

Attachment 1: Program Narrative

The City of Lowell, Massachusetts is a diverse community of over 105,000 residents. Nearly one-third of these residents have emigrated from a variety of countries including Brazil, Portugal, Africa, and Cambodia. The city's police department (LPD) currently consists of 236 sworn officers who are responsible for patrolling 14.5 square miles, divided into three geographic sectors and responding to over 78,000 calls for service each year. Similar to police departments across the country, the LPD has been significantly impacted by the current fiscal crisis facing the nation. In the next fiscal year, as a result of cuts in state grant funding and local aid, the LPD will be forced to leave 13 positions vacant because of attrition and lay off an additional 20 sworn members of the department if additional funding is not secured. This reduction in force size is particularly concerning because the LPD at its authorized complement of 245 was already operating with approximately 15-25 fewer officers than the average northeast city police department with a population over 100,000¹.

The substantial cuts in state funding have coincided with a significant increase in crime in the city. In fact, over the past year, crime rose 15 percent. Specifically, property crime increased 18% and violent crime rose 6 percent. LPD officials are concerned that the current economic crisis coupled with a decrease in force size will create an environment in which crime will thrive. In order to prevent crime and ensure the safety of the community, it is essential that the department retains as many officers as possible. Therefore, the LPD will utilize funding from the Recovery Act's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program to pay the salaries of sworn officers, who would be laid off in the upcoming fiscal year without funding assistance provided by the Recovery Act. Furthermore, this funding will be used to pay for a portion of the Director of Research and Development's salary, who will be responsible for administering the grant.

During the first year of the program, the LPD will fund three sworn positions. In the second and third years of the program, this grant will support two sworn positions. In addition to funding from the Recovery Act, the LPD is also requesting funding through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Initiative (CHRP), which will enable the LPD to avoid laying off sworn personnel and maintain the department's current force size of 239 sworn officers in the next fiscal year.

The sworn officers funded under the Recovery Act will perform traditional police duties, such as patrolling the city and responding to calls for service. In addition to conducting these daily duties, these officers will work to achieve the overall goals of the LPD. These officers will work to further the department's community policing mission by working closely with community members, businesses and community organizations to prevent and deter crime. Additionally, these officers will strive to decrease youth involvement in gangs and delinquent behavior by developing positive relationships with the youth of the city. Officers will also enforce a strict zero tolerance policy on drugs and gun crime, work to deter domestic violence and increase traffic enforcement efforts.

¹ *Federal Bureau of Investigation. Crime in the United States (2004). Available at: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_04/documents/CIUS_2004_Section6.pdf*

This grant will also be utilized to fund a portion of the Director of Research and Development's salary. For several years, the LPD has utilized state grant funding to support this position. However, in the next fiscal year this grant funding has been eliminated from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' current proposed budget. Therefore, without additional funding, the LPD will be forced to lay off this civilian staff member. This position is essential to the daily operations of the department. This individual performs a wide range of duties to assist the Superintendent of Police, including researching crime and disorder problems, conducting best practice research and reviewing problem-solving initiatives to develop programs and activities that will reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Lowell. This staff member is also responsible for obtaining and managing all grant funding, as well as evaluating the performance of grant-funded programs and activities to ensure they are achieving stated goals and objectives. The LPD is also requesting funding through the Recovery Act's Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant program to secure the remainder of the Director's salary. This staff member will be responsible for administering the Recovery Act funding. This individual will ensure that the funding is being used to achieve the goals of the Recovery Act, as well as the LPD's goal of retaining the current size of the sworn force. The Director will complete all quarterly activity reports to the Bureau of Justice Assistance within ten calendar days following the conclusion of each quarter.

Capabilities/Competencies: The Director of Research and Development will oversee all activities funded under the Recovery Act's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program. The Director has over five years experience in grant management and is presently overseeing \$3,496,767 in state and federal grant funding. The LPD utilizes Municipal Information System software (MUNIS) to manage all grant funding. Each open grant is assigned its own unique accounting code in the system, therefore each grant's expenditures and drawdowns are tracked separately. The LPD's Budget and Finance Director will be responsible for overseeing MUNIS and submitting all the fiscal reports for this grant.

Timeline:

Year One

July 2009

Receive Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program funding.

Identify three officers that will be laid off due to the fiscal crisis facing the department.

July 2009-June 2010

Utilize funding to pay for three officers salaries and a portion of the Director of Research and Development's salary.

Director of Research and Development will submit quarterly reports to the BJA in October, January, April and July.

Year Two

July 2010-June 2011

Utilize funding to pay for two officers salaries and a portion of the Director of Research and Development's salary.

Director of Research and Development will submit quarterly reports to the BJA in October, January, April and July.

Year Three

July 2011-June 2012

Utilize funding to pay for two officers salaries and a portion of the Director of Research and Development's salary.

Director of Research and Development will submit quarterly reports to the BJA in October, January, April and July.