

# Weed and Seed

## Executive Summary

### Concept

Operation Weed and Seed (W&S), is a community based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), and the United States Attorneys' Office (USAO). W&S is a community-based strategy that encompasses an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Operation Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy aimed to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in three high crime neighborhoods in the District.

### All Weed and Seed Strategies have four components:

- *Law Enforcement:* focuses on suppression, apprehension, prosecution and supervision in targeted communities.
- *Community Policing:* fosters collaboration between law enforcement officers and residents to mobilize community support and involvement.
- *Prevention, Intervention and Treatment:* focuses on comprehensive delivery of social and other supportive services (such as youth mentoring, truancy reduction, ex-offender reentry programming, and substance abuse counseling, etc to help prevent the reoccurrence of crime.

*Neighborhood Restoration:* fosters improved quality of life in distressed, low-income areas through economic development, enhanced social services, public works, job opportunities, and better access to affordable housing.

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### Background

At the request of the Office of Justice Programs/Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) has performed the role of fiscal agent for the Washington DC Weed and Seed Program since 2004. As fiscal agent and guided by an interagency agreement, CSOSA ensures fiscal accountability that funds are expended as approved by CCDO.

### Service Areas

There are currently **three officially recognized and funded Weed and Seed sites** in the District of Columbia:

(1) the *Northwest Site*, which overlaps Wards 1 and 4, and encompasses communities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Police Districts

(2) the *Frederick Douglass Memorial Site*, which is located in Ward 8, and encompasses communities in the 7<sup>th</sup> Police District; and

(3) the *Far Northeast Corridor Site*, which is located in Ward 7, and encompasses communities in the 6<sup>th</sup> Police District.

### Partnership

The Weed and Seed strategy draws on a broad range of support from various stakeholders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

The invested Weed and Seed partners include:

- The East of the River Community Police Partnership,
- The United States Attorney's Office,
- The Columbia Heights Family Shaw Collaborative,
- The Temple of Praise,
- The District of Columbia Housing Authority,

- The Metropolitan Police Department (**grant fund recipient until May 2008**),
- The Gang Intelligent Unit of The Metropolitan Police Department,
- Superior Court Social Services,
- Various safe havens(youth based initiatives), and
- A host of other partners who have a vested interest in community building.

### **New Initiatives**

Beginning in late 2009, CSOSA began providing direct programming for the following initiatives:

#### **Cognitive-Behavioral Restructuring Therapy (\$123,000.00 pilot program)**

This demonstration initiative, as administered by Community Supervision Services, will target high risk offenders (approximately 262) who are reentering the community after incarceration, or who are under community supervision, and reside in a Weed and Seed site. In addition to regular supervision monitoring, drug testing, and referrals for services, CSS will provide cognitive-behavioral restructuring therapy, family support groups, and aftercare groups for these offenders to support their successful reintegration in the community.

#### **Drug Education for Youth (\$30,000.00 annually)**

The Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) initiative is a partnership effort with The US Attorney's Office and the Washington DC National Guard. This youth based program (ages 9 thru 12) is designed to deter at-risk behaviors by providing the tools needed to resist drugs and gangs infused with skill-based activities which positively shape their future.

Unlike most programs, DEFY combines elements from many different youth program's, including physical fitness, educational trips and excursions, goal setting, conflict resolution, self-esteem and peer leadership development, decision-making, drug resistance and a formal graduation.

### **Funding**

Since 2004 CSOSA has received a total of \$3,098,039.00 for the following *active* and *expired* W&S sites:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Grant Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Marshall Heights	Expired	2004	\$225,000
Columbia Heights	Expired	2004	\$225,000
Congress Heights	Expired	2004	\$225,000
Marshall Heights	Expired	2005	\$225,000
Columbia Heights	Expired	2005	\$225,000
Congress Heights	Expired	2005	\$225,000
Northwest	Expired	2006	\$175,000
Frederick Douglass	Expired	2006	\$175,000
Northwest	<b>Active</b>	2007	\$175,000
Frederick Douglass	<b>Active</b>	2007	\$175,000
Far Northeast	<b>Active</b>	2007	\$175,000
Northwest	<b>Active</b>	2008	\$147,968
Frederick Douglass	<b>Active</b>	2008	\$149,647
Far Northeast	<b>Active</b>	2008	\$149,585
Northwest	<b>Active</b>	2009	\$141,839
Frederick Douglass	<b>Active</b>	2009	\$142,000
Far Northeast	<b>Active</b>	2009	\$142,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,098.039</b>

Expired - \$1,700,000.00

Active - \$1,398,039.00

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Each Weed and Seed Site is expected to conduct an evaluation to measure the success of its strategy and programs.

All sites are encouraged to develop an arrangement with an academic or analytic partner to analyze their individual sites' crime prevention needs. Each site is required to have in place a plan to measure the success of its strategy and programs. Each site agrees to cooperate with local or national evaluators under the auspices of The Department of Justice during the course of the grant period.