

April 2006

Dear Applicant:

*Weed and Seed* is the flagship programmatic arm of the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), housed in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. Its focus is on localities hardest-hit by serious violent crime, and it is implemented in partnership with many local organizations – including United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) nationwide. The program features a comprehensive strategy for solving community-based crime problems critical to achieving lasting community revitalization and improving quality of life for residents.

Under its auspices, participating communities develop strategies aimed at preventing, controlling, and reducing persistent violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country.

Weed and Seed is a challenging initiative designed only for committed communities willing to execute complex analyses of community problems and limit project focus to manageable/creative solutions in constructing model prototypes that can be locally replicated elsewhere. Communities must execute examination and reallocation of existing Federal/state/local funding streams and achieve substantial sustainability-focused efforts. Finally, they must be held accountable on performance and accomplishment.

Participation in the program is restrictive in terms of stringent pre-designation requirements and required planning activities, cooperation with key Federal law enforcement agencies/personnel, annual review of performance-based results, its highly-competitive nature, and its threshold eligibility criteria for the presence of persistent high crime in a site area.

All applicants must design and implement systems for measuring the effectiveness of their strategies prior to designation and report on developmental activities and achievements as part of their program applications.

The rewards for communities willing to "do the work" are high success rates in developing effective collaboration, crime reduction, and re-establishment of community viability and health.

Please review carefully the attached application materials in considering potential participation. Contact information for USAOs in an applicant's area can be found at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/offices/index.html>

CCDO will provide training, technical assistance and information materials to support a candidate Weed and Seed Community (WSC) – both during a lengthy pre-award development period and the 5-year funding period. It also will provide overall national leadership, management and administration of the program.

To learn more about CCDO and follow updates to the WSC program, or to contact the program manager for your state, visit our Web site at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo>

Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Denise Viera  
Acting Director  
Community Capacity Development Office