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**SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Budget Committee Members

**FROM:** Greg Stevens, Associate Director, Federal and State Grants Unit

**DATE:** June 18, 2020

**RE:** **State Fiscal Year 2021 Program Appropriations:**  
**Violence Prevention and Reduction**

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**Violence Prevention and Reduction**

Acclivus is a non-profit organization that provides hospital and community-based violence prevention services to reduce community violence. Acclivus provides a public health and community-led multi-tiered approach to reduce and prevent shootings and homicides in some of the highest risk neighborhoods of Chicago, implementing multiple interventions that work directly with both community members involved in and impacted by violence. Strategies include: 1) direct provision of centralized Hospital Intervention, 2) direct provision of community-based violence prevention and reduction programming and 3) subawards to community-based organizations for direct services and promising complementary strategies. Subrecipients will receive capacity-building support and monitoring.

Staff recommends designating \$6,546,400 to provide violence prevention and reduction in high need communities. Further details are provided in the attached Grant Recommendation Form.

Staff will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

## BUDGET COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**Program Name:** Violence Prevention and Reduction – Acclivus, Inc.

**Program Agency DUNS:** 078544388

**Funding Source:** SFY21 State Budget Appropriation: \$6,680,000

**Agency Budget:** \$1,200,000 (FY19)

**Request Type:** Line Item Appropriation

### **Program Description**

A community health organization, Acclivus, Inc.'s mission is to support community health and well-being for Chicago area populations at risk for violence and other negative health outcomes. Acclivus was formed and is led by a team of individuals with a depth of lived and professional experience in violence reduction and prevention, including management of large-scale, coordinated violence prevention strategies. Acclivus provides violence prevention and reduction programming, evidence-based and in partnership with community stakeholders, including hospitals, community leaders, grassroots organizations, government stakeholders including public health and public safety. This appropriation will support Acclivus to implement violence prevention and reduction strategy across Chicago's southside with three core strategies: 1) direct provision of centralized Hospital Intervention, 2) direct provision of community-based violence prevention and reduction programming and 3) subawards to community-based organizations for direct services and promising complementary strategies. Subrecipients will receive capacity-building support and monitoring. Direct services provided by Acclivus and community partners will include mediation and intervention in conflicts and implement strategies to reduce the shooting and homicide incidents in high need communities.

Acclivus, Inc's community health informed collaboration identifies individuals at the highest risk of being perpetrators or victims of violence by building authentic and trusting relationships within communities. Acclivus aims to reach and connect them to resources provided by community-based organizations participating in a variety of city-wide violence prevention resources. Acclivus values include a public health approach to service delivery with a health education focus, trauma-informed interventions, nonviolence, and restorative justice practices.

FY20 funding for the hospital intervention program is occurring under the line item appropriation for Metropolitan Family Services, but will be moved to Acclivus for FY21. The five hospitals are Advocate Christ, Illinois Masonic, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, John H. Stroger, and Mount Sinai. FY20 community-based services for Washington Park and Grand Crossing are also occurring under Metropolitan Family Services, but will be moved to Acclivus for FY21. In addition, Acclivus will provide community-based services for these communities: Washington Heights, West Pullman, Fuller Park, and Grand Boulevard.

### **Program Activities**

This work revolves around the efforts of hospital responders, violence interrupters, case managers and outreach workers who are professionally-trained and streetwise individuals who are familiar with street violence in the

communities where community partners are active. Hospital responders (at local trauma centers) and violence interrupters (on the streets) interact with individuals involved in violence at critical moments to prevent retaliations and influence behavior change. Both roles coordinate referrals to case management staff, case managers in the hospital setting, and outreach workers in the community setting. Case managers and outreach workers help with on-the-spot problem solving and exploring nonviolent means to address problems while simultaneously connecting participants with resources and supports (employment, continued education, social service, healthcare or housing resources, etc.). In addition to work focused on individuals, staff also conduct group level events, such as focus groups and peace summits. Focus groups are small events that provide opportunities for participants from a range of communities to have deeper conversations about issues connected with violence while peace summits are larger events in which the planning stage is the main force for community-level behavior change.

Centralized & Coordinated Hospital Response – Acclivus operates 24/7 response to victims of violence and their loved ones treated at five hospitals across the Chicago region.

Community Mobilization – Sites and grantees must hire and support a program manager who will work a minimum of 50% on the Acclivus Violence Prevention and Reduction Program, to broaden and strengthen community relationships.

Public Education – Sites and grantees must distribute public education materials within the community to provide information and resources on the following: community resources, positive alternatives to violence, consequences of violent behavior, and laws pertaining to violent crimes. Subcontractors are required to use Acclivus, Inc messaging. All public education material must be pre-approved prior to implementation.

Outreach – Grantees must hire and support a minimum of three outreach workers, plus a lead worker or field supervisor, to mediate and intervene with conflicts and provide other support to individuals who, because of their backgrounds and present situations, are involved in or likely become involved in shootings.

In addition, Acclivus, Inc will coordinate a cross-site effort that brings together community-based-sites and community-based organizations to deliver a comprehensive community outreach and engagement infrastructure in the highest risk communities on Chicago's Southside. Acclivus's coordinated strategy includes the following core components:

1. Deliver centralized and coordinated intervention and support to violence victims and loved ones at local hospitals, in coordination with community-based violence prevention and reduction services.
2. Deliver ongoing street outreach services to high risk individuals and situations.
3. Deliver proactive, prevention services to individuals who are not currently at imminent risk, considered high risk.
4. Deliver re-entry services to individuals going through re-entry – including family and community reunification support.
5. Deliver Acclivus's 40-hour violence prevention and reduction curriculum and structured booster training to all field staff, to ensure implementation of best practices developed and refined over 20 years of violence prevention and reduction practice in Illinois, nationally, and international.
6. Space permitting, staff will enroll in the Metro Peace Academy: The training academy:
  - a. Provides ongoing professional development of outreach workers to promote best practices
  - b. Ensures consistent standards in how outreach workers deliver services

- c. Establishes a city-wide network of outreach workers to ensure the highest probability of success in achieving the dual goal of cross city/multi-neighborhood outreach work and professionalization of street outreach

## **Goals**

**Goal 1:** Reduce the number of shootings and homicides in targeted areas by 10% compared to SFY20.

- Reduce the number of **shootings** in targeted areas by engaging highest-risk individuals to interrupt and change violent behavior compared to FY21 and the three-year average for shootings in the target area during timeframes when community-based sites are up and running. Chicago Police Department's City Portal website will be accessed to monitor shooting data in Chicago.
- Reduce the number of **homicides** in targeted areas by engaging highest-risk individuals to interrupt and change violent behavior compared to FY21 and the three-year average for homicides in the target area during timeframes when community-based sites are up and running. Chicago Police Department's City Portal website will be accessed to monitor homicide data in Chicago.

**Goal 2:** Change group and community norms associated with violent behavior as measured by conflicts between communities of people within the community areas served and by increases in prosocial behavior in the areas of: health, education, employment, community engagement, social support, and feelings of neighborhood safety.

**Goal 3:** Increase by 10 percent the number of average direct service hours received and connections to services for each participant served by Acclivus led and community-based sites.

## **Priorities**

In 2012, ICJIA's enabling statute was expanded to include additional responsibilities related to violence prevention. These responsibilities include distributing grants to community and statewide organizations, other units of local and state government, and public-school districts that address violence prevention in a comprehensive and collaborative manner. The program described in this recommendation will provide sub-awards to agencies for violence prevention and reduction services and strategies, to mediate and intervene with conflicts, and provide other supports to reduce the shooting and homicide incidents in high need communities.

## **Program Funding Detail**

This designation would support 12 months of funding from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Any future designation recommendations for this program will be pursuant to staff analysis of program performance and fund availability.

## **Past Performance**

Acclivus has not received funding from ICJIA for these services. However, from SFY16 – SFY18, Acclivus, Inc leadership coordinated the CeaseFire/Cure Violence state appropriation for violence prevention. In addition, Acclivus continued coordinating the hospital intervention program and two community sites under Metropolitan Family Services in FY20.

**Estimated Budget Detail**

	<b>Anticipated Total</b>
<b>Personnel Total FTE:</b> 76 FTE personnel will provide direct services, program support, program monitoring and auditing, and program management/oversight.	<b>\$3,024,980.00</b>
<b>Fringe</b>	<b>\$786,494.80</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	\$0
<b>Supplies:</b> Office supplies, program supplies, PPE for COVID-19, client emergency services for COVID-19	\$34,200.00
<b>Travel:</b>	\$0
<b>Contractual:</b> Sub recipients to implement Acclivus programs and promising violence prevention and reduction strategies (\$1,334,752); Contract to provide Evaluation (\$600,000)	<b>\$2,166,325.20</b>
<b>Indirect / Other Costs:</b>	\$534,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,546,400.00</b>