

Attachment 1 - Program Abstract

Project Overview

Applicant's Name: Arlington Police Department (Arlington, Texas)
Title of Project: Domestic Highway Enforcement Unit (DHE)
Dollar Amount Requested: \$1,138,984
Term of proposal: 24 months
CDFA # 16.809, Category 1: Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the United States
Application on behalf of: North Texas High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NTHIDTA)

Drug trafficking and related violence stemming from the southern border of the United States has negatively affected Arlington and surrounding communities. Limited resources have minimally reduced drug trafficking in the area; however, increased opportunities exist for local HIDTAs to reduce the affects of drug trafficking into local communities.

The mission of the Domestic Highway Enforcement Unit is to use collaborative intelligence to intercept contraband and drug trafficking operations that impact the North Texas area. The DHE Unit will focus on reducing the amount of narcotics transported into the area, reducing drug-related crime and violence in Arlington, and increasing drug seizures. The goals will be met through the creation of a specialized DHE unit comprised of four officers and a K9 element focused on drug interdiction in the transportation infrastructure. Key deliverables include:

1. Collaboration between the DHE unit, NTHIDTA and the APD Narcotics Unit;
2. Document the Drug Trafficking Organizations dismantled/disrupted in the first year of operation and increase that baseline by 10% in the second year;
3. Increase drugs seizures by 15%;
4. Decrease violent crimes in Arlington by 10%;
5. Increase case enhancements on organized criminal activity to narcotics by 10%; and
6. Purchase local and/or American products and utilize local service providers when practical

Regular participation in regional HIDTA meetings will ensure timely intelligence through the El Paso Intelligence Center. This will further support the sharing of intelligence aimed reversing the negative impact of drug trafficking and related violence stemming from the southern border of the United States.

Program Narrative

Statement of the Problem

Drug trafficking and related violence stemming from the Southern border of the United States have negatively affected Arlington, Texas and the surrounding community. The Southern border is a principal drug smuggling corridor that runs from Mexico and Central America through the points of entry into the United States. Drug trafficking organizations (DTO) start along the southern border region and travel through the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area with final destinations across the country. Proceeds from sale of illicit drugs travel back through the Metroplex with a final destination in the Southern border region.

The City of Arlington and the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex has 30,145 miles of roadway, which includes 4 interstate and 1 intrastate highways, one of which is a direct route to Mexico. Arlington is located 432 miles from the Mexican border at Laredo and 423 miles from the border at Del Rio. According to the North Texas HIDTA, these major thoroughfares provide drug traffickers opportunities to exploit the vast transportation infrastructure of this region and allow access for contraband to flow freely from Mexico. The result locally has been an increase in homicides, gun-related offenses, drug-related offenses, and gang activity. Gang enforcement, drug interdiction, and gun violence have become the Police Department's and the City's priorities.

Gangs in Arlington have transformed themselves from small town gangs that formed to identify with others into drug traffickers, motivated by the financial gain at the expense of residents and visitors in the area. Arlington Police Department (APD) officials estimate that 37 percent of robberies are committed by gang members. Community residents surveyed for a proposed Department of Justice's Weed and Seed site in east Arlington believe gangs present a serious problem to the residents, businesses, and schools located in the area.

The nexus between gangs, drugs, and violence is evident. In less than a year (12/01/2007-09/30/2008), there were six Arlington homicides attributed to gang activity, 33 percent of the city's homicide rate during that time period. During this same timeframe, there were 60 gang related shootings (Uniform Crime Reports, APD). The APD Gang Unit has identified 39 highly organized and violent gangs operating in the city with a known membership of at least 771 gang members. According to the NTHIDTA, 50% (6 of 12) of the gangs known to distribute drugs within the Dallas/Fort Worth area in 2008 exist within the City of Arlington.

There is a need for greater local participation in interdiction efforts. The growing use of commercial vehicles to transport illegal drugs emphasizes the possibility that a traffic stop may harbor the potential for a major drug seizure. In January 2000, approximately 162,000 northbound commercial vehicles crossed the four busiest bridges from Mexico into South Texas, yet because of resource constraints, Texas DPS troopers conducted a mere 204 inspections resulting in citations or removal of service. Local law enforcement agencies, especially those in HIDTAs, must contribute in a more coordinated fashion to reduce the affects of drug trafficking into local communities.

According to NTHIDTA, the Dallas/Fort Worth area is a national-level transportation and distribution center for cocaine, marijuana, ice methamphetamine, and heroin in and outside the North Texas HIDTA region. Mexican drug trafficking organizations control the transportation of wholesale quantities of these drugs to the area for distribution. In addition, half of the methamphetamine production labs seized in the 15 Texas counties of the NTHIDTA were located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Interdicting drug traffickers is critical to minimize the impact of drugs within the City of Arlington and the North Texas region. An excerpt of drug seizures within the NTHIDTA and the City of Arlington demonstrate the need for narcotics interdiction (see Table 1 & 2).

Table 1: North Texas HIDTA Seizures, Weight by Kilogram (2007 & 2008)

<u>Narcotic</u>	2007		2008	
	<u>Weight</u>		<u>Weight</u>	
	Tarrant	NTHIDTA	Tarrant	NTHIDTA
Methamphetamine	2	90	13	353
Cocaine	33	1,092	5	708
Marijuana	1,537	13,624	910	12,943
Heroin	7	19	1	7

Table 2: City of Arlington Drug Seizures, Weight by Kilogram (2007 & 2008)

<u>Narcotic</u>	2007		2008	
	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Approximate Value</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Approximate Value</u>
Methamphetamine	1	\$30, 514	5	\$136,828
Cocaine	2	\$29,750	6	\$55,053
Crack Cocaine	.42	\$9, 384	1	\$16,396
Marijuana	30	\$39,180	47	\$51,845
MDMA	.27	\$24,471		
Barbiturates			118 DU	\$1770
Total Value		\$133,299		\$261,892

The proposed program will specifically address drug activity stemming from the Southern border of Texas by creating a Domestic Highway Enforcement Unit (DHE). Upon receipt of funding the department is prepared to quickly hire officers for those positions. The Arlington Police Department, as authorized by the North Texas HIDTA (attachment 5), will meet Recovery Act goals, combat drug trafficking in the region, and will improve the safety and security of North Texans. This collaborative approach to drug trafficking enforcement will facilitate communication and intelligence sharing among the NTHIDTA participating agencies.

Program Design and Implementation

The mission of the proposed Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Unit is to intercept contraband and drug trafficking operations that impact North Texas and other areas of the

country and reduce the availability of illicit drugs within the City of Arlington and North Texas Region. As the result of increased enforcement against drug traffickers in this area, an ancillary goal of the DHE Unit is to reduce the number of incidents of drug and gang related violent crime in Arlington. Comparisons will be made based on the Uniform Crime Reports (Part 1) and analysis of gang and drug related offenses.

Program Design

Structure: The Domestic Highway Enforcement unit will be organized under the Traffic Unit's chain of command. Four officers will be assigned as Domestic Highway Enforcement officers with certifications as Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) inspectors. The CVE certification, while secondary to narcotic trafficking, will serve as an additional enforcement tool for officers. The 4 officers would report to the designated DHE traffic sergeant. Four vehicles are proposed (Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package) along with all CVE equipment. One DHE officer will also serve as a K-9 dog handler with a dog that specializes in the detection of narcotics. Drug interdiction teams will use the canine during routine traffic stops to alert the presence of illicit drugs and thereby establish probable cause for searching vehicles. Interdiction will occur through collaboration and information sharing within the NTHIDTA, intelligence received from the Southern border, and through enforcement of motor vehicle laws. The Arlington Police Department has registered with the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) database that maintains information related to border crossings, suspects, and concealment factors encountered in seizure incidents. DHE officers will input and retrieve information related to narcotic trafficking to assist in investigations. The DHE unit will support criminal interdiction of contraband and specifically enforce the following: Drug statutes, Traffic and Criminal laws, Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and laws, and Hazardous Material Regulations.

Implementation: If funded, the Arlington Police Department will create and fill the positions within 30 days of the award receipt. As indicated in the timeline (attachment 4), training will be coordinated and the unit will begin collaborating on intelligence gained and interdicting drug trafficking into the Tarrant County region and the City of Arlington. The DHE unit will be sustained through a long term investment from the City of Arlington by absorbing the program costs after the grant term is completed. Specific performance measures are in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Goals	Objectives	Performance Measures (Category)	Collection Method
Preserving jobs	Maintain and fund the DHE after grant expiration	Retain 4 DHE officer positions (Recovery Act)	Document approval to maintain the unit through City Council agenda and vote
Creating jobs	Create DHE unit through Recovery Act funding	Create 4 DHE officer positions (Recovery Act; CDFA #16.809)	Document hiring and date unit was established
Promote economic recovery	Purchase local and/or American products and utilize local service providers (when practical)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of local training programs attended 2. Amount of grant funding utilized to purchase American products or those from local distributors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documentation of local training programs attended by DHE officers 2. Purchase orders related to the required equipment
Combat criminal narcotics activity from the Southern border	Increase partnerships to reduce duplication/ disruption in service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in regional narcotics intelligence meetings within the NTHIDTA (Recovery Act) 2. Create a collaboration plan between the DHE unit and the existing Narcotics division of the Arlington Police Department 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of meeting minutes and attendance logs 2. Copy of the DHE standard operating procedures that includes collaboration and expectations
Combat criminal narcotics activity from the Southern border	Reduce the amount of narcotics transported into the NTHIDTA region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) dismantled and disrupted 2. The value of drugs, cash, and other assets seized 3. The return on investment (ROI) of Southern border funds 4. Cost per DTO dismantled or disrupted 5. Input and retrieval of information in the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) database 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-4. Database creation and uniform collection process 5. Queries through EPIC
Combat criminal narcotics activity from the Southern border	Reducing drug-related crime and violence in the City of Arlington	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease the number of violent crime in Arlington by 10% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Records Management System

Combat criminal narcotics activity from the Southern border	Reducing drug-related crime and violence in the City of Arlington	1. Increase the number of case enhancements on organized criminal activity related to narcotics by 10%	1. Tarrant County Court data
Combat criminal narcotics activity from the Southern border	Increase drug seizures in the City of Arlington	1. Increase the number of drug seizures in Arlington by 15%	1. Records Management System

Training: Training will focus on the familiarity of drug trafficking trends and smuggling patterns, bulk currency movement indicators and detection methods, indicators of driver usage, possession, and transportation of illicit drugs, commercial vehicle search techniques and characteristics of drivers involved in contraband transport. DHE officers will receive training from the DEA Domestic Highway Enforcement Training, concealment training, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in North American Roadside Inspection. Officers will also be tasked with enforcement on interstate highways, state highways, and city streets. For the specific DHE officer job description, see attachment 4.

Program Activities: The unit will monitor highways within the North Texas HIDTA. DHE officers will conduct traffic stops based upon their training and on intelligence initiatives. Officers will have access to the El Paso Intelligence Center and North Texas HIDTA staff for intelligence sharing and collaboration of efforts. DHE officers will work in pairs when conducting motor carrier and motor coach inspections. The DHE traffic supervisor will provide monthly reports on all productivity, arrests, and CVE inspections generated by DHE officers. The reports will be based on evidence based practices known to be effective.

Intelligence Sharing: The Arlington Police Department has built relationships with other local, state, and federal agencies to focus on joint enforcement activities. Consistent with the Arlington Police Department’s commitment to intelligence led policing; this award will facilitate increased receipt, dissemination, and response to drug trafficking information.

Capabilities and Competencies

Officers selected for the DHE Unit will be highly motivated officers that have demonstrated high levels of self-initiated activity related to traffic and narcotic enforcement. Candidates will be able to work with little supervision and communicate effectively with the public. They will be motivated to combat drug trafficking in the area and will be knowledgeable about the drug problems within the North Texas region. The DHE Unit supervisor will be knowledgeable about narcotic activity in the North Texas region, K9 handling, and North American Standard inspection procedures. The supervisor must be able to communicate effectively and make presentations to varying audiences on a regular basis. The supervisor will provide expertise in awareness of drugs transported into the North Texas High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the primary sources of origin, providing a framework for measureable outcomes.

The Arlington Police Department will ensure that financial and programmatic fidelity is continuously maintained following OJP Financial Guidelines. As the recipient of numerous grant awards, including Project Safe Neighborhood and the US Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program, the department is well versed in grants management and has extensive experience in managing funds related to hiring personnel and appropriating equipment. The Police Fiscal Services Unit is staffed by a manager and two staff accountants who have managed LLEBG/JAG grants dating back to 1999. The City Auditor's Office, with oversight responsibility for all City departments, uses Government Auditing Standards to assure high quality internal audits. To maintain the integrity of grant funds, separate account funds are created for each new grant awarded to the Department. Monthly and quarterly Activity Reports that track expenditures are generated for each account fund and are provided to program managers.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation and Plan for Data Collection and Sustainability

Primary sources of data to meet the Unit objectives and the reporting requirements of the grant will be collected using the department's Record Management System (RMS), North Texas HIDTA intelligence, the department's Traffic and Narcotics Unit, and the EPIC center. Information collected will include drug amount and value seized in Arlington and the North Texas HIDTA, arrest and prosecution information stemming from the DHE Unit's activities, and timely information related to drug trafficking, such as trends and people of interest.

City management and elected officials have reviewed the pending application proposal and consent to maintaining the program beyond the life of the grant. The City of Arlington certifies that we are willing and have the capacity to participate in an evaluation to be managed by the National Institute of Justice. We are able to meet the quarterly financial and programmatic reporting as stipulated in the grant announcement. Arlington Police supervisors have participated as fellows for the Police Foundation and other national police research organizations, indicating the department's propensity for managing performance measures and attention to research methodology.

The program's effectiveness will be demonstrated through specific indicators of increased enforcement, decreased crime, and improved collaboration with other HIDTAs. Specific data related to performance measures such as drug seizures, arrests and convictions related to narcotics trafficking, the number of collaborative meetings with North Texas HIDTA, and the number of inputs into the EPIC database will be collected, analyzed, and reported to measure the impact of the proposed efforts. Creating jobs specifically to combat criminal narcotic activity stemming from the Southern border of the United States will result in a more comprehensive and successful regional approach to drug trafficking.

Attachment 4 – Project Timeline and Position Description

Goal	Objective	Activity/ Milestones	Expected Completion Date	Person Responsible
Creating jobs	Create the DHE Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Standard Operating Procedures 2. Develop Job Announcement 3. Selection Process 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 1, 2009 2. June 1, 2009 3. June 15, 2009 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Sergeant 2. Traffic Sergeant 3. Traffic Chain of Command
Promote economic recovery; train selected officers	Provide necessary training for officers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend local training on Commercial Vehicle Enforcement 2. Attend HIDTA training 3. Attend Federal DOJ-sponsored grant meetings 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 1, 2009 2. December 1, 2009 3. June 1, 2010 or earlier 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Sergeant 2. Traffic Sergeant 3. Traffic Sergeant
Promote economic recovery; properly equip DHE officers	Procurement of equipment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procure vehicles 2. Outfit vehicle for K9 3. CVE equipment 4. Other supplies within the stated budget 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. August 1, 2009 2. August 1, 2009 3. August 1, 2009 4. August 1, 2009 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiscal Services & Traffic Sergeant 2. Fiscal Services & Traffic Sergeant 3. Fiscal Services & Traffic Sergeant 4. Fiscal Services & Traffic Sergeant
Combat criminal narcotics through collaboration	Create partnerships to collaborate on intelligence gathered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in regional NTHIDTA intelligence meetings 2. Create a collaboration plan between the DHE unit and the APD’s Narcotics division 3. Register for the El Paso Intelligence Center database 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May 1, 2009 2. June 1, 2009 3. April 30, 2009 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Sergeant 2. Traffic and Narcotics Sergeant 3. Traffic Sergeant
Combat criminal narcotics through intelligence and information obtained	Develop consistent data tracking procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Activity Report 2. Provide weekly activity report to the Traffic Commander 3. Create database to capture data used to evaluate performance measures; input data 4. Provide monthly inspection history to APD staff and Texas DPS 5. Provide monthly citation reports on CMV violations 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 1, 2009 2. Ongoing throughout project 3. June 1, 2009 4. Ongoing throughout project 5. Ongoing throughout project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traffic Sergeant 2. Traffic Sergeant 3. Traffic Sergeant 4. Traffic Sergeant 5. Traffic Sergeant