



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

July 6, 2021

Daniel McCoy
County Executive, Albany County
112 State Street, Room #1200
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. McCoy,

We are pleased to welcome your participation in the Safe Summer NY 2021. The Governor recently announced this funding as part of an historic response to gun violence. This funding investment is for grants for high gun violence neighborhoods throughout the state, and specific zones in Erie, Albany, NYC, Onondaga, Suffolk, Nassau counties to support positive youth development activities that attract youth ages 14-21 at risk of being perpetrators and victims of gun violence in high-gun violence neighborhoods and census tracts.

The funding will flow through county Youth Bureaus to provide grants to local organizations to provide youth engagement activities such as sports; visual and spoken word arts; neighborhood garden and park programs; music, theater, and dance programs; and community, restorative justice and civic engagement projects available at extended hours and on weekends—times when gun violence most often occurs.

This letter confirms that Albany County has been provided an allocation of \$50,000. Please find attached allocations for the specified areas within your county to be served, as well as the planning requirements for the funding. Please refer to the Governor's announcement (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news>) for specific zones that must be the focus of these programs.

Collaboration with youth and families and local organizations most impacted by gun violence will be essential to the successful planning and implementation of these initiatives. Additionally, supporting hyper-local stabilizing institutions in these same neighborhoods can have lasting positive impact well beyond the value of the dollar amounts provided. As such, the County will be required to engage and collaborate with local impacted stakeholders in the planning and outreach for the disbursement of these funds. The county must seek out non-traditional partners that are rooted in those communities where gun violence is most prevalent. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Black-owned bookstores
- Local clubs serving high risk youth
- Community Music and Art studios and programs
- Restorative Justice coalitions

- Technology programs
- Local garden clubs
- Local civic organizations

Counties are required to send a concise plan, attached to this letter, to expend the funds to OCFS. The plan should include a description of specific initiatives, proposed implementation timeline and proposed spending. Plans should be submitted on or before July 21, 2021 to Matt.Beck@ocfs.ny.gov with a subject heading of "Safe Summer 2021" and reflect plans to expend the funds no later than December 31, 2021. Claiming instructions will be sent out in a separate mailing. These funds are available for a period from July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Thank you for your commitment to help reduce gun violence for our youth in these targeted communities.

Sincerely,



Sheila J. Poole

Commissioner

Attachments (2)