

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 266

To evaluate the effectiveness of certain community efforts in coordination with local police departments in preventing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking from the community, in increasing economic development in the community, and in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of crime against community residents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To evaluate the effectiveness of certain community efforts in coordination with local police departments in preventing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking from the community, in increasing economic development in the community, and in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of crime against community residents, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Neighborhood Security
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

5 It is the purpose of this Act to provide for the estab-
6 lishment of demonstration projects designed to determine
7 the effectiveness of—

8 (1) certain activities by community residents in
9 coordination with the local police department in pre-
10 venting and removing violent crime and drug traf-
11 ficking from the community;

12 (2) such activities in increasing economic devel-
13 opment in the community; and

14 (3) such activities in preventing or ending retal-
15 iation by perpetrators of crime against community
16 residents engaged in these activities.

17 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION GRANT AUTHORITY.**

18 (a) **DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.**—Not later than
19 16 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
20 Secretary shall award grants under this Act. Grants shall
21 be awarded annually under this section and shall be for
22 a period of 4 years.

23 (b) **LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.**—The amount
24 of each grant awarded under this Act shall not be less
25 than \$25,000 nor more than \$100,000.

1 (c) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT.—Amounts provided
2 under a grant awarded under this Act for a fiscal year
3 shall be reduced in proportion to any reduction in the
4 amounts appropriated under this Act for such fiscal year
5 as compared to the amounts appropriated for the prior
6 fiscal year.

7 (d) UNUSED PORTION OF GRANT FUNDS.—Any un-
8 used portion of a grant awarded under this section shall,
9 upon the termination of such grant, be transferred to the
10 Secretary for redistribution in the subsequent fiscal year
11 or for repayment to the Department of the Treasury.

12 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION.**

13 (a) SUBMISSION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
14 under section 3, a qualified entity shall, not later than 12
15 months after the date of enactment of this Act, submit
16 to the Secretary an application to conduct a demonstration
17 project under this Act.

18 (b) CONTENT.—An application submitted under sub-
19 section (a) shall be in such form and contain such infor-
20 mation as the Secretary shall require, including—

21 (1) an agreement with the local police depart-
22 ment to coordinate and assist in the prevention and
23 removal of violent crime and drug trafficking from
24 the target community;

1 (2) a plan detailing the nature and extent of co-
2 ordination and assistance to be provided by the local
3 police department, project participants, and the ap-
4 plicant; and

5 (3) a description of the strategy of the commu-
6 nity for the physical and economic development of
7 the community.

8 (c) CRITERIA.—In considering whether to approve an
9 application submitted under this section, the Secretary
10 shall consider—

11 (1) the degree to which the project described in
12 the application will support existing community eco-
13 nomic development activities by preventing and re-
14 moving violent crime and drug trafficking from the
15 community;

16 (2) the demonstrated record of project partici-
17 pants with respect to economic and community de-
18 velopment activities;

19 (3) the ability of the applicant to responsibly
20 administer the project;

21 (4) the ability of the applicant to assist and co-
22 ordinate with project participants to achieve eco-
23 nomic development and prevent and remove violent
24 crime and drug trafficking in the community;

1 (5) the adequacy of the plan to assist and co-
2 ordinate with the local police department in prevent-
3 ing and removing violent crime and drug trafficking
4 in the community;

5 (6) the consistency of the application with the
6 eligible activities and the uses for the grant under
7 this Act;

8 (7) the aggregate amount of funds from non-
9 Federal (public and private sector) sources that are
10 formally committed to the project;

11 (8) the adequacy of the plan for providing in-
12 formation relevant to an evaluation of the project to
13 the independent research organization; and

14 (9) such other factors as may be determined
15 appropriate by the Secretary.

16 (d) PREFERENCES.—In considering an application
17 submitted under this section, the Secretary shall give pref-
18 erence to an applicant that demonstrates a commitment
19 to work with project participants and a local police depart-
20 ment in a community with—

21 (1) an enterprise zone or enterprise community
22 designation or an area established pursuant to any
23 consolidated planning process for use of Federal
24 housing and community development funds;

1 (2) significant rates of violent crime and drug
2 trafficking, as determined by the Secretary; and

3 (3) at least one non-profit community develop-
4 ment corporation or similar organization that is will-
5 ing to and capable of increasing economic develop-
6 ment.

7 (e) APPROVAL.—Not later than 15 months after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, on com-
9 petitive basis, approve or disapprove of the applications
10 submitted under this section.

11 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

12 (a) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts provided under a grant
13 awarded under this Act shall be used for the following ac-
14 tivities:

15 (1) Citizen patrols by car or by foot intended to
16 prevent violent crime and eradicate open market or
17 street sales of controlled substances.

18 (2) Block watch activities, including identifica-
19 tion of property for purposes of retrieving stolen
20 goods, camera surveillance to identify drug traffick-
21 ers and their customers, protection of evidence to
22 ensure evidence is not lost or destroyed prior to po-
23 lice arrival, and computer linkages among organiza-
24 tions and the police to identify hot spots and speed
25 the dissemination of information.

1 (3) Property modification programs, including
2 securing buildings and residences to prevent bur-
3 glary, and structural changes, such as the construc-
4 tion of fences, to parks or buildings to prevent drug
5 sales or other criminal activity in those areas.

6 (4) Squatter eviction programs aimed at notify-
7 ing public authorities of trespassers in abandoned
8 buildings used as crack houses or heroin shooting
9 galleries and increasing efforts to remove such
10 squatters.

11 (5) Expansion of community liaisons with the
12 police, including expanding the community's role in
13 community policing activities.

14 (6) Developing and expanding programs to pre-
15 vent or end retaliation by perpetrators of crime
16 against project participants.

17 (7) Other activities consistent with the purposes
18 of this Act.

19 (b) **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Amounts provided
20 under a grant awarded under this Act may be used for
21 additional activities in support of the activities described
22 in subsection (a), including—

23 (1) the purchase of equipment or supplies, in-
24 cluding cameras, video cameras, walkie-talkies, and
25 computers;

1 (2) the training of project participants; and

2 (3) the hiring of staff for grantees or project
3 participant organizations to assist in coordinating
4 activities among project participants and with the
5 local police department.

6 **SEC. 6. LOCAL CONTROL OVER PROJECTS.**

7 Except as provided in regulations promulgated under
8 the succeeding sentence, each organization authorized to
9 conduct a demonstration project under this Act shall have
10 exclusive authority over the administration of the project.
11 The Secretary may prescribe such regulations with respect
12 to such demonstration projects as are expressly authorized
13 or as are necessary to ensure compliance with approved
14 applications and this Act.

15 **SEC. 7. MONITORING OF GRANTEES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall monitor
17 grantees to ensure that the projects conducted under the
18 grants are being carried out in accordance with this Act.
19 Each grantee, and each entity which has received funds
20 from a grant made under this Act, shall make appropriate
21 books, documents, papers, and records available to the
22 Secretary for examination, copying, or mechanical repro-
23 duction on or off the premises of the entity upon a reason-
24 able request therefore.

1 (b) WITHHOLDING, TERMINATION OR RECAPTURE.—

2 The Secretary shall, after adequate notice and an oppor-
3 tunity for a hearing, withhold, terminate, or recapture any
4 funds due, or provided to and unused by, an entity under
5 a grant awarded under this Act if the Secretary deter-
6 mines that such entity has not used any such amounts
7 in accordance with the requirements of this Act. The Sec-
8 retary shall withhold, terminate, or recapture such funds
9 until the Secretary determines that the reason for the
10 withholding, termination, or recapture has been removed
11 and there is reasonable assurance that it will not recur.

12 (c) COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary shall respond in an
13 expeditious manner to complaints of a substantial or seri-
14 ous nature that an entity has failed to use funds provided
15 under this Act in accordance with the requirements of this
16 Act.

17 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND AUDITS.**

18 (a) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 months after the
19 termination of a grant under this Act, the grantee shall
20 prepare and submit to the Secretary a report containing
21 such information as may be required by the Secretary.

22 (b) AUDITS.—The Secretary shall annually audit the
23 expenditures of each grantee under this Act from pay-
24 ments received under grants awarded under this Act. Such
25 audits shall be conducted by an entity independent of any

1 agency administering a program funded under this Act
2 and, in so far as practical, in accordance with the Comp-
3 troller General's standards for auditing governmental or-
4 ganizations, programs, activities, and functions.

5 **SEC. 9. EVALUATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 16 months after
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
8 into a contract with an independent research organization
9 under which such organization, in accordance with this
10 section, conducts an evaluation of the demonstration
11 projects, individually and as a group, conducted under this
12 Act.

13 (b) RESEARCH QUESTIONS.—In evaluating a dem-
14 onstration project conducted under this Act, the organiza-
15 tion described in subsection (a) shall address the following:

16 (1) What activities and uses most effectively in-
17 volve project participants in the activities and uses
18 under this Act (with effectiveness measured, for ex-
19 ample, by duration of participation, frequency of
20 participation, and intensity of participation).

21 (2) What activities and uses are most effective
22 in preventing or removing violent crime and drug
23 trafficking from a target community.

1 (3) What activities and uses are most effective
2 in supporting or promoting economic development in
3 a target community.

4 (4) What activities and uses are most effective
5 in increasing coordination and assistance between
6 project participants and with the local police depart-
7 ment.

8 (5) What activities and uses are most effective
9 in preventing or ending retaliation by perpetrators of
10 crime against project participants.

11 (c) FUNDING.—Of the funds appropriated under this
12 Act, the Secretary shall set aside not less than 1 percent
13 and not more than 3 percent for the evaluations required
14 under this section.

15 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
16 months after the date on which the last grant under this
17 Act terminates, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to
18 the appropriate committees of the Congress a summary
19 of each evaluation conducted under this section.

20 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this Act, \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1997,
23 1998, 1999, and 2000.

24 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

25 As used in this Act:

1 (1) COMMUNITY.—The term “community”
2 means a contiguous geographic area within a large
3 urban district or encompassing a small urban or
4 other nonurban area.

5 (2) DRUG TRAFFICKING.—The term “drug traf-
6 ficking” means any offense that could be prosecuted
7 under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.
8 801, et seq.).

9 (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—The term
10 “economic development” means revitalization and
11 development activities, including business, commer-
12 cial, housing, and employment activities, that benefit
13 a community and its residents.

14 (4) GRANTEE.—The term “grantee” means a
15 qualified entity that receives a grant under this Act.

16 (5) PROJECT PARTICIPANT.—The term “project
17 participant” means any individual or private-sector
18 group in a community participating in any of the ac-
19 tivities established under a demonstration grant
20 under this Act.

21 (6) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term “qualified
22 entity” means a non-profit organization described in
23 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
24 1986 and exempt from taxation under the Internal
25 Revenue Code of 1986.

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

3 (8) VIOLENT CRIME.—The term “violent crime”
4 has the same meaning as the term “crime of vio-
5 lence” in title 18 of the United States Code.

