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June 9, 1998

TO: Mary Broske, City of Gainesville
cc: Donald L. Shinnamon, Sr., Gainesville Police Chief

FROM: Marilyn Berry Thompson
Becky Tidman

SUBJECT: FY 1998 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT
MONIES

We thought you would like to have the following information regarding the City's Local Law Enforcement Block Grant monies for FY 1998:

- There will be a third round of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds (N.B. the City has already received the first two rounds, and is awaiting the third round);
- The applications will be published around June 12, 1998, and will be mailed to the Mayor's office;
- Announcement on awardees will be made in September, 1998;
- The City of Gainesville is eligible to receive \$297,470—which represents a slight decrease of \$46,076 over last year's FY 1997 LLEBG funds (\$343,546 in FY 1997);
- As you know, FY 1998's eligibility figures are based on the UCR data from 1994, 1995, and 1996, part I, crime only, and the averages reported to the FBI;
- There is no change in restrictions on the uses of these funds, since the FY 1998 program is identical to last year's program.

We hope this information is helpful to you.

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BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

FY 1998 Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program

The Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 Appropriations Act, Public Law 105-119, provides \$523 million for the continuation of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the LLEBG Program is to provide funds to units of local government to underwrite projects to reduce crime and improve public safety.

Program Eligibility and Distribution of Funds

To be considered eligible for the LLEBG Program, a jurisdiction must be a general purpose unit of local government.¹ The unit of local government must report, via its law enforcement agency, to the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The LLEBG Program is a formula program based on a jurisdiction's number of UCR Part I violent crimes reported to the FBI. The formula is computed in two stages. In the first stage, State allocations are made proportionate to the State's average annual number of UCR Part I violent crimes compared to all States for the 3 most recent calendar years. Each State will receive a minimum award of 0.25 percent of the total amount available for formula distribution under the LLEBG Program. In the second stage, awards to units of local government are made proportionate to each local jurisdiction's average annual number of UCR Part I violent crimes compared to all local jurisdictions in that State for the 3 most recent calendar years. Jurisdictions reporting crime statistics above

the formula-based threshold of \$10,000 are eligible for direct awards from BJA.

The amount of State funds remaining after local allocations have been made is awarded to a State Administrative Agency (SAA) designated by the Governor. The SAA has the choice of distributing award funds to State police departments and/or to units of local government not meeting the formula-based threshold of \$10,000. Additional information about this portion of the funds is available from each State's respective SAA.

Program Purpose Areas

LLEBG Program funds must be spent in accordance with one or more of the following seven purpose areas:

- Law enforcement support for:
 - Hiring, training, and employing on a continuous basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel.
 - Paying overtime to employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purpose of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel.
 - Procuring equipment, technology, and other materials directly related to basic law enforcement functions.
- Enhancing security measures in and around schools and other facilities or locations that the unit of local government considers to be at risk for incidents of crime.

- Establishing or supporting drug courts.
- Enhancing the adjudication of cases involving violent offenders, including cases involving violent juvenile offenders.
- Establishing a multijurisdictional task force, particularly in rural areas, composed of law enforcement officials representing units of local government. These task forces must work with Federal law enforcement officials to prevent and control crime.
- Establishing cooperative crime prevention programs between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.
- Defraying the cost of indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers.

Program Requirements

The following requirements must be met prior to the obligation of LLEBG Program funds:

Advisory Board

Each jurisdiction must establish or designate an advisory board to review the application. This board must be designated to make nonbinding recommendations for the proposed use of funds received under this program.² At minimum the advisory board must include a member from each of the following local organizations: law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, court system, school system, and nonprofit group (e.g., educational, religious, or community) active in crime prevention or drug use prevention or treatment.

Public Hearing

Each jurisdiction must hold at least one public hearing regarding the proposed use of funds. Jurisdictions should encourage public attendance and participation.

Matching Funds

In each jurisdiction, LLEBG funds may not exceed 90 percent of total program costs. Program participation requires a cash match that will not be waived. All recipients must maintain records clearly showing the source, amount, and timing of all matching contributions.

Trust Fund

Each jurisdiction must establish an interest-bearing trust fund in which to deposit program funds. All Federal funds (including interest and match) must be expended within the 2-year grant period. Unspent funds

must be returned to BJA within 90 days of the project's termination.

Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision

Section 615 of the FY 1998 Appropriations Act requires a unit of local government to afford a public safety officer who retires or is separated from duty due to a line-of-duty injury suffered as a direct and proximate result of responding to a hot pursuit or an emergency situation at separation with health benefits that are the same as, or better than, those benefits received while on duty at the time of injury.

A unit of local government eligible for the LLEBG Program must be in compliance with this provision to be eligible to receive the entire amount of its award. A unit of local government not in compliance with this provision will forfeit 10 percent of the eligible award amount. For additional information on this provision, see the LLEBG Public Safety Officers' Health Benefits Provision fact sheet, which is available through the BJA Clearinghouse and via the BJA home page.

Prohibitions on Use of Funds

LLEBG funds are not to be used to purchase, lease, rent, or acquire tanks or armored vehicles, fixed-wing aircraft, limousines, real estate, yachts, or any vehicle not used primarily for law enforcement. Funds are not to be used to retain consultants. Construction of new facilities is also prohibited. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to supplant State or local funds; they must be used to increase the amount of funds that would otherwise be available from State and local sources.

Resolution of Funding Disparities

The LLEBG Program provides resolution to potential funding disparities within jurisdictions. The State attorney general may certify that a disparity exists between or among jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions are then required by statute to develop and submit joint applications. BJA's role is limited to accepting State attorney general certifications and reviewing joint applications for compliance. If the State attorney general chooses not to become involved in the disparate allocation certification process, there is no mechanism for BJA to intervene.

The LLEBG Program employs two criteria for determining eligibility for certification. First, an associated municipality's eligible funding amount must be greater (by set percentages) than the funding amount of the county. Second, the county must bear more than 50

percent of prosecution or incarceration costs arising from Part I violent crimes reported by an associated municipality. When there are multiple associated municipalities, the county also must show that the funding allocations to those municipalities are likely to threaten the efficient administration of justice.

Application Process

1. BJA distributes application kits to eligible units of local government in late May.
2. State attorney general submits disparity certifications to BJA, if applicable, in late June.
3. Jurisdiction's chief executive signs and submits a copy of the application to the Governor or designated representative at least 20 days prior to submission to BJA, as required by statute.
4. Chief executive forwards a copy of the application to BJA by late July.
5. BJA makes awards by late September.

Notes

1. Units of local government are counties, towns and townships, villages, cities, parishes, Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and parish sheriffs (in the State of Louisiana) that carry out substantial governmental duties.
2. In Louisiana the recommendations of the advisory board are binding.

For Further Information

For more information about the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, please contact:

Bureau of Justice Assistance
Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Division
810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
202-305-2088
World Wide Web: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-688-4252
World Wide Web: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

U.S. Department of Justice Response Center
1-800-421-6770 or 202-307-1480

FS 000216
May 1998