

**Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program  
Concept Paper  
May 8, 2020**

**Program Background**

The following Concept Paper is a precursor to the forthcoming New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (“MOCJ” or “Department”) Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (“MAP”) Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program. MAP is a comprehensive strategy to promote safety in public housing developments experiencing high rates of crime. Since launching in June 2014, MAP has worked to improve the built environment, improve access to programming and jobs, and help residents and city agencies interact to bring down crime. MAP has been focused on 15 public housing developments in which 20% of all violent crime in public housing is concentrated. MAP is led by MOCJ, who works with numerous city agencies to refine a strategy to prevent crime through strengthening neighborhoods in partnership with the people who live in them.

In response to a mass shooting that occurred on July 27, 2019 and resulted in 11 injuries and one fatality during the Annual Old Timers Day Community Event, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced funding to support the Brownsville community. The Mayor announced that the funding would support a Neighborhood YouthStat – a youth centered version of MAP’s NeighborhoodStat – that trains young people in community organizing and engagement, peacemaking, crime prevention through environmental design and a suite of mental health and trauma response skills. The Mayor has also committed resources to support a community-engaged design process to transform and activate Brownsville Playground and other public spaces in Brownsville.

For over a year, teams of residents from Van Dyke and Brownsville Houses have met with neighbors, city agencies, and community-based organizations to prioritize community safety issues and concerns. Teams have been trained in auditing their community and generating solutions with comprehensive plans for implementation and evaluation. Not surprisingly, young people between the ages of 15-24 are a critical component of building positive change that is defined and developed by the community. The next stage for NeighborhoodStat is to meaningfully include youth in this process. In addition to fostering youth development, this project all seeks to bring together neighborhood residents. One component of that work is to leverage a community-engaged design process to transform the possibilities for Brownsville Playground.

The Neighborhood Activation Study was an initiative of MOCJ, Building Healthy Communities, and the Mayor’s Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Safety. It was led by MOCJ in partnership with the NYPD and NYC Department of Design & Construction bringing together neighborhood residents and government to re-imagine and activate the built environment to reduce crime. The Neighborhood Activation study encouraged partnerships between community and government stakeholders to address neighborhood safety

through the activation of public space. We are seeking technical assistance to engage in a participatory design process with community and agency stakeholders to ensure that the transformation of the Brownsville Playground reflects the collective vision of Brownsville residents and agency partners. The goal of the initiative is to test new public space design features and space activation ideas to address community safety and vibrant nightlife.

### **Program Overview**

The Brownsville Neighborhood Safety Program will consist of two major activities: (1) A Brownsville Neighborhood YouthStat and (2) a participatory design process also to be centralized in Brownsville.

The Brownsville Neighborhood YouthStat will draw on the established leadership in the community and select three young people between the ages of 15-24 from each of the ten developments in the neighborhood; these developments include: Marcus Garvey Apartments, Brownsville Houses, Langston Hughes Houses, Van Dyke I & II Houses, Sethlow Houses, Glenmore Plaza, Sally Mathews/Tapscott Houses, Howard Houses, Marcus Garvey Houses, and Tilden Houses. Members of Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program will be trained in core components of community organizing and engagement, peacemaking, crime prevention through environmental design, and a suite of mental health and trauma response skills. They will meet on a monthly basis as a collective, uniting young people across Brownsville's developments and informing agencies and community-based organizations about the gaps in youth development and community safety opportunities. The Brownsville YouthStat participants will receive numerous training and capacity-building opportunities to ensure that they are able to advocate for the needs of young people in Brownsville and participate in government policy making processes that honor the will and desire of the young people who they are representing through the YouthStat.

The Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program will also engage residents (youth and adults) in an annual participatory design process that mirrors the Local NeighborhoodStat process that is currently deployed as part of the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety. On an annual basis, the selected vendor will be responsible for facilitating a participatory design process to generate ideas for annual, discretionary projects that can be utilized for placemaking and/or programmatic services. The vendor will be responsible for ensuring that the identification and selection process for these projects is democratic and representative of community interests and desires. The vendor will also seek to engage as many residents as possible in the design and implementation of this process. Engagement activities for this participatory design process may include a series of large-scale public events, exposure to visual and experiential exhibits to show examples of possible projects, multiple opportunities for residents to submit ideas for physical, programmatic, and/or policy solutions for enhanced safety, the orchestration of a voting process to ensure that the selection of the annual project is democratic and representative and, finally, opportunities for residents to work with the vendor and city agencies to implement the selected process.

To carry out the core activities of the Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program, the Department seeks a vendor with several of the following key components:

- A local organization that has the skills and experience in local community organizing, community impact and youth development.
- Work with community members and the Department to develop strategies for engaging harder to reach populations, especially youth and those youth considered at risk because of gang involvement or former or current justice system involvement.
- Use data analysis of neighborhood safety and contextual factors, including government investments in safety of all kinds, to inform engagement activities.
- Work with community members to identify shared priorities, promote collaboration and foster unity within Brownsville, and focus on “quick wins” to build momentum.
- Organize and facilitate trainings and other mechanisms that support core components of community organizing and engagement, peacemaking, crime prevention through environmental design, and a suite of mental health and trauma response skills.
- Have experience working closely with public agencies and community-based organization, and should have sufficient experience in public communications to ensure that effective feedback loops are created with public agencies and other organizations after the community has successfully identified its shared priorities.
- Have the experience to track data jointly and to work closely with the community and public agencies to ensure ongoing accountability.

## **Planned Method of Evaluating Proposals**

Proposals will be evaluated pursuant to criteria that are specified in the RFP. This will include the quality of the proposer’s approach and program design for each key service area comprising the Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program. In addition, the evaluation will assess the proposer’s successful, relevant experience providing similar services. Proposals will also be evaluated based on the organization’s staffing model and organizational structure as it relates to capacity to deliver these services.

## **Proposed Term of the Contract(s)**

It is anticipated that the term of the contract award for this RFP will be from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and will include two additional two (2) year renewal options. The City reserves the right, prior to contract award, to determine the length and start date of the initial contract term and each option to renew, if any.

**Total Funding Available/Sources of Funding**

The Department anticipates that the funding for this program will be approximately \$1,340,000 for the initial term (\$670,000 per year) with \$590,000 dedicated to the Brownsville YouthStat and \$80,000 dedicated to the Participatory Design process. Selected vendors will be required to submit monthly or quarterly invoices prompting payment. MOCJ welcomes comments from potential proposers on the payment approach for this program.

**Procurement Timeline**

MOCJ anticipates that the RFP will be released in the summer 2020. A pre-proposal conference will be held approximately two weeks after the release of the RFP. The proposal will be due approximately two weeks after the pre-proposal conference. It is anticipated that contractors will be recommended for award by January 2021, with contract start date of July 1, 2021.

**Use of HHS Accelerator**

To respond to the forthcoming Brownsville Youth Neighborhood Safety Program RFP and all other client and community services (CCS) Requests for Proposals (RFPs), vendors must first complete and submit an electronic prequalification application using the City's Health and Human Services (HHS) Accelerator System. The HHS Accelerator System is a web-based system maintained by the City of New York for use by its human services Agencies to manage procurement.

Only organizations with approved HHS Accelerator Business Application and Service Applications for one or more of the following will be eligible to propose:

- Community Engagement
- Outreach

To submit a Business and Service application to become eligible to apply for this and other CCS RFPs, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/hhsaccelerator>.

**Contact Information**

All comments and feedback regarding this Concept Paper must be received no later than June 21, 2020 by 12:00 pm. Comments should be sent via email to: [MOCJProcurements@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:MOCJProcurements@cityhall.nyc.gov)