City of Lawrence
2009 Alcohol Tax Funds
Request for Proposals
Calendar Year 2009 (January – December)
Cover Page

Agency Name: Lawrence Kansas Police Department

Program Name: School Resource Officers

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Request is for funding in the following categories and amounts:

_____ Prevention $________________________

_____ Treatment $______________________

_____ Intervention $_____________________

_____ Coordination $____________________

___X___ Other $255,000

Program Description

The City of Lawrence is requesting funds for 3 police officers who will provide law enforcement and education related to underage drinking laws. Numerous published studies have shown that the combination of enforcing laws that restrict alcohol sales to minors and educating merchants can reduce illegal sales of alcohol to minors. Access laws should be actively enforced through unannounced compliance checks in which minors attempt to purchase alcohol. The small body of evidence examining the effects of active enforcement on youth drinking suggests that it is an important and essential element of a comprehensive effort to reduce young people's illegal use of alcohol. However, young people may turn to social sources (e.g., older friends and family members) for alcohol products as commercial sources are reduced. Therefore, it is
critical that minors’ access restrictions be combined with a comprehensive control program that reduces the availability of social sources (e.g. house party patrols).

**Education**

This proposal entails funding three School Resource Officers, two existing High School and one existing Jr. High School Resource Officers. The officers will be assigned to assist with drug and alcohol related education in secondary schools throughout USD 497. The officers will also participate in various alcohol educational efforts throughout the City specifically addressing underage drinking. Examples of educational efforts include drunk driving goggles, drunk driving laws, identification presentations, drugs and alcohol, teen driving, Every Thirty Second Program, alcohol server training, town hall meetings, Police Camp, Hawks Cops and Kids, and presentations to Haskell Indian Nations University and Kansas University student groups. Additionally, media releases will be issued citing all of the special enforcement efforts and their results as a way to raise public awareness and gain voluntary compliance.

**Enforcement**

The officers will participate in various special enforcement efforts designed to reduce the flow of alcohol to minors. Examples of these efforts include compliance checks, stepped up enforcement at special events, increased bar checks, and responses to residential parties.

All of the education and enforcement efforts listed above were started in 2008 in part as a result of the funding received from the Alcohol Tax funds that year. Funding in 2009 would allow the Lawrence Police Department to continue with these efforts.

**Needs Assessment**

Underage drinking is a problem across the country and the City of Lawrence is not exempt. Lawrence has two High Schools with a total enrollment of over 2500 students. According to a 2007 Kansas Communities That Care (CTC) survey of 12th graders in Douglas County, 57 percent reported having had beer, wine or hard liquor at least once in the past 30 days and 40 percent reported having had five or more alcoholic drinks in a row at least once in the last month. 68 percent said they would not be caught if they drank alcohol without their parent's permission and 52 percent report it would be very easy to get some beer, wine or hard liquor. Additionally there are two colleges located within the City. Haskell Indian Nations University has a total enrollment of over 1000 and the Kansas University has a total enrollment of over 26,000 students. Over 11,000 of the KU students (42.42 percent) are under the legal age to drink alcohol. In the City of Lawrence there are 68 drinking establishments, 23 liquor stores, 36 off premise cereal malt beverage retailers, and 3 on premise cereal malt beverage taverns. The City of Lawrence has a very large community of underage consumers and a significant number of retailers.
During a six week period in the summer of 2007, the Lawrence Police Department conducted a Summer Safety Initiative which consisted of 10 Officers (Comprised of School and Neighborhood Resource Officers primarily) specifically addressing issues related to entertainment venues in the City of Lawrence. During the 96 hours of operation there were a total of 35 minors in possession (MIP) of alcohol arrested. A total of 169 bar checks were conducted at 55 different drinking establishments. Of the 35 arrests, 27 were made inside the drinking establishments. The remaining eight arrests were made in public areas near drinking establishments.

Reducing the flow of alcohol to youth from illegal sales by establishments as well as the provision of alcohol by other adults can best be achieved by compliance checks. Current research shows that “effective and regular compliance checks helps decrease alcohol sales to minors; helps reduce underage drinking; helps reduce traffic crashes, violence, and other health problems associated with alcohol, and helps build healthier and safer communities.” (Dr. Alexander C. Wagenaar, Ph.D., Director of Alcohol Epidemiology Program, University of Minnesota, 2000.)

Prior to 2008, the Lawrence Police Department had not been able to conduct compliance checks due to a lack of personnel resources. On January 31, 2008, Officers of the Lawrence Police Department conducted compliance checks at 20 establishments using underage buyers between the ages of 18 and 19 ½. Eight of the 20 retailers (40 percent) completed sales transactions and provided alcohol to the minors. Between January 31, 2008 and February 8, 2008 Officers of the Lawrence Police Department conducted compliance checks at 56 establishments. Fifteen of the 56 retailers (26 percent) completed sales transactions and provided alcohol to the minors. The Lawrence Police Department plans to conduct at least seven more waves of compliance checks throughout 2008.

The Lawrence Police Department routinely has to address the issue of underage consumption and possession of alcohol surrounding the University of Kansas football stadium and at area drinking establishments on game days. On average, over 44,000 people attend a single home game and the stadium has a capacity rating of over 51,000. Staffing efforts related to such a large concentration of people for a single event can be logistically difficult and costly in overtime funding.

Thousands of people gather in the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium prior to game time and participate in tailgating and celebration activities that routinely involve the consumption of alcoholic beverages. A vast majority of those participating in the events are underage college students and their friends. On September 23, 2007, nine officers from the Lawrence Police Department worked to enforce liquor laws in the neighborhoods surrounding the University of Kansas football stadium as well as several drinking establishments throughout Lawrence. During this enforcement period the Lawrence Police Department took enforcement action for the following offenses; 84 minors in possession, 33 consuming in public, seven hosting of minors, 15 unlawful use of a driver’s license, two furnishing alcohol to minors, one open saloon, two urinating in
public, one interference with the duties of a police officer, and two obstructing official
duty.

Over the years there has been an increase in the number and size of residential parties
hosted by college and high school youths. In 2007, the Lawrence Police Department
responded to over 2300 noise and/or party calls. Oftentimes those calls involve minors
consuming alcohol. In March of 2008, School and Neighborhood Resource Officers
conducted three nights of special enforcement on random Friday and Saturday nights
from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am. The officers concentrated on fake ID's, minors in
possession, illegal purchases, and open saloon violations at residential parties. On
those three nights (12 hours of enforcement) the officers made the following arrests; 15
minors in possession, two hosting of minors, and two fake ID's.

The significant number of minors consuming alcohol leads to an increase of alcohol
related crimes which our officers are required to address, compounding the issue of
limited resources. Common alcohol related crimes include, but are not limited to, traffic
accidents, fights, and criminal damage.

Outcomes

Process Outcomes

- Secondary students will be taught the consequences of alcohol usage.
- Drinking establishments, liquor stores, and off premise cereal malt beverage
  retailers will be checked to determine if they are selling to minors.
- At least 1000 bar checks will be conducted.

Behavioral Outcomes

- There will be a reduction in the CTC survey results for the number of students
  who report it would be very easy to get alcohol.
- There will be a reduction in the number of alcohol retailers who choose to sell
to minors resulting in a compliance rate of at least 75%.
- The reduced calls for service will result in more time for proactive
  enforcement activities such as bar checks and selective enforcement during
  special events.

Impact Outcomes

- Within two years accomplish the following;
  o Obtain an 80% compliance rate by alcohol retailers.
  o Reduce the number of noise/party calls by 10%.
  o Reduce the number of MIP arrests.
These outcomes will be measured by the Police Department as part of the City’s Performance Measurement System and the annual Kansas Communities That Care Survey.

Coordination

This program will fit within the Police Department’s existing efforts to enforce laws related to alcohol and drugs. The Police Department will continue to work closely with USD 497 Prevention Specialists, the Kansas Department of Revenue’s Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, the Regional Prevention Center of East Central Kansas, the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the Lawrence Task Force to address Underage Drinking.

Organizational Capacity

The Lawrence Police Department has the capacity to implement this program and a history of success in the community. This funding will allow the Police Department to continue with the programs that were started in 2007/2008.

Budget

A detailed budget is provided below. The Police Department anticipates making an annual request and it is likely that the cost will increase over time.

2009 Budget
Alcohol and Drug Law Enforcement

Personnel – Salaries
  Police officer $67,272.66
  Police officer $67,272.66
  Police officer $67,272.66
  Overtime wages $3486.02
Fringe benefits $34,696.00
Travel
Office space
Supplies: office
Supplies: other-gasoline $5,000.00
Equipment and vehicles $10,000.00
Total $255,000.00
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<td>57% of 12th graders in Douglas County report consuming alcohol in the past 30 days. 68% reported they would not be caught if they drank. There are over 3,000 Jr. and Sr. High students and 11,000 college students in Lawrence who are under the legal age to drink. Lawrence has 68 drinking establishments, 23 liquor stores, 36 off premises CMB retailers.</td>
<td>Increase awareness of the problems of illegal sales. Educate adolescent and college age youth on the serious consequences of underage alcohol use. Restrict minors’ access and availability of commercial and social sources.</td>
<td>Secondary school students and college students.</td>
<td>Conduct six waivers of retailer compliance checks to identify retailers who sell alcohol to minors. Conduct five waves of special enforcement targeting residential alcohol violations. Conduct educational presentations related to alcohol at all secondary schools.</td>
<td>Secondary students will be taught the consequences of alcohol usage. Drinking establishments, liquor stores, and off premise cereal malt beverage retailers will be checked to determine if they are selling to minors. At least 1000 bar checks will be conducted.</td>
<td>There will be a reduction in the CTC survey results for the number of students who report it would be very easy to obtain alcohol. Obtain a compliance rate among retailers of at least 75%. The reduced calls for service will result in more time for proactive enforcement activities such as bar checks and selective enforcement at special events.</td>
<td>Within two to three years accomplish the following; Obtain 80% compliance by alcohol retailers. Reduce the number of noise/party calls by 10%. Reduce the number of MIP arrests by half.</td>
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