

Attachment 1: Program Narrative

The City of Lowell, Massachusetts is a diverse community of over 105,000 residents (U.S. Census, 2000). Nearly one-third of these residents have emigrated from a variety of countries including Brazil, Portugal, Africa and Cambodia. The city's police department (LPD) currently consists of 234 sworn officers. These officers are responsible for patrolling 14.5 square miles, divided into three geographic sectors, and respond to over 77,000 calls for service each year. The members of the LPD are strongly committed to a community policing philosophy and strive to achieve the goals of reducing crime, the fear of crime and improving the quality of life for the residents of the City of Lowell. The LPD is requesting funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) FY08 to help achieve the goals of the department.

Intelligence and Analysis

The Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit was established over ten years ago in an effort to enhance the implementation of the community policing ideology. Since its creation, the Unit has greatly advanced its analytical capabilities. Presently, there are four analysts who are responsible for maintaining crime statistics, reviewing patterns of crime and identifying hotspots for criminal and suspicious activity. The Unit also provides a Compstat presentation twice each month that includes mapping of specific types of crimes and hotspot identification that facilitates effective deployment of resources for the department. When the Unit was initially created, the analysts only collected and analyzed data from the City of Lowell. However, in recent years, the Unit has begun to solicit and collect data and anecdotal intelligence from surrounding towns for analysis. The LPD compiles the information received from surrounding police departments and produces a weekly regional crime bulletin to ensure that members of contiguous departments are aware of the criminal activities that are occurring in the area. Furthermore, the Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit produces and disseminates a daily crime bulletin which focuses specifically on Lowell to members of the LPD, as well as to members of other local and state law enforcement agencies. This bulletin identifies suspects, serious or repeat offenders, local crime trends and spatial and temporal patterns of crime-related activity.

The Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit has been working toward establishing a Regional Crime Analysis Center, which will serve to enhance communications and information sharing among area law enforcement and criminal justice agencies throughout the Northeast region. Additionally, the primary goal of this Center will be to proactively prevent crime and terrorism. A regional approach to data collection and analysis is critical in order to provide optimal protection to Lowell and its infrastructures, improve and enhance responses to incidents, and reduce the threat of crime and terrorism.

For the last several years, JAG funding has been used to employ one of the analysts in the Crime Analysis and Intelligence Unit. The LPD will continue to utilize this funding to maintain this position. This analyst is responsible for compiling statistics and creating the department's bi-monthly Compstat presentations, which includes detailed maps and tables. During Compstat meetings, the LPD Command Staff, Community Liaisons, representatives from outside departments such as Juvenile, District, and Superior Court Probation Officers, Massachusetts

State Police and City of Lowell Neighborhood Services are encouraged to participate in order to identify ways to positively affect and prevent crime. Since it's inception, Compstat has been credited with assisting the department in making well-informed decisions about deployment and special initiatives.

Performance Measures

The City of Lowell, in accordance with Government Performance and Results Act, will provide any and all performance measure data to identify progress in our reports to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.