

The City of Santa Clarita is submitting a grant proposal for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. ARRA JAG funding will be used to supplement state funding for the Sheriff's Station's COBRA Unit whose focus is on juvenile crime and gang violence prevention. This will enhance existing juvenile law enforcement efforts in the City of Santa Clarita.

The public is invited to comment on the proposal outlined below by contacting Tess Simgen, Community Services Analyst, at (661) 250-3731 or through e-mail at tsimgen@santa-clarita.com by May 17, 2009.

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT 2009
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM**

**CITY OF SANTA CLARITA
Career Offenders Burglary Robbery Apprehension (COBRA)
Grant Proposal Summary**

The City of Santa Clarita encompasses 52 square miles of the approximately 200-square-mile Santa Clarita Valley and is the largest city in geographic size within the County of Los Angeles. Located 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the City of Santa Clarita -- with an estimated population of 180,000 -- is the fourth largest city in the county and the 24th largest city in the State of California. Over the past ten years, Santa Clarita's population has continued to steadily increase. From 2000 to 2007, population grew by 17.9 percent, twice the growth experienced in all of Los Angeles County. In general, the City's population, with almost 70 percent Whites, is not as diverse as the County's population. Santa Clarita's population is relatively young in age. Approximately 29 percent are between the ages of 25 and 44, and 30 percent are between the ages of 5 and 19.

The Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Sheriff's Station provides law enforcement services to the City of Santa Clarita through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The City and Station personnel are committed to improving community safety and recognize the need for proactive law enforcement and community policing to curb problems before they get out-of-hand. This proactive approach to dealing with crime-related and public safety issues is one of the reasons for the City's low crime rate. Crime prevention efforts and programs -- including the COBRA Unit (Career Offenders Burglary Robbery Apprehension), Community Interaction Team (CIT), Neighborhood Watch, School Watch and Business Alliance Programs -- all contribute to Santa Clarita's vigilance for public safety.

The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) stimulus funding of \$174,332 will be used for job preservation and will supplement state funding that had recently been reduced due to the current economic situation. Funding will be used for the salaries of two COBRA deputies whose focus is on juvenile crime and gang violence prevention. This will enhance existing juvenile law enforcement efforts, including programs utilizing traditional JAG funds.

These positions, along with a sergeant and six other deputies, comprise the COBRA team, which is responsible for investigating all crimes perpetrated by juveniles in the City. They are also responsible for tracking gang activities and gang-related crimes, identifying new gang members

and providing intervention on family issues involving gang members. The crimes they investigate range from some infractions to felonies that juveniles commit. They collect evidence and submit criminal filings with the District Attorney's office. Along with the filings, the detectives are called upon to testify in court on these crimes as well as testifying as a gang expert.

Funding these two positions will help ensure that youth violence prevention efforts in the City, including the following programs/activities, will continue.

- Gang Suppression – Includes directed saturation patrols to suppress gang recruitment and send out a strong message to gangs that the City and the Sheriff have a zero tolerance policy for gang activities in Santa Clarita.
- Graffiti Enforcement - The Sheriff will continue to work closely with the City's Graffiti Abatement Team to apprehend graffiti vandals.
- Truancy Sweeps –Targeted to decrease absenteeism among students, truancy sweeps have shown a direct correlation to a decrease in daytime burglaries and other crimes perpetrated by minors.
- Probation/Parole Enforcement – assist probation and parole officers with probation and parole searches in the area.

These programs -- and such other operations by COBRA in conjunction with other agencies and the community -- will help reduce crime in the City, enhance public safety and promote the quality of life in Santa Clarita.