

WWLP – channel 22 News video link : <http://www.wwlp.com/dpp/news/crime/new-anti-crime-task-force>

# DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE



## Northwestern District Attorney's office to form anti-crime task force

By DAVID RAINVILLE Gazette Contributing Writer

Friday, February 15, 2013

(Published in print: Saturday, February 16, 2013)

Two recent grants will help the Northwestern District Attorney's Office form a 47-town, anti-crime task force for Franklin and Hampshire counties with \$81,288 awarded by the state's Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program.

The Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force will help local law enforcement agencies coordinated their work. It will "identify, investigate and prosecute illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, gang-related crimes, major crimes, human trafficking and other organized criminal activities," said Jeremy Bucci, chief trial counsel for the Northwestern District Attorney's Office.

Bucci noted that the task force will allow law enforcement to operate beyond a single town's jurisdiction.

The task force would work in conjunction with a state police narcotics unit assigned to the DA's office, and coordinate efforts with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, according to the grant application.

It will also enable law enforcement in the 47 member communities, many of which are cash-strapped, to pool their resources.

The grant application promises that the task force's membership will contribute in-kind services and resources valued at \$588,960, in the form of training, personnel, equipment and office space.

"I am fully confident that this innovative regional task force will make a real difference in making our communities safer and stronger," District Attorney David Sullivan wrote in the grant application.

A similar state grant was used last year to create a similar task force in Berkshire County, after which the proposed task force was modeled, according to the grant application.

One focus of the task force will be the “drug corridor” formed by Interstate 91, which connects New York City with the Canadian border. The DA’s office was awarded \$63,750 to expand the Northwestern Juvenile Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership to Holyoke and several North Quabbin towns, bringing the total communities served to 51.

The program, dubbed NoFIRES, works with children age 5 to 17 who start fires. “Juvenile fire setting is a serious public safety and community problem, with over one-half of fire setting incidents in the United States and Northwestern District being set by juveniles,” according to the application.

The DA’s office estimates that as many as 90 fires are set by youths in the district each year, according to the application.

Children are referred to the program through the juvenile court system, social workers, mental health professionals, schools, police and fire departments. Once referred, they are assessed, and placed in the education and treatment programs deemed appropriate. NoFIRES was begun in 2012 with a state grant. In its first 10 months, it has served more than 40 youths.

(The daily Hampshire Gazette and Greenfield Recorder published the same story.)

# Hampshire, Franklin counties to get new anti-crime task force thanks to \$2.25 million in new grants awarded around state



By [Diane Lederman, The Republican](#)

on February 16, 2013 at 10:00 AM, updated February 16, 2013 at 10:01 AM

NORTHAMPTON – Hampshire and Franklin county programs have received nearly \$300,000 in state [Community Innovation Challenge](#) grants, including one to create a task force targeting major crime and one that brings Holyoke into an existing fire prevention program.

The awards were part of the [\\$2.25 million](#) awarded to 27 programs involving 162 cities and towns. This is the second year the grants were given. Last year \$4 million was awarded. The intention of the program is to support innovative regionalization and other cost-saving initiatives, according to a press release

The [Northwestern District Attorney’s office](#), Franklin Regional Council of Governments and law enforcement agencies received \$81,288 to implement the new Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force.



David E. Sullivan

The grant involves Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan's office, the **Franklin Regional Council of Governments**, Greenfield and Northampton and the towns of Athol, Amherst, and Montague.

The task force will involve 11 law enforcement officers "to work on important public safety crime investigations," Sullivan said.

"We have small communities and it's a way to work collaboratively" on solving major crimes like narcotics trafficking, human trafficking and robbery rings.

He said small communities don't have the resources for example for surveillance "to really get to the bottom of the criminal activity." He said local authorities couldn't have created the task force without the grant. "We need money for equipment. ... to pay for part of the overtime," he said.

The office also received \$63,750 for its NoFires program, which launched last year with an innovation challenge grant. The grant, led by the Hampshire Council of Governments, allows Holyoke, Phillipston, and Royalston to join the program that already includes Athol, Erving, New Salem, Orange, Petersham, Warwick and Wendell.

The program works with youngsters through the age of 16 who set fires or show other troubling fire-related behavior. Last year, the program served more than 45 youths and their families in the first 10 months, Sullivan said.

He said the firefighters work with the youths to help them understand the risks. On understanding the risks, the young person understands the consequences of their actions. They learn how dangerous it could be.

The **Hampshire Council of Governments** received an \$80,000 grant to work with Chesterfield and Hadley in a project called Hampshire Cloud to help those communities with networking issues.

"The Hampshire Cloud will provide a secure, fully backed-up, virus-protected, integrated computing environment that would otherwise be out of reach for the small communities of western Massachusetts," according to a release.

The state also awarded \$35,083 to expand the regional Veterans Services program with Northampton as the lead community.

The program includes Amherst, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Cummington, Goshen, Pelham, Worthington, Hadley and Middlefield.

Also Amherst received \$35,000 to implement a program that will property assessment services in Pelham.

# Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray awards \$2.25 million in grants to communities for regional services



By **Dan Ring, The Republican**

on February 12, 2013 at 5:40 PM, updated February 12, 2013 at 5:41 PM

BOSTON — Lt. Gov. **Timothy P. Murray** on Tuesday unveiled **\$2.25 million in state grants** for cities and towns to create and expand regional services, including about \$500,000 in grants for communities in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties.

The grants are one way for Murray and Gov. Deval L. Patrick to reward communities for working together to cut costs and more efficiently deliver critical services during tight fiscal times.

During an event at the Statehouse, Murray and Glen Shor, secretary of the state **Executive Office for Administration and Finance**, awarded 27 grants to municipalities, school districts and agencies that will take the lead on using the money for regional purposes. In all, the grants will benefit 162 cities and towns.



Timothy Murray *The Republican* photo by Michael S. Gordon

"Municipal officials understand it is their responsibility to find ways to do things better, to be more efficient," said Murray in announcing the grants, provided for the second consecutive year from a line item in the state's \$32 billion budget.

Murray said communities can save money and be more efficient by working together on services.

Grants for Western Massachusetts include \$110,800 for certain school districts to create a regional program in Agawam for students with severe emotional and behavior disorders, \$68,317 for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and 10 towns for regional public health services, and \$45,000 for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Holyoke, Springfield and seven towns in Hampden county to provide regional public health services.

Amherst and Pelham received a \$35,000 grant to provide regional assessing services.

**Chicopee** shared in a \$120,000 grant with four other communities to create "a municipal open checkbook system," which will allow the communities to post on the Internet certain financial information including the amount of money paid for contracts and salaries.



Todd Ford, executive director of the Hampshire Council of

Governments *The Republican photo by Dan Ring*

Other local grants include \$80,000 for cloud-based data storage in Hampshire County and \$30,600 for paratransit services offered by the two-town trolley service in East Longmeadow and Hampden.

The **Northwestern District Attorney's office** will use \$81,288 and \$63,750 grants for investigating crimes that cut across municipal borders and for a program to help prevent arson among youths, respectively.

Northampton, Amherst and eight other communities won \$35,083 to expand regional services for military veterans.

Todd Ford, executive director of the Hampshire Council of Governments, which serves 15 communities, said the \$80,000 "Hampshire cloud" grant will be used to create off-site, central

storage of computer data and software for the towns of Hadley and Chesterfield and possibly the council itself.

Ford said that Chesterfield and Hadley have individual computers with no central storage.

The effort should create a template that could be used by other communities, Ford said. The move should save money and create efficiencies and improved security, he said.

Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan said the \$81,288 grant will be a tremendous boost for public safety in the communities of Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol, all under his office's jurisdiction. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments was the lead agency on the grant.

"It's going to be great," said Sullivan, who attended the event with Jeremy Bucci, chief trial counsel for his office. "It's a great step forward."

With the \$81,288 grant, Sullivan said, the Northwestern District Anti-Crime Task Force will investigate crimes that could cross borders such as breakins or bank robberies.

The grant will be used for overtime pay for police and purchase of some equipment including cameras that can be used by undercover police and a GPS tracking unit.

Sullivan's office also will use \$63,750 grant for an existing "NoFires" program that provides clinical, educational and intervention services for youths between the ages of 5 and 17 who have been identified as being at risk for starting fires or possible arson. Holyoke this year will be added to the program. The lead agency on the grant was the Hampshire Council of Governments.

Chicopee Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette said the state "open checkbook" grant will allow the city to post on its website every check that is issued by the city.

"It's great," Bissonnette said. "It's one more use of technology to make government transparent."

Anne McKenzie, executive director of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative, said the \$110,000 grant will allow for establishing a regional program in Agawam for students with significant emotional and behavior problems.

School districts involved in the effort include Agawam, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, West Springfield, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional and Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional.

"I'm thrilled that we were able to acquire funding to help our member districts meet the needs of students," McKenzie said.

## New Anti-crime task force in creation

### Being setup for Hampshire and Franklin Counties

Updated: Tuesday, 19 Feb 2013, 8:42 AM EST  
Published : Tuesday, 19 Feb 2013, 8:09 AM EST

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (WWLP) - A new anti-crime task force is being setup in Hampshire and Franklin Counties to help police work together on major crime investigations.

According to Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan, resources from police departments across the region will be pooled together. The Franklin and Hampshire sheriff's departments--as well as police departments for Greenfield, Montague, Amherst, Athol and Northampton--will assign an officer or detective to the task force, each week for up to 25 hours.

This centralized group will help with search warrants, undercover operations, and obtaining audio and video surveillance required for successful prosecutions.

The task force will be funded by a \$81,300 grant that was given to the Northwestern District Attorney's office, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and several other law enforcement partners.

## Anti-crime task force receives \$81,288 boost

*Posted: Feb 13, 2013 2:53 PM EST Updated: Feb 20, 2013 2:54 PM EST*  
By Samantha Lavien

NORTHAMPTON, MA (WSHM) -

More than \$80,000 in grant money has enabled the northwestern district attorney's office to create an anti-crime task force.

The task force will enable all the police departments in Hampshire and Franklin counties and Athol to collaborate to investigate major crimes in the area.

Five departments will devote a part-time officer to the task force and the two sheriff's departments will also be lending a hand.

"It's so important because the smaller towns in our district really can't do it alone, they need help from other departments or from the Massachusetts State Police," said northwestern district attorney David Sullivan. "By working together, they're going to be able to address major crimes. And that could be anything from a major drug ring to human trafficking."

The money to start the task force comes from the community innovation challenge grant.

*Copyright 2013 WSHM (Meredith Corporation). All rights reserved.*

## New anti-crime task force set up in western Mass.

AP / February 18, 2013

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP) — A new anti-crime task force is being set up in western Massachusetts to help police collaborate to investigate major crimes.

Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan said creation of the task force will enhance the investigative capabilities of the Massachusetts State Police Narcotics Unit attached to his office by having a centralized group of detectives from throughout the region to help with search warrants, undercover operations, and obtaining audio and video surveillance required for successful prosecutions.

The Franklin and Hampshire sheriff's departments and police departments for Greenfield, Montague, Amherst, Athol and Northampton will contribute an officer or detective for up to 25 hours each week to the task force.

Sullivan's office, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and law enforcement partners recently received a grant of \$81,300 for the new task force.