



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

November 16, 2021

Mark White
First Deputy Commissioner
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Alfred E. Smith Office Building
80 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210

Re: Monitoring and Administration of
Public Protection Grant Programs
Report 2021-F-21

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law, we have followed up on the actions taken by officials of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (Division) to implement the recommendation contained in our audit report, *Monitoring and Administration of Public Protection Grant Programs* (Report [2019-S-21](#)).

Background, Scope, and Objective

The Division's mission is to enhance public safety by providing resources and services that inform decision making and improve the quality of the criminal justice system. To that end, the Division administers 11 State and federal grant programs aimed at crime prevention and control. The Division's responsibilities include developing and executing contractual agreements with grant recipients, monitoring grantee performance and compliance with contract terms, and assessing grant program effectiveness by using grant recipient data to identify and replicate successful strategies and programs.

Among the Division's public protection grant programs are the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program and the SNUG ("guns" spelled backward) program. GIVE is a crime-fighting program designed to assist the 17 counties that account for more than 80% of violent crime – such as aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery – in the State, excluding New York City. The Division awards 1-year renewable GIVE contracts to law enforcement agencies within these counties – such as police departments and district attorney offices – to support their efforts to reduce and prevent shootings and firearm-related homicides. In previous years, some GIVE contracts included confidential funds, which are those paid by law enforcement agencies – generally in cash – to confidential informants for tips and information. To help establish accountability over the funds and promote their appropriate use, Division contract language required that grantees that received confidential funds have a record of the signatures of the funds recipient, the officer authorizing the funds, and the approving officer.

SNUG is a violence-reduction initiative that uses street outreach to address the issues causing gun violence and reduce gun-related incidents. The Division awards SNUG contracts to

not-for-profit organizations that use community outreach and involve residents, businesses, and community-based organizations in implementing strategies to reduce and prevent shootings and gun-related deaths. For the contract year ending June 30, 2022, the Division awarded \$13.3 million in GIVE contracts and \$4.9 million in SNUG contracts.

Our initial audit, issued April 24, 2020, sought to determine whether the Division was adequately administering and monitoring selected public protection grant programs to ensure that grant expenses were supported and allowable under the related contracts. The audit covered GIVE grant contracts that were active during the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, SNUG grant contracts that were active during the period April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, and information provided by the Division through December 19, 2019.

The audit found that the Division had adequately administered and monitored the GIVE and SNUG grant program contracts we reviewed to ensure that the related grant expenses were supported and allowable under the contracts. We identified one exception related to documentation of the authorization or receipt of confidential funds.

The objective of our follow-up was to assess the extent of implementation, as of November 3, 2021, of the one recommendation included in our initial audit report.

Summary Conclusion and Status of Audit Recommendation

The initial audit report recommendation is not applicable because the Division no longer includes confidential funds in its GIVE contract awards.

Follow-Up Observation

Recommendation

Take steps to increase GIVE grantee accountability over confidential funds. These could include, for example, reemphasizing the contract requirement to maintain a record of authorization of these funds, and verifying grantee compliance on a sample basis.

Status – Not Applicable

Agency Action – Since our initial audit, the Division has reduced and ultimately eliminated confidential funds from its GIVE contract awards. Per the initial audit report, contracts issued from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 included a total of \$47,000 in confidential funds. In the subsequent year ended June 30, 2020, Division officials indicated that confidential funds totaled \$27,000. None of the 134 GIVE contracts we reviewed for the following 2 years (67 each for the contract years ending June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2022) included provisions for confidential funds.

Major contributors to this report were Karen Bogucki, CGFM; and Kathleen Garceau. We thank the management and staff of the Division for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our auditors during this review.

Very truly yours,

Sharon L. Salembier, CPA, CFE
Audit Manager

cc: John Clements