

Group Violence Intervention Governance Committee

GVI Support and Outreach Partner Request For Proposals

Billet, April J.
9/2/2022

GVI Support and Outreach Partner

The York City Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is seeking a Community Support and Outreach partner to provide necessary services tailored to group member involved youth and adults, their families, and victims of gun violence in the community. Group Members are defined as impact players in neighborhoods who drive most of the violence and those who are closely affiliated with the impact players. This includes direct oversight of at least two credible messengers, management of grants related to funding of these positions and being the central point of contact for service coordination for individuals identified through responses to gun violence. Credible Messengers are defined as civilians with lived experience who can easily connect and establish relationships with group members to prevent violence.

Project Description: The City of York and the York City Police Department in partnership with the York County District Attorney's Office, the York County Department of Probation Services, the U.S. Attorney's Office, York City School District Police, and other Community partners formed to create the York City Group Violence Intervention. This Initiative draws on an innovative, but proven, focused deterrence approach, the National Network for Safe Communities group violence reduction strategy that has repeatedly been successful in U.S. cities. The initiative engages individuals with histories of gun violence to lower community homicide rates and individual recidivism rates. The group violence Intervention holds that violence can be dramatically reduced when community members and law enforcement partner to directly engage with these groups and clearly communicate:

- A credible, moral message against violence;
- A credible law enforcement message about the consequences of further violence; and
- A genuine offer of help for those who want it.

The goal for the project is to address homicide and serious gun violence county-wide, meaning in those areas where it is a problem, and reduce it to the greatest extent possible. The strategy for York City is designed to produce sustainable reductions in violent crime and to build capacity within the City to sustain the strategy in the long term.

GVI requires energetic partners, unflagging focus, coordinated actions, and substantial organization and planning. Even when actions are not required, the partnership itself needs care and maintenance.

Services to be Provided: The Support and Outreach Partner is a critical member of the GVI team. This agency partner will be a member of the GVI Governance Bboard and will work directly with the Project Manager who guides this initiative. The Support and Outreach Partner will provide direct oversight of the assistant project manager, at least two credible messengers, as well as provide nontraditional, trauma informed support and outreach to individuals directly impacted by gun violence or are at high risk for violent victimization. Because of the nature of GVI strategy, most GVI clients are not ready to engage in traditional services and often require continuous engagement after hours and on weekends. As defined in the Support & Outreach White Paper published by the National Network for Safer Communities at John Jay College. "Support is defined as providing

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centralized and accessible services for people at high risk of violence. Outreach is the framework is defined as making deliberate, persistent, and consistent connections to people involved in violence to foster new relationships and build community.”

The successful applicant will use a variety of techniques to achieve these goals. This include but are not limited to the following:

- Carrying the GVI phone and being responsive to GVI clients who reach out for services and assistance when needed;
- Obtaining funding to meet the needs of individuals for the “big little things” individuals need to be successful, as well as funding for larger items such as funeral and relocation costs
- Participating in group call-ins with GVI clients. The purpose of these call ins is to deliver the message that we want them safe alive and free. This message is both for those in attendance and for participants to spread through the community.
- Participating in custom notifications to further deliver the message that we want at risk individuals to remain safe alive and free in partnership with law enforcement
- Providing direct oversight of the credible messengers and deploying them in the community after gun violence and ongoing to engage with the community to prevent further acts of violence. Credible messengers form strength-based relationships with justice involved or at-risk youth and adults and their families to form connections and motivate GVI clients to successfully transform their lives in order to reduce gun violence in the community
- Ability to be available 24/7 to address GVI related concerns as they arise
- Experience working with both juvenile and adult clients
- Trauma Informed Skills

Agency Qualifications: The Community Support and Outreach Partner should have a strong foundation working in York County and relevant experience in working with criminal justice, nonprofit, public and private sector organizations. Additional points will be given to applicants with existing offices located in York County, preferably York City and already established connections and partnerships with other community organizations. Experience working with agencies that deliver impactful services in the areas of treatment, health care, family services, housing and reentry services is preferred. The preferred partner must have an existing infrastructure to manage the day-to-day activities of this initiative, particularly as response typically occur in the evenings and weekends. The preferred partner, in conjunction with the Project Manager, must have the ability to provide oversight and guidance to the credible messengers, manage their time and expectation, as well as the financial capability and experience to manage the grants that fund these positions.

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Time Frame: The goal is to have the Support and Outreach Partner in place by January 1, 2023.

Request For Proposal Submission Requirements: The Governance Committee requests proposals of no more than five (5) pages in length that describe your team, including their qualifications; your experience and approach, as well as your financial experience and capability with effectively managing and reporting on grants from multiple grantors.

On a separate sheet (which will not count toward the five (5) page limit), please provide the names and contact information for up to four (4) references, preferably agencies for which you have recently provided similar services.

Interested applicants should submit their completed proposal and a letter of interest in Microsoft Word or PDF Format to:

York City Group Violence Intervention Project Manager
Tiffany Lowe
50 West King Street
York, PA 17401
tlowe@yorkcity.org

Please reference Community Support and Outreach.

Proposals must be received by the GVI Governance Committee no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, November 28th, 2022. Proposals received after this time will not be considered.

The York City GVI Governance Committee reserves the right to reject all proposals, to request additional information concerning any proposals for purposes of clarification, to accept or negotiate any modifications to any proposal, following the deadline for receipt of all proposals, and to waive any irregularities, if such would serve the best interest of the City of York, as determined by the GVI Governance Committee.

RFP Timeline (all dates are tentative)

Date	Description
October 24, 2022	RFP Issue Date
November 7, 2022	Written questions from agencies due
November 11, 2015	Agency/Organization Responses to Questions
November 28, 2022	RFP due to by 4:30pm
December 2, 2022	Evaluation of Proposals

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December 5, 2022	Interviewees Notified
December 6-12, 2022	Interviews
December 16, 2022	Recommendation to GVI Governance Committee
December 23, 2022	Agency selected
December 30, 2022	Notify Selected Agency
January 6, 2022	Sign Agreement

RFP Evaluation: If an award is made because of this RFP, it shall be awarded to the respondent whose proposal is most advantageous to the Group Violence Intervention who is grounded in the community, has the infrastructure to manage the work and has a solid foundation of partners to build community connections. These include, responses to the RFP questions; demonstrated technical ability and expertise; financial stability; reference calls and/or recommendations; prior experience and knowledge of both York City and York County’s Criminal Justice Systems and connection to and knowledge of York City and County community resources; presentations to the evaluation team (if applicable); any additional criteria deemed appropriate by the Group Violence Intervention which would lend itself to establishing the agencies viability to perform the work as outlined in this RFP.

Deliverables/Evaluation Criteria: Proposals must include the following information.

1. **Connections to the York County Community and Resources Contained Therein**
The applicant agency must describe their connection to the York County Community, their knowledge of resources and any partnerships they have created with other community organizations. The agency should also describe how they will leverage existing resources and services to meet the needs of GVI clients.
2. **Infrastructure**
The applicant agency must describe their existing infrastructure that will allow them to effectively manage GVI’s Support and Outreach efforts. This should include what staff will provide oversight to the credible messengers, staff will be dedicated to holding the GVI phone and their ability to respond timely and react to the needs of GVI clients.
3. **Qualifications of Agency or Individual**
Applicant strength and stability: The Agency must review their strengths, stability, experience, and technical competence with managing grants. The agency must list the logic of their project organization and adequacy of labor commitment
4. **Qualifications of Personnel**

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The agency must list their qualifications, education and experience for all project staff and list key personnel's level of involvement in performing related work.

5. Related Experience

The agency must list their experience in providing services like those requested herein; specifically experience working with Criminal Justice Agencies and other partners in the community such as the reentry coalition, opioid collaborative, etc.

6. Completeness of Response

All responses must be complete and in accordance with RFP instructions. There will be no exceptions to or deviation from the RFP requirements.

Any questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing to Tiffany Lowe at tlowe@yorkcity.org. Questions and responses to these questions will be sent to all applicants via email for the benefit of all potential applicants.

False or Misleading Statements: Agencies must take great care to ensure that sufficient information has been provided to allow the Group Violence Intervention to evaluate the solution being offered, any options proposed, and all supporting information, technical documentation, references, and points of contact, etc.

The agency understands that if, in the opinion of the Group Violence Intervention, a proposal contains false or misleading information of any kind or does not contain sufficient detail to fully evaluate the proposed plan or proposed price, the Group Violence Intervention reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject the proposal. Agencies/Individuals also understand that if the information provided does not support a function, attribute, capability, or condition as proposed by the agency, the Group Violence Intervention may reject the proposal. The agency further understands that any modifications to the questions in this RFP by the responder may result in immediate rejection of that proposal.

Acceptance of Proposal Content: The agency understands that the Group Violence Intervention reserves the right to award a memorandum of understanding without further discussions or clarifications with agencies. Thus, the contents of the RFP response, terms and statements contained therein will be binding upon Individual/agency. Upon acceptance of the Proposal by the Group Violence Intervention, the successful Proposal, including all terms, conditions contained therein, will be incorporated into the awarded Memorandum of Understanding. The agency understands that failure of the potentially successful offer to accept this obligation may result in the selection of another offer or rejection of the submitted Proposal.

The agency must take great care to respond to all requirements of this RFP to the maximum extent possible. Agencies must clearly identify any limitations and/or exceptions to the requirements inherent in the proposed system. Agencies further understands that alternative approaches will be given consideration if the proposed approach clearly offers increased benefits to the City of York and the Group Violence Intervention.

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No Obligation to Buy: The Group Violence Intervention reserves the right to refrain from entering a memorandum of understanding with any agency. The release of this RFP does not compel Group Violence Intervention to purchase services.

Cost of Preparing Proposals: The Group Violence Intervention is liable for any costs incurred by agencies in the preparation and presentation of proposals and demonstrations submitted in response to this RFP.