American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Community Violence Reduction

2022
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Deadline: November 1, 2022

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES
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MIKE DEWINE, Governor
JON HUSTED, Lt. Governor
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NICOLE M. DEHNER, OCJS Executive Director

Apply for ARPA online using the OCJS Grants Management System
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

OCJS and ARPA ................................................. 1
What to Expect .................................................. 1
Award Notifications and Expectations .................. 1
Eligible Applicants ............................................. 2
Applicant Training .............................................. 2
Program Purpose ................................................ 2
Length of Funding ............................................. 3
Fiscal Considerations ......................................... 3
Post Award Reporting Requirements .................... 3
Proposal Components Checklist .......................... 3
Format and Submission ....................................... 4
ARPA Funding Goals and Priorities ....................... 4
ARPA Funding Application Requirements ............... 9
**OCJS AND ARPA**
The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. By statute, OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and develops technology, training, and products for criminal justice professionals and communities. House Bill 169 of the 134th General Assembly appropriated a total of $175 million to provide grants to support communities that have experienced an increase in violent crime, more difficulty providing services to respond to or mitigate the effects of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, or both. Governor Mike DeWine designated OCJS to administer this portion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. As such, all funding is subject to ARPA guidelines and the final rule for Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds [SLFRF-Final-Rule.pdf (treasury.gov)].

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Application.** For technical assistance on the narrative and budget pieces of the ARPA application, email OCJS at arpa@dps.ohio.gov.

For technical assistance with www.ocjsgrants.com, please contact your grant coordinator by email. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm.

**Review.** OCJS staff will review ARPA proposals. Reviewers will ensure that project budget costs are allowable and directly relate to the program. The OCJS Executive Director makes final funding recommendations, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety approves them.

**AWARD NOTIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS**
Projects will be notified and required to complete all forms and pre-award conditions electronically through the Online Grants Management System. Forms and assurances included with pre-award conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Special Conditions Form
- Fidelity/Surety Bond (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Proof of Tax-Exempt Status (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Registration in the System for Award Management (www.sam.gov/)

In addition to the above requirements and this Request for Proposal, all subrecipients are bound by the Federal Subgrant Conditions Handbook. Please note that projects will be required to submit Quarterly Subgrant Reports through the online grants management system as well as meet the requirements of the grant including but not limited to performance reporting requirements as described in the Pre-Award Conditions.
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
All ARPA applicants must have an organization, or subrecipient, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. Eligible ARPA applicants for this community violence reduction RFP include:

1. Community-based not-for-profit organizations; or
2. Law enforcement agencies. If applying or partnering with another applicant under this solicitation, law enforcement agencies should be in compliance with crime statistics reporting, using either the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System or the FBI’s NIBRS Collection Application (NCA), per Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62(C)(6), or if not in compliance must commit to exploring the opportunity to become OIBRS compliant; or
3. A unit of local government that has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a city, county, township, or village. If two or more jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency’s fiscal officer; or
4. State agencies.

*Note: applications may include research or evaluation components if the applicant is partnering with an established college, university, or credentialed researcher for up to 10% of the funding awarded.

*Note: Law enforcement agencies that applied for the Office of Criminal Justice Services’ Law Enforcement Violence Reduction & Staffing funding in the purpose area of violence reduction are not eligible to apply in response to this solicitation. However, if a community agency is applying, the law enforcement agency may be included and is encouraged to participate as a partner.

For an applicant and project to be eligible, the application must be accompanied by a completed Eligibility Screening Tool that demonstrates eligibility in one of the purpose areas on the tool.

APPLICANT TRAINING
A voluntary bidder’s conference training webinar for the American Rescue Plan Act Funding will take place October 6, 2022 from 10 am to 11 am. The training will provide information helpful for both the application preparation and review process. Please register for the webinar at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2852623966515487501

PROGRAM PURPOSE
The purpose of this ARPA funding is to address the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and all proposals must demonstrate how the pandemic has negatively impacted the community and how the proposed response will mitigate that negative impact. Specifically, applicants can use these funds to address violent crime, using either of the following program areas:

- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs
- Other Violent Crime Reduction Programs
This is a competitive grant with funding preference given to applications proposing the most effective intervention designs, based on the guidance provided in this RFP, and being most likely to have a favorable and measurable impact on community violence.

**LENGTH OF FUNDING**
Projects may apply for 12 months or 24 months of funding. Funding may be back-dated to September 1, 2022.

**FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS**
All budget items must be related to the purpose of addressing the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

*Fiscal Compliance Review*
- OCJS is required to perform a funding pre-risk assessment on all grant applicants, resulting in a risk assessment of low risk, moderate risk, or high risk.
- Moderate or high risk subrecipients will receive a fiscal compliance review. OCJS staff will be monitoring fiscal and programmatic activities to ensure federal subawards are being used for authorized purposes and financial and performance goals are being achieved.
- Reviewing performance and financial reports and following up on noted deficiencies are required activities per the Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance 200.331-333 Subrecipient Management and Monitoring and Subpart F Audit.

**POST AWARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**
All ARPA subgrantees are required to comply with any reporting requirements set forth by the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

**PROPOSAL COMPONENTS CHECKLIST**
Use the following checklist as a general guide for submitting proposals to OCJS. Read the entire ARPA RFP before completing and submitting proposals.

- Title Page
- ARPA Eligibility Screening Tool
- Narrative
- Budget
- External Audit or Financial Report (this should be uploaded as an attachment in the narrative section).
FORMAT AND SUBMISSION
OCJS will accept applications. The deadline is 5pm on November 1, 2022. Applications received prior to this date may be reviewed earlier. Please visit www.ocjsgrants.com to apply.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be in the “APPLICATION SUBMITTED” status in the Online Grants Management System to be considered for funding. Designated Project Directors will receive an email confirmation that the application has been submitted.

Agencies that registered for the Online Grants Management System previously should use the same username and password information for this application. OCJS will deny duplicate registration requests. For more information on how to access the application portion of the Online Grants Management System, use the application manual located at www.ocjsgrants.com.

For technical assistance on narrative and budget pieces of the ARPA application, please email arpa@dps.ohio.gov. For assistance with www.ocjsgrants.com please contact your grants coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING
GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Responding to the Pandemic and its Negative Impacts
The purpose of the community violence reduction ARPA funding is to respond to the impacts of the pandemic by reducing violence in Ohio’s communities. This funding is for new or expanded interventions, not for basic operational costs. Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential projects that address this purpose.

Unallowable Costs
As this is a grant program for community prevention and intervention strategies to reduce violence, equipment (such as vehicles, license plate readers and cameras) purchases are not allowable expenses.

Purpose Areas (in priority order):

1. Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs
   - Collaborative approaches to intervening in violence in the community, such as Focused Deterrence, Street Outreach, Violence Interrupters and Hospital-based violence intervention models.
   - Community-based interventions to connect victims of violent crime to recovery services—including trauma recovery agencies and child advocacy centers—for the purpose of preventing/reducing future violence.
The table below provides detail on the description of preferred program models, their core program elements, and examples of recommended objectives that must be submitted with the proposed project. Additional details and resources for the program models are available in the Appendix to this RFP, which is located on the Ohio Department of Public Safety ARPA website: [cvi-rfp-appendix.pdf (ohio.gov)](http://ohio.gov)

### Children’s Advocacy Center Program Model

Children’s Advocacy Center programs (CACs) provide wrap-around services to child victims of abuse and violence along with their families. They consist of multi-disciplinary teams for families and children to receive child-focused services that reduce re-traumatization and improve overall outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Program Elements</th>
<th>Recommended Objective Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Services take place in a child-appropriate facility</td>
<td><strong>Objective Example 1:</strong> Provide case management services for &lt;insert number here&gt; child survivors of violent crime and abuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A multidisciplinary team is engaged throughout the process</td>
<td><strong>Performance Indicator Example 1:</strong> Number of child survivors and/or family members who are provided case management services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forensic interviews occur and are conducted in an objective, nonduplicative manner</td>
<td><strong>Objective Example 2:</strong> CAC MDT members engage in &lt;insert number here&gt; community presentations at schools, hospitals, and other community-based providers and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medical evaluation and treatment is provided when necessary</td>
<td><strong>Performance Indicator Example 2:</strong> Number of community presentations at schools, hospitals, and other community-based providers/services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Therapeutic intervention as needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Victim support/advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Case review and tracking</td>
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### Community Violence Intervention Programs

Community Violence Intervention (CVI) is a person-focused approach to violence reduction that includes peer support from credible individuals, and community support from residents and local organizations. These programs include both strategies for immediate violence reduction, and resources for individuals who are highly likely to be involved in violence.

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<td>• Credible messengers that establish authentic relationships, provide consistent prosocial support, promote lifestyle and behavioral change, and connect individuals to resources.</td>
<td><strong>Objective Example 1:</strong> Conduct outreach to &lt;insert number here&gt; individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Case management and wraparound services.</td>
<td><strong>Performance Indicator Example 1:</strong> Number of individuals contacted through outreach.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Response to violent incidents and victim services.

| Objective Example 2: Provide case management services to <insert number here> individuals. Performance Indicator Example 2: Number of individuals receiving case management services. |

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### Crisis Response Programs

Crisis response programs are community-based approaches that create unarmed teams of specially trained civilians that act as an alternative to police by responding to people in behavioral crises. Overall, these programs reduce unnecessary police contact by diverting low-level calls for service away from the police as well as diverting individuals from emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities. As a result, the police can spend more time on crime-related activity.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Core Program Elements</th>
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</table>
| - Response teams made up of crisis workers, and medical staff who are trained to respond to 911 and non-emergency calls involving individuals in behavioral crises.  
- Work together with the local police departments and can respond as co-responders to a scene when appropriate.  
- Deliver crisis intervention, counseling, mediation, and referral services along with transportation to social services, first aid, and basic-level emergency medical care. | Objective Example 1: Divert <insert number here> low level calls for service away from local police agency. Performance Indicator Example 1: Number of calls for service the team responded to without assistance of law enforcement.  
Objective Example 2: Connect <insert number here> individuals in behavioral crisis to the appropriate social services. Performance Indicator Example 2: Number of individuals assisted by the team that were connected with social services. |

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### Focused Deterrence Strategies

Focused deterrence strategies use partnerships between criminal justice stakeholders and community members to address community-based violence. Members of the collaboration identify violent group members through an audit, then hold call-ins with the identified individuals to deliver a message that the violence must stop and offer resources.

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| - Group audit. Local criminal justice stakeholders and community members, often supported with law enforcement data, convene and work together to identify actively violent group members, where they operate, and the nature of inter-group conflicts. | Objective Example 1: Successfully identify and engage <insert number here> group members during call in meetings  
Performance Indicator Example 1: Number of call ins with most violent group members attending |
- Call-ins. Project partners convene representative members of each violent group/gang – especially those who are vulnerable to criminal justice sanctions. These must include a credible moral message that the violence must stop, law enforcement notification they will swiftly concentrate their efforts on future violent acts, and community partners offering services to group members to help meet their needs.

**Objective Example 2:**
Successfully deter <insert number here> violent group members from engaging in retaliatory violence

**Performance Indicator Example 2:**
Number of successful *demonstration* enforcement actions with actively violent individuals.

### Hospital Based Violence Intervention Programs

Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs provide services to victims of violent injury while they are recovering in a trauma center or hospital. The programs focus on reducing and preventing retaliatory violence and reducing and preventing re-injury. They also address the psychosocial, educational, and mental health needs of these victims to further prevent re-victimization and decrease community violence.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>• Buy in from all levels of the organization</td>
<td><strong>Objective Example 1:</strong> Identify &lt;insert number here&gt; victims of violent injury appropriate for the Hospital Based Intervention Program.   <strong>Example Performance Indicator 1:</strong> Number of victims of violent injury identified as appropriate for services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Crisis intervention &amp; identification of clients</td>
<td><strong>Objective Example #2:</strong> Provide case management services to &lt;insert number here&gt; victims of violent injury.   <strong>Example Performance Indicator #2:</strong> Number of victims of violent crime that are given case management services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trauma-specific, evidence-based treatments</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clinical case management including outreach to community partners/referrals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Follow up services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Trauma informed psychotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Psychiatric medication management (as needed)</td>
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Trauma Recovery Center Program Model

Trauma Recovery Centers are specifically designed to address the needs of underserved crime survivors and to reach those who have fallen through the cracks of traditional support services. The Trauma Recovery Center model promotes survivor-centered healing and removes barriers to care for underserved survivors of violent crime.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>• Assertive outreach with community partners and referral sources</td>
<td>Objective Example 1: Provide case management for &lt;insert number here&gt; survivors of violent crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical case management</td>
<td>Performance Indicator Example 1: Number of survivors of violent crime that receive case management services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trauma informed psychotherapy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trauma-specific, evidence-based treatments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Psychiatric medication management (as needed)</td>
<td>Objective Example 2: Hold or participate in &lt;insert number here&gt; outreach or community events to build relationships within areas most impacted by violent crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performance Indicator Example 2: Number of events participated in or held for outreach.</td>
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2. Violence Reduction

• Violent crime reduction strategies such as Place Network Investigations, Hot Spots Policing and Crime Gun Intelligence Centers.
• Prosecution of offenders, such as through a gun violence task force.
• Safe surrender programs to reduce community violence by (1) preventing the direct and collateral violence involved in the apprehension of fugitives and/or (2) clearing warrants so that law enforcement can implement a plan to apprehend violent fugitives.
• Training on a violent crime reduction strategy.
• Technical assistance on implementing a violent crime reduction strategy.
• Law enforcement efforts—such as drug task forces—to address violence resulting from drug trafficking.
• Law enforcement partnership efforts to combat domestic violence.
• Law enforcement partnership efforts to combat human trafficking.

For additional projects related to violence reduction and intervention, please go to the following link and click on the Guidance Tab at the bottom of the page: https://publicsafety.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odps/what-we-do/our-programs-new/arpa-funding
**Narrative** (limited to 8000 characters)
Describe the project to be implemented with grant funding. Narratives must respond to the following:

- State the problem that has been created or made worse by the pandemic (e.g. violent crime).
- Identify the target geographic region to be served and target population.
- Provide statistics to support the presence of the problem identified within the specified geographic region and how it impacts the target population above; use January 27, 2020 as the ARPA-recognized start of the pandemic, so data should demonstrate that the problem began or worsened after that date. Note: Community Violence Intervention programs do not need to demonstrate an increase of violence related to the pandemic, however will need to describe how programming ultimately results in a reduction of violent crime.
- Community Violence Intervention Projects: Clearly describe the program model and how the core elements (Table 1) are demonstrated in the proposed project. If core elements of the model are missing, the applicant must explain how they are building capacity to address these gaps.
- Violence Reduction Projects: Clearly describe the program model being implemented and how the core elements of the program are demonstrated in the proposed project. If core elements of the model are missing, the applicant must explain how they are building capacity to address these gaps.
- Clearly describe the proposed activities and approach to be taken to address the problem that was stated.
- Describe how the activities will be reasonably achieved.
- Provide details of the organization and staff responsible for implementing the project.
- Provide a description of how the proposed activities will engage with the target population and any community partners that will be involved, if applicable.
- State if the proposed approach is evidence-based and, if so, provide supporting research references.

**Project Objectives**
Project objectives measure the changes that will result from implementing the proposed project. Applicants must describe these changes by providing details on at least one objective for each project. Each objective must include at least one performance indicator (e.g. something that is measured to indicate a target objective is being met) that identifies how change will be measured. Objectives and indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable and within pre-set timeframes.

Recommended objective and performance indicator examples for specific Community Violence Intervention programs are available in the table under purpose area number 1, starting on page 5.
The following are examples for Violence Reduction programs:

- Examples project objectives for Violence Reduction programs:
  - To reduce incidents of violent crime, or a specific type of violent crime, in a specific community by <insert number here> percentage.
  - To decrease the number of shots fired calls received in a specific community <insert number here> percentage.
  - To increase by <insert number here> percentage the number of leads generated by a law enforcement agency.
  - To increase by <insert number here> percentage of violent crime arrests and/or convictions in a specific community by a specified percentage.
  - To increase by <insert number here> percentage number of victims provided services

- Example performance indicators for Violence Reduction programs:
  - The number of incidents of violent crime in the specified community.
  - The number of shots fired calls received in a specified community.
  - The number of leads generated by a law enforcement agency.
  - The number of arrests in the specific community.
  - The number of convictions in the specified county/court.

- Any baseline data that exists related to the indicators being used.

**Budget**

Describe any costs associated with implementing the activities described in the narrative.

- Present a clear and detailed budget with a narrative that explains and justifies the budget information.
- Justify the costs of the proposed program and that the costs are considered reasonable and cost-effective in view of the types and range of activities to be conducted, the number of participants to be served, and the expected results and benefits.
- Include information on related funding the agency may be applying for or receiving.

There is not a match requirement for this award; please leave this section of the budget blank.

**External Audit or Financial Report**

Please upload a copy of your organization’s most recent external audit or most recent financial report as part of your application packet. This allows OCJS to ensure requirements are met for 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(f). Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996, and the OMB Circular A-133.