

Attachment 1

City of Shoreline, WA Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Narrative

The City of Shoreline will use our Byrne Memorial Grant Program funds to support our School Resource Office Program, in collaboration with Shoreline Public Schools.

Intent:

The overall goal of the program is to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program to the Shoreline School District's elementary and middle schools.

Program Overview:

The SRO Program involves the assignment of a select group of off-duty Shoreline Police Officers to the campuses of Shoreline School District's elementary and middle schools (a full-time officer serves the high schools under a separate program). Each officer works with the individual school to identify the specific needs of the students in the area of violence and substance abuse. Officers are specially screened and trained for the program.

Scope of Services:

Staff Training – Officers provide training for teachers and school staff on topics such as youth gangs, violence intervention, drug identification and intervention.,

Student Education – Officers assist in classroom instruction, with prior agreement of the school and teacher(s), by discussing topics such as substance abuse prevention, criminal and constitutional law, refusal skills, firearms awareness and safety, internet crimes and personal safety.

Parent Education – Officers provide training opportunities to parents on topics such as emerging youth issues related to violence, substance abuse, and the criminal justice system.

Building Rapport with Students – Officers help students to see Officers as a youth advocate whose primary concern is their safety and security.

Law Enforcement/Safety Assistance to Schools – Officers assist staff on the issues such as truancy, child abuse, suicide and violence – provide site security and law enforcement services on an as-needed basis, in conjunction with current school district security officers.

Mentoring Students – Officers foster a one-on-one relationship of trust and guidance with the students to enable them to develop healthy and safe life choices and patterns.

Level of Service:

The Shoreline Police Department provides an average of 4 hours per week to the elementary schools listed below. Officers may be available for evening functions and/or summer school assistance.

The schools served are as follows:

- Briarcrest Elementary
- Echo Lake Elementary
- Highland Terrace Elementary
- Meridian Park Elementary
- North City Elementary
- Parkwood Elementary
- Ridgecrest Elementary
- Sunset Elementary
- Syre Elementary
- Einstein Middle
- Kellogg Middle

Analysis of Need:

Due to the increase in attention towards school safety, the City of Shoreline collaborated with the Shoreline School District to create a School Resource Officer (SRO) program in local schools. While figures from the United States Departments of Justice and Education show the percentage of students 12 to 18 years old who reported being victims of violence or theft have been reduced the last few years, the possibility for violence still exists in our schools.

The University of Washington released a study that found that 20 to 40 percent of middle and high school students in Washington State are involved with substance use and violence/delinquency. The study also showed that by middle school there is a close association between the level of a student's academic achievement and their involvement in risky behaviors. A key benefit of having SRO programs in place is not only the prevention of violence, but what the effect of the reduction of risky behaviors by students can have on their academic achievement.

Having an SRO program in schools is a promising strategy to address school violence. Just having an SRO on campus can prevent problems from happening. The program enhances each school's capacity to address safety and security concerns. SRO program officers can be used as a resource in making the school safer for students, teachers and staff. The community as a whole (both in the school and general community) benefits as learning is more likely to take place in a safe environment.

Proposed Program Activities for 4-Year Grant Period

The program narrative and budget are based on a calendar year (January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005). However, we plan to continue this program into 2006, 2007 and 2008. The narrative would remain much the same and the budget would reflect the potential increase in the cost of officer overtime hours.