

# FY 2007 Weed and Seed Communities Competitive Program Guideline and Application Kit (CFDA # 16.595)

## OVERVIEW

This competitive guideline is designed to encourage communities to better define their problems and programs' responses, as well as to foster a manageable scope of work by limiting the number of efforts they are required to address. Weed and Seed communities should be the problem-solving prototypes for future intervention efforts in other persistent serious violent crime neighborhoods/sectors within their respective urban and rural areas.

From its inception, the Weed and Seed Program recognized that only through the redeployment of existing community resources could significant and sustainable change be achieved in persistent high crime neighborhoods. Limited discretionary grant resources were -- and continue to be -- designed to expedite initial organizational efforts and temporarily address critical gaps in funding new program initiatives. In this regard, the limited grant resources available should be viewed as a reward for initiating the focused redeployment of existing resources from other parts of the larger community into the designated area to affect the necessary long term changes in the target community.

This Weed and Seed Communities (WSC) program guideline involves:

- An emphasis on using existing public and private resources - available in the community through state service systems and other sources - to initiate and sustain new ventures, rather than focusing on limited discretionary Federal grant funds;
- An emphasis that Steering Committee membership contain both residents from the community as well as decision-makers with the authority, responsibility and control of the existing resources with which a community will need to strategically draw upon in order to implement their restorative program strategies;
- An emphasis on the utilization of "evidence-based" programs proven to be effective based on national or local experimental/quasi-experimental studies;
- An emphasis that programs initially developed by the Steering Committee be operationally transferred and integrated into existing public or private organizations as soon as possible—throughout the life of the project—in order to ensure sustainability and enable the Steering Committee to maintain its design, planning and development functions;
- A requirement that new sites be chosen based on their performance during a pre-award development period;

- A requirement that continuation funding is dependent on communities' success in achieving the performance measures they articulate in their applications, in cooperation with CCDO;
- A modification of the grant funding design that utilizes a "bell curve" configuration with increasing/decreasing incremental funding;
- A requirement that sites develop their 5-year programmatic strategy, by initiating a minimum of one Weed program and one Seed program in the first two years. A minimum of two new ventures (one Weed, one Seed) must be planned by the beginning of the third year of funding for implementation throughout the second part of their tenure as WSCs. **WSCs must therefore implement a minimum of 4 efforts (2 Weed, 2 Seed) over the 5-year funding period.** The level of success and speed with which a site develops and puts into practice further efforts will impact/inform funding decisions;
- A modification in the focus of technical assistance to specifically address a range of selected problem areas considered common among Weed and Seed communities, (i.e., the return of ex-offenders from prison, truancy, drop-out, teen pregnancy, gang violence, drug/substance abuse, employment, remedial education, transportation, infrastructure, housing, etc.) in addition to processing ad hoc community requests for assistance; and
- A promotion of tools and strategies that better enable communities to make a compelling case for redeploying existing resources to address their problems more effectively (e.g., use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based statistical information technologies and resources in problem/asset mapping).

This guideline is meant to inform potential participants in the WSC program. The legislation which establishes the program and the overseeing administrative office, the Weed and Seed Strategies Office, is Sec. 211 of the Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act which amends Part A of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. You may access the legislation (HR 3402) at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>