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*** *PRESS RELEASE* ***

Mayor Fulop Solicits Community Partners for \$500k Anti-Violence Program

Mayor Fulop and Jersey City Together Target Underlying Contributors of Long-term Community Violence Exacerbated by the Pandemic

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop joins Jersey City’s Division of Community Development (DCD) to announce the launch of a new grant-funded *Violence Prevention Program* designed to acknowledge, target, and respond to the uptick in violence resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The RFP was designed in conjunction with **Jersey City Together**.

Jersey City has dedicated \$500,000 in the first tranche towards the Violence Prevent Program Request for Proposal (RFP). Eligible organizations can [apply](#) for funding to launch this program focusing on helping the City’s youth, adults, and seniors within low- and moderate-income areas as defined by HUD. The RFP is open through February 18, 2022.

“We are committed to driving down crime and violence in our area, and this community-based Violence Prevention Program will leverage our local resources to address the underlying conditions that result in long-term violence,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “With this program, we want to ensure safer, healthier, and equitable communities by providing at-risk residents with the tools to heal from traumatic experiences while also providing the support and skills to achieve their short- and long-term life goals.”

The comprehensive Violence Prevention Program will address structural inequities and invest necessary resources. The new initiative will complement programs implemented in the last year, such as Mental Health First Aid efforts, as part of a comprehensive approach to address domestic violence issues, homeless outreach, violence prevention, and mental health support - all of which have seen stark increases since the onset of COVID-19.

"Jersey City Together fully supports allocating and investing in proven violence prevention strategies for our City. Community-based violence reduction models like these use outreach, connecting individuals to social services and other supports to respond to the problems we face, as a proactive approach to prevent violence from occurring," said **Bill Lillis, a member of Jersey City Together's strategy team**.

The program is shaped by community-based prevention frameworks utilizing intervention methods that are proven effective, including:

- Community mobilization efforts
- Youth outreach
- Public education
- Leadership involvement
- Mentorships
- Trained credible messengers
- Social services navigation/support
- Life management action plans

“The program will serve at-risk individuals who experience violence within their community while centering the needs of constituents. This directly aligns with our mission ‘to strengthen Jersey City through fostering strong partnerships and responsibly investing our funding resources in the community,’” said the **Community Development Division Director Deja Anderson**.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, February 18, 2022, at 11:59 pm. Applicants should be proficient in languages found within Jersey City. The [Request for Proposal application](#) can be accessed through the Jersey City website [here](#).

All media inquiries should be directed to Kimberly Scalcione at KScalcione@jcnj.org.