

Deadline: Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent by **Thursday, June 29, 2006 [POSTMARK DATE]**.

Deadline: USAO

Applicants must submit a draft WSC application to their local USAO by **Tuesday, January 9, 2007 [POSTMARK DATE]**.

Deadline: Registration

Applicants must first register on that site in order to apply. The deadline to register in Grants.gov is **Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 8:00 PM EST.**

Deadline: Application

The due date for applying for funding under this announcement is **Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 8:00 PM EST** via Grants.gov.

Eligibility

Any urban, rural or Indian Tribe and Tribal community with a persistent high level of serious violent crime (Part I) pursuant to this guideline, and which has not previously received Weed and Seed Official Recognition (OR), is eligible to participate in the program.

Faith-Based And Other Community Organizations: Consistent with President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13279, dated December 12, 2002, and 28 C.F.R. Part 38, it is DOJ policy that faith-based and other community organizations that statutorily qualify as eligible applicants under DOJ programs are invited and encouraged to apply for assistance awards to fund eligible grant activities. Faith-based and other community organizations will be considered for awards on the same basis as other eligible applicants and, if they receive assistance awards, will be treated on an equal basis with all other grantees in the administration of such awards. No eligible applicant or grantee will be discriminated for or against on the basis of its religious character or affiliation, religious name, or the religious composition of its board of directors or persons working in the organization.

Faith-based organizations receiving DOJ assistance awards retain their independence and do not lose or have to modify their religious identity (e.g., removing religious symbols) to receive assistance awards. DOJ grant funds, however, may not be used to fund any inherently religious activity, such as prayer or worship. Inherently religious activity is permissible, although it cannot occur during an activity funded with DOJ grant funds; rather, such religious activity must be separate in time or place from the DOJ-funded program. Further, participation in such activity by individuals receiving services must be voluntary. Programs funded by DOJ are not permitted to discriminate in the provision of services on the basis of a beneficiary's religion.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Civil Rights Compliance section under “Additional Requirements” in this announcement.

Weed and Seed Strategy

The Weed and Seed strategy aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity. The Weed and Seed initiative is a community-based, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. It is designed for neighborhoods with persistent high levels of serious crime and corresponding social problems. Weed and Seed Communities (WSC) must be developed in partnership with many local organizations—including the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO)—to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in a community primarily through the redeployment of existing public and private resources into the community. WSC also help to address related social problems that without proper intervention often lead to violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity.

The strategy recognizes the importance of involving community residents intimately familiar with local community conditions and community decision-makers who have the responsibility, authority and control of existing community public and private resources. These groups must work together in identifying and solving the problems in their neighborhoods.

It is particularly important to emphasize the essential role of the faith-based community’s involvement, in all aspects of Weed and Seed strategy formulation at the local level. The President’s Faith-Based and Community Initiative and the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, which inform this guideline, recognize the critical role these organizations play in responding to the victims of crime and violence as well as the other problems within these high-risk neighborhoods.

Weed and Seed sites range broadly in size and population density, depending on whether they are rural (which may include multiple small towns and villages) or urban. The size and population density of a designated focus area should be of sufficient magnitude to present a clear and compelling problem that warrants the dedication and concentration of existing community resources. The average population in a Weed and Seed community is approximately 20,000 residents. CCDO will consider those sites with a population between 10,000 and 50,000. Given the limited funding available, CCDO is focusing on communities that exhibit the highest levels of crime, not necessarily those with a high proportion of crime compared to their population size. ***As an exception, CCDO will consider rural and Indian Tribe and Tribal Communities with a population of 3,000 or more.*** [Please refer to the “Definitions” Appendix].

Four elements make up the two-pronged Weed and Seed approach: law enforcement; community policing; prevention, intervention, and treatment; and neighborhood restoration.

- The “Weed” portion of the initiative focuses on crime control involving traditional law enforcement (e.g., tactics, undercover operation, stings), corrections-related ex-offender supervision activities (including probation and parole) and community policing (which is the bridge that links law enforcement to prevention, intervention, treatment and neighborhood revitalization -- or law enforcement personnel to community residents’ needs); and