



Office of Mayor Frank C. Guinta

PRESS RELEASE – July 27, 2009

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Manchester receives one of nine Department of Justice Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative grants nationwide

MANCHESTER (*July 27, 2009*) – Manchester is one of nine Weed and Seed sites selected by the US Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) to participate in a 13-month technical assistance project. The project aims to strengthen the connection of juvenile crime and reentry, anti-gang initiatives, public safety, and community wellness.

“Through the hard work of city departments and community leaders, Manchester has been addressing the needs of at-risk youth and helping them make good choices,” Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta said. “This grant allows us to enhance the programs we currently have in our city.”

Weed and Seed, a community-based strategy sponsored by DOJ and overseen by CCDO, is an innovative and comprehensive multiagency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. Weed and Seed helps reduce crime, recidivism, and bridge and leverage resources within a city to improve public safety in the geographically targeted communities.

The technical assistance provided through the initiative will build the capacity of the selected Weed and Seed communities to enhance their juvenile crime prevention programming, juvenile reentry, and anti-gang initiatives. The recipients of the technical assistance will include community- and faith-based partners, reentry committees, neighborhood associations, resident councils, community leaders and advocates, service providers, and more. Assistance to the sites will range from helping to build partnerships and garnering support from the community through education and awareness campaigns, to assisting with building sites’ abilities to create referral networks or programs.

Ultimately, the project aims to:

- improve public safety by preventing recidivism among juveniles
- aid youth in resisting criminal and gang activity and to help them engage in pro-social behaviors
- leverage community resources with and within the Weed and Seed community; and
- safeguard program sustainability.

Each selected city will gain access to a broad range of benefits including:

- Provide site-specific “how-to” materials for juvenile prevention program development;
- Assist sites with exploring resource opportunities for reentry and anti-gang activities and programs in a given site;
- Broker relationships with national experts and organizations; and
- Make connections to existing programs that can share best practices and innovative strategies.