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The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is seeking applications for FY 2014 Comprehensive AntiGang Strategies and Programs. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting evidence-based strategies in communities that coordinate prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry programs to reduce and control gang-related crime and violence.

## OJJDP FY 2014 Comprehensive Antigang Strategies and Programs

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to states (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit organizations). (See Eligibility, page 4.)

OJJDP welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for conducting and leading the program.

OJJDP may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

### Deadline

Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. (See "How To Apply," page 22.) All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on July 14, 2014. (See "Deadlines: Registration and Application," page 4.)

All applicants are encouraged to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

### Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants who experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their applications by the deadline must e-mail [JJC@telesishq.com](mailto:JJC@telesishq.com)

**within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application.

For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation, contact the Justice Information Center (JIC) at 1-877-927-5657, via e-mail to [JIC@telesishq.com](mailto:JIC@telesishq.com), or by [live Web chat](#). JIC hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

Grants.gov number assigned to this announcement: OJJDP-2014-3942

Release date: May 29, 2014

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# OJJDP FY 2014 Comprehensive Antigang Strategies and Programs (CFDA #16.544)

## Overview

Youth gangs continue to have a significant adverse impact on youth, families, and communities across America. A growing number of communities have adopted OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model, a multistrategy, multidisciplinary approach that has proven to be effective in reducing gang activity. The fiscal year 2014 Comprehensive Antigang Strategies and Programs solicitation provides funding for localities to enhance coordination of federal, state, and local resources in support of community partnerships implementing the following antigang programs: primary prevention, secondary prevention, gang intervention, and targeted gang enforcement. This program is authorized pursuant to paragraph (3)(B) under the Juvenile Justice heading in the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2014, P.L. 113-76; 128 Stat. 5, 64.

## Deadlines: Registration and Application

Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. OJP encourages applicants to **register several weeks before** the application submission deadline. In addition, OJP urges applicants to **submit applications 72 hours** prior to the application due date. The deadline to apply for funding under this announcement is 11:59 p.m. eastern time on July 14, 2014. See "How To Apply" on page 22 for details.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to states (including territories), units of local government (including federally recognized tribal governments, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and nonprofit organizations (including tribal nonprofit organizations).

OJJDP welcomes applications that involve two or more entities; however, one eligible entity must be the applicant and the others must be proposed as subrecipients. The applicant must be the entity with primary responsibility for conducting and leading the program.

Applicants must have signed letters of support for the community-based antigang strategy from, at a minimum, the mayor, chief of police, and local school superintendent in the jurisdiction in which the program will be based.

OJJDP may elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

## Program-Specific Information

### Purpose

Community-based gang prevention, intervention, and suppression should involve multiple organizations and programs working in partnership to deliver complementary services to a

specific population in a targeted area. The Comprehensive Community-Based Antigang Strategies program provides communities with funds to (1) hire a multistrategy gang coordinator who will enhance the coordination of existing community-based antigang programs and strategies that are closely aligned with local law enforcement efforts and (2) implement or enhance existing evidence-based gang prevention, intervention, and suppression programs.

### **Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables**

The program supports the implementation of comprehensive community-based antigang strategies and strengthens coordination of existing resources and activities that support multiple complementary, evidence-based programs to reduce gang activity in targeted communities. Successful applicants should agree to hire or designate a full-time director/coordinator for the duration of the assessment process and implementation of the program. The director is a leadership position and reports directly to the steering committee/policy group. The director should have strong supervision, budget preparation, strategic planning, and personnel management skills; ability to network effectively with a variety of organizations, including government agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, social service agencies, courts/probation/corrections, and grassroots organizations; have a basic understanding of gang intervention, suppression, and prevention strategies and gang involvement. (If a project director has been selected, provide a resume.)

Awards will support coordination of community-based antigang initiatives that involve law enforcement as an essential partner. Other partners should include schools, social services, faith- and community-based organizations, and businesses. Successful applicants will demonstrate that they are implementing community-based anti-gang activities consistent with all of the anti-gang strategies (i.e. The Comprehensive Gang Model) and programs described below using existing funding (see Readiness to Collaborate, Plan and Implement the Model below). An effective antigang strategy should be based upon a thorough assessment of the gang problem (see below). The response must be a comprehensive, long-term strategic approach that contains the spread of gang activity; protects those youth who are most susceptible; and mitigates those risk factors that foster gang activity.

The four-pronged approach of an effective antigang strategy should include targeted enforcement of the most serious and chronic offenders, intervening with those youth who are already gang involved, preventing those youth who have been identified as being at high risk of entering a gang, and targeting the entire population in high-crime, high-risk areas through the implementation of programs that address risk and protective factors.

Award recipients will provide semiannual progress reports that compare the status of existing partnerships and resource coordination with the baseline at the start of the project.

**Readiness to collaborate, plan, and implement the model.** The following are key components of an organization that is ready to implement the antigang model:

- political leadership of the community and agencies who will collaborate in the proposed project should have publicly acknowledged that a gang problem exists in the community/target area.
- applicant agency is a state agency, unit of local government (law enforcement, school district, criminal justice agency, mayor's office, etc.) or a not-for-profit with a demonstrated track record for managing initiatives involving multiple collaborating organizations.

- a group of policy makers and leaders composed of law enforcement, criminal/juvenile justice, education, social services, and governmental entities has been or will be convened. They intend to form an oversight mechanism (steering committee/task force/advisory council) to formulate strategies, allocate resources, and monitor progress. Members of this group should have the authority to commit their agency to provide data for the assessment and participate in a joint planning process to address local gang problems.

**Gang problem assessment.** Prior to planning or commencing any gang-related programming, a communitywide assessment should be conducted. The assessment process helps projects determine types and levels of gang activity, gang crime patterns, community perceptions, and service gaps. The assessment also assists the steering committee members in identifying target populations to be served and making the best use of available resources.

Applicants selected to receive a grant may conduct a more comprehensive gang problem assessment. The following agencies should have committed in writing to the steering committee to participate in conducting a comprehensive gang assessment, providing relevant data, and producing an assessment that the steering committee will use for planning purposes:

- primary local law enforcement agencies
- local school district(s)
- juvenile and/or adult probation and parole
- city or county social services and/or local providers
- city/county leaders
- outreach agency, if available

An assessment is the foundation for planning and implementing a successful comprehensive antigang strategy. Conducting an assessment can take from 6 to 12 months, including planning for data collection, collecting and analyzing data, and preparing the assessment report. (Applicants should provide a timeline for this phase.)

OJJDP recommends that applicants use a research partner to assist with the assessment and measurement of progress. Applicants should provide information on the role envisioned for the research partner in collecting, analyzing, and reporting data (provide the resume of the identified research partner or a job description if the research partner is not identified).

**The Comprehensive Gang Model.** The core strategies of this comprehensive approach to addressing community gang problems includes the following:

- **community mobilization.** Involvement of local citizens, including former gang-involved youth, community groups, agencies, and coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.
- **opportunities provision.** Development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.

- **social intervention.** Involving youth-serving agencies, schools, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, police, and other juvenile/criminal justice organizations in “reaching out” to gang-involved youth and their families and linking them with needed services.
- **suppression.** Formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision and monitoring of gang-involved youth by agencies of the juvenile/criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.
- **organizational change and development.** Development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources within and across agencies to better address the gang problem.

**Antigang programs.** Gang activity is a complex social phenomenon that varies by age, degree of gang involvement, and severity of offending. Risk factors associated with the probability that a young person will join a gang run across family, school, peer, and community lines. Accordingly, no single program or strategy operating independently is likely to have a lasting effect in reducing gang activity. Comprehensive antigang strategies, however, coordinate multiple approaches in recognition that each strategy plays a role toward a coordinated effort. As previously noted, communities have adopted a broad range of programs to combat gang activity, many of which may be categorized as follows:

- **primary prevention** includes activities to reduce risk factors or increase protective factors among the entire population of youth and families in communities with significant levels of gang activity.
- **secondary prevention** includes programs and services to decrease the likelihood of joining a gang among youth who have already displayed early signs of problem behavior or who are exposed to multiple known risk factors for gang activity. These services typically include some form of individual risk assessment and often focus on youth 7 to 14 years old and their families. Younger siblings and family members of gang-involved youth are particularly suitable for these services.
- **intervention** with high-risk or gang-involved youth includes community-based programs that balance the delivery of services and educational and employment opportunities with supervision and accountability. Intervention services typically involve outreach to youth and families, individual risk/needs assessments, case management, service referrals, coordinated service delivery, and supervision.
- **targeted gang enforcement** includes community-oriented and problem-oriented policing strategies with an emphasis on gangs and collaborative enforcement strategies involving probation and prosecution to target high-rate gang offenders, gang leaders, and serious violent offenders.

### **Evidence-Based Programs or Practices**

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates;

- integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field; and
- improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. OJP's [CrimeSolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov) Web site and OJJDP's [Model Programs Guide](http://www.ojjdp.gov/modelprograms) Web site are two resources that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. The National Gang Center's [Strategic Planning Tool](http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/strategicplanningtool) lists evidence-based programs, as well.

### **Additional Resources**

OJJDP encourages applicants to review the recommendations from the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, [www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf), and the recommendations of the National Research Council's *Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach*, [www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=14685](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14685) and consider incorporating the recommendations into their applications, where applicable.

### **Amount and Length of Awards**

OJJDP expects to make as many as three awards of as much as \$200,000 for a 24-month project period.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

OJJDP will enter into a cooperative agreement with the successful applicant. In furtherance of the goals and objectives described above, OJJDP's role will include the following tasks:

- reviewing and approving major work plans, including changes to such plans, and key decisions pertaining to project operations.
- reviewing and approving major project-generated documents and materials used in the provision of project services.
- providing guidance in significant project planning meetings and participating in project sponsored training events or conferences.