

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

Gang Investigator

APPLICATION TOOL

**Preface**

*This document is intended to provide guidance to the applicant on the content expected in select programmatic sections of the grant application. Information provided by the applicant on each subject area should be applicable to their particular jurisdiction and should be tailored to meet the needs of the community in which the program would be implemented. However, the applicant is invited to utilize the “Standard Examples” provided in this document when applicable.*

**Problem Statement**

* Specific and current information from your jurisdiction must be included in this section.

The Problem Statement presents the reason that you are applying for the grant. (It ***should not*** include what you will do with the grant funds).

1) Discuss the ***actual problem that exists*** in your community.

Talk about the nature of the problem and include any background information that helps to explain the difficulties.

* Population and economic level of jurisdiction, unemployment rate, etc.
* Specific and serious criminal incidents that have recently occurred in the jurisdiction
* Include any data/statistics that support your statements (from past 2-3 yrs.)
  + Calls for service
  + Breakdown of department’s overall caseload (numbers, type)
  + Breakdown of individual investigator caseloads (overtime hours worked?)
  + Number and type of gang-related cases investigated
  + Number and type of identified gang members
  + Case clearance rates

2) The second part will discuss the current resources and existing efforts being made to address the problem.

* Explain what resources (personnel/equipment) your agency is currently using to address the problems and why they are insufficient.
  + Breakdown of department’s personnel (patrol, investigators, etc.)
  + How are gang-related cases handled by the department now?
* Review the efforts being made by both the agency and any community/citizen groups to address the problems noted above.
* If the grant application is for a continuation grant, information should be taken from the Progress Reports to show progress of the project.
* Provide information on whether or not funding has been requested from your municipal/county government and results (i.e. partial funding received, funds not available in current budget or request denied)

**Project Purpose – Standard Example**

Broad Goals

The primary purpose of this program is to improve investigations of gang-related crimes that are committed by individuals and organizations. Through increased resources and the exercise of the department's Mutual Aid Agreements with other agencies, coordination of investigations as well as department sponsored training, will increase the number of officers with specialized skills in handling investigations into crimes that are committed by these criminals. A secondary purpose is to take a proactive stance in an effort to prevent further victimization and identify the alleged perpetrators, and secure the evidence involved.

Specific Plan

The following tasks and activities will be employed to aggressively combat gang-related crime.

1. The Gang Investigator will attend training and conduct training to the officers in the agency to promote an increased awareness of the current laws and policies concerning gang investigations and prosecutorial procedures. Training will also be offered to other law enforcement and community agencies, such as the Solicitor's Office, schools, businesses and other civic organizations that express a desire to attend. The training will enable citizens and other individuals with a vested interest in law enforcement to have an understanding of the department's policies in handling gang-related issues and to enlist the community's cooperation in reducing the occurrence and reoccurrence of such activity.

2. Every report of gang activity and calls-for-service involving these activities will be referred to the Gang Investigator designated to address these crimes. The investigator will be responsible for the investigation of any criminal activity that occurs in these incidents. The investigator will also be responsible for coordinating with other agencies to address the issues that cause the activity and/or have allowed it to continue.

3. The Gang Investigator will be responsible for handling all calls of this nature during business hours to address these types of crimes. After regular office hours, cases of gang-related crimes which are significant will require the investigator to be notified and to respond. Unless otherwise directed, the crime scene will be processed for finger prints, fibers, etc. and documented via photographs and video.

4. The Gang Investigator will attend all pertinent training classes that will assist the investigator in being better qualified to investigate these types of crimes as well as improve their qualifications to instruct other officers in conducting these types of investigations.

5. The Gang Investigator will meet regularly with Agents of the SLED, FBI, ATF, and other state and local agencies to identify and target individuals who utilize gang-related activities to further their criminal enterprise.

6. Gang-related information will be entered into VGTOF and GangNet. Pertinent information will be disseminated to the appropriate personnel as needed.

**Project Objectives – Standard Example**

1. Reduce the number of gang-related crimes committed within the jurisdiction by focusing efforts on identifying, arresting, and prosecuting these offenders.

2. Decrease, at all levels of court, the number of repeat offenders who go on to commit more violent gang-related crimes through aggressive investigation, referrals, and prosecution.

3. Increase the Gang Investigator's knowledge and skills in conducting gang investigations through training and experience gained through specialization.

4. Expand coordination and cooperation among agencies responsible for gang-related crime.

5. Provide training for other officers on gang-related crime indicators and investigative processes.

6. Raise awareness of the public and community organizations regarding the problem of gang violence in the community.

**Performance Indicators – Standard Example**

1. Records will be maintained of all individuals who are charged under state and federal laws, to include disposition information and sentences before and after implementation of the grant for comparison. Gang-related information will also be entered into the VGTOF system and GangNet.

2. Statistical data will be maintained on the number of cases identified as being gang-related. This data will then be maintained for comparison to see if recidivism rates drop as a result of aggressive investigation and prosecution.

3. The Gang Investigators will attend at least two trainings each related to gang crime and maintain records of attendance.

4. The Gang Investigators will coordinate with other agencies that deal with gang offenses, and will document contacts with other agencies. A protocol for the investigation of gang-related offenses will be developed.

5. A record will be maintained of gang crime training presented by the investigators to other law enforcement officers.

6. A record will be maintained of training and public awareness presentations by the investigators to other agencies and community organizations concerning gang violence.

**Project Evaluation – Standard Example**

1. The evaluation of this grant will be conducted by the Project Director. The investigator will compile information on all gang-related incidents reported to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department. Information on each case will include the following: detective assigned, date of incident, incident heading, gang affiliation, offender(s) name and age, gang members involved, referrals made, and disposition of case. Comparison between current and past statistics will be made through this compilation of data to determine progress.

2. The investigator will document all training received and given.

3. Records of all meetings and coordinated efforts with other agencies responsible for gang related incidents will be kept and reviewed by the investigator and the Project Director in order to determine what, if any changes or additions need to be made.

4. The Project Director will compile and submit progress reports as well as the year end evaluation.