

Community Violence Request for Proposal

Background

The City of Columbia will receive a total of \$25.2 million in ARPA funds to address health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Columbia City Council has dedicated the first half of the funding to be used for homelessness, community violence, behavioral crisis care mental health services, and workforce development.

The City of Columbia is interested in collaborating with organizations to focus on the implementation of a coordinated, community-based strategy for reducing violence in the City of Columbia.

The City seeks qualified applicants that embrace evidence-based community centered approaches to community violence prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry. Applicants must demonstrate strong community ties and be willing to work with the City, other community-based organizations, residents, law enforcement and other individuals that are well positioned to work with at-risk youth and adults.

Overarching goals associated with the Community Violence funding include:

- Reduction in violent crime;
- Reduction in gang-related activities;
- Increasing safety in neighborhoods;
- Decreasing crime in neighborhoods;
- Increasing the safety of youth;
- Reduction in juvenile crime;
- Reduction in disproportionate minority contact.

The City encourages the submission of plans and ideas that support the work of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence.

https://www.como.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/mtfcv_report_final_combined_pdf.pdf

There are four pillars identified by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence:

- Prevention: Heading off violent behavior before it sets in
- Intervention: Coming in when the risk for violence becomes apparent
- Enforcement: Law enforcement response when violence occurs
- Re-entry: Helping people successfully transition from the corrections system to the community

This request solicits proposals for projects with reasonable eligible project budgeted expenses, and a plan to become self-sufficient within 3 years. Proposed project activity measures should reflect 36-months of activity. Outcome objectives should be reflective of the organization's ability to track long-term changes in the population served during the entire project period.

The proposed submissions must include a sustainability plan to address funding beyond the payments provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and must also provide a plan to become fully self-sufficient within 3 years.

Applicants should be able to cite the evidence basis for their proposal. Applicants should cite specific neighborhoods and/or populations they propose to serve. Applicants should also describe their approach with an equity focus and how they will include community engagement and mobilization. The following are examples of programming and services of interest to the City of Columbia based on the four pillars outlined in the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence.

Prevention: Examples of programs and services may include:

- Violence reduction strategies such as parenting support services and early childhood programs to insure the best start in life for all Columbia residents;
- Job training programs and services to strengthen partnerships between the schools, the City, and nonprofits to create job opportunities for youth;
- After school programs;
- Services that direct people to community resources and programming opportunities for youth and families;
- Capacity building for new programs and organizations from the African-American community;
- Neighborhood Watch expansion into new neighborhoods;
- Projects that address developmental risk factors that influence the likelihood of committing a crime by an individual. Risk factors may include: impulsiveness, school achievement, parenting, teen parenting, child abuse and neglect, parental conflict, disrupted families, poverty, delinquent peers, and disadvantaged neighborhoods;
- Projects that affect environmental factors that present immediate opportunities for crime including environmental design and hot spot crime enforcement;
- Projects that include neighborhood improvements and interventions to increase neighborhood health, safety and well-being;
- Gun buyback programs.

Intervention: Examples of programs and services may include:

- Expansion of youth oriented spaces, activities, and programs that focus on cultural and educational curriculum throughout the City;
- Mentoring programs, including those that increase the number of minority mentors;
- Services that help minimize the negative impact of students switching schools frequently;
- Focused deterrence;
- Street outreach;
- Violence interruption;
- Hospital-based violence intervention models;

- Wraparound services such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and relocation services, and financial assistance;
- Capacity-building efforts to already established community violence intervention programs.

Enforcement: Examples of programs and services may include:

- Community trust building between law enforcement and the African American community.
- Cultural competency training programs for law enforcement and public school personnel that involve diverse members of the community to enhance training and build relationships.
- Community events involving children and youths and representatives of the law enforcement community.
- Homeownership and rental rebate programs to incentivize police officers to live in the targeted or designated neighborhoods they serve.

Reentry: Examples of programs and services may include:

- Developing and providing supportive services for individuals who are currently incarcerated;
- Developing and providing supportive services for formerly incarcerated individuals who are reentering communities;
- Rerooting incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals;
- Preparing incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people to get and keep good paying jobs.

System and Community Partnerships: Funded applicants must detail how they will collaborate with appropriate community partners (e.g., service providers, faith-based organizations, relevant community boards, food pantries, city, county, Columbia Public Schools) in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. This collaboration should include, but is not limited to, establishing partnerships with service providers to receive referrals from, for example, credible messengers that may be in need of outside services to address their clients' service needs.

Applicants must demonstrate an equity focus and process for meaningful community engagement.

Contract renewal depends on performance and funding availability.