

# Building Positive Responses to Low-Level Violence

## Call for Proposals

Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) is offering a total of \$30,000 to fund projects that work to build positive responses to low-level violence. This type of violence includes rising tensions and repeated arguing/fighting in communities affected by poverty, stigmatization and street violence. CPO invites qualified community agencies to respond with a Letter of Intent. We are open to considering one project for \$30,000 or multiple projects for smaller amounts.

## Purpose, Objectives and Deliverables

### Purpose

This project is designed to develop tools and/or approaches to address low-level violence in affected neighbourhoods. These should combine aspects of community mediation, bystander intervention<sup>1</sup>, and a creative approach to building social cohesion and positive neighbourhood relationships.

The **Objectives** are:

- To work with residents and local experts in a combination of community mediation, bystander intervention, community development, and/or community arts to develop tools and/or approaches that offer positive responses to low-level violence.

**Priority Neighbourhoods include, but are not limited to**

- South East Ottawa
- Ottawa East
- Carlington area

**Deliverables/Key Tasks:**

- Develop tools and/or approaches that would appeal to residents of neighbourhoods affected by low-level violence. These should include aspects of community mediation, bystander intervention, and a creative approach to building social cohesion and positive neighbourhood relationships.
- Develop strategies on how residents can disrupt low-level violence in a way that is safe for all parties involved.
- Participate in the [Ottawa Street Violence and Gang Strategy \(OSVGS\)](#) steering committee which meets every other month.

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<sup>1</sup>Bystander Intervention is a technique of taking safe steps to recognize, prevent, and respond to possible at-risk situations that could cause harm to one or more people involved in that situation.

- Include CPO staff in the Advisory committee for this project.
- Evaluation of the key activities, including a final written report and recommendations for future actions.

## Community Investment Proposal Process

This is an open competitive process for non-profit community groups, agencies, Community Houses and Community Health and Resource Centres working in the priority neighbourhoods mentioned above. CPO seeks qualified community agencies to apply for this funding. Partnerships between multiple community agencies are encouraged.

The Letter of Intent you submit for this grant must not exceed **\$30,000**.

## Letter of Intent

Crime Prevention Ottawa will use the following criteria to rate letters of intent. The mandatory criteria must be met and include:

- Confirmation that the lead agency is based in Ottawa, incorporated; insured; has been in operation for more than two years; and has the capacity to deliver this project
- Explain how your agency's mandate is linked to this project
- Explain how your agency plans on **developing approaches and/or tools to address low-level violence**
- Summarize briefly your project and state clear project outcomes and objectives, and how you plan on measuring your success in achieving them
- Explain how and why will this community investment can have an impact and be effective and show how you are using an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach
- Show how this project is connected to the [Ottawa Street Violence and Gang Strategy](#) and to other local projects
- List the stakeholders you will involve in your project
- Include a timeline of your project and a detailed budget

## Format for Letters of Intent

Please use the following as a guideline to format your proposal:

### Proposal, Length and Font Size:

Please use fonts no smaller than 12 points.

Maximum proposal length should not exceed 6 pages (excluding appendices). Proposals including all supporting documents must be postmarked, emailed or received by **4 p.m. Friday, August 10, 2018** to be considered. Please send the application and supporting document to:

### Crime Prevention Ottawa

110 Laurier Avenue West, 2nd Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

### E-mail:

[cpo@ottawa.ca](mailto:cpo@ottawa.ca)

## Reporting and Recognition of the Funding

All agencies that receive funds for this project is required to submit a final summary report (final report due date will be agreed upon once the funding is received). The report will include participant surveys, a project evaluation, and a financial report. The projects are intended to be completed in one year.

All successful participants must agree to include the Crime Prevention Ottawa logo in any flyers, presentations, and other promotional material.

## APPENDIX

### Background on the Project

Since 2013, Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) has been working actively on the Ottawa Street Violence and Gang Strategy (OSVGS). The OSVGS is a multi-year, multi-stakeholder plan for action to achieve collective impact on the issues surrounding gangs in the City of Ottawa. The plan has identified 11 projects and 4 key pillars:

- **Neighbourhood Cohesion** – building resilient children, families and communities through positive relationships in gang-affected neighbourhoods;
- **Prevention** – Taking inclusive and preventative approaches through social development, situational measures, education, awareness and community policing;
- **Intervention** – Identifying intervention opportunities for children, youth and adults, including those at-risk, on the edge of joining a gang, or looking to leave gang life;
- **Enforcement/Suppression** – Conducting targeted, sustained and effective enforcement

In 2016-2017, CPO conducted extensive and in-depth community consultations to refresh the strategy. One of the key findings was:

**Residents are most concerned with the daily, unaddressed 'low level' violence in their neighbourhoods that perpetuates occasional more serious violence:** The main concerns of Ottawa residents who responded to our consultations center on: harassment when walking alone in their neighbourhoods; fear of victimization, particularly at night; and harmful activities related to drug use and drug dealing (e.g., drug users causing disturbances while accessing drug dealers, discarded paraphernalia in parks and on school properties, fights, intimidation). Most Ottawa residents who responded are more concerned with the everyday issues identified above than with 'gang activity' or serious occurrences of street violence (e.g., stabbings and shootings). While this can change in the immediate aftermath of a serious incident like a shooting, residents feel their everyday experiences of 'low-level' violence are poorly addressed and this remains their most prevalent ongoing concern.

To address this challenge, the OSVGS included the recommendation:

**2.2 Increase positive and effective responses to what community members in affected neighbourhoods refer to as 'low-level' violence** (i.e., constant street harassment, intimidation, retribution, common assaults, incidents linked to the drug trade). This low-level violence: largely contributes to fear in affected neighbourhoods; erodes opportunities for neighbourhood cohesion since people do not want to get further victimized or involved; decreases trust and confidence in authorities when calls and pleas are either ignored, dealt with disrespectfully, or have no consequences; allows for and perpetuates the cycle of more serious violence.

Much of the “low-level” violence the community described during the OSVGS consultation does not reach the threshold of criminal activity or is unreported. Nevertheless the negative activity significantly worsens the quality of life for residents.

This call for proposals encourages projects that combine aspects of community mediation, bystander intervention, and a creative approach to building social cohesion and positive social control in challenged neighbourhoods. We are open to applications that explore many different approaches such as anti-bullying, anti-harassment, reducing conflict, building neighbourliness and so on.