

## **Coordinated Funding Capacity Building Grant Application**

Please note that the fields below are plain text, and many have character limits. The character limits include all keystrokes, including carriage returns. If you are using Microsoft Word to help you compose your responses before pasting them in the application, note that any special formatting will be lost when your responses are converted to the plain text format accepted in this application. In addition, the word count feature in Word does not count carriage returns, though they are counted here.

**Lead Agency Name:** Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

**Other Participating partners/agencies (if applicable):** Telling It Program

**Project Name:** Expand Telling It Program to Enhance Public Safety for Ypsilanti and Willow Run Youth

**Community Emphasis:** Both Ypsilanti and Willow Run

### **Grant Summary (500 character limit)**

Expand the reach of the Telling It Program to engage more of Ypsilanti and Willow Run's vulnerable youth in collaboration with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. At the request of key community leaders and the WCSO, TIP will establish sites in West Willow and MacArthur Blvd housing developments for youth ages 11 to 15. These sites will form a gateway to collaboration with other organizations to provide opportunities for youth engagement and enhance quality of life in these communities.

**Amount Requested:** \$20,000

**Total Project Cost:** \$20,000

### **Capacity Building Category**

Cross Sector Capacity

### **FOCUS AREA**

**Planning & Coordinated Engagement**

**Planning Area/Entity**

School-Aged Youth – Washtenaw Alliance for Children & Youth Engagement: High

**Describe your existing key relationships with other stakeholders (agencies, community leaders, etc.) in the target community and how those relationships will enhance the impact of your capacity building project (1500 character limit)**

The relationship between WCSO and TIP was established spring 2012. Following an introductory meeting, Sheriff Clayton attended end of term celebrations at SOS Community Services and COPE Alternative School where he saw the impact of the program. Seeing the value and potential of the program, he committed financial support to expand TIP to the West Willow community fall 2012 for youth ages 11-15.

Planning meetings were held with key community leaders Linda Mealing and Claudia Small who live in the community and have strong relationships with youth and their families. With the blessing of the New West Willow Neighborhood Association, TIP leadership began to host community gatherings on Thursday evenings to introduce the program to youth and families to create a grass-root interest in the program.

Other local groups that will work with TIP leadership include Greater Works Youth Empowerment and WCSO's Young Women Making Washtenaw County Better. These two groups will provide peer to peer support for participating youth.

WACY and Ypsilanti Public Library will provide a network of connections and resources for youth and families who may need additional academic support. All of these relationships will enhance the impact of this capacity building project.

**Capacity Project Experience (1500 character limit) Describe your agency's experience in managing & successfully implementing capacity building grants, including specific examples if possible.**

WCSO has worked with many federally funded grants in the past and is adept at reporting on our progress, both financially and operationally. Our Budget Analysis will create a separate business unit to show a history of grant funds received and expended. In addition, we currently have a system in place for all grants within the county that involves our Budget Office, Finance Department, County Administration, and the county department seeking funds so that applying for, receiving, and reporting on grant funds is tracked appropriately.

Example: Since implementing the Community Outreach program, WCSO has been able to hire a Community Outreach Coordinator and 3 outreach workers as liaisons between the streets, community residents, and law-enforcement. By engaging the community system on 3 fronts our goal is systemic community change to address root cause problems.

Goals stated by grantor: 1) To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery 2) JAG funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.

Outcomes: Hired key outreach personnel. They focus on 4 communities and work within our jail to connect those returning to our communities with services they need to prevent recidivism.

**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Project Outcome Statement (500 character limit) Provide a concise statement describing the capacity-building result you are working toward.**

WCSO, in collaboration with TIP and community leaders, will hire and train 4 Site Facilitators (SF) to run TIP in West Willow and the MacArthur Blvd community. TIP will establish weekly after school programming that will serve as an entry point for collaboration with organizations that offer educational support to youth. As a result, TIP will extend to marginalized youth in communities identified based on perceptions of safety, law enforcement and negative perception of the community.

**Review of Data (1500 character limit)**

**Provide any additional local data/evidence of the 'capacity' needs this grant addresses, including the relevant information from the online repository of Ypsilanti & Willow Run community data that is most specific to your request.**

Washtenaw County has addressed gang activity that once plagued our community through the early 90's following the RICO Act. Today WCSO Community Action Team estimates there are 12-13 cliques active in Ypsilanti/Willow Run area, with 9-10 active in the West Willow community alone. The largest clique is estimated to have 25 members.

The idea of "cliques" is a danger to public safety as they can be defined as gang without bi-laws, or a code of ethics, ultimately heightening the threat. Criminal behavior is viewed as a rite of passage as youth longing to belong to something in some areas are being offered very little positive influence during the school year.

Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton has recognized the need to provide after-school enrichment programs that are not purely sports based. Currently one of the larger issues in West Willow is an underground culture of "fight clubs." These "fight clubs" are instigated by teenage boys to promote fighting between teenage girls, in a similar style as dog fighting. These fights are then videotaped and uploaded to YouTube. The TIP team would use the creative arts including video and photography to counter the negative impact of these "fight clubs" on both the teenage girls and boys.

TIP Site Facilitators will be respected members of the community who have been active in engaging youth to promote socially responsible behaviors. This in turn will improve quality of life and overall perception of the community.

**Proposed Start Date:** 1/1/2013

**Proposed Completion Date:** 12/31/2013

**Project Components and Activities [3000 character limit]**

**Describe in detail your planned activities and timeline for the project.**

Timeline: 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2013.

JAN: Identify, hire and train 4 SFs. SFs will be oriented and trained in 2, three-hour workshops on the Telling It pedagogy and methodology. Training will be conducted by the leadership team that includes the TIP Director, psychotherapist, key community leaders, and WCSO Community Outreach Coordinator.

The training rubric includes these domains:

Entering community, meeting a new group, assessing needs, orientation to the culture of the host neighborhood;

Establishing a safe environment where youth can take risks and there is confidentiality;

Communication, facilitating the group's experience;

Introducing an activity or theme, entry points;

Transition, moving between activities;

Development of lesson plans;

Debriefing;

Group Management;

Support Team Management;

Administration of evaluation pre- and post-youth surveys;

General program administration, management of the artists, procurement of snacks, supplies, etc.

FEB: Program sites commence at Danbury Park, Seymour Meadows, and West Willow. SFs work with and shadow the Program Director. SFs observe the TIP pedagogy being modeled. They establish their site by adapting their skill set to the TIP methods and needs of the youth group. SFs are under the supervision of the Program Director.

MAR: SFs take the lead independent of the Program Director in conducting their program site. Supervision of the SFs transitions from on-site to weekly meetings.

APR: The sites prepare for the final celebration in which family and community members are invited to attend. This is a formal and lively showcase of the youth's artwork and creative writing.

MAY-JUN: TIP leadership team and SFs debrief on the semester. They assess whether the outcomes and goals were met by processing the feedback and evaluation data. The lessons learned are codified and used as a basis for future planning. Determine whether the needs of the youth were addressed. Solicit feedback from the SFs to determine if they were supported and sufficiently prepared for their leadership role.

Program Director works with WCSO, community leaders, and organizations, e.g. Greater Works Youth Empowerment, Ypsilanti Public Library, New West Willow Neighborhood Association, etc., to determine if and where collaboration is possible. In addition, Program Director, in collaboration with WCSO and key community leaders, identifies neighborhoods that may be receptive to Telling It after school programs.

JUL-AUG: As part of existing WCSO summer programming in these communities, TIP leadership offers an abbreviated and intensive version of the program for all age groups K-12.

SEP-DEC: SFs gather instructional supplies necessary to conduct their program site. Sites begin at the end of September and each SF runs their site independently. Weekly meetings take place with the members of leadership team. Program Director continues to troubleshoot issues as they arise.

**Describe any collaborative work that has already taken place in support of this project. [1500 character limit]**

The mission of the Sheriff's Office is to "Create Public Safety, Provide Quality Service and Build Strong and Sustainable Communities." To achieve this, WCSO convened steering committees within each community to identify issues of public safety and outline action steps to address them. These committees are comprised of residents, township officials, landlords, home owners, and law enforcement.

In 2009, a two-man team of deputies was relieved of regular law enforcement duties and tasked with becoming members of the MacArthur Blvd community as a pilot to address the root cause of community problems. Due to its success, another team was formed in 2010 to focus on West Willow. In response to the increase in criminal behavior, we formed the Community Action Team (CAT) in 2011 to oversee and address major crime operations throughout the county. The Community Outreach Team facilitates a weekly summer long basketball tournament in these communities, Ballin' on the Blvd., Ballin' in the Willow bridging the gap between deputies and our community's youth.

Engaging youth, empowering residents, and developing strategies to keep communities safe ultimately provides the WCSO with a unique approach to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. TIP's mission to stimulate writing and literacy skills through the creative arts to increase self-esteem and improve scholastic confidence of youth compliments WCSO efforts to build strong communities.

**Prioritization [1000 character limit]**

**How will your agency prioritize this work relative to your other projects and general activities?**

In 2009 the decision was made to restructure the Sheriff's administrative team to include a Director of Community Engagement. This position's focus is to reintroduce the community policing philosophy to the WCSO. This commitment to build relationships and trust with our citizens, engage them as partners, retrain our deputies, and have the resources necessary to implement a community policing philosophy aimed at enhancing the quality of life for our citizens.

An Outreach Coordinator assists with organizing, developing, and implementing neighborhood improvement strategies through collaboration with community stakeholders. The focus is solely

on community based initiatives within target neighborhoods based upon need, i.e. number of calls for service, crime and poverty rate, number of parolees returning to the community, relationships with WCSO, and overall negative perceptions of the neighborhood. Ypsilanti's MacArthur Blvd and West Willow are targeted communities.

### **Early Milestones [1000 character limit]**

**Identify specific key milestones and/or deliverables for the first 90 days of your project.**

In the first 90 days of this project: 1) SFs will be sufficiently trained to run the program sites independently; 2) a core group of youth will be attending the regular program sessions; 3) a final celebration will showcase the work of the youth where families, community leaders and others will be invited to attend; 4) data collection and assessment will determine whether the needs of the participating youth are addressed; 5) the youth in collaboration with the SFs will determine if the activities being offered are interesting and engaging; and 6) SFs will be evaluated to determine if they are affectively engaging the youth and based on that evaluation conduct more training as necessary.

### **Final Goals and Measurement (2000 character limit)**

**Identify specific goals and outcome measures you will use to assess the impact of this project on your organization(s) and on your target populations.**

The following TIP goals and outcomes will be measured: 1) a change will occur in behavior, i.e. anecdotal evidence will be gathered to support that positive choices are being made by the youth; 2) writing, i.e. increased ownership of their writing and increased confidence in their literacy skills; 3) a willingness to engage and participate, i.e. youth will gradually take more risks in attempting new skills, problem solve, and view themselves as successful with transferrable skills; and 4) an increase in self-confidence, i.e. able to make choices that are not self-destructive and that they will self-identify in such a way that their core, or self-esteem, is able to withstand negative influences.

In assessing the above goals and outcomes the evaluation tools for items 2 & 3 will be data-driven and for 1 & 4 those will be reported by community leaders involved in the program. The WCSO will utilize their own tools to coordinate the way the measurables are collected and participate in the data interpretation.

In addition, WCSO will use TIP as a platform for facilitated casual conversations between deputies and program participants. This feedback on perceptions of safety, law enforcement and their reaction to school and community violence will be valuable to improving deputy response to youth exposed to violence. Following group rap sessions, SFs will use Qwizdom, an instant voting presentation device to facilitate ongoing evaluation/research of the effectiveness of this initiative. This tool provides a fun and interactive way to engage groups as well as measure effectiveness within each program session. As a research tool Qwizdom provides the capability to measure a range of objectives.

It is for these reasons we seek to partner with Ann Arbor Community Foundation and United Way, using your gift to offer youth in our most vulnerable communities a pipeline to education and away from incarceration.