

## **Executive Summary**

COPS Office grants must be used to reorient the mission and activities of law enforcement agencies toward the community policing philosophy or enhance their involvement in community policing. The following is the COPS Office definition of community policing that emphasizes the primary components of community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem solving.

*Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues, such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.*

## **Analysis of the Problem**

The Cedar Hill Police Department has experienced an increase in crimes in the school district in recent years. This year the department confiscated guns, participated in drug busts and broke up numerous fights at school. The City of Dallas has expanded into Cedar Hill, with this expansion, the number of gangs and the number of students in gangs has increased. In May 2008 the district hired Charlie-Mike Enterprises to perform an Emergency/Security Operations Study. Recommendations of that study highlighted many of the problems the district has related to providing secure schools. For the one and only high school in CHISD, they suggested that vehicle barriers should be placed at primary entrances. Metal detectors should be employed, cameras at the high school need to be replaced with those that utilize more advanced technology, and more cameras are needed at the high school. There are 1,795 students in grades 10-12 at Cedar Hill High School. At the 9th Grade Center there are 765 students. More cameras are needed at the Cedar Hill 9th Grade Center, particularly at exits and entrances and parking areas according to the study. The district has two middle schools, Bessie Coleman Middle School and W.S. Permenter Middle School. Both schools need to increase the number of cameras to give both campuses better coverage. Both schools also need vehicle barriers. The cameras used to buzz people in should have full 360 capacity. The Middle schools include grades 7 and 8. The 2 middle schools in CHISD enroll a total of 1,256 students. The district includes three intermediate schools. The intermediate schools include grades 5 and 6. There are 1,205 students enrolled in the three intermediate schools. There are six elementary schools that include pre-K students ages 3 and 4 years old and students in grades K-4. There are 168 prekindergarten students and 2,884 students in K-4. Security problems in the intermediate and elementary schools include the need for cameras in numerous locations. Outside cameras are poorly placed and more inside cameras are needed, vehicle barriers need to be installed at the front entrance to each elementary and intermediate school.

All the schools, at all levels, need a standard swipe card entry system. The district's operating budget has decreased by \$331,199 this year due to a decrease in tax revenue. At least 22% of homes are bank owned or in foreclosure in Cedar Hill and 50% of the students are economically disadvantaged and receive a free lunch. With funds provided by the SOS Grant and the district match, we will be able to improve many of the security problems that exist for the 8,079 students and 800 staff members at CHISD. The district will need to train the police personnel monitoring the cameras and will need to enhance its community partnership through a newly formed Grant

Advisory Committee and Speakers Bureau. This will help ensure that the police have the support of the community when changes and upgrades are made.

### **Proposed Plan**

The Cedar Hill ISD Police Department is requesting SOS funds to enhance its ability to secure the district's schools by implementing the recommendations made by the Emergency/Security Operations Study completed in May 2008. The study suggested that the district upgrade its antiquated camera surveillance system. They highly recommend that the virtual tours be replaced with still-posed photographs. The study also suggests that the district migrate to a more secure keyless entry system, purchase and use metal detectors for random searches, purchase vehicle barriers for placement at primary locations, and purchase traffic cones to safely direct vehicle traffic. The school district will have to commit a \$150,000 to match this SOS request for \$150,000.

In addition to purchasing equipment recommended by the Security Study, the committee is also requesting funds to train its officers on the use of the security equipment. This SOS grant also requests the salary of a grant manager who will oversee the day to day operation of the grant and a grant evaluator who will ensure that the grant is implemented as proposed and that the activities of the grant are of high quality. The CHISD intends to enhance its community policing efforts. It will establish a Grant Advisory Committee made up of a variety of stakeholders such as school district personnel, community leaders, and police department personnel. This will enhance the police department's efforts regarding community policing and community support. The police department's main partner for this SOS proposal is the Cedar Hill Independent School District. The district includes 8,079 students and 800 adult staff. Other partners include the Cedar Hill City Police Department, business leaders, church leaders, and nonprofits in the community. To enhance community communication the police department will implement a speaker's bureau. Police officers will go out into the community to a variety of local civic organizations, homeowners groups and parent organizations. When this activity requires extra time beyond the police officers regular time, extra duty pay will be made available as incentive to participate. When SOS funds cease after two years the improved security equipment will continue to be used, the training will continue to be utilized, the community communication system and the advisory committee will continue.

### **Proposed Budget Summary**

Civilian/Non-Sworn Personnel- \$100,964.00

Equipment/Technology- \$183,846.00\*

- Traffic cones
- Barricades
- Keyless entry system
- Surveillance
- computer

Supplies- \$1,500.00\*

- school safety brochures

Travel/Training- \$575\*

- Registration and other related expenses

Contracts/Consultants- \$13,115.00

- Independent evaluator
- Speakers bureau personnel

\*\$147,925 for equipment and technology, \$1,500 for supplies, \$575 for travel/training will be will equate to the district match which the district is proposing using federal funds for these costs.