

GMS APPLICATION NUMBER 2011-H6024-VT-DJ

STATE OF VERMONT

CITY OF BURLINGTON

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The goal of the 2011 Burlington Justice Assistance Project is to support the City's Community Justice Center, address victimization, enhance programs that reduce criminal behavior and community conflict, respond to community law enforcement needs, and utilize technology to improve police response to and documentation of crime.

\$ 60,870 in JAG funds will go to support restorative justice, victims' services, and community court programs through the City's Community Justice Center (CJC). CJC's volunteer fueled programs require offenders to be accountable within the community and also provide support to victims. The CJC serves individuals referred by the State Department of Corrections, Burlington Police Department, non-profits, and social service agencies.

Funding will help support the work of a victim liaison specialist in order to ensure that victims' needs are prioritized when meeting with low-level offenders. Funding will also support the Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime Project, which provides assistance and resources to crime victims in circumstances where the criminal justice system does not or is not able to do so.

Funding will also support continued implementation of a pilot criminal justice initiative called the Rapid Arraignment and Intervention Model (RAIM) and related programming. The purpose of this initiative is to significantly lessen the time period between arrest of an individual and arraignment for low-level and non-violent offenses. In conjunction with arraignment offenders will also be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary team for eligibility for the Community Justice Center's Restorative Justice Panels or a determination that the case is better suited for the traditional criminal justice system. Services will focus on employment, substance abuse, mental health, education and mentoring.

Under the RAIM initiative, for offenders whose cases take the more traditional route to prosecution and Court adjudication, an effort will be made to resolve the case through a Rapid Resolution Methodology. This approach will seek to resolve cases for swift, meaningful, and realistic outcomes that will in many cases result in resolutions such as short terms of incarceration, fines, or community service, without the need for protracted litigation, extended probation, or long terms of incarceration. For these cases, the wrap-around service model will also be used to ensure that the defendant's behavior and underlying challenges are addressed. This is done, again, in an effort to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes through rapid intervention and resolution.

\$8,000 in JAG funds will go to support the Marketplace Street Outreach Project. The Street Outreach Team was created in 2000 in response to concerns by Burlington Police, downtown merchants, citizens, and social service providers regarding anti-social behavior in the Downtown Burlington Business District. The identified need was the management of behaviors associated with mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, and unmet social service issues. Business leaders and merchants felt that the behavior threatened the economic vitality of the community. Burlington Police felt frustrated in their attempts to deal with the behavior, most of which was non-criminal. Service providers, including public transportation, municipal offices, area shelters and others felt overwhelmed by the number and variety of individuals they came into contact with. Citizens expressed concerns about public safety.

The responsibilities of the Street Outreach Team are to:

- Reduce anti-social behavior in the Downtown Burlington Business District;
- provide support to individuals in the community while setting limits around problematic behaviors;
- consult with Burlington Police and prevent/reduce calls concerning the target population;
- respond to, or with, police, when problematic behaviors occur;
- provide improved access to support systems for all providers;
- provide evaluation and assessment services;
- become single point of contact for agencies unfamiliar with the target population;
- reduce unnecessary hospital emergency department admissions;
- improve communication between police, merchant, service providers, and clients;
- and

The \$8000 in funding represents one year of the City contribution to this effort to address a variety of issues that arise in the downtown area in a way that reduces criminal activity and reliance on scarce law enforcement resources.

\$7,000 in JAG funding will be used by the Burlington Police Department to purchase wearable camera systems for police officers enhancing documentation of crime scenes, in progress events, police responses, and other police operations for introduction as evidence

\$7800 in JAG funds, just over 9 percent of the total grant amount, will be used to cover grant administration.

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BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 2011 JAG funding is \$83,670 and proposed to be used for the following (JAG Project Priority Identifiers in bold):

- **\$60,870–Restorative Justice, Victimization & Community Courts** – for the Community Justice Center to enhance public safety, crime prevention efforts, low level offender accountability and support for victims of crime.
 - This grant will fund in part three positions to focus a portion of their time on supervising or providing direct service for victims. In the restorative justice panel program, JAG funds will be used for the program coordinator to supervise the victim liaison specialist and to fund the victim liaison specialist in order to ensure that victims’ needs are prioritized when meeting with low- level offenders.
 - JAG funds will be used to compensate the Community Justice Center Coordinator for her time directing the Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime Project.
 - Additionally, a portion of the JAG funds will go to the supervision and continued implementation of the of the Rapid Intervention and Community Court program. Specifically for the CJC coordinator’s involvement in developing the program and to the Criminal Justice System Liaison Specialist’s position.

- **\$7,000 – Equipment – Video/Audio Recording** – to be used by the Burlington Police Department to purchase wearable camera systems for police officers enhancing documentation of crime scenes, in progress events, police responses, and other police operations for introduction as evidence.

- **\$8,000 – Mental Health & Prevention** – funding for the City of Burlington’s commitment to HowardCenter’s Street Outreach Program which serves to de-escalate crime and disturbance connected to issues of mental health, substance abuse and homelessness on the Church Street MarketPlace;

- **\$7,800** – for administrative costs of the grant.

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BUDGET

A. Personnel Costs

1. Karen Vastine, CJC Coordinator (2011-2012)	52519 x .15	=	7,878
2. Jocelyn Dubuque, CJC Restorative Justice Coordinator (2011-2012)	48496 x .20	=	9,699
3. Cindy Carey, Financial Assistant (2011-2012)	38532 x .12	=	4,614
4. Darlene Kehoe, Asst Dir of Finance (2011-2012)	63723 x .05	=	3,186
5. Youth Restorative Justice Worker (2011-2012)		=	1,500
6. Barbara Shaw-Dorso, Victim Liaison Coordinator (2011-2012)	16640 x 1	=	16,640
7. CJC Legal System Liaison (2012-2013)		=	3,794
8. Clark Sheldon, Parallel Justice Specialist (2011-2012)	43895 x .079	=	3,468
9. Rain Banbury, Parallel Justice Specialist (2011-2012)	44209 x .075	=	3,316

Subtotal = \$54,095

B. Fringe Benefits

1. Karen Vastine, CJC Coordinator		=	2,279
2. Jocelyn Dubuque, CJC Restorative Justice Coordinator		=	3,826
3. Youth Restorative Justice Worker		=	150
4. Barbara Shaw-Dorso, Victim Liaison Coordinator		=	8,320

Subtotal = \$14,575

Total Personnel and Fringe benefits = \$68,670

C. Supplies/Equipment

1. Burlington Police Department: purchase of wearable cameras for police officers	1750 x 4	=	\$7,000
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Total Supplies/Equipment = \$7,000

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REVIEW NARRATIVE

Mayor Bob Kiss submitted a memo dated July 6, 2011, to the Burlington City Council listing the allocations of JAG funds to Burlington projects and soliciting City Councilor review and comment. The memo was placed on the Council agenda for their July 11 meeting. All City Council meetings provide an opportunity for public comment on any issue. Mayor Kiss had the JAG allocations and descriptions posted on the City's website with a form for public comment. In addition, Mayor Kiss had the JAG allocations emailed to a community e-mail list which includes representatives of community organizations, neighborhood associations and other residents, soliciting comment from residents.

During the time the allocations were communicated to the City Council and made available to the public, one element of the application was amended and added: the use of \$7000 for the purchase of wearable cameras for the officers of the Burlington Police Department is included in the final application, replacing an equivalent allocation for police outreach activities.

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ABSTRACT

Applicant's Name: City of Burlington

Title of Project: 2011 Burlington Justice Assistance Project

Goals of the Project:

The goals of the project are to support specific elements of Burlington's Community Justice Center, address victims' needs, enhance a variety of programs that reduce criminal behavior and community conflict, respond to community law enforcement needs, and utilize technology to improve police response to and documentation of crime.

Strategies to be utilized:

The project approach will be multi-faceted. The City's Community Justice Center will maintain victim-support services and the Parallel Justice Project, while continuing to support implementation of the Rapid Arraignment and Intervention Model (RAIM) pilot initiative. These programs are aimed at supporting victims, crime prevention, and making the justice system more effective and efficient. The project will also address issues in the community before they rise to the level of needing intervention of the police or criminal court system, through the downtown Street Outreach Project. Finally, the project will utilize technology for police officers to enhance police operations during in-progress events and investigations.

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

1. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
2. VICTIMIZATION
3. COMMUNITY COURTS
4. PREVENTION
5. EQUIPMENT – VIDEO/AUDIO RECORDING