

# Application for Funding Assistance

#140156C

Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Justice Assistance Grant - County-wide

## Section 2: Project Overview

### General Project Information

**Project Title:** SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTY (SRD) K-9 DRUG/FIREARM AWARENESS PROGRAM  
**Subgrant Recipient:** Alachua County Board of Commissioners  
**Implementing Agency:** Alachua County Sheriff's Office  
**Project Start Date:** 8/1/2013      **End Date:** 9/30/2014

### Problem Identification

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputy (SRD) Program is a crime and delinquency prevention program focused on educating and counseling students. The program is a joint venture between the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the School Board of Alachua County. The primary objectives of this program are to educate students in the areas of crime prevention, personal safety, substance abuse and law education, while at the same time providing counseling to students and enforcing local and state laws. Additionally, deputies routinely gather information about criminal activity and potential problems within the school or community and provide law enforcement assistance to school personnel, students and parents.

The School Board of Alachua County recognizes today's drug situation and formed a partnership with the Alachua County Sheriff's Juvenile Relations Bureau (JRB). Overseeing Alachua County schools is one Lieutenant and five Sergeants.

Juvenile Relations Bureau Statistics: For the year 2012, there were 12 felony marijuana cases and 101 misdemeanor marijuana cases in Alachua County middle and high schools. During the 2012 School year there were 45 drug felony arrests and 162 drug misdemeanor arrests, for a total of 207 arrests.

Not only does drug abuse adversely affect the mental abilities of the student/user; it also has a negative impact upon the entire school through disruptive behavior, increased absences, increased violence and a potentially un-safe environment for other students.

Previously, two K-9 searches were scheduled for each school, throughout the school year. These searches require a lot of upfront preparation to ensure student safety. For each search, the school must conduct a lockdown prior to the K-9 entering the property. Lockdowns are essential because they protect staff and students from being closely exposed to our current apprehension K-9 team. The K-9 teams have a minimum of twenty minutes to conduct a canine search for the entire school. This type of search is distracting and interferes with the school activities. Because a K-9 search is so disruptive some administrators do not allow school searches to be conducted on their campus. The decrease in frequency of these searches has contributed to an increase of drug related problems on campuses.

### Project Summary (Scope of Work)

K-9 Selection and Narcotic Training:

The canine selection process begins by contacting several vendors and watching video of selected canines to determine which canine will meet our program's needs. After an extensive search, Universal K-9 out of San Antonio, Texas, was selected as our vendor. As part of the selection process, canines were observed interacting with children and

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performing a narcotics search in a classroom. After confirming the Canine's personality and work ability, we selected a female canine for the SRD K-9 Drug/Firearm Awareness Program. Obedience and Narcotics training will take approximately four to eight weeks to completely train the canine and make her ready for the program. Once the canine is ready, the K-9 Sergeant will travel to San Antonio, Texas to complete a two week K-9 Handler's course and a Narcotics certification. The canine is now ready to be brought back and begin to work in the schools.

### Program Implementation:

The SRD K-9 Sergeant is currently responsible for overseeing the School Resource Deputies at two middle schools and three elementary schools located in the Southwest (SW) quadrant of Alachua County. In addition to supervising these schools, the SRD K-9 Sergeant will oversee and coordinate the SRD Drug/Firearm K-9 Awareness Program.

The success of the School Resource Deputy (SRD) Drug/Firearm Awareness K-9 Program is accomplished through mutual cooperation of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Alachua County School District. Upon request, the SRD K-9 Sergeant or SRD K-9 Deputy will provide drug/firearm awareness presentations during the school year and summer school. Presentations are provided for kindergarten through fifth graders to teach the students on the dangers of drugs and firearms. Students learn to identify drugs, sale of drugs, firearms and are encouraged to confidentially report suspicious activities to the School Resource Deputies. At the end of the presentation, the SRD K-9 Sergeant or SRD K-9 Deputy will bring in the K-9 and demonstrate the K-9's abilities. After the K-9 demonstration the students may interact with the K-9.

After coordinating with school administration, the non-apprehension K-9 will be brought onto middle and high school campuses by the SRD K-9 Sergeant or SRD K-9 Deputy, to search for drugs. With a non-apprehension K-9, lockers, buses, cars, and classrooms will be searched during regular school hours without disrupting school activities. Furthermore, the K-9 may be used for Extended Day Enrichment Program (EDEP), Carnivals, and other on campus school events as a narcotic deterrent.

The SRD K-9 is trained to detect the following odors: marijuana, heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, Ecstasy (MDMA) and methamphetamines. The ability of the K-9 to detect these odors is accomplished through continuous specialized training. Training the K-9 in the listed odors is necessary to maintain industry reliability and proficiency. The advantage of having a non-apprehension K-9 will allow for frequent searches of Alachua County campuses without the need for campus lockdown. Participating in unplanned searches will deter students from bringing drugs on school campuses. Ultimately, the non-apprehension K-9's presence will result in a safer campus environment. The true success of the SRD K-9 Drug/Firearm Awareness Program relies on the continued and consistent use of the K-9 on the school campuses.

### Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: To increase drug/firearm awareness for all twelve elementary school campuses within Alachua County.

Objective: Provide drug/firearm awareness presentations to kindergarten through fifth grade students.

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**Supplies:**

Dog Food (12 month supply)	12 X \$50 bag = \$600
Training Toys	2 @ \$11 = \$22
Training Toy	3 @ \$15 = \$45
K-9 Drug and Firearm Awareness Bookmarks - * <i>Card design and wording to be approved by FDLE before printing</i>	1,000 for \$113
Dental = * <i>Initial Dental Evaluation, to ensure K-9 is fit for duty</i>	1 @ \$272

Total Supplies \$1,052

**Equipment:**

Outside Doghouse	1 @ \$190
Training Collar	1 @ \$250
Water bowl	1 @ \$17
Food Bowl	1 @ \$22
Training Leash 6ft	2 @ \$40
Choke Chain	1 @ \$16
Working Collar	1 @ \$33
De-Shedding Comb	1 @ \$43
Food Storage Vault	1 @ \$43
Training Harness	1 @ \$80
K9 Training Pants	4 @ \$50
K9 Training Shirts w/Embroidery	4 @ \$45
K9 Training Dri-Fit Tee Shirts	4 @ \$20
Narcotics Safe Kit for Trunk	1 @ \$345
Synthetic drug training kit for K-9, mandatory for continued K-9 training	1 @ \$890

Total Equipment \$2,084

**Travel and Training:**

FDLE K9 Training & Certification Workshop  
Mandatory for yearly K-9 drug certification  
Date: to be announced

Total Travel and Training \$3,164  
Total Expenses \$6,300

**Operating Capital:**

Kennel - 10ft x 10ft x 6ft galvanized steel outside kennel (required)	1 @ \$1,100
Car wrap for K-9 patrol vehicle with "say no to drugs/firearms message"	1 @ \$2,600

Total \$3,700

Total Award \$10,000