



# Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships

Quarterly Update on Programmatic Performance

FY16 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grant Program

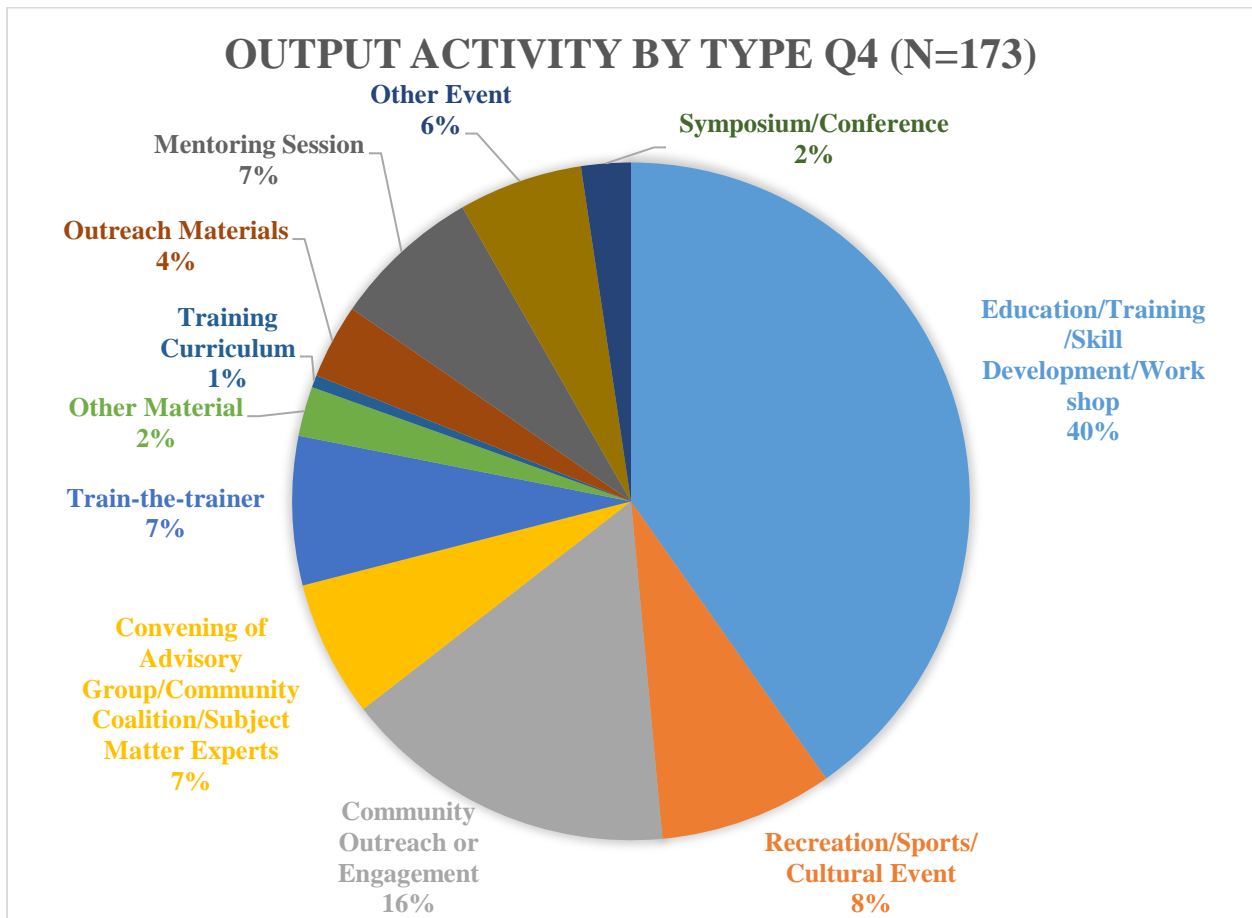
Quarter 4: April 1 to June 30, 2018

## Introduction

The fourth quarter of the CVE Grant Program saw continued progress on delivering project outputs and deliverables. Grantees continued to make partnerships, identify lessons learned and build promising practices.

## Performance Measurement

The fourth quarter (Q4) of the grant program ran from April 1 – June 30, 2018. Grantees maintained a similar number of activities from Q3 to Q4. The breakdown of activity by type is below.



Grantees reported in-person activities with participation from approximately 9,000 individuals. Categories of individuals participating included *General Community Audience* (41%), *Young*

*Adult or Student (37%), Parent of Youth or Young Adult (9%), Police/Law Enforcement (3%), Faith Leaders/Religious Leaders (3%), Social Service Providers (2%), Government Representatives (Local, State, Federal, Tribal) (1%), Teachers/ School Staff/ Educators (1%), Mental/Behavioral Health Providers(1%), Other Service providers(1%), and Other (1%)<sup>1</sup>.*

### **Highlights and Examples from Reported Activities**

- One grantee jointly planned and facilitated a conference geared to youth and faith leaders that linked the nearly 200 participants to job opportunities/assistance and other social service resources. The purpose of the event was to foster community resilience by better connecting available resources to those with resource needs.
- A police department project engaged 170 youth (a portion of which have had previous interactions with the juvenile justice system) in multi-week sports programming during the quarter with police officers as coaches/mentors. The project reported low attrition of the youth from one week to the next, and positive feedback from youth and officers. The program aims to enhance resiliency of the youth while breaking down barriers between police and the community.
- One Sheriff's Office utilized their trained liaison officers to participate in 61 community events and with approximately 1000 members of the community. The connections made between the officers and community members is intended to enhance the overall resiliency of the community by breaking down barriers to reporting and enhancing officer understanding of the community and its needs.

### **Digital Activity**

Grant recipients, particularly in the Challenging the Narrative Focus Area, have continued to be active online in Q4. Recipients have conducted messaging campaigns, launched message creation competitions, and hosted resources on their websites. During Q4, recipients displayed content (impressions) approximately 1.4 million times and users engaged with the material approximately 23,000 times.<sup>2</sup>

- An online hackathon by America Abroad Media challenged users to submit memes challenging hate and violent extremism. Submissions that met the criteria were approved and winners were selected by the reach of the meme that each submitter marketed to their social networks. The competition resulted in approximately 483,000 impressions and 4,900 engagements.
- The American Muslims Against Terrorism and Extremism Initiative promoted a series of video during this quarter, totaling approximately 615,000 impressions, led by one video with approximately 390,000 impressions.

### **Partnerships**

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<sup>1</sup> Includes: Activists/Advocates, Other Participants, Other Front Line Workers (government), Public Health Professionals, Business Owners/Entrepreneurs, Individuals Impacted by Terrorism, Volunteers, Other Front Line Workers (non-government).

<sup>2</sup> Engagement figures here include: social media likes, comments, and shares; marketing click throughs; and standalone website views.

Grantees continued to forge new partnerships in Q4, though the pace varied across the grantees. The total number of partners developed under the program rose from 992 in Q3 to 1109 in Q4. Essentially two models have emerged based on project type:

1. Projects seeking to develop capability added new partners to increase utilization or deployment
2. Projects with established capabilities have largely settled on their implementing partners and are working through their project plans. Thus, there is little to no need to add additional partners.

### **Lessons Learned/Promising Practices**

Grantees are encouraged to critically examine their work and identify promising practices, that is aspects that are going well and have promise to be replicated. They are also encouraged to identify challenges they faced and if or how they overcame them to help identify lessons learned.

1. **Curriculum for Youth**: Structured engagements with youth (ages 6 to 18) are yielding protective factors in individuals and contributing to community resiliency. Four of the grant projects, two involving police departments and two involving non-profit organizations, have engaged youth and, in some cases, their families with structured classes, mentorships and other forms of structured engagement efforts. Initial reporting from these projects indicates youth viewed these programs positively. In the specific cases where police departments served as mentors or coaches for youth, early indications found that the participating officers obtained better understanding of the community they work in allowing them to more effectively conduct their work.
2. **Leadership Transitions**: Several states and cities have noted the challenge of maintaining continuity of effort when key partners or staff have moved on. Grantees have reported that establishing buy-in at multiple levels and departments of an organization can mitigate changes in leadership as long as the activity has become a core element of the various elements of the organization's missions. Given the expertise needed to work in the complex area of prevention work, widely sharing the knowledge of terrorism prevention activities within an organization and with community leaders and partners has helped mitigate staff losses by creating a cadre of willing permanent or temporary replacements. While terrorism prevention is a complex field, once understood, it tends to engender a passion amongst those who learn about it.
3. **Transparency and Engagement**: Multiple recipients have identified that transparency and engagement with communities has been a necessary component of their success. Recipient staff and partners have spent significant time working with skeptical community members and being transparent about their activities both voluntarily and through open records laws.
4. **Community Coalitions**: One grantee reported that the composition of their community coalition posed a challenge. The coalition is comprised of members from various professions that at times had equities that were not well aligned. They found that a strong, consensus-building chair is necessary to help bridge gaps and bring about continuity for a coalition with a mission vastly different from what has been attempted previously within the community.

## **Individual Project Descriptions and Progress**

Below are brief project descriptions for all CVEGP awards, and updates based on the most recent quarterly performance progress reports.

### **Focus Area 1: Developing Resilience**

#### **Police Foundation (Washington, D.C.) \$484,835**

**Description:** The recipient is creating mentoring programs between Boston Police Department (BPD) and Somali-American youth to enhance the resiliency of the Somali-American community in Boston. The project, named Youth Police Initiative Plus (YPIP), is building off of previously conducted Youth Police Initiatives (YPI) conducted in over 25 jurisdictions, including Boston, since 2003 for the purposes of lowering general youth crime and violence by creating stronger connections between youth and police. Research has shown promising results in some aspects of the YPI, which YPIP is implementing. The project focuses on international terrorist organizations most often targeting Somali-American youth.

**Quarterly Update:** Police Foundation completed its first YPIP Cohort with 19 youth and 13 Boston Police Officers. The Boston Police Commissioner attended the graduation and several BPD officers maintained contact with the youth following graduation.

#### **Tuesday's Children (New York, NY) \$386,670**

**Description:** The recipient is delivering culturally competent mental health and support services through an evidence-based Long-Term Healing Model for building resilience in communities impacted by terrorism and mass tragedies. The project supports an existing peace building and conflict resolution initiative titled Project Common Bond. The project's goal is to enhance critical thinking and civic engagement among communities at risk for, and recovering from, terrorism, war, and mass shootings. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Tuesday's Children is preparing to launch the online toolkit for their Long-Term Healing Model. The site has been active in draft form for several months for user testing and content review by partners and external experts in traumatic stress, disaster recovery, and mental health specialists; corporate analysts; nonprofit partners; foundation and philanthropy experts; and international experts on work with victims of terrorism. Additionally, Tuesday's Children continues to communicate and follow up with individual community leaders interested in long-term healing in multiple areas impacted by mass tragedies to provide information on best practices in disaster response and recovery.

#### **Heartland Democracy Center (Minneapolis, MN) \$423,340**

**Description:** The recipient is expanding their existing civic engagement and empowerment programs working with youth and parents, including participants from immigrant and refugee communities in Minnesota. This project also has training and outreach activities planned which aim to expand dialogue around a broad range of topics relating to youth, education, violence prevention, community resilience and civic response.

**Quarterly Update:** Heartland Democracy Center continued to provide educational services to youth (after school programming that encourages creativity and story-telling to build pro-social skills) and parents (monthly meetings to discuss and gain information on a variety of topics from public safety concerns to financial literacy). Additionally this quarter they conducted planning

activities for late summer and school year activities to continue to develop resilience and empowerment capabilities with their participants.

### **Peace Catalyst International (Greenwood Village, CO) \$95,000**

**Description:** The recipient is building interfaith working groups in locations across the nation between Muslim and Christian groups to counter narratives propagated for radicalization to violence. The working groups will empower grassroots leaders to implement and evaluate countering violent extremism actions. The project focuses on preventing both violent Islamist extremism and domestic violent extremism against Muslims.

**Quarterly Update:** On April 9-11, Peace Catalyst International convened a "Seek the Peace" consultation at Duke University with the goal of equipping and catalyzing a network of Muslims and Christians" to create safe, just, and vibrant cities." Over 40 participants from 12 cities attended. The consultation included a former "alt-right" member and a former Al Qaida recruiter, both of whom shared their stories - which highlighted similarities between both individuals in terms of trauma and loneliness as well as well as the power of compassion to help them leave these movements. Experts from the Strong Cities Network also spoke.

### **Seattle Police Department (Seattle, WA) \$409,390**

**Description:** The recipient employs a focused and localized community approach, on the micro-neighborhood level, to prevent recruitment and radicalization to violent extremism among refugee women, youth, and disenfranchised populations in ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhoods. The recipient builds off an existing program that engages with community representatives to guide police resource investments at the neighborhood level. The project has the capacity to address all forms of violent extremist threats identified in the community assessments.

**Quarterly Update:** Seattle Police Department completed first cohort of the Immigrant Family Institute (IFI), from which 18 families and 15 officers graduated. This was higher than initially planned and the program has interest already for the next cohort in 2019 and has begun planning for that cohort.

### **Nashville International Center for Empowerment (Nashville, TN) \$445,110**

**Description:** The grant recipient uses youth engagement, inter-cultural/-faith exchange, and community outreach activities to increase the resilience of communities to domestic terrorism and new American youth who may be considered "at risk" for radicalization and violent extremism. The project's goal is to build mutual respect and understanding among people of different faiths, cultures, and ethnicities. It focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE) continued to provide educational, health, and recreational services to their community throughout Q4. NICE kicked off the Youth Mentorship Program that matched 20 mentors with New American youth to help provide positive role models and outside advocates for these young people. Additionally, the Youth Empowered to Achieve (YEA!) project finished the school year with its four sites. During the summer, YEA! partnered with three summer camps to continue to provide activities to positively impact resilience.

### **Focus Area 2: Training & Engagement**

### **City of Houston Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security (Houston, TX) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient works with the Houston Regional CVE Steering Committee to host scenario-based workshops for parents and youth, interfaith engagements, as well as a train-the-trainer program to ensure sustainability of the program. The project addresses all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** City of Houston Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security encountered delays because of the impact of hurricane Harvey in the Houston area, but in Q4 completed its vendor procurement and continued outreach efforts with its steering committee.

### **Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Chicago, IL) \$187,877**

**Description:** The recipient develops and delivers a bystander/gatekeeper training program to educate a broad cross-section of communities on how to intervene with individuals who exhibit warning signs of either radicalization to violence or planning an act of ideologically inspired violence. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism and includes at least one site focused specifically on domestic terrorism.

**Quarterly Update:** Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority analyzed data from the focus groups conducted in the last quarter. Leadership and Staff worked to secure a curriculum design specialist and to work with community members to enhance transparency and stakeholder buy-in.

### **Global Peace Foundation (Lanham, MD) \$453,497**

**Description:** The recipient is providing training and fostering community engagement in New Jersey to counter violent extremist recruitment by 1) raising awareness of the frontline law enforcement workers and community leaders on indicators connected to violent extremism, including active shooters, through train-the-trainer programs; and 2) strengthening community and law enforcement partnerships to counter violent extremism through community engagement events. The recipient addresses all forms of violent extremism. The recipient secured a commitment from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and other law enforcement entities to bring this training to all law enforcement officers in the state by 2020.

**Quarterly Update:** Global Peace Foundation completed their training curricula and began to conduct train-the-trainer events. They conducted community engagement events, launched their Urban Peace Building Initiative website, and continued to coordinate on terrorism prevention training statewide in NJ.

### **Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (Lincoln, NE) \$300,000**

**Description:** The recipient conducts community engagement that identifies and addresses barriers to reporting in rural and small/mid-sized communities, facilitates the reporting of concerns, enhances the resilience of local communities to violent extremism, and increases awareness of observable behaviors associated with the process of radicalization. The recipient addresses all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued to conduct outreach on its capabilities. The project team continues to share its efforts with the broader health

professional community nationwide and has utilized the baseline surveys completed last quarter to inform their train-the-trainer curriculum under development this quarter.

**City of Dearborn Police Department (Dearborn, MI) \$51,521**

**Description:** This project provides a means for the Dearborn Police Department to offer training open to all city residents – as well as neighboring community members. The training and awareness briefings are held at various venues spread geographically across the city throughout the two years of the grant. The recipient will address all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** City of Dearborn Police Department delivered three threat awareness briefings to the community this quarter, each of which was coupled with outreach activities to increase participation.

**National Consortium for Advanced Policing (Los Angeles, CA) \$200,000**

**Description:** The recipient is delivering a community resiliency training program across the 66 largest metro areas in the country that will provide an understanding of all forms of violent extremism, how they manifest themselves in local communities, how community policing strategies can be used to develop a safety net of relationships that can lead to early detection and prevention, and how each municipality plays a role. The recipient is now teamed with the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and targets police executives, some of which have been involved in MCCA's committee on Preventing Terrorism and Targeted Violence which is reviewing promising practices already in place in MCCA member cities.

**Quarterly Update:** National Consortium for Advanced Policing compiled a draft format for the Implementation Guide that aims to assist agencies to identify what might work for their own operations, and how they might adapt the program. The Implementation Guide has placeholders for sharing examples, case studies, and training resources and guidance. The results from the discussions with major city police agencies are being leveraged for incorporation into the guide.

**Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (Minneapolis, MN) \$347,600**

**Description:** The recipient is implementing several two-day community engagement workshops and expanding their Community Engagement Team to engage new residents, learn from cultural communities, and meet the demand for prevention and education initiatives among new Americans. The project focuses on international terrorist organizations most often targeting Somali youth.

**Quarterly Update:** Hennepin County Sheriff's Office hosted their first Women for Peace Workshop and sworn officer liaisons trained in the previous quarter logged approximately 275 overtime hours conducting community outreach activities.

**City of Arlington Police Department (Arlington, TX) \$47,497**

**Description:** The recipient is developing and delivering an engagement program to strengthen partnerships between the recipient and the Muslim community in Arlington. The recipient has previously created and sustained an engagement program that is responsive to the city's residents, and this effort will extend those efforts based on recommendations of a Duke University study on the role of community policing in CVE.

**Quarterly Update:** Arlington Police Department Staff interacted with approximately 100 community members with a formal presentation that was well received at the site and elicited a request to return again. Plans are underway to engage with another site in the community in Q5.

**National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices (Washington, D.C.)  
\$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient has launched a “State Approaches to Violent Extremism (S.A.V.E.) Policy Academy” program through governors’ offices across the U.S. The NGA Center will provide state sub-grants to five competitively selected states and assist them with adopting and implementing a sustainable, flexible “Roadmap” to support statewide CVE efforts. This project will focus on all forms of violent extremism, including the drivers of extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** National Governors Association hosted its first Policy Academy in June and worked with the four states before and after that event.

**Denver Police Department (DPD) \$481,313**

**Description:** The recipient is focused on all forms of violent extremism, with a particular focus on domestic violent extremism (white supremacist VE, animal rights/eco-terrorism VE, sovereign citizen VE, etc.). DPD is working on officer training, civilian training, school-based mentoring, and outreach efforts to all of Denver’s residents to share information and open connections.

**Quarterly Update:** Denver Police Department continued its law enforcement training and its non-profit partner completed its mentoring curricula and delivered it to DPD and community mentors.

Focus Area 3: Interventions

**City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Public Safety (Los Angeles, CA) \$425,000**

**Description:** The recipient planned to expand the reach and accessibility of CVE programming across the approximately 10 million people in the LA region. As well as complement other CVE prevention, resilience, and mental health services ongoing in the LA Area. The recipient planned to deploy a comprehensive training program to elevate knowledge and access to resources for interventions in coordination with CVE professionals and Community Based Organizations (CBO).

**Quarterly Update:** City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Public Safety terminated their grant award with DHS in August 2018 due to administrative delays they encountered and concern their project was no longer possible during the remainder of the period of performance.

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (MA EOPSS) (Boston, MA)  
\$500,000**

**Description:** The Massachusetts EOPSS is building resilience and preventing the escalation of violence and violent extremism among high-risk individuals. The MA EOPSS and its project partner, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, will target 139 men being released from maximum security prison over two years with a high risk for violent extremism. The EOPSS proposal focuses on promoting resilience by strengthening protective factors including social and problem-solving skills, self-esteem, cultural identity, good communication skills, pro-social connections/social support/family ties, commitment to education and employment goals, and



positive community engagement. The project focuses on addressing the drivers of violent extremism and is able to address all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** The Massachusetts EOPSS utilized its client centered treatment tools (the Outcome Rating Scale and Session Rating Scale) during weekly sessions this quarter to help improve the treatment provided. Contingency management strategies were employed to maintain engagement with community clients.

#### **Crisis Intervention of Houston, Inc. (Houston, TX) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient is training counselors in violent extremism risk factors and in protocols to steer callers to the appropriate resources for help, as well as marketing services through online public awareness campaigns, social media, community centers, and other means to reach young at-risk populations targeted by violent extremists. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Crisis Intervention of Houston continued marketing their active hotline through events, flyers, ads, training, and workshops with parents, faith leaders, law enforcement, and youth. Call volume remained consistent: 32 calls in Q4; 38% were reported as mental health/stress; 24% were quick hang ups – most likely testing of the line; 22% were reported as requesting basic necessities; 16% were reported as relationship problems. Counselors assess risk or threat of violence or self-harm for all calls and provide counselling over the phone and refer individuals for in person services as needed.

#### **Alameda County Sheriff's Office (Oakland, CA) \$499,125**

**Description:** Through a number of integrated efforts, this project supports the successful reentry of Alameda County residents into the community following release by working with the Criminal Justice Mental Health Program, the Probation Department, and case managers to identify individuals. They will also develop a referral network to work with individuals who may be susceptible to violent extremism as well as a trauma-informed, evidence-based curriculum for system-involved adults. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** Alameda County Sheriff's Office finalized its procurement actions in order to proceed with their project activities with their contracted partner.

#### **Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Las Vegas, NV) \$500,000**

**Description:** The recipient is creating a community-led and interdisciplinary coalition to develop and administer an intervention program for community members at risk of recruitment to violent extremism. The recipient builds on existing terrorism prevention programs that have been in place since 2009, as well as a robust set of engagement activities that address the drivers of violent extremism and support the development of an intervention program. The project focuses on all forms of violent extremism.

**Quarterly Update:** The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department community coalition met multiple times and reviewed one case. They intend to increase their meetings in future reporting periods. LVMPD continues to work through administrative issues related to vendors.

#### Focus Area 4: Challenging the Narrative

#### **America Abroad Media (Washington, D.C.) \$647,546**

**Description:** The recipient is hosting hackathons that bring together diverse groups of Muslim and non-Muslim creative artists to develop communications campaigns and content that not only counter the influence of ISIL but also encourage and enable community members to develop and promote their own CVE content. The project will focus on countering ISIS propaganda.

**Quarterly Update:** America Abroad Media completed their online competition and maintained contact with and provided technical assistance to the winners of their first in-person hackathon developing films/Virtual Reality projects. During this period they also hosted a third hackathon that focused on viral video campaigns with a low barrier of entry that would encourage similar activities by those exposed.

#### **Rochester Institute of Technology (Rochester, NY) \$149,955**

**Description:** The recipient is developing an app that will put links to open source, high-quality video editing tools, basic media content creation tools, tips on social media marketing, and pithy, relevant research findings on radicalization and recruitment in the hands of thousands. This will help make the creation of counter messages a viral practice. The project will focus on countering all forms of violent extremist propaganda.

**Quarterly Update:** Rochester Institute of Technology completed work on several wireframe and visual design documents as well as engaged with several potential vendors to build the app.

#### **Masjid Muhammad, Inc. (Washington, D.C.) \$531,195**

**Description:** The recipient is creating a robust, online multimedia platform that challenges online radicalization narratives with positive, inclusive narratives across a variety of digital media. The project will work with local law enforcement and introduce Muslim groups to them through dialogue and engagement. The project will focus on international terrorist organizations most often targeting American Muslims.

**Quarterly Update** Masjid Muhammad continued its online campaigns but focused much of its energy on building its network and finalizing production of five videos as the core content for future countermessaging campaigns.

#### Focus Area 5: Building Capacity

#### **University of San Diego (San Diego, CA) \$634,769**

**Description:** The recipient will increase community resilience to violent extremism by implementing an initiative that will build the capacity of CBOs to constructively engage Somali and Iraqi youth in refugee communities in San Diego and El Cajon. The project will increase a sense of community and reduce social isolation among the youth, while building trust between the youth and other sectors of society including law enforcement, school officials, and the business community.

**Quarterly Update:** University of San Diego completed skill development courses with three cohorts of youth and has obtained assessment data on the participants that they will analyze in the next reporting period. They continued extensive outreach to the community.

#### **Green Light Project Inc. DBA The Counter Extremism Project (New York, NY) \$298,760**

**Description:** Counter Extremism Project (CEP) is enhancing the capacity of its sub-recipient to better engage in challenging violent extremist narratives through a positive narrative-based

website called MuslimWorldToday.org to provide social resources and to allow Southern/Central Asian persons a safe space online to discuss subjects relating to religion and integrating into the US. The project will focus on international terrorist organizations most often targeting American Muslim youth.

**Quarterly Update:** The sub-recipient continued to engage its audience with fresh content through its website MuslimWorldToday.org and social media, resulting in thousands of impressions each day with programmatic oversight skills enhanced by work and training provided by CEP.