



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

for

2027-2028 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTING THE BENTON COUNTY GANG & CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE, FUNDED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

Date of Issue: May 12, 2026

Application Deadline: June 12, 2026 @ 5 PM

Contract Term: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028

Contact: Katie DoValle, Communications Coordinator
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(509) 221-0953

INTRODUCTION

In August 2014, the voters of Benton County approved Proposition 14-5, a 3/10 of one percent (0.3%) sales and use tax pursuant to [RCW 82.14.450](#) to fund criminal justice and public safety programs in Benton County (“Public Safety Tax”). As proposed, a portion of the proceeds from the Public Safety Tax has been set aside for the Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Initiative (“BCGCP Initiative”). On November 7, 2023, 72% of Benton County voters approved Proposition 1, which removed the sunset clause of the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST).

At this time, Benton County is requesting proposals from entities interested and capable of managing programs that have gang and crime prevention as a main objective.

Recipients of funding from the BCGCP Initiative must be IRS-recognized non-profit entities (as described in more detail specificity herein) and BCGCP Initiative-supported programs must be physically located in Benton County and primarily provide services to Benton County residents.

MISSION

The mission of Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Initiative is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Benton County by reducing the incidence of gang-related and other crime in Benton County.

The BCGCP Initiative will achieve its mission by providing resources to support the program efforts of third-party Partners that have the reduction of gang-related and other criminal activity as a primary goal.

Resources to be provided will primarily be in the form of financial support though opportunities for in-kind, data-sharing, expertise, technical assistance, or administrative support resources to be considered if appropriate and allowed by law.

BACKGROUND

On November 7, 2023, Benton County voters approved Proposition 1, which removed the sunset clause of the “Public Safety Sales Tax” (PSST) or the “three-tenths”. The PSST is a three-tenths of one percent (0.03%) sales and use tax, authorized by [RCW 82.14.450](#) intended to provide additional funds to the County and its cities dedicated specifically toward personnel expenses and programming support for public safety purposes.

This can and has included the hiring of criminal justice related personnel and direct costs related to different kinds of services aimed at outcomes that are in keeping with the intent of the PSST.

Cities within Benton County receive a share of the PSST revenue and can spend it how they see fit in accordance with [RCW 82.14.450](#). Benton County’s share has gone toward support of its courts, attorneys, law enforcement, and related services; and a portion has been set aside for the Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Initiative.

PROGRAM/PROJECT PARAMETERS

The funding decisions of the BCGCP Initiative must fall within the parameters and guidance of the text of voter-approved Proposition 1, enacted by Resolution 2023-505, which read:

The Benton County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2023-505 concerning funding for public safety, law enforcement and criminal justice. This proposition would continue funding for criminal justice needs such as police officers, sheriff deputies and prosecutors (55 officers and 4 prosecutors are currently funded with this tax), defenders, Metro Drug Task Force and other gang and crime prevention efforts, and court and clerk needs, including judicial officers and drug courts, by continuing the sales and use tax of three-tenths of one percent (thirty cents on a hundred dollar purchase)

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

A total of \$1.8 is available for all external project/program requests made through the Benton County Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative. **Individual proposals/applications are limited to a \$600,000 funding request for the two-year project/program.**

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS & PROGRAMS

This RFP is open to non-profit corporations, governmental agencies, or other entities registered as tax exempt with the IRS under 501(c)3, 501(c)4. *Churches and other tax-exempt religious organizations are welcome to apply but must have recognized 501(c)3 status in order to do so.*

Tax exempt applicants must have an *approved* registration for 501(c)3 or 501(c)4 (pending applicants are not eligible) in good standing and must be currently registered to do business in the State of Washington through the Washington State Secretary of State's Office. Applicants do not have to have their primary place of business in Benton County, but the proposed programs or projects must be physically located in, or occur entirely within, Benton County, and must be intended to serve residents of Benton County.

To qualify for support through the BCGCP Initiative, programs must have gang-related and/or other crime prevention as a central goal, must use an evidence-based approach to this goal, and must have specific, measurable, meaningful, and community-significant performance measures related to this goal.

The maximum period for such a contract shall be two years, with specific targets and deliverables. Benton County believes in partnerships and the power of combined resources and encourages applicants to have projects leveraged by multiple sponsors or backers.

Benton County will consider the following type of programs:

- On-going financial support proposals for new programs;
- Continued funding for existing PSST funded programs; or
- Existing program expansions.

OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE

The most competitive proposals will be those that identify well-defined and reasonably achievable outcomes with associated metrics that make performance toward those outcomes' measurable for evaluation on a monthly or quarterly basis.

DELIVERABLES

Based on the type of project or program, a suitable reporting requirement will be negotiated between Benton County and successful applicants during the contracting process. Such deliverables should be able to document the measured performance of the project/proposal, demonstrating that an ongoing program is delivering the intended social value to the community.

SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT DATES

- May 12, 2026 – RFP open for applications
- June 12, 2026 – Applications due by 5 PM (applications received late will be disqualified).
- July 14, 2026 – Applicant oral presentations to Board of Commissioners (final date, time, and location are yet to be determined and subject to change – applicants will be notified).
- July 21, 2026 – Award recommendations made to the County Commissioners. Notification of funding and contracting process will begin immediately after this notification.
- All contracts awarded under this program will commence on January 1, 2027, and expire December 31, 2028, unless terminated sooner under the terms of the contract.

CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contractual arrangement for BCGCP Initiative support will be in the form of Benton County's Public Safety Services Contract (example included). This contract should be reviewed by interested parties *prior* to application. Acceptance of any application is conditioned on the applicant entering a Public Safety Services Contract in substantially the form as the example.

PAYMENTS

Payment schedule specifics will be negotiated with successful applicants during the contracting phase. Payments will operate on a cost-reimbursable basis only, to be made by the County to reimburse program expenses accrued by the provider and only after the County has been able to review said expenses. Interested parties should consider this from an operations and cash-flow perspective before making application. Funds received by approved and contracted parties shall not be banked for later use. If funds are not used for the outlined, invoiced purpose, the County may request reimbursement.

PROPOSAL APPLICATION, COMPONENTS, AND ATTACHMENTS

Application: The proposal application shall be completed using the attached fillable PDF, signed, and submitted to Benton County. Please ensure that all responses adhere to space allotted.

Components: Please combine all proposal components below into one PDF document, which will be emailed to Benton County. Please provide the following information in the order presented:

- Non-Profit Organizational Finances: Provide the following financial documentation for the past two years (2024 & 2025):
 - Copies of 990-series filings made with the IRS
 - Copies of **audited** financial statements
- Provide a copy of your 2025 operating budget as approved by your Board of Directors or similar governing body.
- Provide a detailed, 2-year budget (2027-2028) for your program or project, including any leveraging funds to be received from other sources.
- Provide resumes for any key personnel associated with the project.
- Provide primary and alternate contact information for the program or project lead.

Attachments: Please include the following, in separate documents along with your submittal, saved in PDF format.

- IRS Form W-9
- Tax-exempt determination letter from the IRS (if applicable)
- Non-Discrimination form (provided)
- Non-Collusion form (provided)
- Debarment form (provided)

SUBMITTAL

All applications and associated documents must be submitted via email and in PDF format, with "Public Safety Sales Tax Application" in the subject line to Katie.Dovaille@co.benton.wa.us. You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of your application by the County.

The application deadline is 5:00 PM on Friday, June 12, 2026. Applications will not be accepted in any other fashion – hard copy and faxed applications will not be accepted. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered and will be disqualified.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations of all applications are required, and a final date, time, and location for said presentations will be provided to all applicants upon selection of the meeting date. The meeting is currently anticipated to be held July 14, 2026.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Committee will be determined by the County Commissioners. Applications will be screened by staff for completeness, and Benton County reserves the right to discard and disregard incomplete applications.

Complete applications will be transmitted to the Selection Committee, after completion of oral presentations, which will review and score the applications. After its review of the applications, the Selection Committee will make recommendations to the County Commissioners based on the scoring of the proposals and the funds available.

The County Commissioners will consider the recommendations of the Selection Committee and make the final decisions regarding which proposals will receive offers for funding. Final scores will be based on the average of the scores of all selection committee members.

Applications will be scored on the following categories:

Program or purchase meets the intent of Proposition 14-5 (above)	30 points
Demonstrated need for program or purchase within Benton County	20 points
Proven examples of how program or purchase will support public safety	20 points
Funding/resources leveraged outside of the Public Safety Tax contribution	10 points
Ability of the applicant to execute the proposed program or purchase	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

INQUIRIES AND CONTACTS

Please visit the County website for more information about the Public Safety Sales Tax: BentonCountyWa.gov.

If you have questions or concerns about the application, attachments, or other forms contact:

Katie DoValle, Communications Coordinator
Katie.Dovalle@co.benton.wa.us
(509) 221-0953

A "Frequently Asked Questions" document will be provided after release of the RFP to address frequent concerns, if needed. This document will be available on the County website along with the RFP documents.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RFP

By submitting an application, all applicants agree to, and are bound by, the following terms and conditions:

- This is a request for proposals by interested parties only. Benton County does not, by the publication of this RFP, guarantee funding or guarantee that any programs will be supported by the BCGCP Initiative. Benton County reserves the right to withdraw funding or to discontinue the BCGCP Initiative at any time with or without notice as it sees fit or appropriate.
- This request for proposal is not an offer by Benton County, its elected officials, employees, or agents that can be accepted by anyone. Only after a binding contract is executed fully by a successful applicant and the Benton County Board of County Commissioners will Benton County be bound by any contractual obligations.
- Benton County reserves the right to change the terms and conditions of either this request for proposal (including timeframes, deadlines and any other aspect it deems appropriate to change) or the terms and conditions of the contract to be offered, with or without notice and without recourse by applicants or any other party alleged in any way to be negatively affected. In addition, Benton County reserves the right to waive any irregularities in any application submitted.

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