

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 863

To establish or expand existing community prosecution programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish or expand existing community prosecution
programs.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Prosecutor
5 Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT AUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make
8 grants to State attorneys general, prosecutors, units of
9 local government, and Indian tribal prosecutors to estab-
10 lish or expand existing community prosecution programs,

1 including hiring and training prosecutors for such pro-
2 grams.

3 (b) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.**—The Attorney Gen-
4 eral should ensure, to the extent possible, that grants
5 awarded under this Act are distributed equitably between
6 urban and rural communities.

7 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under this Act, State attorneys general, prosecutors, units
10 of local government and Indian tribal prosecutors may
11 apply for an award to establish or continue existing com-
12 munity-oriented prosecution programs.

13 (b) **APPLICATION.**—To apply for a grant, an inter-
14 ested eligible entity shall submit an application to the At-
15 torney General in such form as the Attorney General shall
16 prescribe by regulations or guidelines.

17 (c) **CONTENTS.**—Each application shall include the
18 following:

19 (1) The objectives, and need, including public
20 safety, for a grant award.

21 (2) A long-term strategy and detailed imple-
22 mentation plan.

23 (3) Certification of coordination and specific
24 commitments by the community to be served by the

1 grant to participate in a program described under
2 paragraph (2).

3 (4) A description of the geographical area to be
4 served.

5 (5) Identification of related initiatives which
6 will complement or be coordinated with a program
7 funded under this Act.

8 (6) An assurance that funds received under this
9 Act will be used to supplement not supplant other
10 Federal funds.

11 **SEC. 4. USES OF FUNDS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Funds provided under this Act
13 may be used to hire staff, procure equipment, technology,
14 and support systems or pay overtime in the establishment
15 of community-oriented prosecution programs if the eligible
16 entity can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Attorney
17 General that the expenditures would result in a successful
18 reduction in crime.

19 (b) LOCAL MATCH.—The Federal share of a grant
20 made under this Act may not exceed 75 percent of the
21 total costs of the program described in the application sub-
22 mitted pursuant to section 3(b). The Attorney General
23 may waive, in whole or in part, the requirement of a

1 matching contribution and may consider in-kind contribu-
2 tions, fairly valued, in lieu of the local matching require-
3 ment.

4 **SEC. 5. EVALUATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each program or project funded
6 under this Act shall contain a monitoring component de-
7 veloped pursuant to guidelines established by the Attorney
8 General, including the identification and collection of data
9 regarding the activities and accomplishments of the pro-
10 gram over the life of the grant award. The Attorney Gen-
11 eral may require grant recipients to submit written reports
12 which describe the monitoring process and evaluation re-
13 sults.

14 (b) INFORMATION ACCESS.—The Attorney General
15 shall have access to any pertinent documents or records
16 relating to the program for the purposes of evaluation and
17 audit.

18 (c) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION.—If the Attorney
19 General determines, as a result of the reviews described
20 in this section, that a grant recipient is not in substantial
21 compliance with the terms and requirements described in
22 this Act, or with the regulations issued by the Attorney
23 General, the Attorney General may revoke or suspend
24 grant funding, in whole or in part after opportunity for
25 a hearing.

1 **SEC. 6. STUDY.**

2 Not more than one percent of the funds appropriated
3 to carry out this Act shall be directed to the Attorney Gen-
4 eral to finance a study evaluating grants made under this
5 Act. At a minimum, this study shall include the following:

6 (1) The number of grant awards made and the
7 amount of each grant.

8 (2) The recipients of grants, including the com-
9 munities in which they are based.

10 (3) The purposes for which the grants were
11 awarded and used.

12 (4) An evaluation of the achievement of each
13 recipient's stated goals and objectives.

14 (5) An assessment of the effect the program
15 had in encouraging and supporting coordinated com-
16 munity action against crime.

17 (6) Specific recommendations for further fund-
18 ing for each grant recipient.

19 (7) Specific recommendations for future oper-
20 ations of the grant program and its guidelines.

21 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1998 and such sums
24 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1999 through
25 2002.

