

## Award Letter

September 29, 2022

Dear Stacy Jones,

On behalf of Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, it is my pleasure to inform you the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has approved the application submitted by FULTON, COUNTY OF for an award under the funding opportunity entitled 2022 BJA FY 22 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative. The approved award amount is \$2,000,000.

Review the Award Instrument below carefully and familiarize yourself with all conditions and requirements before accepting your award. The Award Instrument includes the Award Offer (Award Information, Project Information, Financial Information, and Award Conditions) and Award Acceptance. For COPS Office and OJV funding the Award Offer also includes any Other Award Documents.

Please note that award requirements include not only the conditions and limitations set forth in the Award Offer, but also compliance with assurances and certifications that relate to conduct during the period of performance for the award. These requirements encompass financial, administrative, and programmatic matters, as well as other important matters (e.g., specific restrictions on use of funds). Therefore, all key staff should receive the award conditions, the assurances and certifications, and the application as approved by OJP, so that they understand the award requirements. Information on all pertinent award requirements also must be provided to any subrecipient of the award.

Should you accept the award and then fail to comply with an award requirement, DOJ will pursue appropriate remedies for non-compliance, which may include termination of the award and/or a requirement to repay award funds.

Prior to accepting the award, your Entity Administrator must assign a Financial Manager, Grant Award Administrator, and Authorized Representative(s) in the Justice Grants System (JustGrants). The Entity Administrator will need to ensure the assigned Authorized Representative(s) is current and has the legal authority to accept awards and bind the entity to the award terms and conditions. To accept the award, the Authorized Representative(s) must accept all parts of the Award Offer in the Justice Grants System (JustGrants), including by executing the required declaration and certification, within 45 days from the award date.

To access your funds, you will need to enroll in the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system, if you haven't already completed the enrollment process in ASAP. The Entity Administrator should have already received an email from ASAP to initiate this process.

Congratulations, and we look forward to working with you.

Maureen Henneberg  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

### **Office for Civil Rights Notice for All Recipients**

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has been delegated the responsibility for ensuring that recipients of federal financial assistance from the OJP, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) are not engaged in discrimination prohibited by law. Several federal civil rights laws, such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require recipients of federal financial assistance to give assurances that they will comply with those laws. Taken together, these civil rights laws prohibit recipients of federal financial assistance from DOJ from discriminating in services and employment because of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, and, for grants authorized under the Violence Against Women Act, sexual orientation and gender identity. Recipients are also prohibited from discriminating in services because of age. For a complete review of these civil rights laws and nondiscrimination requirements, in connection with DOJ awards, see <https://ojp.gov/funding/Explore/LegalOverview/CivilRightsRequirements.htm>.

Under the delegation of authority, the OCR investigates allegations of discrimination against recipients from individuals, entities, or groups. In addition, the OCR conducts limited compliance reviews and audits based on regulatory criteria. These reviews and audits permit the OCR to evaluate whether recipients of financial assistance from the Department are providing services in a nondiscriminatory manner to their service population or have employment practices that meet equal-opportunity standards.

If you are a recipient of grant awards under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act or the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and your agency is part of a criminal justice system, there are two additional obligations that may apply in connection with the awards: (1) complying with the regulation relating to Equal Employment Opportunity Programs (EEOs); and (2) submitting findings of discrimination to OCR. For additional information regarding the EEO requirement, see 28 CFR Part 42, subpart E, and for additional information regarding requirements when there is an adverse finding, see 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.204(c), .205(c)(5).

The OCR is available to help you and your organization meet the civil rights requirements that are associated with DOJ grant funding. If you would like the OCR to assist you in fulfilling your organization's civil rights or nondiscrimination responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the OCR at [askOCR@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askOCR@ojp.usdoj.gov).

### **Memorandum Regarding NEPA**

NEPA Letter Type

OJP - Categorical Exclusion

NEPA Letter

OJP's Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) seeks to prevent and reduce violent crime in communities by supporting comprehensive, evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs, including efforts to address gang and gun violence, based on partnerships among community residents, local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations (CBOs), law enforcement, hospitals, researchers, and other community stakeholders.

None of the following activities will be conducted whether under the Office of Justice Programs federal action or a related third-party action:

- (1) New construction.
- (2) Any renovation or remodeling of a property located in an environmentally or historically sensitive area, including property (a) listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or (b) located within a 100-year flood plain, a wetland, or habitat for an endangered species.
- (3) A renovation that will change the basic prior use of a facility or significantly change its size.
- (4) Research and technology whose anticipated and future application could be expected to have an effect on the environment.
- (5) Implementation of a program involving the use of chemicals.

Additionally, the proposed action is neither a phase nor a segment of a project that when reviewed in its entirety would not meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion.

Consequently, the subject federal action meets the Office of Justice Programs' criteria for a categorical exclusion as contained in paragraph 4(b) of Appendix D to Part 61 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

NEPA Coordinator

First Name

Orbin

Project Information

This award is offered subject to the conditions or limitations set forth in the Award Information, Project Information, Financial Information, and Award Conditions.

Solicitation Title

2022 BJA FY 22 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative

Application Number

GRANT13626480

Awarding Agency

OJP

Program Office

OJJDP

Grant Manager Name

Scott Pestridge

Phone Number

202-532-5570

E-mail Address

Scott.Pestridge@usdoj.gov

Project Title

Expansion of Juvenile Gang Prevention and Intervention

Performance Period Start Date

10/01/2022

Performance Period End Date

09/30/2025

Budget Period Start Date

10/01/2022

Budget Period End Date

09/30/2025

Project Description

The Fulton County Government submits this grant application, Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (16.045, O-BJA-2022-171282) to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for Category 4: CVIPI Expansion and Enhancement for County Governments (C-BJA-2022-00114-PROD) in support of the Gang Intervention Prevention program administered by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDAO). On page 11 of the Narrative includes a priority consideration. ) Hire Juvenile Program Manager (County position specification executive assistant) to work with the Juvenile Court Prosecutors, to review case files and make recommendations; this staff will be familiar with partners providing community solutions; (2) Hire Community Resource Specialist focused on relationship with community experiencing increase in violence; (3) Partner with Behavioral Health Consultant, Dr. Pilgrim to build trauma-informed therapy groups and supportive services for mentors and parents, discuss case plan for restoration and rehabilitative coping skills and crisis management to youth; (4) Partner with Chris 180 trauma-informed therapy for children and supportive services to parents; (5) Partner with Credible Messengers, out of the US Attorney's Office program of formerly incarcerated, who provide mentoring to youth; (6) Partner with the At Promise Center, diversion programming for court exposed juveniles with the Atlanta Police Foundation; (6) Two programs

facilitated out of the FCDA's office Jr. DA and LEADS, leadership program in Fulton County schools; (7) Partner with FCA Atlanta Leadership Enrichment working with Coaches and summer programming; (8) Through a mixed-methods approach, Dr. Dean Dabney, a tenured Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State will gather and synthesize information on program impacts and cost effectiveness, allowing Fulton County to understand more about evidence-based therapeutic services impacts both individual and community-level factors. Fulton County is 534 square miles, with 15 municipalities, and is the largest county in the state with its largest city, Atlanta, the capital of the state of Georgia. The race percentages of the Fulton County population are approximately 44% Black, 39% White, 7% Asian, 2% two or more races, and 7% Hispanic/Latino. Atlanta has a complicated history of widespread segregation, biased legislation, and racial subordination. Enhance existing working group to better serve communities experiencing unprecedented violence; through a collaborative, multimethod, data-collection, and analysis approach, conduct a needs assessment to better understand root causes of community violence; and place priority on building and maintaining work and accomplishments.

I have read and understand the information presented in this section of the Federal Award Instrument.

## **PROJECT NARRATIVE**

The Fulton County Government submits this grant application, Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (16.045, O-BJA-2022-171282) to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for Category 4: CVIPI Expansion and Enhancement for County Governments (C-BJA-2022-00114-PROD) in support of the Gang Intervention Prevention program administered by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office (FCDAO).

### **Description of the Issue**

Fulton County, Georgia is facing accelerating rates of gang violence. The nature and scope of the problem to address community violence that involves children, youth, young adults, both as the individuals responsible for perpetrating this violence and those who are victims of it, is three-fold: (1) For children, emotional responses to violence develop, such as sadness, fear, and guilt, but without skills to address the emotions, anger and violence are a result leading the child to the criminal justice system; (2) The costs of violence on parents and mentors create “parenting from fear” with adverse effects, and further damage to the family and community; and (3) Although incarceration costs are significantly more than supervision, the high rate of spending on incarceration subtracts from funds to address societal solutions. Existing problem: Fulton County had a total of 194 firearm related homicide cases in 2021 according to the Georgia Bureau of

GBI Reporting Police Dept.'s	Ja 2021	F	M	A	M	Ju	J	A	S	O	N	D		Ja 2022	F	M	A
Alpharetta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1		0	0	0	0
Atlanta	10	10	9	9	16	15	14	25	12	13	16	6		16	7	16	10
College Park	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0		1	3	0	0
East Point	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Fairburn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Fulton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0
MARTA <sup>i</sup>	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Roswell	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Sandy Springs	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0		0	1	0	0
South Fulton	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	3	2	0	1	0		1	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	15	12	10	19	18	17	31	16	14	19	7		18	11	16	10

Investigation (GBI); and from January to the end of April in 2022 there have already been 55 gun related homicides in Fulton County.<sup>ii</sup> GBI estimates that gang criminal enterprise is

responsible for 70-90% of all violent crimes, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) estimates there to be at least 50,000 gang members in metro-Atlanta<sup>iv</sup>. The violent crime rate of

Uniform Crime Report – State of Georgia <sup>iii</sup>					
State	City	Year	Population	Violent Crime	Rate per 100,000
Georgia	Atlanta	2021	515,945	4578	887
	Sandy Springs (north Fulton)		111,219	209	188
	South Fulton		100,658	974	968

Atlanta in 2021 is 887<sup>v</sup> and since 2019, the homicide rate for the city of Atlanta has increased by 64% and by 49% in Fulton County,

specifically. Challenges associated with said increase include the rise in stolen guns. Authorities urge gun owners not to leave weapons in their cars. Atlanta police have received 827 reports of guns stolen out of cars in 2022. Investigators say those weapons are often used in violent crimes. By comparison, Atlanta police said 1,035 guns were reported stolen from cars last year and 988 were taken in 2019. “We as citizens are helping to arm criminals and one of the ways we’re doing that is by leaving our guns in our car,” District Attorney Fani Willis said. “We’re giving people access to a tool they can use in a crime.”<sup>vi</sup>

Describe target population: Fulton County is 534 square miles, with 15 municipalities, and is the

largest county in the state with its largest city, Atlanta, the capital of the state of Georgia. The race percentages of the Fulton County population are approximately 44% Black, 39% White, 7% Asian, 2% two or more races, and 7% Hispanic/Latino.<sup>vii</sup> Atlanta has a complicated history of widespread segregation, biased legislation, and racial subordination. It is ironic that the highways I-85, I-75-, I-285, and I-20 were signs of the state’s prosperity when created but increased the likelihood of poverty when they cut through Black neighborhoods, isolating them from the broader community.

**Municipalities**

Alpharetta	68,117
Atlanta	472,269
Chattahoochee Hills	3,281
College Park	14,405
East Point	37,416
Fairburn	16,326
Hapeville	7,011
Johns Creek	86,218
Milton	40,224
Mountain Park	564
Palmetto	4,622
Roswell	98,181
Sandy Springs	111,338
South Fulton	104,161
Union City	25,567
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,089,700</b>

Studies have shown that highway systems were highly detrimental to city communities, creating physical divides, psychological rifts, property devaluation, population loss and a substantial source of noise and air pollution.<sup>viii</sup> Fulton County’s general poverty rate is 13.4 percent<sup>ix</sup>, but financially stratified from the affluent suburbs of north metro-Atlanta to the impoverished area south of the

state's capital. For the city of Atlanta, the poverty rate is 19.2 percent and for persons in Fulton County under the age of 18, the poverty rate is also 19.2 percent. 21 percent of the population of Fulton County is under the age of 18 years.<sup>x</sup> The most common racial groups living below the poverty line in Fulton County are Black (98,906), then White (30,892) and Hispanic (13,418). Fulton County represents 10% (1,089,700) of the statewide population with a gender ratio of females at 52%<sup>xi</sup>. Fulton County is home to many low-income residents which increases their likelihood of incidents of crime. Research indicates that women are at an increased risk for victimization when their income is below the poverty level, and conversely, victimization increases women's likelihood of unemployment and reduced income (Byrne, Resnick, Kilpatrick, Best, & Saunders, 1999). The violence continues to increase but we have had some success with our previous attempts to respond to violence and gang intervention, which was provided by OJJDP FY 20 Comprehensive Anti-Gang Programs for Youth - Category 1: Intervention." However, grant funding was limited by the priorities of the previous district attorney, who after serving for decades, lost the election in 2020. Prioritizing diversion programming is important to the newly elected Fulton County District Attorney, Fani Willis. The OJJDP grant is not available this year to continue our work with the dynamic partners we include as a part of this funding request. There are many juveniles in need of intervention; yet the County Board of Commissioners has defunded public safety initiatives with community partners.

### **Project Design and Implementation**

Fulton County will work with boys and girls ages 12 to 17 who are at risk of joining gangs, were exposed to gang violence and or been victimized by criminal street gangs, or seeking assistance removing themselves from gang activity. Based on the demographics of court involved youth in

Fulton county, the primary demographic of the population served will be African American youth ages 13 to 16.<sup>xii</sup> The steps to operate a community based violence intervention and prevention initiative throughout the funding period are: (1) Hire Juvenile Program Manager (County position specification executive assistant) to work with the Juvenile Court Prosecutors, to review case files and make recommendations; this staff will be familiar with partners providing community solutions; (2) Hire Community Resource Specialist focused on relationship with community experiencing increase in violence; (3) Partner with Behavioral Health Consultant, Dr. Pilgrim to build trauma-informed therapy groups and supportive services for mentors and parents, discuss case plan for restoration and rehabilitative coping skills and crisis management to youth; (4) Partner with Chris 180 trauma-informed therapy for children and supportive services to parents; (5) Partner with Credible Messengers, out of the US Attorney's Office program of formerly incarcerated, who provide mentoring to youth; (6) Partner with the At Promise Center, diversion programming for court exposed juveniles with the Atlanta Police Foundation; (7) Two programs facilitated out of the FCDA's office Jr. DA and LEADS, leadership program in Fulton County schools; (8) Partner with FCA Atlanta Leadership Enrichment working with Coaches and summer programming; (9) Through a mixed-methods approach, Dr. Dean Dabney, a tenured Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State will gather and synthesize information on program impacts and cost effectiveness, allowing Fulton County to understand more about evidence-based therapeutic services impacts both individual and community-level factors.

diverted to receive restorative services instead of criminal punishment. However, it is currently solely up to families to seek and fund services for the child, an enormous and sometimes insurmountable barrier for low-income families.

## **Capabilities and Competencies**

January Towels, formerly with Youth Detention Center is serving as Juvenile Intervention Specialist. Aakeem Woodard, Juvenile Advocate & Liaison at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office was formerly incarcerated and has developed L.E.A.D.S

Credible Messengers and OAA cofounded in 2014 by Deborah Daniels, formerly incarcerated, and former Alabama Supreme Court justice Drayton Nabers Jr. in Birmingham, Alabama. After two years, OAA became an official 501(c) 3 non-profit,.

County Government has a robust Grants Administration Department (GAD) that oversees all of the federal and state grants that run through Fulton County to sub recipients. Fulton County requires that each sub-recipients have a memorandum of understanding contract with the county and an invoicing agreement; both documents are drafted by the County attorney and sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The GAD has finance and compliance divisions that assist with tracking expenditures for sub recipients and ensuring sub recipient's payments have the appropriate invoicing and documentation.

The FCDAO Grants Manager, Michele Henry, will be responsible for the collecting, collating and submitting monthly and quarterly performance data, semiannual progress reports and quarterly financial reports through the Just Grants. Ms. Henry has earned her DOJ Financial Certification and in her role, she provides the same services for other grant funded projects. Ms. Henry holds a Master of Public Administration.

Dr. Dean Dabney is a tenured Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State University. He will serve as the Research Partner as a subcontractor for the Fulton

County District Attorney's Office's (FCDAO) project "CVIPI Expansion and Enhancement for Fulton County Government." FCDAO will serve as the lead agency in a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance's FY 22 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (O-BJA-2022-171282) program.

Dr. Dabney will have overall responsibility for subcontract management and direction of all GSU-based research activities to include identification of evidence-based strategies and potential performance metrics, directing process and outcome evaluation efforts, attending working group meetings, and supervising evaluation and action research activities originating at GSU. He, along with the GSU graduate assistants, will receive, secure, code and clean relevant program data, visit FCDAO facilities per specified protocols, and draft and circulate project reports and presentations.

All the project partners are aware of and welcome the involvement of Georgia State, the proposed research partner, and the DOJ technical advisors. The partners know that learning about innovative ways to engage overlooked residents and businesses, address violent crime through all community avenues and studying other sites around the country with similar issues. The FCDAO has worked with DOJ technical advisors and research partners on current and previous grants, and has shared the positive experience.

### **Plan For Collecting the Data Required**

The project coordinator will maintain a tracking database for this program that will assist with comply with all reporting requirements for well as maintain all documentation and information relative to the Performance Measurement Tool. The Project Director will work with Georgia State and the Working group to gather information. This information will be shared with collaborative partners to help give them a baseline on how to make improvements and/or what areas we should expand on to keep the program running successfully. This information will also be shared with

other community agencies and local government to gather support for the program. The Project Coordinator will work with the Project Leadership at Georgia State to gather information regarding number of, data sources accessed and analyzed, status of the action plan, problem response implementation status, and community outreach. Georgia State will be involved in every phase of the project. Their multifaceted role will involve working alongside the project team throughout the planning and implementations stages, as well as to objectively evaluate formative and summative project developments. The process and impact evaluation will assess the degree to which implementation of the program has met its stated goals and objectives; thoroughly documenting the program ‘recipe’, lessons learned, and assessing to what extent those activities significantly impacted youth desistance and disengagement from gangs, as well as improved community through design, engagement, and support.

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<sup>i</sup> MARTA metro system

<sup>ii</sup> Will McCombs, Justice Liaison contacted GBI reports of firearm related homicides and shootings for 2021, 2022

<sup>iii</sup> <https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/quarterly>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/atlanta-da-bill-to-fight-gang-crime/85-1080695e-084d-42c1-8e46-8a6129b888c1>

<sup>v</sup> [https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explore](https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorehttp://crimegunintelcenters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/New-CGIC-Workflow_2022-02-1536x1021.png)[http://crimegunintelcenters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/New-CGIC-Workflow\\_2022-02-1536x1021.png](http://crimegunintelcenters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/New-CGIC-Workflow_2022-02-1536x1021.png)<https://crime-data-explorer.app.cloud.gov/pages/explorer/crime/quarterly>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.ajc.com/news/after-historically-deadly-2020-atlanta-homicides-are-up-nearly-60-in-2021/N63RJ5OKQZCZVOCNH2D6376S3E/>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US13121-fulton-county-ga/>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/11/highways-destroyed-americas-cities/417789/>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0500000US13121>

<sup>x</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fultoncountygeorgia>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/ga/fulton-county-population/>

<sup>xii</sup> [http://www.fultonjuvenilecourt.org/sites/default/files/FCJC\\_Trends&Programs\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fultonjuvenilecourt.org/sites/default/files/FCJC_Trends&Programs_2017.pdf)