

Questions from Appropriations Committee Staff February 9, 2016
Response Requested No Later Than February 15, 2016

1. **The NOFO estimated awards would be technically awarded in approximately 30 days which I have as Feb 12. How many grants have been technically awarded? Will the remaining ones be awarded within the 30 day window? If not, when will they be awarded and which ones are they?**

(b)(5)

2. **The media is reporting that now 3 awardees will not be accepting the grant funds, is this the case? In what timeframe will a decision be made on what to do with the funds not accepted? What options are being considered?**

(b)(5)

3. **Have there been any changes to this program or are any changes being considered for this program?**

(b)(5)

4. Is there anything else we should know about?

(b)(5)

Q: Why was Life After Hate not given any CVE grant funding when the grant program was restarted earlier this year?

A:

(b)(5)

Q: Correct me if I'm wrong, but it does not appear that DHS is funding any groups that specifically work to counter white nationalist ideology -- is that because DHS does not believe white nationalism poses an extremist threat?

(b)(5)

¹ Notice of Funding Opportunity DHS-16-OCP-132-00-01 Page 5 "Anticipated Funding Selection Date:10/30/2016
Anticipated Award Date: No later than December 1, 2016"

(b)(5)

Q: I was told that Katharine Gorka was one of two people who met with George Selim during the transition and said she envisioned changes to the CVE program. Can you confirm?

A: (b)(5)

Q: I was also told that in January, Sec. Kelly's office told the CVE office that there would be a review of the CVE program, and the groups that were announced as awardees in January would be revetted. Can you confirm?

A: (b)(5)

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 8, 2016

Mr. George Selim
Director, Office for Community Partnerships
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Director Selim:

It is my pleasure and honor to support Average Mohamed's request of \$48,000 from the Department of Homeland Security's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) grant program. Through meeting with the team and seeing the impact of their work in Minneapolis, I know that Average Mohamed would be a stellar recipient of CVE funding.

Average Mohamed has been a torchbearer for the peaceful, humanitarian aspects of Islam. His cartoons touch on free speech, voting, justice, and many other hallmarks of American democracy. By making these messages accessible to young audiences, Average Mohamed is working to fight narratives – both within Muslim communities, as well as in the U.S. at large – that Islam is violent or destructive. As his name implies, Average Mohamed is just like you and me. He eats, he sleeps, he prays, he votes.

Average Mohamed uses accessible imagery and speech to challenge the narrative promoted by ISIL and Al Shabab. He shows, through verses from the Quran and Islamic history, that Muslims come from a long tradition of academic scholarship, cultural diplomacy, and peace. As he says in a video on identity, "Within you lives a diversity – yes, you are a Muslim. But you are also Black and an African. You are an American."

As one of only two Muslim Members of Congress, I have been an active participant in discussions about violent extremism. From my extensive work in my community and around the U.S., I am certain that Average Mohamed would be a standout recipient for CVE funding. I urge you to give this application your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson,
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 0150
Washington, D.C. 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Johnson:

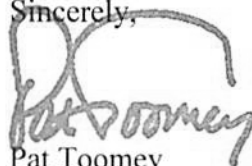
I am pleased to provide this support letter for Cambria County's application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Fiscal Year 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) grant program.

Cambria County, in partnership with organizations such as the Conemaugh Health System, hopes to implement the Stop the Bleeding Program, a national initiative to empower individuals to act quickly and save lives in the event of a mass attack. In order to implement this program, the County will conduct outreach and marketing to educate people and organizations about the Stop the Bleeding Program. The County will seek out agencies that include schools, public spaces and businesses where large numbers of people congregate, increasing the potential for a mass casualty event. Conemaugh Health System's trauma staff will conduct training sessions throughout Cambria, Indiana, and Somerset Counties. This training will specifically focus on the importance of hemorrhage control and will utilize simulators to show people how to stop hemorrhaging in emergency situations.

Upon the completion of the training session, participant organizations will be provided a hemorrhage control kit to utilize at their location. The organizations selected are strategically located throughout all of these communities, which will allow access to over 200,000 people that will be served by this project. If awarded, Cambria County and the Conemaugh Health System will acquire program supplies including the hemorrhage control kits and simulators.

In order to assist in these efforts with this project, I respectfully request that you give their application all due consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey
United States Senator

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

2016 AUG 31 PM 3: 23

August 31, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

REF: NOFO# DHS-16-ST-061-CINA-Lead

Dear Secretary Johnson,

We the undersigned Members of Congress write to express strong support for the application submitted by Carnegie Mellon University and John Jay College of Criminal Justice to the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Center of Excellence for Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis.

Given the rise in violent extremism and criminal networks in the United States and across the globe in recent years, this is a critical time to focus resources on cutting edge technology research partnerships that can augment the safety of the American public. We are encouraged by the forward looking steps DHS is taking to fund such an innovative entity and are deeply impressed by the collective expertise of the outstanding partners in this application, including the two lead institutions.

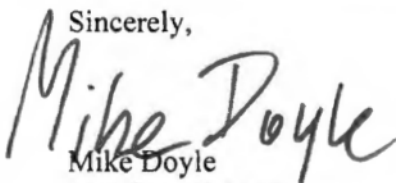
Carnegie Mellon University is one of the world's most prominent computer science research and teaching universities. They bring a wealth of knowledge in the areas of data analysis, information security, and digital investigation that will be critical to the success of such a Center.

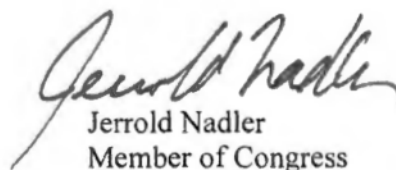
John Jay College of Criminal Justice has an excellent track record of advancing some of the most pressing research issues in the fields of criminal justice, policing and investigation. Their expertise spans key areas of forensic science, financial crimes, terrorism, human rights, immigration, transnational criminal activity and other areas that are critical to understanding the interdependency of criminal networks.

We are delighted to see these institutions combine their resources to tackle these critical national security problems. We are confident that the institutions have the research expertise, strategic vision, and administrative experience necessary to produce notable outcomes. Further, their willingness to listen to and work with DHS and the collection of professional development efforts they propose will make this Center a great success.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this application consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Sincerely,


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

DEBBIE DINGELL
12TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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September 7, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Please accept this letter in support of two grant applications submitted by Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (LAHC) of Dearborn, Michigan for the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It is my understanding that the CVE grant program has 5 different focus areas, and LAHC has identified two main focus areas for their work.

The first application is for the *Developing Resilience* focus area, in which LAHC and its partners propose to develop and sustain community resilience against efforts to recruit individuals to commit violence. This grant would allow LAHC to provide culturally proficient mental health services, job training and placement programs, and increase critical thinking and conflict resolution skills in high-risk individuals. LAHC expects to impact up to 1,200 students ages 14-18 through partnerships with four local high schools. The second application is for the *Challenging the Narrative* program, where LAHC would design and implement programs that create or amplify alternative messages to counter violent extremist recruitment or radicalization narratives with a focus on social media.

The target community for both of these programs are immigrants and refugees who are mainly from Yemen, Iraq and Syria. This population has multiple barriers to education and social services, including limited English proficiency, poverty, and feelings of isolation and fear. LAHC has firsthand experience working with this community and is very familiar with the challenges they face. For example, they recently launched a new program titled *Life Skills: Roots to Grow*, which focuses on teaching students about the perils of substance

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abuse. They are also screening students for signs of trauma so they can receive the appropriate mental health treatment. Their innovative work in this area makes them a good candidate for this grant program.

LAHC has a proven track record of assisting their community and those in need. The CVE program is designed to emphasize the strength of local communities to gain a better understanding of behaviors, tactics, and other indicators of potential future violent extremism. LAHC stands ready to meet the goal of intervening with students before they decide to commit a violent act and provide them with the tools and support they need to integrate into society. I ask that you give their grant application full and fair consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or need any more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Dingell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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September 6, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20528-0075

RE: Countering Violent Extremism Grant Application, CFDA No. 97.132

Dear Secretary Johnson,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) and its application through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Countering Violent Extremism discretionary grant opportunity.

TBRPC hopes to utilize funds from this program to develop a curriculum that will be presented to community groups throughout the Tampa Bay region. The curriculum that will be created will list critical strategies to prevent the development and perpetuation of violent extremism in the region. This grass roots effort will reach many recognized community groups, including neighborhoods associations, business associations, faith-based organizations, community watch groups, and fraternal organizations.

TBRPC serves Tampa Bay area, including a six county region along the mid-western coast of Florida. TBRPC covers over 5,000 square miles and represents over 3.4 million people. TBRPC has received and managed many grants in the past and has convened the region on several regional issues that impact the lives of Tampa Bay residents.

For the above reasons, I respectfully offer my support for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's application and I hope it will be given every consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida, District 14

2016 SEP 22 PM 2:39



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

August 31, 2016

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BY ESEC SEC
2016 OCT 17 PM 2:58

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20530

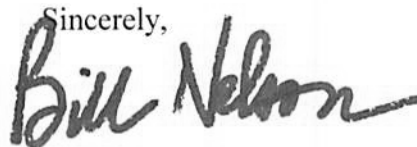
RE: Tampa bay Regional Planning Council - DHS - Grant Application for Countering Violent Extremism

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's (TBRPC) efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to develop a curriculum designed to prevent the development and perpetuation of violent extremism. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

The TBRPC serves a six county region along the mid-western coast of Florida covering over 5000 square miles and representing over 3.4 million people. If funded, they will develop a curriculum that will be presented to community groups throughout the Tampa Bay region that will list critical strategies to prevent the development and perpetuation of violent extremism. This will be a grass roots effort targeting recognized community groups to include neighborhood associations, business associations, faith based organizations, community watch groups, and fraternal organizations.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,


BN/jm

CC: Ms. Shahra Anderson, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 2016

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The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I am pleased to offer my strong support to the application submitted by the Global Friends Coalition of Grand Forks, North Dakota, for the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

No state took in more refugees per capita than North Dakota in FY 2014 and 2015. The Global Friends Coalition is an organization devoted to refugee integration. For the past two decades, dedicated volunteers have welcomed refugees into the area and helped them get established.

All of Grand Forks was shocked last year when a young man threw a Molotov cocktail into an immigrant-owned café, destroying a family's business. The immigrant community was pained by this, then buoyed when a grass roots effort raised tens of thousands of dollars to help the family recover. The incident reflects a community which is both at risk to isolated violence aimed at newcomers and full of compassionate people who want the best futures for everybody.

Global Friends and its mission are critical to merging new residents with long-time residents. Its volunteers emphasize resilience – both recognizing the difficult circumstances that led people to seek a new life and equipping them with the skills and connections needed to succeed. A young woman, who is a Global Friends volunteer, recently visited my office and urged me to get to know how this group operates. Each week, she visits the homes of immigrant families to help them understand American ways. In turn, she's come to appreciate the fortitude and gratitude these people bring to our country. I accepted her invitation and participated in a Global Friends' citizenship class, where I was able to observe people from various cultures learn together about the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship.

The strength of Global Friends lies in such everyday volunteers who bridge understanding between immigrants and the established community, to prevent isolation and a sense of rejection that can lead to extremism. Connecting immigrants to the community is achieved through building personal relationships and through community-wide events where people whose paths do not normally cross are able to mingle and interact with others. Social exposure is critical to building the mutual respect and acceptance that will thwart extreme ideologies. Along with the

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DHS-0013544-001160

Global Friends volunteers, city government is solidly behind welcoming immigrants and regional businesses look to immigrants to help address the state's workforce shortage.

With additional funding, Global Friends' activities to engage immigrants in local civic life can become more frequent, focused and even more effective. Global Friends would use the additional resources to mentor young immigrants and get them involved in after-school activities where they would gain additional support. As the state's immigrant population increases, especially from non-European countries, needs have increased. Assimilation into the community today is more complicated than for the immigrants who populated North Dakota more than a hundred years ago.

The Global Friends Coalition is a leader in North Dakota in helping immigrants become integrated into the fabric of the community. I applaud their efforts to seek new resources through the CVE grants funding and would ask that you give this application fair consideration and review. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Lauren McClain in my office at 202-224-8114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heidi Heitkamp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heidi" and last name "Heitkamp" clearly distinguishable.

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

DHS Appropriations Act, 2016 (Division F, P.L. 114-113) SEC. 543. (a) For an additional amount for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, \$50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2017. (b) Funds made available in subsection (a) for emergent threats may be transferred by the Secretary of Homeland Security between appropriations for the same purpose, notwithstanding section 503 of this Act. (c) No transfer described in subsection (b) shall occur until 15 days after the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives are notified of such transfer.



Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) Accompanying P.L. 114-113 Responding to Emergent Threats from Violent Extremism Community Partnerships

A general provision in title V of this Act provides \$50,000,000 for emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, and allows the Secretary to transfer such funds between appropriations after notifying the Committees 15 days in advance. Within these funds, not more than \$10,000,000 is for a countering violent extremism (CVE) initiative to help states and local communities prepare for, prevent, and respond to emergent threats from violent extremism; not less than \$39,000,000 is for an initiative to help states and local governments prepare for, prevent, and respond to complex, coordinated terrorist attacks with the potential for mass casualties and infrastructure damage; and not less than \$1,000,000 shall be for expanding or enhancing the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, which brings together federal, state, and local governments, and the private sector to help regions improve their counterterrorism preparedness posture, including the ability to address the threat of complex terrorist attacks. Continued on next slide

JES Continued: All funds under the CVE initiative shall be provided on a competitive basis directly to states, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, or institutions of higher education. Eligible activities for the CVE initiative shall include, but not be limited to, planning, developing, implementing, or expanding educational outreach, community engagement, social service programs, training, and exercises, as well as other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate. Existing programs should be utilized wherever practical. Eligible activities for the initiative related to complex coordinated terrorist attacks shall include, but not be limited to, planning, training and exercises to support plans, and other activities the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with this statement. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall brief the Committees on plans for execution of the initiatives, to include timelines, goals, metrics, and how the Whole of Community will

