COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT
#3.16-19: Neal Dobbins Restorative Justice and Public Safety Fund

BACKGROUND

The City of Buffalo’s ARP Spending Plan allocates $6.5 million for the purpose of reducing violence and supporting community-based mentoring and violence interruption programs, law enforcement diversion programs, and other policing efforts that simultaneously preserve the dignity of all residents while also providing the degree of safety and service every neighborhood in Buffalo deserves. The recent spike in gun violence cities across the nation have experienced caused the federal government to allow municipalities to use their ARP funds to address its causes at a local level. There is a correlation between the location of gun-related incidents and those communities which have been the most adversely impacted by the pandemic. Ensuring the residents of those neighborhoods feel safe is a top priority of this Administration and achieving that goal will require a collaborative approach between community-based organizations, residents, social service providers, and the Buffalo Police Department. The City of Buffalo will provide $6 million to fund initiatives and interventions that take this collaborative approach and can demonstrate a real impact on vulnerable residents.

SCOPE OF WORK

The City of Buffalo is allocating $6 million in funding to support non-profit organizations and community-based approaches to reducing violence and crime prevention. Eligible applicants must be a qualified non-profit organization (registered 501(c)3 under the IRS tax code) or entities entered into a formal partnership with a qualified non-profit organization. A joint application may include multiple entities and must clearly define roles and funding allocations to each entity, which must be clearly delineated in the application. Partnerships will not be considered severable; the partnership agreement(s) must be provided as supporting documentation.

Responding to increased violence in the community requires a holistic, comprehensive, and community-based approach. Projects should aim to provide services that reflect this strategy. Community-partnerships with trusted voices who can connect with at-risk and vulnerable populations will be critical to the success of this effort. However, projects should also ensure that they have the capacity to administer, monitor, and evaluate the use of ARP funds they are awarded. Because of the time limited nature of these funds, the ability to demonstrate successful interventions will be critical to securing sustaining funds which can be used to maintain the program after ARP funds have been expended.
Applicants will be eligible to request no less than $250,000 and no more than $1.5 million in funding to cover a performance period of at least three years not to exceed the end of calendar year 2026. Collaborative or joint applications will still be capped at this amount.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

Successful applicants will demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure that 100% of individuals served are City of Buffalo residents
- Ensure that 90% of project/program enrollees live in neighborhoods identified as High Need in the latest Priority Needs Ranking Map. The map can be accessed in the 2022 Recovery Plan Performance Report or directly linked here
- Ensure that participants who do not speak English as a first language have access to staff or volunteers who can assist them in the language they speak, including ASL
- Provide mentoring or counseling services whose staff and volunteers reflect the intended service population and are trained in trauma-informed care techniques
- Have the ability to work with a wide array of stakeholders, including the Buffalo Police Department, which have a history of serving the residents living in neighborhoods with high rates of gun violence
- Ensure that no more than 20% of service enrollees have a negative interaction with law-enforcement while enrolled in the program and for a period of at least 6-months afterwards
- Ensure that no more than 10% of program enrollees engage in an illegal activity involving a gun or gang-related violence while enrolled in the program and for a period of at least 6-months afterwards
- Ensure that 85% of enrollees are enrolled in an educational or job-training program when they begin receiving services and complete their grade level or training program while participating in the program
- Enroll at least 75% of participants between the ages of 16-21 in some kind of paid internship or externship program during the program

TO APPLY

- Completed applications will be accepted between October 12, 2022 - November 22, 2022. **No applications or application revisions will be accepted after November 22, 2022 at 4:00PM.**
- Click here to access the full request for application(s)
- Click here to complete and submit your application online
- Click here to submit any questions regarding the application process, requirements, or project information using the electronic questions form on the City of Buffalo website
- You may also email questions directly to ARPadmin@buffalony.gov