

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

1. **Current Linkages and Services:** We have a broad range of representation on our steering committee consisting of 40 members, including 8 government agencies, 10 nonprofit organizations, 3 neighborhood leaders and 3 faith-based organizations. This representation allows us to coordinate planning, leverage funds and implement projects better utilizing local resources. Our budget reflects the willingness of our steering committee members to contribute resources to each other and toward the implementation of our plan. The size of our committee necessitated the submission of our membership as an attachment. (See Attachment VI.)
2. **Implementing the Weed and Seed Strategy:** We have made two changes to our plan since we received our Official Recognition. Our fiscal agent is now Multnomah County rather than East County One Stop and we will contract with Portland State University for our evaluation services. An electronic document was sent to our EOWS program manger explaining why we made these cost saving adjustments to our plan.

Detailed Implementation Plan

A. Law Enforcement

1) Gang violence: Gang violence is the cause of most of the violent crimes in Rockwood (there were two double homicides at the end of last year followed by 4 “drive by” retaliatory shootings this year). We have developed four major strategies to address these issues:

- Improve coordination by intensifying of the activities of our Regional Task Force Representatives from the FBI, the cities of Portland, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village and Gresham, the Oregon State Police, the Multnomah County District Attorney and the Multnomah County Sheriff’ s Office are prepared to support this effort. The activities include identifying, tracking and analyzing gang activities, developing communication links between our regional partners as well as strict law enforcement. This will provide for a more coordinated approach and better utilization of our resources. The Gresham Police Department (GPD) will play the lead role in directing this effort. Initially this strategy will be ongoing and consistently pursued for at least the next five years with partial funding through Weed and Seed resources.
- Implement a “zero tolerance” policy that includes the enforcement of offenses such as curfew violations, possession offenses and criminal mischief. The Community Court project will provide swift adjudication, assessment, community service and referrals to treatment, jobs and housing for these offenders. This strategy has proven effective as a tool for authorities throughout the country.
- Reduce gang activities through a diversion plan for targeted youth in Rockwood in an effort to avoid the dispersal and reactivation of gang activities to other geographic areas. The lead roles in relation to this strategy will be through the joint efforts of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (MCDCJ) and Eastwind Children and Family Services and will be funded through Multnomah County.
- Develop training for police, juvenile court, school and other professionals to assist them in identifying early signs of delinquency. This project will be completed within

the first year. The lead roles in relation to this strategy will be through the GPD, The District Attorney's Office and MCDCJ.

This three-pronged approach will be an on-going effort and will require additional resources. Currently 6 officers spend a portion of their time on gang activities. Weed and Seed dollars will provide for an equivalent of 2 full time officers to enhance these strategies.

Benchmarks addressed:

- 50 juveniles will be placed into diversion programs within the next two years and there will be a 25% increase diversion and alternate sentencing.
- There will be a 20% reduction in the incidence of gang violence by the end of the first year.

2) Domestic violence and child abuse: The rate of domestic violence calls in Gresham is 10 calls per thousand per year compared to 7 calls per thousand in Portland. Part of the problem in relation to domestic violence issues are the lack of public information, fear of spousal retribution and cultural issues remain a major obstacle in the areas which has a high percentage of non-English speaking persons. As a partial solution to these difficulties, we plan to increase awareness of resources by distributing 10,000 copies of 4 different informational pieces, which are printed in 5 different languages. The information will inform people of their legal rights, available resources, restraining order information and a child safety plan. The GPD, MCDCJ and the East County Caring Community Domestic Violence Team will distribute these information materials to every apartment complex, retail and other public establishments in Rockwood. The materials have been developed. Printing costs will come from Weed and Seed funds. Distribution will begin in January 2003.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- The printing and distribution of these materials will be accomplished in one year. The number of domestic violence calls and arrests will increase in the first two years followed by a decrease over the next five years. Victimization studies should show a decrease over five years.

3) Reduce street level crimes: Implement a five-pronged strategy in relation to street level crimes.

- Increase enforcement of all law violations targeting apartments and businesses whose patrons are involved in generating crime.
- Report and gather statistics on drinking related incidents to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
- Identify and list abandoned buildings in Rockwood. The GPD will have the lead role in the above three strategies.
- Develop a Community Court.¹ Over the last three months, the District Attorney's Office developed an alternative through the utilization of an existing courthouse allowing our resources to be more effectively used. This will allow us to use our

¹ Please note that our original Certification Statement only called for the development of a plan for a Community Court.

W&S dollars to pay for a portion of a social worker salary in partnership with the Lents and Albina Weed and Seed sites. The social worker will assess each offender and make recommendations regarding the need for rehabilitation services as well as a number of other services. Consequently, we anticipate that a community court could be operational in the next fiscal year allowing non-violent offenders to be quickly and efficiently sentenced to community service projects and other rehabilitation services in Rockwood. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Weed and Seed Steering Committee will have the lead roles in this strategy.

- Continue and expand the Apartment Managers Accountability program through the efforts of the GPD and MCDCJ. This program educates and informs managers and residents about the incidence of crime.

Benchmarks to be addressed:

- A statistically significant reduction in street crimes by the end of year two.
- 250 non-violent offenders will be adjudicated, assessed and referred to community service as well as appropriate treatment during the first year of operation.
- There will be a 25% reduction in the resident's fear of crime in one year.

B. Community Policing

1) Increase mutual trust in Rockwood between the policing agencies and the community:

We will approach this effort with the following strategies:

- Strengthen neighborhood associations in Rockwood by increasing membership. The City of Gresham, Office of Citizen Involvement will lead this effort. They plan on conducting a survey in the next six months with the assistance of the Weed and Seed coordinator intended to identify better communication methods and ways to overcome language barriers and cultural issues.
- Expand the Safe and Healthy Community Program through the distribution of approximately 1000 resource guides in Rockwood. The documents have already been developed. Printing cost will come from Weed and Seed funding. Distribution is planned for late fall and early winter. These guides will be distributed by the GPD, and MCDCJ to all the apartment buildings, at community meetings and all other appropriate times and places.
- Host two community forums in Rockwood. These meetings are intended to be an opportunity for the community to discuss their problems and work toward resolutions. The Rockwood Weed and Seed Steering Committee and the GPD will co-host these activities.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- There will be a 45% increase in awareness and a 15% increase in community involvement by the end of the first year of the project.

2) Reduce gang involvement and create positive activities for youth: We will implement the following strategy:

- Hold a series of youth summits to gather information that would assist in developing prevention methods from at risk youth and professionals. Resource information

sharing, pro-social activities and safe havens available for youth would also be included. Youth will be referred from local schools, alternate schools, juvenile court counselors, truant officers, and the Alliance of Latino Parents for Better Schools. MCDCJ, the Police Activities League and Eastwind Family Services will sponsor the summits.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- At least 100 youth will participate in these summits.

3) Create a safer more livable community: Our strategies include:

- Enforce housing codes, tow abandoned vehicles, and remove graffiti. Community volunteers and the Gresham Police Department will co-sponsor these activities. Several community members have already received contributions of paint and a vehicle to prepare themselves for rapid response to graffiti incidences. Their remaining financial needs will be provided through W&S funds. This project is intended to be ongoing and constant but will begin at the onset of Weed and Seed funding.

Benchmarks to be addressed:

- Graffiti will be eliminated in a timely fashion on an ongoing basis.
- There will be a 20% increase in code enforcement during the first year.

C. Prevention and Intervention

1) Reduce alcohol and drug abuse: The following initiatives are included in our first year's mitigation strategies:

- Increase access to strength based alcohol and drug treatment. Multnomah County, CODA and other treatment providers will work together to incorporate this concept into their treatment protocols. This project will be financed by Multnomah County.
- Develop a public information strategy to prevent the number of DUII arrests in the Latino population. Hold focus groups involving both Latino youth and adults to develop the most compelling message to dissuade Driving While Under the Influence. The partners in this project are the Alliance of Latino Parents and the Weed and Seed Steering Committee. This project will be paid for through Weed and Seed funding.
- Conduct workshops and other outreach methods with the business community that educates them regarding alcohol and drug free work places. Multnomah County and the business community will collaborate to implement this project. The educational materials have already been developed. We intend to work through the existing business association to reach the approximately 150 businesses in Rockwood. This project should begin after the Christmas season when the businesses have more time to concentrate on this issue and should be complete by spring. The Weed and Seed Coordinator will assist in this project. All expenses will be paid by Multnomah County.

Benchmarks to be addressed:

- Adherence to strength based protocols and cultural competencies by the end of year one.
- A 30% increase in positive outcomes by the end of year two.
- Public information strategy during the first year of implementation.
- 75% of the business community will be provided educational materials regarding alcohol and drug free work places by the end of the first year.

2) *Reduce gang activity, poverty and increase opportunities for children:* Our strategies include:

- Initiate a mentoring program that serves the youth in Rockwood. Janus and Eastwind Community and Family Services submitted a grant request for this purpose. The outcome of this project is dependent on funding. This program has been designed and will be made available upon request.
- Two Safe Havens are planned in Rockwood. The first is an expansion of the Police Activities League in collaboration with the Multnomah County Library. This location is a highly visible, accessible facility, secure against crime and illegal drug activities. Trained competent people will staff it. A wide variety of services are planned from homework help to field trips and story telling. We will attempt to serve as many young people as our space and resources allow. Hours of operation are September to June from 2:30 to 7:00 P. M., for ages 8 to high school. Daytime activities planned are parent/ child interactive programs, preschool for youth, job training seminars and ESL classes. Friday or Saturday nights are planned to be family programs. Weekends will also include other activities such clean ups and other community activities. Summer programs include football and soccer programs, drug education and youth summer camps. Next year a second site will be considered. We will attempt to replicate a Kids House, an Urban Family Institute Program and will be contacting church leaders for space availability. This project is the responsibility of PAL and is included in our budget.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- During the first year one Safe Haven will be operational (dependent on receipt of funding) and a second will be operational at the beginning of the second year.

3) *Improve ethnic challenges and diminish discrimination:*

- Develop a campaign that educates monolingual English speakers regarding discrimination and educates targeted groups about government and legal issues. Partners to lead this project are the Metropolitan Human Rights Center and the Weed and Seed Steering Committee.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- The development and distribution of materials for this campaign will be completed within the first year.

4) *Support youth and families with childcare and other critical services:* We have already begun the threefold strategy to address this priority:

- Locate a Head Start program in the target area. This project is near completion.
- A Nurse Family Partnership team has been expanded to include referrals from Rockwood.
- A Neighborhood Health Access Clinic has opened in partnership with the College of Naturopathic Medicine and Wallace Medical Concern.

D. Neighborhood Restoration

1) Improve the business vitality and image of the business community

- Intensify outreach and business assistance to Rockwood businesses through the Small Business Development Center of Mount Hood Community College, Portland Community College, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs. Representatives from each of these organizations will collaborate and intensify their current outreach efforts.
- Develop a series of community events such as a children's parade, Dia de Los Ninos, a food fair, health fair, etc. The Weed and Seed Coordinator will collaborate with other relevant organizations to organize and implement these activities.

Benchmarks to be addressed:

- By the end of the first year 25% of the business community will be informed regarding business assistance programs.
- Two events will be implemented during the first year.

2) Improve networking with all elements of the community

- Develop and distribute a newsletter. This project is the responsibility of the Weed and Seed coordinator.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- Two newsletters will be distributed by the end of one year.

3) Develop leadership and strengthen local Rockwood organizations through an opportunity fund.

- The Weed and Seed Steering Committee through funds made available from Multnomah County will award small grants to individuals and organizations that support strategies that improve the quality of life of Rockwood residents.

Benchmark to be addressed:

- Improvements in the strength of organizations and quality of life of the community.

4) Decrease poverty/increase wealth: The strategies to address this priority include:

- Develop youth employment, academic enrichment and job development services for the youth in Rockwood. The Youth Employment Institute is responsible for this project. An application for funding has been submitted to the Department of Labor.
- Conduct a comprehensive Rockwood Business Climate survey, a comprehensive database and business assistance program. This portion of our plan has been completed by the City of Gresham.

- Facilitate transportation access to employment for low-income Rockwood workers. Worklink, a not for profit organization, submitted a request for funding to Regional Strategies for this purpose.
- Note: All initiatives that are dependant on Weed and Seed funding will begin on October 1st, 2002. There will be monthly progress reports to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee and a final evaluation by our consultant, Dr. Brian Renaur, Portland State University, in September 2003 in addition to the required quarterly reports. Our progress reports will be posted on our website www.weedandseedoregon.org

3.The Federal Role: The Rockwood site has received federal support for several of our initiatives. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is represented on the Regional Gang Task Force developed locally as a part of our gang intervention strategies. A Head Start/Early Head Start program now located in Rockwood was funded through federal dollars (USDHS). The Early Head Start home-based model serves 70 children, ages 0 to 3, opened on May 1st, 2002 and is funded for \$700,000. The USDHS also assists in the funding of health services through our Neighborhood Access Health Clinic as well as with the Free and Assisted lunch program. (70% of Rockwood children are eligible.) The Department of Labor funds adult employment and training programs that provide services throughout the Gresham area including services to Rockwood residents. (Oregon has the highest unemployment rate in the nation.) We also receive ongoing support from Diane Peterson representing the U.S. Attorney's Office.

4.Sustaining Your Weed and Seed Strategies: The long- term goal of the Rockwood Weed and Seed site is to site permanent essential services in Rockwood such as a police presence, health care, and employment and training. Additional goals include; to change community norms regarding alcohol and drug abuse, diminish discrimination and provide sufficient opportunities for young people in the area so they are able to succeed as adults. If we are successful in achieving these goals, we will be less reliant on outside financial support. Oregon has suffered more than any other state in the nation in this recent downturn in our economy and local resources have been drastically reduced. As a consequence, we will be reliant on outside sources of support and local in-kind contributions until Oregon recovers. However, even in these most difficult times we are able to provide 20% of the cost of our full time coordinator out of local funds. We remain guardedly optimistic that with cooperation, coordination and sufficient advocacy, we will be able to overcome even these obstacles.