

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT 2009
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM**

**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
Career Offenders Burglary Robbery Apprehension (COBRA)
Grant Proposal**

Program Narrative

The City of Santa Clarita encompasses 52 square miles of the approximately 200-square-mile Santa Clarita Valley and is the largest city in geographic size within the County of Los Angeles. Located 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the City of Santa Clarita -- with an estimated population of 180,000 -- is the fourth largest city in the county and the 24th largest city in the State of California. Over the past ten years, Santa Clarita's population has continued to steadily increase. From 2000 to 2007, population grew by 17.9 percent, twice the growth experienced in all of Los Angeles County. In general, the City's population, with almost 70 percent Whites, is not as diverse as the County's population. Santa Clarita's population is relatively young in age. Approximately 29 percent are between the ages of 25 and 44, and 30 percent are school age between the ages of 5 and 19.

The Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Sheriff's Station provides law enforcement services to the City of Santa Clarita through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The City and Station personnel are committed to improving community safety and recognize the need for proactive law enforcement and community policing to curb problems before they get out-of-hand. This proactive approach to dealing with crime-related and public safety issues is one of the reasons for the City's low crime rate. Crime prevention efforts and programs -- including the COBRA Unit (Career Offenders Burglary Robbery Apprehension), Community Interaction Team (CIT), Community Court and Teen Court Intervention/Diversion Programs, Neighborhood Watch, School Watch and Business Alliance Programs -- all contribute to Santa Clarita's vigilance for public safety.

Project Objectives

The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) stimulus funding of \$174,332 will be used for job preservation and will supplement state funding that had recently been reduced due to the current economic situation. Funding will be used for the salaries of two COBRA deputies whose focus is on juvenile crime and gang violence prevention. This will enhance existing juvenile law enforcement efforts, including current programs utilizing traditional JAG funds.

A sergeant and six deputies comprise the COBRA team, which is responsible for investigating all crimes perpetrated by juveniles in the City. They are also responsible for tracking gang activities and gang-related crimes, identifying new gang members and providing intervention on family issues involving gang members. The crimes they investigate range from some infractions to violent crimes and all felonies that juveniles

commit. They collect evidence and submit criminal filings with the District Attorney's office. Along with the filings, the detectives are called upon to testify in court on these crimes as well as testifying as a gang expert.

Funding these two positions will help ensure that youth violence prevention efforts in the City, including the following programs/activities, will continue.

- Gang Suppression – Includes directed saturation patrols to suppress gang recruitment and send out a strong message to gangs that the City and the Sheriff have a zero tolerance policy for gang activities in Santa Clarita.
- Graffiti Enforcement - The Sheriff will continue to work closely with the City's Graffiti Abatement Team to apprehend graffiti vandals.
- Truancy Sweeps –Targeted to decrease absenteeism among students, truancy sweeps have shown a direct correlation to a decrease in daytime burglaries and other crimes perpetrated by minors.
- Probation/Parole Enforcement – assist probation and parole officers with probation and parole searches in the area.

These programs -- and such other operations by COBRA in conjunction with other agencies and the community -- will help reduce crime in the City, enhance public safety and promote the quality of life in Santa Clarita.

Organization Capabilities and Competencies

The City of Santa Clarita has been successfully implementing Department of Justice grants, from the old Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) to the current Justice Assistance Grants (JAG). The City continues to ensure contract compliance and has been successfully administering grant-funded programs in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and community organizations.

These grant-funded programs include: frontline law enforcement funded by the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) from the State of California; traffic safety programs and DUI enforcement from the California Office of Traffic Safety; employment and job training programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act; youth support and intervention programs funded in the past by the California Board of Corrections' Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.

Other grants handled by the City include: Department of Transportation - Safe Routes to School, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program, and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ); Housing & Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - various transit projects.

The City of Santa Clarita's accounting system will ensure that funds from any award under the JAG Recovery Act are not commingled with funds from any other source. Separate expenditure and income accounts specific to this JAG grant will be established to ensure that drawdowns and grant expenditures are tracked, accounted

for and reported on separately from all other funds, including DOJ grant funds from non-Recovery Act grants. In the same manner, specific outcomes and benefits attributable to the use of JAG stimulus funds will be monitored and recorded separately.

This grant will be administered by the Community Services (CS) Analyst in close coordination with the Sheriff’s Station staff. The CS Analyst has been successfully managing and administering the City’s non-recovery JAG grants and other federal and state public safety/law enforcement grants. She has attended DOJ/OJP’s Regional Financial Management Training Seminars twice and is well-versed with the documentation and reporting processes required by the agency.

Timeline or Project Plan

Implementation of this grant will take place immediately after grant award is received and accepted by the City. The goals and objectives are anticipated to be completed within the first year of the grant.

Performance Measures

Objective	Performance Measures	Description
Preserving jobs: To preserve the jobs of 2 Sheriff deputies	a. Number of jobs saved (by type) due to Recovery Act funding b. Types of personnel paid for with Recovery Act funding	a. Unduplicated number of jobs that would have been eliminated if not for the Recovery Act funding b. Types of personnel paid for with Recovery Act funding
	a. Percent change in offending or number of arrests of a targeted group by crime type	a. Number of juveniles (by related crime) arrested prior to the start of the period b. Total number of juveniles arrested (by related crime) at the end of the reporting period c. Percent change
	a. Percent change in juvenile crime rates by crime type	a. Number of reported juvenile crimes at the start of the period b. Total number of reported juvenile crimes at the end of the reporting period c. Percent change

Review Narrative

The JAG Recovery Act grant application was sent to the City of Santa Clarita City Council for the required Governing Body Review on April 9, 2009. The application was made public, and an opportunity was provided for community groups and citizens to comment before the application was submitted. In lieu of a public hearing, this was accomplished through e-mail blasts and posts on the City's and the Sheriff's Station's websites. A press release and public service announcement, directing residents to comment by phone or e-mail to the appropriate City staff, were sent out to local media.