

THE SAFETY NET WORKS

...NOT ONE LIFE TO LOSE

Application Framework

Summary of Initiative

The Safety Net Works is an Initiative of the Governor's Office designed to stop the tragic and unacceptable loss of life of too many young people in Illinois and instead, instill hope for the future. The Initiative will bring State and community resources together to help youth and young adults residing in eligible communities enhance their opportunities for positive development into healthy and productive adulthood. Existing community services will be coordinated with and enhanced by new and innovative community strategies to make the targeted communities safer places for youth to grow, thrive, and be productively engaged in their neighborhoods. The Initiative will address a broad spectrum of individual, family and community factors in order to build strengths and resiliencies and reduce risks through new, innovative, and best practice approaches and interventions.

The Safety Net Works Initiative will be driven at the local level by a broad community-based Coalition organized within each of the target communities. Each Safety Net Works Coalition will develop and implement priority action strategies tailored to their community needs. The Coalitions will engage youth, and young adults up to age 24, when applicable, in all planning and implementation activities that must build upon and coordinate local resources to achieve coalition goals. The local Safety Net Works Coalitions will be supported by a team of representatives from state agencies that will work in partnership with local Coalitions to ensure coordination of State resources and provide technical assistance and other supports.

The Safety Net Works Initiative will support one community-based organization (the applicant) to lead and coordinate the activities and convene and support the community coalition partners. Coalition partners, including local youth will identify and implement violence prevention and youth development action strategies and ensure that existing State and community services and supports are involved as needed and appropriate. Existing community services to be coordinated at the local level should include but are not limited to: youth services/positive youth development; out-of-school programs; juvenile justice programs; educational services; sports, recreational and social programs; child welfare; economic development opportunities; substance abuse prevention activities; employment services; physical and mental health services; and domestic violence prevention and intervention services.

The Safety Net Works Initiative is intended to be a continuing effort. In the first grant period, it is anticipated that grants will be awarded to 10-15 selected targeted communities in amounts that range from \$250,000 - \$400,000 per year.

Goals of The Safety Net Works Initiative

The goals of the Safety Net Works Initiative are:

1. Engage communities in comprehensive, coordinated youth violence prevention activities through a coalition approach that involves state-funded human services providers and non-traditional community-based organizations and/or informal groups;
2. Address a wide range of individual, family and community factors that keep young people from reaching their full potential, and by providing services, interventions and supports that will build healthy environments that allow youth to thrive;
3. Promote youth engagement and leadership in all aspects of the Initiative.

Target Areas

The Safety Net Works Initiative will be implemented within a pre-selected group of specific communities, listed below. The cities/counties and Chicago Community Areas listed below are the **only** communities eligible to respond to the Safety Net Works Request for Applications (RFA). The eligible communities were identified through a process that examined indicators of community and youth risk, and considerations of geographic distribution throughout the state. In each of these communities, the analysis found high rates of poverty, violent crime, domestic distress and clear indicators of youth who are not positively engaged with their schools or communities. The target communities eligible to respond to The Safety Net Works Initiative RFA include:

Counties/Communities Outside of Chicago	Chicago Community Areas
Alexander-Union Counties Cook – Cicero Cook – Maywood Kane – Aurora Lake – North Chicago Lake – Waukegan Macon – Decatur Peoria – Peoria Sangamon – Springfield St. Clair – East St. Louis Vermillion – Danville Winnebago - Rockford	Albany Park Auburn Gresham Austin Brighton Park East Garfield Park Englewood Grand Boulevard Greater Grand Crossing Humboldt Park Logan Square North Lawndale Pilsen-Little Village Rogers Park Roseland South Shore Southwest Chicago (Chicago Lawn and Gage Park) West Garfield Park Woodlawn

It is strongly encouraged that each community submit only one application. Therefore, it is important that communities organize and entities collaborate to put together a single application that represents their local Coalition.

Eligible Applicants

Public and private, not-for-profit community-based agencies, or faith based organizations, whose *primary administrative office and service area* is located within the geographic boundaries of the communities listed above are eligible to apply for funds under this Request for Application. This funding opportunity is not limited to those organizations that currently receive funding from the State of Illinois. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, schools, local health departments, social service agencies, youth-serving agencies, sports organizations, park and recreation agencies, community development agencies, and faith-based organizations.

The applicant must be designated as the lead coordinating organization by a Coalition that represents a broad network of agencies and community groups committed to preventing violence and promoting positive youth development. Each applicant Coalition must include at least one school and one faith-based organization. All Coalition members must sign a Coalition Agreement that indicates commitment to The Safety Net Works Coalition and support for the applicant organization to serve in the lead, coordinating role. The lead organization will subcontract funds through performance-based contracts to its Coalition partners to implement The Safety Net Works Coalition's prioritized action strategies, as described in the application and the application budget.

As stated above, it is **strongly encouraged** that the targeted community organize a broad-based coalition committed to working together to achieve the goals of The Safety Net Works Initiative and submit one application from the community.

Application Requirements

In their application, applicants must demonstrate that they have met the following requirements:

1. Convened a local Coalition:

Applicants must have assembled at least a core membership of a local Coalition that at minimum includes at least one school and one faith-based organization. Broad-based community participation in the Coalition will ensure local capability to identify community needs, develop and implement priority action strategies; and coordinate The Safety Net Works Initiative in the community. The Coalition should have representatives from a broad spectrum of organizations. Relevant expertise within the Coalition should include (but is not limited to) education; community organizing; youth services/positive youth development; out-of-school programs; juvenile justice programs; law enforcement; child welfare services; economic development opportunities; substance abuse prevention activities; employment services; physical and mental health services; and domestic violence prevention and intervention services.

Coalition members may include, but are not limited to, representatives from the following areas:

- a. **State-funded Service Providers:** Representatives from all relevant State-funded drug and violence prevention, public health, economic development, child welfare and youth service providers;
- b. **Community-Based Agencies and Groups:** Non-state-funded community-based groups that have youth development or community safety as a primary goal and focus of activity;
- c. **Local Government:** Local schools, law enforcement agencies, public health and municipal/county government agencies, including parks and recreation departments;
- d. **Community Members At-Large:** Representatives from neighborhood councils, neighborhood watch organizations or other neighborhood associations;
- e. **Families and Youth:** Parents, caregivers and youth leaders from within the community;
- f. **Business and Commerce:** Representatives from local businesses and corporations operating in the community.

2. Identified a targeted community area.

Applicants are encouraged to focus on areas within their communities that are most in need of The Safety Net Works Initiative. Applicants may apply for funding for one of the pre-selected community areas listed in the *Application Framework*. Applicants may request funding for a designated Chicago Community Area, city, town, or counties, or as a specific neighborhood within a targeted community, but must provide information in their grant application that describes why a targeted neighborhood within a community is being selected, if applicable. The applicant organization must describe experience that demonstrates the ability to work successfully with Coalition members and coordinate activities within the targeted community. Applicants must also demonstrate how the areas targeted for The Safety Net Works Initiative will show measurable reductions in youth violence and improvements in indicators of positive youth development.

3. Developed objectives, related priority action strategies, and outcome measures based on community-identified needs.

Strategies must include, but are not limited to:

- a. **Parent- and family-based strategies** designed to improve family relations;
- b. **Social-cognitive strategies** that enhance positive social interactions, teach non-violent conflict resolution, and establish or strengthen nonviolent beliefs;
- c. **Mentoring strategies** that provide young people with caring, non-judgmental, supportive role models;
- d. **Economic, vocational and educational strategies** that link young people with educational, training and job opportunities, to ensure that any youth who has been, or is at risk of suspension or expulsion from school be directed to alternative programs and activities, with a special focus on helping youth, and possibly young adults, obtain a high school diploma; and
- e. **Community Oriented Safety strategies** that protect and provide for the safety of young people in their communities, e.g. neighborhood patrols, crisis intervention, improvement of police community relations.

The Coalition Work Plan, Attachment 2, must specifically identify coalition objectives, actions and measurable outcomes for, at minimum, each of the strategies a. through e. as stated above for Goal 2.

4. Identified a lead coordinating applicant organization.

The applicant must provide a signed Coalition Agreement. The Agreement should describe the participation and roles of coalition members, and state that coalition members will collaborate with the applicant organization. The Agreement will also state that the Coalition designates the applicant as the lead coordinating organization. Upon grant award, the applicant organization will coordinate and facilitate all Coalition's activities and fulfill all programmatic and fiscal reporting requirements, as specified in the contract. Furthermore, the lead organization will develop performance-based subcontracts with Coalition partners that delineate appropriate reporting requirements and ensure the achievement of project goals.

5. Developed a line-item budget and detailed budget justification for the local Safety Net Works Initiative.

The budget must include:

- a. Funds for a full-time Safety Net Works Local Coordinator to be selected by The Safety Net Works Coalition. The Local Coordinator will work with the Coalition to plan and implement The Safety Net Works program in the targeted community;
- b. Sub-contract funds to be distributed to identified community organizations (Coalition partners) that support implementation of the priority action strategies developed by the Coalition;
- c. Each Coalition partner identified to receive a subcontract to implement particular Coalition strategies should submit a line-item budget and detailed budget justification to be included with the applicant's budget.