

## Notice of Funding Availability

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2023 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) United States Attorney's Office-Central District of California**

This Notice of Funding Availability is provided by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for the 2023 Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program with the United States Attorney's Office Central District of California (USAO-CDCA). PSN is an essential source of grant funding available for state and local law enforcement agencies developing innovative multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approaches to address violent crime through the cultivation of collaborative relationships. The program's effectiveness depends upon the ongoing cooperation of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with the communities they serve, engaged in a unified approach facilitated by the USAO's in all judicial districts.

Opportunity Category: Competitive  
Posting Date: April 22, 2024  
Town Hall Meeting: May 2, 2024  
Closing Date: May 20, 2024  
Funding Instrument: Sub-grant Agreement  
Funding Focused Program Areas: Intervention, Enforcement, Research and Evaluation

#### **Available Funding**

Total Program Funding Available at: \$704,241.00  
Funding for Research Partners: \$78,249  
PSN Microgrant Funding Available: \$100,000 (two \$50,000 grants)  
\*Funding Available Inside the Three Task Force Areas: \$525,992

\*(City of San Bernardino, LAPD 77<sup>th</sup>, and Southeast Divisions)

#### **Amount Available by Category Inside the Three Task Force Areas (\$595,992)**

- Law enforcement efforts (Required Gang taskforce set aside) 30%-35%
- Intervention/rehabilitation efforts: 25%-30%
- Prevention/outreach efforts: 25%-30%

Cost sharing or matching: This sub-grantee solicitation does **not** require a match

Term of Funding: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026 (1, 2, or 3 years of requested grant funding).

## **PSN Program Description:**

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide initiative that brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them in collaboration with district stakeholders.

## **About the Central District of California (CDCA)**

The United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (USAO-CDCA) encompasses seven counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The CDCA has over 19 million residents, a population that is the largest of any district in the country.

## **CDCA PSN Goals and Objectives**

CDCA PSN efforts seek to address, reduce, and prevent gang and gun violence in the CDCA through (1) Reduce gang, gun, and violent crimes throughout the district/taskforce area; (2) federal prosecution of the most violent and repeat offenders; (3) collaboration among the USAO, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, non-governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and community partners; (4) ensure that PSN grant recipients use PSN funds effectively and efficiently; (5) Build and increase awareness and capacity among potential future PSN grant recipients; and (6) maintain a relevant and effective PSN strategy.

In FY2023, the CDCA PSN strategy allocates \$100,000 of FY2023 PSN funding for four "micro-grants" to support small scale / large impact crime-reduction efforts elsewhere in the district.

## **PSN Task Force Areas**

For the purposes of FY2023 PSN funding, the CDCA will continue to focus resources in three Task Force areas within the district to support violent crime reduction efforts by enhancing and building on existing efforts. The three Task Force areas are the **City of San Bernardino, and the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) Southeast and 77th Patrol Divisions in the City of Los Angeles**. Maps of these target areas are available [here](#). These communities are current recipients of PSN grant funding and have statistically high levels of violent crime compared to other areas within the Central District. Applicants seeking a PSN Task Force Area grant must be operating in one or more of the identified Task Force Areas.

Additionally, all PSN Task Force Area grant applicants must include a **Summer Violence Reduction Strategy** (SVRS) in their PSN program design that will provide violence prevention resources during the summer months when crime traditionally tends to spike. For example, an applicant can provide intervention, prevention, or law

enforcement programming during evenings or weekends for potential victims and or perpetrators of violence, such as workforce development initiatives, extracurricular athletic or arts programming, higher education classes, or job training sessions. SVRS law enforcement programming can provide increased suppression efforts in known “Hot Spots” or increase strategic enforcement in a specific geographic area, created and/or supported community/police communication forums, crime prevention workshops, or youth and family outreach activities.

## **PSN Law Enforcement Applicants**

Law Enforcement agencies seeking to apply for PSN funding shall address significant violent crime problems currently affecting the CDCA, particularly within the three Task Force Areas, or outside including the proliferation of ghost guns and Glock switches and illegal trafficking of firearms from Nevada and Arizona into the CDCA.

## **USAO Led Task Force Meetings**

Task Force meetings will be convened regularly by the USAO-CDCA along with local law enforcement, and non-government organizations (NGOs). Task Force meetings will serve as an opportunity to address challenges collectively as a community, explore additional violent crime reduction funding efforts, and leverage available federal resources, including training and technical assistance from subject matter experts on myriad topics, such as the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and other ballistic information through the District’s Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). Attendance at PSN Task Force meetings with all PSN funded agencies, research partner, and USAO-CDCA will be required. The USAO will also hold regular meetings with individual PSN grant recipients with the fiscal agent and research partner to discuss individualized goals, progress, and challenges.

## **Law Enforcement – Violent Crime Case Review**

Members of the USAO-CDCA and ATF will hold regular violent crime case review meetings with PSN funded law enforcement agencies to identify cases for federal filing, especially those involving violent gangs, felons in possession, and other firearm offenses, known shooters as well as chronic violent offenders.

## **CDCA PSN Program Administration and Funding Areas**

The PSN Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), through SANDAG. SANDAG is the assigned Fiscal Agent for the USAO-CDCA for FY 2023 PSN funding. SANDAG is responsible for providing coordinated and transparent management of various programmatic and financial components of the award.

SANDAG and the USAO-CDCA have vetted focused program areas for the FY 2023 PSN application: **Law Enforcement, Intervention/Rehabilitation,** and

**Prevention/Outreach.** All proposed programs must provide services in at least one focused program area.

**1. Law Enforcement**

- Programs (or task forces) that will reduce gang violence and the availability of weapons, particularly ghost guns and illegal Glock auto-switches and silencers, found in the district.
- This may include targeting violent gangs, felons in possession and other firearms offenses, geographic hot spot areas, and known shooters and chronic violent offenders, and the development of software to aid law enforcement in creating technology to properly identify and catalogue ghost guns and Glock auto-switches.

**2. Intervention/Rehabilitation**

- Programs that provide services for at-risk communities to address drivers of gun and gang violence and repeat and habitual offenders.
- Programs that address community re-entry of violent offenders and alternatives to gang membership.

**3. Prevention and Outreach**

- Programs that address prevention of juvenile delinquency and gang membership.
- Programs that provide outreach programs to Federal Firearm Licensees and the public to encourage responsible and safe gun ownership.
- Programs designed to reduce violence during the summer months.

**Supplanting:**

Grant funds are intended to add, augment, or supplement, **not replace**, resources already committed to the Reduction of Gun and Gang Violence control effort.

**Reporting Requirements:**

All selected applicants (sub-grantees) shall be required to submit all required BJA quarterly financial and programmatic reports to the fiscal agent. Additionally; All PSN funded agencies (includes microgrant recipients) must submit a supplemental monthly program report to the USAO and the designated research partner. All PSN funded law enforcement agencies (includes microgrants) shall provide monthly crime statistics for the PSN funded program service area to the USAO and designated research partner. The purpose of the supplemental reports will aid to better evaluate the program effectiveness. At the same time, it will provide an opportunity for PSN funded agencies to highlight program successes, challenges and request training and technical assistance from the PSN TTA service provider.

## **Application Procedure:**

All applicants must submit via email a program narrative, budget detail worksheet, and the certified assurances to:

- **Ruben Casillas at: [Ruben.Casillas@sandag.org](mailto:Ruben.Casillas@sandag.org)**

Applicants should visit SANDAG's website at: <https://www.sandag.org/data-and-research/criminal-justice-and-public-safety/evaluation-services/courts-and-police> (under PSN Grants section) or contact Ruben Casillas at (619) 837-6501 or at [Ruben.Casillas@sandag.org](mailto:Ruben.Casillas@sandag.org) to learn more about this funding opportunity. All applicants will find certified assurances on SANDAG's website.

**All applications are due no later than TBD**

**Program Narrative – *10 PAGES MAXIMUM*, NOT INCLUDING THE COVER PAGE, 1 INCH MARGINS, 12-POINT TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT, DOUBLE SPACED**

### **Cover Sheet**

- Applicant agency: Provide the official name, physical address, and mailing address of the entity applying for funds.
- Project director: Provide the name, title, telephone number, and email address of the individual who will be in direct charge of the project.
- Project title: Provide the title or name of the project.
- Requested amount.
- Proposed start and end date.
- Target area or Microgrant service area (Task Force Areas: City of San Bernardino, LAPD Southeast Division, LAPD 77<sup>th</sup> Division).
- Any connection to a current PSN-funded effort.
- Elevator pitch: Please describe your proposal in 1 to 2 sentences.

### **Statement of the Problem (SAP)**

- Identify the existing need and problem within the FY 2023 focus areas (LAPD 77<sup>th</sup> Division, LAPD Southeast Division, and/or the City of San Bernardino) or proposed microgrant service area.
- Include relevant data, such as jurisdiction, arrest, and crime rates.
- PSN Task Force Area Grant Applicants only: Identify a Summer Violence Reduction Strategy that focuses on efforts with the most significant impact on decreasing violent crime in, and protecting the people of, your community by addressing the drivers of the typical increase in violent crime during the summer months.

### **Program Design and Implementation**

- Describe sufficiently and clearly how the proposal will be implemented.

- Describe how the proposal will advance the goals and outcome measures of the USAO-CDCA's PSN Program, including specific ways to support summer violence reduction efforts
- List any collaborators or partners specific to the proposal. Describe the role of each collaborator or partner. Written agreements should be included where possible, such as a memorandum of understanding (MOU), contract, or a Letter of Agreement (LOA).
- Clearly describe any connection with what is proposed here with other current PSN-funded efforts, including how this effort will build off that existing effort.

### **Capabilities/Competencies**

- Describe capabilities to (1) implement the program in the identified areas; and (2) implement the program within the established project timeline.
- Demonstrate expertise in collaborating with local, state, and federal law enforcement, and/or criminal justice partnerships (including the United States Attorney's Office).
- Demonstrate experience in addressing gun and gang violence, gang violence associated with conflict over turf, narcotics distribution, aggression, and/or shootings.
- Demonstrate experience in working with law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, and/or community-based partners on targeted enforcement, prevention activities, and/or community engagement.

### **Plan for Collecting Required Data**

- Describe the process for measuring project performance.
- Indicate who will be responsible for submitting Quarterly Progress Reports and Performance Measurement Tool Reports as well as monthly supplemental program reports.

### **Budget**

- Provide a budget and budget narrative that are complete, cost effective, and allowable (i.e., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for program activities).
- Budget narratives should demonstrate how the applicant will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures.
- An indirect cost rate of 10% of the total amount requested for personnel costs only (salary plus fringe) is allowable only for non-governmental organizations unless the applicant has a federal negotiated rate.

All applicants should use the Excel version of OJP's Budget Detail Worksheet available online at: <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/apply/forms/ojp-budget-detail-worksheet>

### **Allowable costs**

- Personnel costs, salaries, fringe benefits, overtime
- Training
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Travel
- Contractual services, when applicable
- Other costs: telecommunication, equipment maintenance, fuel and vehicle maintenance, janitorial or security services, and more.

**Unallowable costs**

- Expenses for non-PSN activities
- Stipends
- Bonuses or commissions
- First class travel
- Food and beverage
- Lobbying or fundraising
- Tips/gratuities
- Costs incurred prior to the start of the grant period
- Entertainment
- Fines and penalties
- Corporate formation

For more information on costs, [please refer to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

**Award Selection Procedure:**

Upon receipt of the sub-grant applications, SANDAG will determine the quality and validity of each submission. For a grant submission to be reviewed it must focus on one of the three target areas or identified microgrant service area within the CDCA (Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties) for FY 2023 funding and meet all the before-mentioned criteria for completeness. Eligible applications will then be forwarded to the CDCA’s PSN Selection Committee for review. The PSN Selection Committee, which does not include CDCA personnel is made up of participants with expertise in local and federal law enforcement, community-centered violence prevention initiatives, and police-community relations. The PSN Selection Committee will review, rate, and rank each responsive application received based on the following criteria:

1. Statement of the Problem and Understanding of the PSN Program Strategy
2. Program Design and Implementation
3. Capabilities/Competencies
4. Plan for Collecting Required Data
5. Budget and Detailed Budget Narrative

The PSN Selection Committee will submit their recommendations to SANDAG for ratification. The final selections will be forwarded to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for final review and approval. A decision to deny funding may not be appealed, however it does not prohibit resubmission of a similar proposal in a subsequent year of funding.

Once the allocation of funding has been made to all selected sub-grantees, each recipient will receive an award letter indicating their final award amount. All applicants will be notified, in writing, of their funding decision. This notification will be made within (30) days of the PSN Selection Committee's meeting to select applicants for the CDCA's PSN program for FY 2023.

**Termination:**

SANDAG shall have the right to terminate this Notice of Funding Availability (NFA). The terms of this Notice are contingent upon federal appropriations and authorizations being made by the Congress of the United States. If sufficient appropriations and authorizations are not formalized, this NFA shall terminate, with notice being given by SANDAG to the applicant. SANDAG is not committed to reimburse grant funding to sub-grantees until the funds are programmed, budgeted, and approved.

**Questions Regarding this Notice of Funding Availability:**

Please direct all questions regarding this notice of funding availability to:

Ruben Casillas, Research Analyst II  
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E-mail: [ruben.casillas@sandag.org](mailto:ruben.casillas@sandag.org)  
Office: (619) 837-6501