

Request for Information (RFI)





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RFI release date: Monday, June 26, 2017

This “Request for Information” (RFI) is issued solely for informational and planning purposes. This is not a Request for Proposals, Request for Quote, or other form of solicitation and does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that any procurement action will be taken in this matter. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

Agency Contact:

All questions and requests for additional information should be sent in writing to the agency contact below. Please submit all questions by **Friday, July 28, 2017**. Responses to this RFI may be submitted to the attention of the agency contact electronically to the e-mail address below.

Name: Maliek K. Branch, Chief Fiscal Officer

Email: KCDAYouthRFI@BrooklynDA.org

Overview

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued by the Kings County District Attorney’s Office (KCDA) to invite responses and gather information regarding operating a youth-development and crime prevention program (hereafter “the Program”) in Brooklyn. KCDA will fund the Program and provide a safe place for young people, ages 11-19, to engage in recreational activities and minimize criminal justice involvement.

Respondents are invited to submit approaches, solutions, and ideas for achieving the goals described below in a secure, scalable, and cost effective manner. This RFI is intended to invite ideas and discussion from community based organizations about options available for implementing the Program in Brooklyn. Respondents need not limit responses to the areas outlined in RFI and are encouraged to submit any information the respondent deems relevant to the subject matter of this RFI.

The publication and release of this RFI does not obligate KCDA to obtain or procure any services or products provided by the respondents or otherwise as a result of this RFI. This RFI is intended solely for use by KCDA to assist us in gaining information regarding the Program. KCDA reserves the right to postpone or cancel this RFI, in whole or in part, and to reject all responses. Respondents will not be reimbursed for any costs or expenses incurred to prepare responses to, or costs and expenses associated with, this RFI. For the purposes of this RFI, the terms “respondent” or “vendor” mean an entity submitting a response to the RFI.

KCDA welcomes feedback about this process in order to effectively pursue innovative approaches to implementing youth-development and crime prevention programs.



General Information

The Kings County District Attorney's Office, an independently elected official, is the prosecutorial agency for the Borough of Brooklyn in the City of New York. The mission of the office is to investigate and prosecute crime, assist victims, and implement crime prevention strategies to improve public safety and the quality of life of Brooklyn's residents. KCDA employs a workforce of over 1,100 professional staff members. These employees include attorneys, detective investigators, paralegals and victim service providers in addition to clerical and administrative support staff. The Kings County District Attorney's Office website is <http://www.brooklynda.org/>.

The District Attorney's Role in Youth Diversion and Youth-Development Programs

KCDA's Educational Programs Unit manages programs designed to increase public safety and assist Brooklyn residents further develop collaborative and proactive responses to community concerns. This unit works with educators, parents/guardians, attorneys, and students to promote safety and justice. Our agency has dedicated resources to the following programs:

Project Restart is a youth diversion program focused on crime prevention, and primarily serves over-age, under-credited students enrolled in the eighth grade and transitioning to high school. Students receive intense academic instruction, counseling and curriculum-enhancing programs.

Project Re-Direct is an alternative to incarceration program for young men between the ages of 14-22 that are first time offenders facing a felony charge. Participants may have been gang involved or possessed a firearm. If the participant successfully completes Project Re-Direct, the felony charge could be dismissed.

Youth & Congregations in Partnership (YCP) is an alternative to incarceration program for young men and women between the ages of 13-22 that are first time offenders facing a felony charge that also do not have a previous pattern of violent crimes, serious mental illness or sexual offense charge. If the participant successfully completes YCP, the felony charge could be dismissed.

Police Athletic League (PAL) Chess Program is a youth development program for at-risk youth in East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant. The chess program was designed to impact low-income youth, including court-involved adolescents, through weekly 90-minute sessions over duration of 15 weeks. The goal of this program is to teach young people to think strategically about life skills. The program is open to third- and fourth-graders in Bedford-Stuyvesant and to grades five through eight in East New York.

Good Shepherd Services Drill and Play basketball program provides an engaging youth development program for at-risk youth with the goal of diverting youth from criminal activity. Good Shepherd Services partners with Pro Hoops to provide professional basketball skill training sessions for youth between the ages of 7 to 21 years old at Miccio Community Center in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The basketball training sessions are held weekly, for two hours over duration of 52 week period.



Goals for the Program

The District Attorney's priorities for the Program include:

- Create safe communities in Brooklyn through innovative and impactful programs;
- Prevent youth violence and youth victimization in high crime neighborhoods;
- Reduce violence and criminal justice involvement with youth;
- Provide high quality skill-development activities; and
- Improve relations between law enforcement and communities.

General Points of Interest

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit responses to KCDA by email to the following questions. Respondents do not need to submit answers to all questions in order to participate in this RFI. Respondents are encouraged to respond with other considerations and approaches not covered herein that would achieve the District Attorney's priorities.

RESPONSES:

Programmatic

Direct Services

1. What types of youth programs does your organization currently operate in Brooklyn? How are these programs gender inclusive?
2. How does your organization's staff engage with youth from various social, economic, religious, ethnic and other diverse backgrounds? Has your staff encountered challenges with diversity?
3. Describe your organization's recruitment efforts and retention rate for current youth programs. What challenges has your organization encountered with youth engagement?
4. Describe your organization's capacity to implement new programs.
5. What wraparound services does your organization provide to youth participants (i.e. cognitive behavior therapy, academic tutors, case management)?
6. Have parents and/or guardians expressed safety concerns of youth participation in programs administered during after school hours?
7. What type of innovative program would your organization want to implement for youth-development and crime prevention?



Program Evaluation

1. Describe your organization's evaluation method for program success, including current efforts to track demographic data of program participants. How is data aggregated and what challenges has your organization encountered with data collection? Describe challenges with assessing program success.
2. How do youth participants' parents and/or guardians influence your organization's program objectives and goals? Does your organization inquire about program development prior to implementation from parents and/or guardians?
3. Is there a process in place to receive feedback from youth participants? If so, how is this information collected?

Community Resources

1. Has your organization identified drivers of youth involvement with criminal activity in Brooklyn? If so, what are the challenges with drivers of criminal activity, what methodology was utilized to identify these challenges and how are these challenges addressed in your organization's youth programs?
2. Does your organization collaborate with other agencies in Brooklyn? If so, do these agencies provide services that your organization is unable to provide at this time?

Fiscal

1. Does your organization receive grant funding from a government agency or private foundation?
2. How long has your organization been in existence?
3. Does your organization have a Vendex account with the City of New York?
4. Does your organization operate out of more than one location? If so, how many and where are the other offices located?



Instructions for Respondents to RFI

Submissions should be submitted electronically to KCDAYouthRFI@BrooklynDA.org no later than **Friday, July 28, 2017**. Respondents to this RFI may be invited to engage with KCDA's project team and may also be asked for additional information about and/or demonstrations of their services and solutions. At this time, the District Attorney's interest is to collect information about the current state of youth development programs in order to meet the project goals described in this RFI.

If you plan to respond to this RFI, please provide the following information:

- Name of organization/respondent
- Contact information (email and phone number)
- Summary of relevant experience (highlight any experience specific to NYC and youth crime prevention and/or youth-development programs)