer. Certification must be uploaded onto the Upload.Files Tab prior to the submission and certification of eGrants application.

Project Safe Neighborhoods applications must address 1 of 3 PSN design features:

Targeted and Prioritized Enforcement. Applicants are required to develop data-driven strategies to target enforcement efforts in locations with significant violent crime problems and against offenders who are driving the violence. Applicants must focus on three areas:

1. Identify locations within their jurisdiction in greatest need of comprehensive violent crime reduction efforts;
2. Identify offenders who are driving the violence in those locations; and
3. Ensure offenders are prosecuted in the jurisdiction that can provide the most certain and appropriate sanction.

Prevention. The main focus of this PSN design feature is local prevention and reentry programs that can help reduce violent crime by keeping at-risk populations from offending in the first place. Applicants are required to take a comprehensive approach that establishes public awareness and support for the local violent crime reduction effort. Specifically, developing effective relationships with both community leaders and residents, understanding the needs and priorities of the community, and effectively communicating how law enforcement efforts are helping to reduce crime and increase public safety.

Accountability. PSN maintains accountability by measuring results based on outcomes and numbers of investigations and prosecutions. Applicants addressing this PSN design feature are required to collect and analyze relevant data that focus on outcomes—i.e. reduced violent crime. Applicants must monitor crime data over time as related to their local PSN Task force’s targeted problems and/or targeted areas.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Entities receiving funds from CJD must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 60. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
2. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.

3. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) no later than September 1, 2019. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to these upcoming state and federal deadlines, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Criminal Justice Division (CJD).
4. An application requirement pertaining to full compliance with Department of Homeland Security detainer requests applies to all municipal or county governments that operate a subdivision or department that detains individuals after arrest for a criminal violation. Full text of this certification can be found on the Narrative tab of each application or at https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/dhs_detainerrequest. All applicants must select one of four options in their eGrants application to be considered for funding under this announcement.
5. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
6. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://sam.gov/>.

Failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or suspension or termination of grant funds.

Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Construction, renovation, or remodeling;
2. Medical services;
3. Law enforcement equipment that is standard department issue; and
4. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

Selection Process

Application Screening: CJD will screen all applications to ensure that they meet the requirements included in the funding announcement. Applications that meet those requirements will move forward to the merit review phase.

Merit Review: Projects will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the respective regional PSN Taskforce in an effort to prioritize funding. Panelists must not be federal employees or employees of any applicant for a subaward. The merit review panel will assess and score each application on a 100-point scale and then report its findings to the executive director. Scores will be based on standard criteria that include objective eligibility criteria and application requirements.

Final Decisions: The executive director will consider rankings along with other factors and make all final funding decisions. Other factors may include cost effectiveness, overall funds availability, CJD or state government priorities and strategies, legislative directives, need, geographic distribution, balance of focuses and approaches, or other relevant factors.

CJD may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. In the event that funding requests exceed available funds, CJD may revise projects to address a more limited focus.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@gov.texas.gov or (512) 463-1919.