

Applicant: Miami Dade State Attorney's Office

Title of the Project: Targeting Violent Crimes and Gangs Through a Data-Driven Approach

Dollar Amount Requested: \$2,098,740.57

Category I Comprehensive Community-Based Data-Driven Approaches to Preventing and Reducing Violent Crime

Abstract

Gangs and guns are major problems in Miami-Dade County. With at least 77 gangs actively involved in a variety of criminal activities, including narcotics trafficking, homicides, robberies, burglaries, and assaults, the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office created a Gang Unit and Gun Violence Enforcement team to handle the onslaught. With budget constraints, however, funding is needed to maintain the operations of these units. Funds from the BJA Discretionary Grants Program will be used to support prosecutors, paralegals, and trial coordinators for the Gang Unit and the Gun Violence Enforcement Team. Funds will also support research staff of Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. (JSS) to continue its work on intelligence-led policing.

The core principle of the Miami model is to utilize long-term proactive investigation techniques by targeting, infiltrating, and dismantling the most dangerous organized criminal street gangs in South Florida. There are four goals to this strategy:

1. Use Recovery Act Funds to hire prosecutors, paralegals, trial coordinators, and research staff to use data-driven methods to develop criminal cases against gang members;
2. Prosecute and convict gang members who are involved in gun-related and other criminal activities;
3. Analyze data from law enforcement agencies and use geographic information systems (GIS) to target specific gangs and reduce gang violence; and
4. Work with law enforcement agencies and organizations within Miami-Dade County to prevent gang crimes and violent criminal behavior.

The Gang Unit and the Gun Violence Enforcement Team will work with its research partner, JSS, to continue to develop intelligence-led policing systems and implement Gangstat, a Compstat-like format for gangs. JSS will assist the Unit/Team in analyzing data, creating computer generated maps, measuring the performance of the project, and determining its effectiveness. Deliverables will include: 1) quarterly and annual reports; 2) power point presentations about key prosecutions; and 3) periodic reports about the status of gangs in Miami-Dade.

These efforts will be coordinated with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the County.