

## **Weed and Seed Strategy**

### **Overview**

Operation Weed and Seed is a strategy developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, which aims to prevent, control, and reduce the levels of violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods across the United States. Weed and Seed sites range in size from several neighborhood blocks to 15 square miles.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in “weeding out” criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; and “seeding” brings human services to the area, encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration.

A community-oriented policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies. Officers obtain helpful information from area residents for weeding efforts while they aid residents in obtaining information about community revitalization and seeding resources.

### **Steering Committee**

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort among organizations and individuals who care about the designated neighborhood. The collaboration is reflected in the Steering Committee, which provides a structure for building a commitment to Weed and Seed, identifying areas of greatest community need, coordinating programs and services for local residents, and ensuring that everyone involved is working toward the same goals.

The membership of the Steering Committee is large and diverse. Individuals from four key stakeholder groups must be included as members: the U.S. Attorney or designee, residents of the designated neighborhood, city or county government representatives, and local law enforcement officials. Additional committee members may include representatives of the district attorney and public defender offices, federal and state law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, housing organizations, recreation and employment agencies, schools, nonprofit and community organizations, religious institutions, foundations, small businesses, and corporations.

The Steering Committee is the governing body for Weed and Seed. It serves as the highest authority within an organizational structure that includes subcommittees for the various component areas of Weed and Seed, a Weed and Seed coordinator and/or other staff, and links to local programs or initiatives that complement a site’s goals and objectives.

### **Contact Information**

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