

## **2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

**AGENCY:** CITY OF POMPANO BEACH

**PROJECT NAME:** HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM (HOT)

### **PROJECT ABSTRACT**

The Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) addresses quality of life issues, they enforce municipal ordinances violations and issues of crime within the City of Pompano Beach. In addition to enforcement activities, Deputies will also provide direct outreach services to the homeless in order to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in Pompano Beach. The HOT deputies are able to connect with people experiencing homelessness and provide and inform them of the services that are available. They provide a continuum of care that will allow a person to break the homeless cycle. The services that are offered include shelter, health care, detox facilities, housing, and reunification to family members.

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### **GOALS:**

- Address Quality of Life Issues
- Enforce Municipal Ordinances Violations
- Interact and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness

### **OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES:**

- Address Municipal Ordinance Violations through the HOT Team assisted by Road Patrol.
- Engaging with individuals experiencing homelessness through community policing methods.

### **IDENTIFIERS:**

- Community Policing
- Interact and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness

### **PROJECT NARRATIVE:**

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: (Description of the Issue)**

The City of Pompano Beach is a city in Broward County, Florida, United States, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean just north of Fort Lauderdale. The nearby Hillsboro Inlet form as part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterways. The city is approximately 24.71 square miles with access to the Atlantic Ocean, numerous parks, nature preserves, and large business communities. The City of Pompano Beach is diverse and is becoming a destination attraction for single persons and families seeking a permanent residence in south Florida. It is estimated that the city's population has grown to 112,941 (2020).

In recent years the City of Pompano Beach has experienced an increase in quality of life concerns that affect the sanctity of the City's residents and visitors. Individuals dealing with homelessness, alcoholism, drug addiction, or mental illness often commit minor criminal

offenses such as shoplifting, loitering, trespassing, or pan-handling. These offenses, while reported, often take a backseat to more life-threatening, urgent crimes and although the crime rate is down in the City of Pompano Beach, the Broward County Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in calls for service due to the quality of life issues.

**PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

The City of Pompano Beach contracts law enforcement services through the Broward County Sheriff's Office. The Broward County Sheriff's Office provides all law enforcement services for the city including road patrol, criminal investigations, school resources officers, and traffic enforcement. To address the quality of life issues, the Broward Sheriff's Office Pompano Beach Command utilize the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT).

This team currently consists of 2 deputies that work in this capacity on a full time basis allowing them to build trust, rapport and empathy within the homeless community. This trust allows the HOT deputies to gather information on street crimes, as well as direct people towards services they desperately need. These deputies also educate the homeless of the community concerns.

Additionally, the HOT deputies works closely with businesses and homeowner associations providing them with information regarding the homeless. This partnership brings understanding of the needs and problems associated with homelessness so they can work together to improve the community and get the homeless the help they need.

The quality of life issues have been exacerbated due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We have seen an influx in individuals experiencing homelessness. Which correlates with an increase in calls for service. (See Chart Below).

<b>POMPANO BEACH DISTRICT CALLS FOR SERVICE January 1<sup>st</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>62,067</b>	<b>65,709</b>

**CAPABILITIES and COMPETENCIES:**

The HOT Team uses numerous resources within the City and County to offer assistance to individual's experiencing homelessness. This methodology helps contribute with making a safer environment for businesses and residences of the City.

Deputies are the first responders to individuals in crisis and they facilitate by bridging the gap between the client and the different services that are available to them. The deputy initially determines what services better suits the client which initiates the continuum of care. The following organizations partners with the BSO. They are Multi Agency Homeless Task Force, Broward Outreach Center, US Department of Veteran Affairs, City of Pompano Beach, Florida Department of Children and Families, Broward Partnership for the Homeless, Broward Housing Solutions, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Coalition for the Homeless, Broward 211, Pompano Homeless Coalition, and Code Compliance.

This partnership give all parties involved the understanding of needs and problems associated with the homeless so they can work together to improve the homeless quality of life. The homeless outreach deputies will also encourage business and community members to get involved in creating a safer environment and eliminating the fear of homelessness and victimization of the less fortunate. This action will relay that living in and maintaining a safe community is vital and that everyone's contributions are necessary.

We also created a Community Outreach Response and Enforcement Team (C.O.R.E.) The CORE Unit is a newer unit, created out of a need to address smaller crimes that affect residents' quality of life. The results of the Unit indicate that they are affecting change by taking drugs out of the hands of criminals, making targeted arrests and creating a safer environment for residents.

The BSO offers special training in regards to diversity, special needs and inclusion in the homeless community. Some of the training, but not inclusive is as follows, Homeless Outreach Training, Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.), Racial Intelligence Training and Engagement (R.I.T.E.), and Point In Time Training (PIT).

**PLAN for COLLECTING the DATA:**

Deputies assigned to the grant will be required to document their daily activities, such as citizen contacts, proactive patrols, field contact and arrests. All programmatic and fiscal reports will be submitted quarterly through BJA's Performance Management Platform.

**DISCLOSURE OF PENDING APPLICATIONS:** The City of Pompano Beach does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded assistance that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation or that will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.

**DISCLOSURE OF HIGH RISK STATUS:** The City of Pompano Beach is not identified as a “High Risk Status” in accordance with grant guidelines.

**DISCLOSURE of LOBBYING:** The City of Pompano Beach is not or has not been involved in lobbying regarding this application.

**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY REVIEW:** The City of Pompano Beach will forward proof that this application will be reviewed by its Commission.