

**FY2018 Project Safe Neighborhoods  
Request for Proposals  
Violent Crime Hot Spot Patrols**

**PSN Background Information**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 New Hampshire Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative will utilize evidence based practices to prioritize violent crime reduction activities. It is well established that increased officer presence in hot spots results in crime reductions. A meta-analysis by Braga (2005) found that there was a statistically significant decrease in crime when police presence was increased in hot spots. The theory of why this occurs is centered on routine activities theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), which posits that crime occurs when three forces combine: motivated offenders, suitable targets, and a lack of capable guardians. Adding police, who serve as capable guardians, increases the risk for offenders in those areas, as it increases the perception and likelihood that they will be apprehended if they commit a crime. When such risk is focused on such a small area, the deterrent value is much greater (Nagin, Solow, & Lum, 2015). Conversely, the increase in officers over a broad area has little to no effect on crime because the deterrence effects become too diluted (Nagin, Solow, & Lum, 2015). Thus, the PSN initiative will focus on small hot spots within the target communities.

Using the existing literature regarding increased police presence in hot spots, the New Hampshire PSN initiative aims to utilize greater police presence for targeted enforcement measures coupled with evidence-based prevention strategies. Nagin (2013) identified the core roles of the police officers as “apprehension agents” and “sentinels.” The foundation of policing is the officer’s ability to apprehend an individual after a crime occurs, hence the “apprehension agent role. As “sentinels,” police act as “capable guardians” to dissuade a motivated offender from committing a crime in the first place. Thus, by adding police at targeted hot spots of violent crime, increased enforcement action will send a strong deterrent message to would-be offenders that criminal activity will not be tolerated. Furthermore, the mere presence of police officers in these prioritized areas will provide a crime prevention benefit through the increased guardianship. Hot spot patrols are an essential violent crime reduction tool due to the coupled benefits of targeted enforcement opportunities and crime prevention.

In conjunction with the additional patrolling of hot spots to increase guardianship, PSN will advocate that approved partners identify community members and groups to assist law enforcement in engaging with the residents and visitors in the hot spots. Greater community collaboration will increase informal social control and guardianship in these hot spots. Further, steps can be taken to mitigate suitable targets of crime, i.e. spaces and people ripe for victimization. Lastly, a cohesive community creates a tone that is inviting to the good will and sends a message to would-be offenders that violence is not tolerated in those spaces. A systematic review and meta-analysis of focused deterrence and crime control strategies by Braga, Weisburd and Tuchan (2018) found that a “community-based action approach” was a key component to successful crime reduction initiatives. As such, community outreach and involvement in hot spots is an essential addition to increased officer presence.

**Works Cited:**

Braga, A (2005). Hot Spots policing and crime prevention: A systematic review of randomized controlled trials. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1, 317-342.

- Braga, A.A., Weisburd, D., Turchan, B (2018). Focused Deterrence Strategies and Crime Control: An Updated Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Empirical Evidence. *American Society of Criminology*, 17 (1), 205-250.
- Cohen, L. E., Felson, M. (1979) "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach." *American Sociological Review*, 44: 588-605.
- Nagin, D.S., Solow, R.M., Lum, C (2015). Deterrence, Criminal Opportunities, and Police. *Criminology*, 53(1), 74-100.
- Nagin, D.S. (2013). Deterrence: A review of the evidence by a criminologist for economists. *Annual Review of Economics*, 5, 83-105.

### **Project/Program Description Design and Implementation:**

The PSN Task Force will use geographical information systems (GIS) data to develop density maps of violent crimes within the target communities. The local law enforcement agencies will then use these maps to direct where officers will patrol during grant-funded activities. Emphasis will be given to high visibility patrolling and interaction with the community in an attempt to increase guardianship of those spaces.

Accountability measures will be developed using numerous metrics that ensure the strategy is being adhered to as well as to track progress and determine results upon conclusion. Initially, analyses will be conducted on local violent crime data from each target community to determine the scope of violent crimes within each jurisdiction. This data will also be used to identify where violent crimes cluster in each city or town, thereby identifying the hot spots. Each agency will utilize the identified hot spots to develop a community engagement plan to compliment the hot spot patrols.

Once the analysis phase is complete, the hot spot patrols in the target areas will begin. Officers conducting the hot spot patrols will record the amount of time spent in the hot spots and detail the activity that they conduct. As the initiative progresses, the increases in police presence will be evaluated and compared to incidences of violent crime both in the hot spot as well as community-wide. Updated analyses will be provided at regular monthly PSN meetings, or more frequently if required. At the conclusion of the PSN hot spots initiative, a final assessment will be conducted to determine the statistical significance of the impacts of the hot spot patrols and community engagement. Importantly, these results will be valuable across PSN because the initiatives will be taking place in relatively small towns and cities, whereas most prior hot spot studies have occurred in major metropolitan areas.

### **Project Scope and Goals:**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 New Hampshire Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative will utilize evidence-based practices to prioritize violent crime reduction activities. Using the existing literature regarding increased police presence in hot spots, the New Hampshire PSN initiative aims to utilize greater police presence for targeted enforcement measures coupled with evidence-based prevention strategies. The PSN sub-grants will fund overtime costs associated with supplying officers to patrol violent crime hot spots within their jurisdiction. Hot spot patrols are an essential violent crime reduction tool due to the coupled benefits of targeted

enforcement opportunities and crime prevention.

In conjunction with the additional patrolling of hot spots to increase guardianship, PSN will advocate that approved partners identify community members and groups to assist law enforcement in engaging with the residents and visitors in the hot spots.

### **Sub-Grant Eligibility:**

The FY2018 PSN sub-grant is available to any state, county or local law enforcement agency in the State of New Hampshire.

### **How to Apply:**

Eligible applicants can apply for this sub-grant through completing the attached application. Applications should be emailed to the PSN Coordinator, Assistant United States Attorney Deb Walsh at [deb.walsh@usdoj.gov](mailto:deb.walsh@usdoj.gov)

Eligible Applicants must meet the following requirements before the Agency may enter into a Grant Agreement.

- a. Applicants must obtain a **DUNS** (Data Universal Numbering System) number prior to submitting an application. <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- b. Applicants are required to register and renew annually, with the System for Award Management (**SAM**) <https://www.sam.gov/sam/>
- c. **Certifications:** If selected for funding, the following Certifications must be signed and included with the Grant Agreement:
  - i. Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility, and voluntary exclusion
  - ii. Certification Form – compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO) Requirements

If selected for funding, successful applicants (“subgrantees”) must meet the following requirements as a condition of reimbursement and continued funding:

- d. Subgrantees will be required to file **expenditure reports** to the New Hampshire Department of Justice and provide backup documentation upon request.
- e. Subgrantees will be required to file **quarterly and annual performance reports**
- f. NH Department of Justice will conduct regular **desk reviews** and **biennial on-site monitoring visits** with all subgrantees to ensure financial, programmatic and special condition compliance
- g. Reimbursement to subgrantees for allowable expenses will be contingent upon the Subgrantee’s adherence to the final

### **Required Documents:**

Application including budget worksheet.

**Deadline:**

Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2019.

**Summary of Competition:**

The FY2018 PSN sub-grant announcement and application will be posted on the New Hampshire Department of Justice Grants Management Unit “Funding Availability” website at: <https://www.doj.nh.gov/grants-management/funding-availability.htm>

The sub-grant announcement will be posted no later than March 12, 2019. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2019.

**Processing of Proposals:**

All grant applications will be received by PSN Coordinator. Applications will be compiled and provided to the PSN Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is a sub-committee of the New Hampshire PSN Task Force. No member of the selection committee is associated with an eligible applicant.

**Selection Committee\*:**

The selection committee is made up of individuals from the following agencies:

Hillsborough County Attorney’s Office  
Rockingham County Attorney’s Office  
Rockingham County Department of Corrections  
\*Subject to change

The selection committee will utilize a scoring system that assesses for:

- Need of violent crime reduction initiatives
- Strength of commitment to community engagement
- Capacity to comply with data gathering and sharing
- History of and commitment to use of evidence-based policing practices
- History and commitment with the PSN Task Force

Each member of the selection committee will rank all applications from strongest to weakest. Rankings will be aggregated to determine a final rank. Based on the strength of applications, the selection committee will decide if four or five awards will be given.

**Notification of Award:**

All applicants will be notified of approval or denial of the award by the PSN Coordinator. The fiscal agent will notify the Bureau of Justice Assistance of all sub-grant awards.

## **Additional Terms**

- a. RFP Addendum - The Agency reserves the right to amend this RFP at its discretion, prior to the Proposal submission deadline. In the event of an addendum to this RFP, the Agency, at its sole discretion, may extend the Proposal submission deadline, as it deems appropriate.
- b. Public Disclosure - Pursuant to RSA 21-G: 37, all responses to this RFP shall be considered confidential until the award of a grant agreement. At the time of receipt of proposals, the Agency will post the number of responses received with no further information. No later than five (5) business days prior to submission of a Grant Agreement to Governor & Executive Council pursuant to this RFP, the Agency will post the name, rank, or score of each proposer.

The content of each Proposer's Proposal shall become public information upon the award of any resulting Contract. Any information submitted as part of a response to this request for proposal (RFP) may be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A. In addition, in accordance with RSA 9-F:1, any contract entered into as a result of this RFP will be made accessible to the public online via the website Transparent NH (<http://www.nh.gov/transparentnh/>). Accordingly, business financial information and proprietary information such as trade secrets, business and financial models and forecasts, and proprietary formulas may be exempt from public disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV. If you believe any information being submitted in response to this request for proposal, bid or information should be kept confidential as financial or proprietary information; you must specifically identify that information in a letter to the agency, and must mark/stamp each page of the materials that you claim must be exempt from disclosure as "CONFIDENTIAL." A designation by the Proposer of information it believes exempt does not have the effect of making such information exempt. The Agency will determine the information it believes is properly exempted from disclosure. Marking of the entire Proposal or entire sections of the Proposal (e.g. pricing) as confidential will neither be accepted nor honored. Notwithstanding any provision of this RFP to the contrary, Proposer pricing will be subject to disclosure upon approval of the contract. The Agency will endeavor to maintain the confidentiality of portions of the Proposal that are clearly and properly marked confidential. If a request is made to the Agency to view portions of a Proposal that the Proposer has properly and clearly marked confidential, the Agency will notify the Proposer of the request and of the date, the Agency plans to release the records. By submitting a Proposal, Proposers agree that unless the Proposer obtains a court order, at its sole expense, enjoining the release of the requested information, the Agency may release the requested information on the date specified in the Agency's notice without any liability to the Proposers.

- c. Non-Commitment - Notwithstanding any other provision of this RFP, this RFP does not commit the Agency to award a grant. The Agency reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any and all Proposals, or any portions thereof, at any time to cancel this RFP, and to solicit new Proposals under a new acquisition process.
- d. Ethical Requirements - from the time this RFP is published until a contract is awarded, no bidder shall offer or give, directly or indirectly, any gift, expense reimbursement, or honorarium, as defined by RSA 15-B, to any elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or family member of any such official or employee who will or has selected, evaluated, or awarded an RFP, or similar submission. Any bidder that violates RSA 21-G: 38 shall be subject to prosecution for an offense under RSA 640:2. Any bidder who has been convicted of an offense based on conduct in violation of this section, which has not been annulled, or who is subject to a pending criminal charge for such an offense, shall be disqualified from bidding on the RFP, or similar request for submission and every such bidder shall be disqualified from bidding on any RFP or similar request for submission issued by any state agency. A bidder that was disqualified under this section because of a pending criminal charge which is subsequently dismissed, results in an acquittal, or is annulled, may notify the department of administrative services, which shall note that information on the list maintained on the state's internal intranet system, except in the case of annulment, the information, shall be deleted from the list.
- e. Agency Rights - The Agency reserves the right to waive minor or immaterial deviations from the RFP requirements if deemed to be in the best interest of the State.