

**COMMUNITY CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
PROGRESS REPORT INSTRUCTIONS**

THE FORMAT BELOW IS TO BE USED FOR ALL WEED AND SEED SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.

GMS Submission: Please refer to the Progress Reports Help Screens .PDF attachment to assist you in completing the online submission. As you are completing the Progress Report fields in GMS, make sure that you type text in the “Narratives” section. You can type in a brief paragraph summary or you may simply enter “See attachment.” GMS requires that some text be input in that Narratives box in order for your report to be considered complete. However, your actual narrative is to be uploaded as an attachment (just as you do for the grant application submission) following the format below. In the attachments section, attach a narrative (no more than 12 pages) that includes the following information for each Weed and Seed grant:

Weed & Seed Grant Number: Project 2008 W&S QX 0236

Progress Report Period: October 1, 2008-December 31, 2008

Name of Weed and Seed Site, City, and State: Central Fresno Weed and Seed; Fresno, California

Name of person completing this report: Carol Scroggins, Site Coordinator

The Site is in the 1 Year of implementing the 5 Year Strategy.

1. COLLABORATIONS

Have your partners changed during this reporting period? If so, please explain.
How are you including residents?

There has been no change in the partners in the first quarter of the project.

Residents are active members of the Steering Committee, attend all Committee meetings, sub-Committee meetings as well as participate in strategy discussions with the funded partners.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

How many times has steering committee met during this reporting period? There have been 2 Steering Committee meetings and 2 auxiliary meetings of members.

2 General Steering Committee meetings have been held (Oct., Nov., and Dec.)

2 auxiliary meetings have been held with the core partners and residents to address strategy, discuss the recruitment for the site coordinator, discuss possible modifications to the Memorandum of Agreement and provide input to the budget modification requests.

Please provide dates of meetings conducted during this reporting period.

October 8, 2008 – General Steering Committee

October 30, 2008 – auxiliary meeting: re: Site Coordinator Recruitment

November 19, 2008 – auxiliary meeting re: budget revision issues; site coordinator selection

December 10, 2008 – General Steering Committee

3. AWARD BALANCES

What is the current unobligated balance for all open Weed and Seed grants? \$14,548

4. SUSTAINABILITY

What progress have you made in sustaining your Weed and Seed effort? Include any new funding obtained or in-kind/voluntary resources identified and leveraged toward Weed and Seed strategy implementation.

The key sustainability strategy of the Central Weed and Seed effort is economic development. To that end, our partner who is guiding this aspect of our strategy, the Economic Development Corporation, Serving Fresno County, has met with the elected officials who represent the Central district to open negotiations for their monetary support for the effort.

5. EVALUATION

Indicate what evaluation efforts are ongoing or were completed during this period.

The Steering Committee and the Site Coordinator have identified several competent evaluation professionals to serve the project. These have been interviewed and will begin evaluation activities in Quarter 2 to report activities. The Site Coordinator has been gathering initial data not only to monitor the progress of the funded partners, but also to aid the evaluator in the process of assessing the program.

6. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

For each Weed and Seed component, include (1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area, (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned, and (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.

6.1. Intervene in gang activity and remove support for gang activity in Central.

1.1.1. What: i) Conduct gang sweeps; reduce availability of weapons; enforce curfews; develop a wanted-criminals list and coordinate with state and local authorities.

1.1.2. Who: Central Police (FPD) and MAGEC, USAO

(1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,

- In the first quarter, the Fresno Police Department and with other law enforcement entities conducted 2 gang sweeps. The outcome of these were:
 - 37 felony arrests
 - 14 misdemeanor arrests
 - 40 firearms confiscated
 - 7 parolees arrested for violations
 - 20 gang members were apprehended for both felony and misdemeanor warrants

(2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,

- Yes, the Weed activities under the Law Enforcement strategy are being implemented as planned and,

(3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.

- At the end of the first quarter of year 1, Law Enforcement is not making any changes in its strategy to intervene in or remove support for gang activity in Central.

6.2. Reduce drug activity in Central.

2.1.1. What: i) conduct ‘reverse stings’ in drug dealing hot spots; ii) focus sweeps on street dealing;

2.1.2. Who: USAO with local DEA, Parole Board, FPD Steering Committee

(1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,

- From the perspective of the Fresno Police Department Central Division, the collaborations and coordinated efforts in place currently to support law enforcement objectives are functioning effectively.

(2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned, and

- In the first quarter, the Fresno Police Department Central Division has brought drug charges against 10 individuals.

(3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.

- At the end of the first quarter of year 1, Law Enforcement is not making any changes in its strategy to intervene in or remove support for gang activity in Central.

6.3. 1.c. Improve the quality of living in low income apartment complexes

3.1.1. What: Institute a program to engage negligent landlords in Crime Free Housing training.

3.1.2. Who: FPD, Code Enforcement, District Attorney, Neighborhood Watch, Steering Committee, Evaluators

(1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,

- This activity will be undertaken wholly by Neighborhood Watch, who will invite the Central Valley Apartment Managers Association to participate. At the conclusion of the first quarter, year 1, this outreach is being planned.

- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned, and
 - This activity will be implemented as planned over the remaining quarters of year 1.
- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - At the end of the first quarter of year 1, Law Enforcement is not making any changes in its strategy to intervene in or remove support for gang activity in Central.

6.4. 1.d. Strengthen and increase drug education programs in Central

- 4.1.1. What: i) Begin/strengthen drug education programs in school (K-8) and after-school programs
- 4.1.2. ii) coordinate adult drug education programs in churches, neighborhood watch and community centers;
- 4.1.3. iii) develop a process for referral of addicts to drug treatment programs.

Who: DEA; Parole Board, local drug agencies; Steering Committee; schools and churches in area.

- (1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - This activity will begin in the third quarter of year 1.
- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - This activity is planned for implementation in the third quarter. and
- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - Due to recent budget cuts in local, state and federal programs which serve drug education, outreach and referral, the Steering Committee and the partner agencies identified to implement this objective will need to reframe this objective, in order to strengthen drug education. Many after school programs have been cut from school budgets and many churches are not fiscally able to conduct programs on their own.

6.5. 1.e. Determine feasibility of a neighborhood officers program

5.1.1. What: Explore need and feasibility of setting up neighborhood officers program

5.1.2. Who: FPD

- (1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - This objective is being examined by the Fresno Police Department.
- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - Recent changes in local, state and federal budgets have delayed the implementation of this feasibility study. and
- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - In order for this objective to be met, more funding will need to be available.

5.1.3. 1.a. Strengthen Neighborhood Watch

5.1.4. What: i.) Recruit and train new "watch" sites in most troubled areas

5.1.5. ii.) introduce updated training methods to current programs,

- (4) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - This objective is being examined by the Fresno Police Department and Neighborhood Watch
- (5) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - Recent changes in local, state and federal budgets have delayed the implementation of the feasibility of adding training and recruitment expenses to the Neighborhood Watch program.
- (6) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - In order for this objective to be met, more funding will need to be available. However, at the present time, no changes are anticipated to this objective.

6.6. 1.b. Improve area-wide Central communication options.

6.1.1. What: Create NOON website with secure links to law enforcement agencies

- (1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - The collaboration with Neighborhood Watch to create this electronic communication tool is functioning effectively.
- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - Neighborhood Watch has collaborated with the Steering Committee to hire a web designer to create and maintain this electronic communication tool for Central Weed and Seed. The

Neighborhood Opportunities Outreach Network (NOON) has a webaddress – CENTRALWNS.ORG – and the site development is progressing. and

- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - At the end of the first quarter of year 1, no changes are anticipated in this objective of the strategy.

6.7. NOON website up and operational at end of Year One

- 1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - The collaboration with Neighborhood Watch to create this electronic communication tool is functioning effectively.
- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - Neighborhood Watch has collaborated with the Steering Committee to hire a web designer to create and maintain this electronic communication tool for Central Weed and Seed. The NOON website will be operational by the end of Year One of the strategy. and
- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - At the end of the first quarter of year 1, no changes are anticipated in this objective of the strategy.

6.8. 1.c. Remove graffiti and safety hazards from the area

What: i) Develop citizen volunteer cadres by neighborhood to document and report graffiti board-up housing, illegal dumping

ii) Develop regular neighborhood work parties to clean up debris.

- (1) whether collaborations and/or coordinated efforts are functioning effectively to achieve your objectives in this area,
 - The coordinated efforts for this objective is functioning effectively.
- (2) whether Weed and Seed activities are being implemented as planned,
 - This objective will be implemented the fourth quarter of year 1. and
- (3) what improvements or changes are needed to meet overall goals and objectives.
 - At the end of the first quarter of year 1, no changes are anticipated in this objective of the strategy.

Law Enforcement/Corrections/Prosecution:

Please indicate what strategy goals and objectives were initiated, continued, or met. Indicate any obstacles you may have had, and how you are addressing them.

Law Enforcement has initiated both of its key objectives – reduce gang and drug activities in Central. These efforts will continue throughout the program. Up to now, the primary obstacle encountered is the local, state, and national budget crisis. The impact of budget cuts necessitates re-framing objectives in terms of the number of sweeps and charges filed – however, the main law enforcement strategy remains intact.

Community Policing:

Please indicate what strategy goals and objectives were initiated, continued, or met. Indicate any obstacles you may have had, and how you are addressing them.

The Community Policing strategy remains focused upon its key objectives – strengthening drug education and reducing graffiti. These efforts will continue throughout the program. Up to now, the primary obstacle encountered is the local, state, and national budget crisis. The impact of budget cuts necessitates re-framing objectives in terms of the number of churches, after school programs and community groups which are included in the education outreach aspect of the project.

Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment:

Please indicate what strategy goals and objectives were initiated, continued, or met. Indicate any obstacles you may have had, and how you are addressing them.

The key partner agencies who are engaged in Prevention, Intervention and Treatment – Men of Promise for the adult program and Comprehensive Youth Services for the youth program – have begun their outreach into the designated area. Both agencies will open satellite offices in the Central area, in order to have a neighborhood presence to provide services. Both agencies have conducted initial outreach to the Superior, Municipal and Family

Courts to advise judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys of their programs benefits and services under the Weed and Seed effort. As the program budget received final approval at the end of the first quarter (December 23, 2008), each agency is now enabled to begin receiving clients under the strategy.

Both Men of Promise and Comprehensive Youth Services will begin receiving active referrals in the second quarter of year one.

Neighborhood Restoration:

Please indicate what strategy goals and objectives were initiated, continued, or met.

Indicate any obstacles you may have had, and how you are addressing them.

The neighborhood restoration strategy is to design and implement a sustainable approach to reclaim individual neighborhoods through property improvement, supported by the newly elected Mayor's initiative to target neglectful property owners to bring properties up to code or face forfeiture. Forfeited properties would be reclaimed for owner-occupied housing and/or pocket parks in neighborhoods. This strategy will be initiated in the third or fourth quarter of year 1.

A further objective in the Neighborhood Restoration strategy is creating neighborhood participation cleanup and volunteer activities. This component of the strategy will also be implemented in the third and fourth quarters of year 1.

Special Emphasis Areas:

Briefly describe how any special emphasis area funding you have received contributed to your strategy goals and objectives.

Perhaps the most unique component of the Central project is the Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) program to strengthen area businesses, attract new business and create jobs for residents of the area. The project overlaps the categories of Neighborhood Restoration and Intervention. By strengthening businesses in the area, the EDC creates the stronger economic base and area vitality that reflect a healthy community. By developing accessible job skills training and creating jobs, EDC becomes an effective tool for intervening in gang recruitment and delinquency. EDC works one-on-one with business owners to assess the state of their business and its capacity to grow. They identify labor needs and develop a plan for strengthening the business with the owner and then connect him or her to a network of support available free or at low cost to small business. EDC also stimulates collaborations with educational institutions to create satellite educational and vocational training opportunities in the area. Finally, EDC uses its community-wide members' network to direct new businesses into the area.

This special emphasis is supported by funding received from the Community Regional Medical Center Foundation, the largest employer in the designated area. The EDC program being brought to the designated area will begin in Year One working with the area businesses being surveyed and provided operational analyses and a resource plan.

The only obstacle encountered in implementing the initial phase of the economic development strategy is the local, state and national budget crisis. A key resource to the EDC was the City of Fresno's geographic information system staff (GIS). As a result of funding cutbacks, the entire staff of the GIS at the City of Fresno were laid off. Consequently, the EDC has experienced a delay in identifying the businesses located within Central. This setback will be rectified within the second quarter of year 1.