

Supreme Felons Inc.

Attn: Billy Cole

4167 Hunters Circle West

Canton, MI 48188

Phone: 734-546-9473

Email: [REDACTED]



**REACH ONE,
TEACH ONE**

**Grant Proposal for ARPA Funding for
Community Violence Intervention**

Organization Mission:

Supreme Felons is an organization working on the ground to transform communities. We work to reduce recidivism and support juveniles, elders and returning citizens to build a stronger community. We believe in credible messengers; that people will listen to those who have shared the same life experiences, and work to build mentoring relationships, provide mutual aid and directly support community members most deeply impacted by incarceration and systemic racism.

3 Year Vision:

We aim to expand our work by having a more robust program for mentoring juveniles, and supporting their families in the community, through community events and individual family support. We hope to be a pillar in the community to receive assistance when people return from incarceration, and be an encouraging force that helps ease the transition to life outside. We would like to see less stress in our communities, stronger family relationships, and truly understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on our families, to help support mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness. We believe in a holistic approach because whether we hope to impact a young person or a returning citizen, we need to involve their family and help meet their needs, to deeply understand the intergenerational trauma impacting everyone, and breaking cycles of violence. **We need to look at all of the systemic changes needed to create a healthier, stronger community, and partner with other organizations to establish a safe zone/physical location for community members to be, to exercise, get healthy foods, receive support, access services and take better care of one another. Reach one, teach one!**

The Pillars of Supreme Felons' Work are:

**Returning
Citizens**

- Housing
- Employment
- Family Unit

**Preventive
Measures**

- * Mentoring
- * Youth Programming
- * Community Programming

Mental Health

- * Men
- * Women
- * Children

We are committed to our work in the community, and want to apply for funding to increase the capacity of our organization. Below you will find a plan for how our organization projects to grow in the next 3 years, and an outline of the funding we would need to support the capacity of this new growth. We are researching multiple funding sources to secure these operational funds, and will accept partial funding if the full amount is not available.

History

Supreme Felons was created by Billy Cole in 2019 as a 501©3 Non-Profit Organization to help those reentering society to reclaim their lives, families, and communities arriving at a permanent state of non-offending without re-arrest, re-conviction or returning to jail with a new sentence.

We offer a comprehensive approach to recidivism that addresses the full range of family and professional needs, including treatment referrals and continued care for adults re-entering the community.



How can we create public safety if we have no relationship with the population most at risk of re-offending? One way is through our transformation of individuals re-entering our unique community program. The role of Supreme Felons is to reduce re-offending by providing support, creating public safety and bridging the gap with those individuals most at risk of re-offending.

The program employs individuals who have been involved with the criminal justice system. As experts in their communities, they are required to use their own journey to guide their peers away from re-offending. THE CURE IS COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

Supreme Felons leaders talking with Prosecutor Eli Savit, Stop the Violence Rally, October 23, 2021

Current Projects and Past Events

Elder Care in our Community - providing material aid support, food, and companionship to elders who may be without or separated from family, to allow them the dignity and respect they deserve as valued members of our community. Funds would allow us to purchase toiletries and home necessities, and allow us to hire technicians to complete small repairs for the elders in our community.

Juvenile Mentorship - Building Kings and Queens is building relationships with students within Ypsilanti Community Schools and other WISD districts, to



push-into schools for mentoring support, or assist school leadership. Funds would allow us to expand this programming to more schools and hire mentors to develop relationships with young people, both inside and outside of school.



Parkridge Park Community Spaces - partnering with CLR Academy and other organizations to provide activities and events in Parkridge Park for young people to attend and participate in. We would use funds to intensify the number and variety of these events and provide food at these events for families to take home with them.

Community Violence Response - leaning on our relationships with community members, we will often respond to conflicts that happen in the community, to try and help reach a truce or agreement. We would like restorative justice training and funding to develop this program into a crisis response team, hiring a social worker and paying response team members for their service.

Food distribution efforts: We currently support other organizations in their efforts to donate food to the community. If funded, we would like to host our own food distributions.



This event distributed food to the community during the pandemic, so the elderly were able to access supplies.

Stop The Violence Rally/March - October 23, 2021

We gathered with community members at Parkridge Park after a young person was killed in the community in September, to support his family and speak about the impact of violence on families and the community. We provided food for community members and spoke about taking back our streets and making them safe for all of us, and mentoring our youth to make better choices and put the guns down.



Voter Registration Drive

Before the crucial 2020 election, we organized to register members of our community to vote in October, and encouraged folks to research local elections and government, as well.



Press

March 2022 - [Health Department and Community Partners Distribute Free KN95 Masks and COVID testing kits](#)

November 2021 - [Supreme Felons joins Blake Corum for Turkey Giveaway](#)



Supreme Felons Inc (in orange) supporting a community effort to feed residents of Ypsilanti

October 2021 - [Ear to the Ground 197: Stop the Violence Rally - Bryan Foley](#) (FB Live)

An interesting article about the need for organizations like Supreme Felons to support for returning citizens:

<https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-government/michigan-has-dramatically-lowered-rate-inmates-returning-prison>

3 Year Vision (Goal-setting by Year)

2022: Begin mentoring program at ACCE High School to re-establish connections with Ypsilanti Community Schools and the juvenile justice system. Research and apply to local grant opportunities to secure funding, to continue providing food, material aid and resources to elderly and other community members in need of support. Identify mentors in the community who have successfully built lives after incarceration, and develop a cohort of peer-to-peer mentors to support returning citizens; develop the internal systems to hire and pay mentors.

2023: Expand school partnership to 3 local schools, offering in-school mentoring and community/family support in the community. Expand Parkridge Park activities into an annual calendar of summer events, to provide community support to elderly and parents, while facilitating activities for young people/kids in the community. Secure funding to pay Supreme Felons staff, mentors and coaches for summer programming, as well as year-round school and community support.

2024: Secure long-term funding to purchase or lease a local building in the community from which to operate and provide community resources, conflict mediation, events and organizing spaces. Survey community about needs for the center, and move to set up an operating schedule and make appropriate hires to staff the center. Embark on a local boots-on-the-ground marketing plan to let community members know about the new center.

Proposed Budget

Currently we run and operate 5 programs directly benefiting 48197-48198. We are hoping to lease a building out of which to run services in 2022-23. The cost of lease/rent is not included in the budget below as we have not yet signed/confirmed a lease for space. We are willing to accept partial funding toward our operating costs if the full amount we are requesting is not able to be granted.

One of the most important aspects of sustaining this work is our ability to pay our mentors, themselves returning citizens, equitably. As of now, all of our work is volunteer-based, which means that we are working other jobs to sustain ourselves and our families. A large portion of the operating budget that we are asking for is to establish funds to be able to pay our staff, hire more returning citizens as staff, and sustain the longevity and integrity of the organization.

Need	Reason	Annual Estimated Cost
3 full-time staff workers (\$50,000 per year each) 5 part-time staff workers (\$100,000 budget split between 5 team members)	Human Resources - Caring for the members of the team, Mentor Training and Conflict Resolution training, fair wages, employing community members	\$250,000/yr
Purchase of a Van	Conflict Resolution Response: developing a transportation system to dispatch out transportation assistance to-from school, to local events and field trips, crisis response team	\$60,000 (We are budgeting to purchase a van each year for 3 years with anticipation of expansion of our programming)
Events Budget	Catered food, tickets to events and activities in the community, hosting events	\$30,000/yr
Admin Costs, Supplies and Equipment	Operating and Administrative expenses: business phones, technology, printed fliers/custom apparel to brand SF in the community. Insurance, accounting, training	\$54,000/yr
Gas	To fuel organization's vehicle to pick up students and Returning citizens, drive home, take to-from events	\$6,000 (\$500 per month, about \$125 per wk of program)
Annual Operating Budget (2022-23)		\$400,000
Total ARPA CP Fund Request (2022, 2023, 2024) =		\$1,200,000.00

Assessments: What data are we collecting to assess the efficacy of the program?

We have data from the Washtenaw Sheriff's Office as Volunteer Street Outreach workers with over 200 individuals, many of whom stayed in contact with us after their release and who have not returned to the facility since May 2021. This was the start of making a tremendous impact on the recidivism rate in Washtenaw county since 2000, which has increased by 26.4%

- We also have returning citizens fill out an [intake form](#) when we take them on as a client, which can help us gather data and information about our clients' needs.
- We are open to learning about ways to gather data about our work so that we can document our success and learn how to be more effective in our outreach.

Application Info Needed for ARPA Community Priority Fund

- EIN # 80-2445932
- Audit? No.
- Diverse business certification? Not yet.

Narrative Questions

- Have you previously implemented this project?

Supreme Felons has been operating since 2019, in the capacity of supporting returning citizens and helping ease the transition process from incarceration to becoming productive members of society. This grant would allow us to vastly expand our programming, to open and offer a physical location out of which we could run programming or direct community members toward for support. This grant would also fund the expansion of our work into preventative measures, in addition to supporting returning citizens.

- What populations will your project serve?

Our primary populations would be men and women returning to Ypsilanti in zip codes 48197/48198 from incarceration, in order to begin working with them to help them secure employment, housing, health care, mental health care and mentorship. Additionally, we will look to serve young people who are court-involved or have cases in the juvenile justice system and work in both schools and neighborhoods to support young men and women in need of mentorship and guidance by setting up a mentorship program that meets weekly (adults to youth and peer-to-peer for returning citizens). Finally, we hope to continue supporting senior citizens with material aid in the forms of food, toiletries, masks, COVID tests and other needs, with monthly drop-off to seniors living in Washtenaw County, focusing on senior citizens in 48197 and 48198.

- Describe the project (include budget and upload), target population, timelines and projected outcomes.

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relationships, provide mutual aid and directly support community members most deeply impacted by incarceration and systemic racism.

We are bi-products of the community we serve, and we work with those in the community to help solve issues that arise – that's what makes us unique. We are an unconventional organization, looking to positively impact not only individuals but the whole community we serve, and because we are of the community, we see positive outcomes from our work. We aim to expand our work by having a more robust program for mentoring juveniles, and supporting their families in the community, through community events and individual family support. We hope to be a pillar in the community to receive assistance when people return from incarceration, and be an encouraging force that helps ease the transition to life outside.

Regarding outcomes, we would like to see less stress in our communities, stronger family relationships, and truly understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on our families, to help support mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness. We believe in a holistic approach because whether we hope to impact a young person or a returning citizen, we need to involve their family and help meet their needs, to deeply understand the intergenerational trauma impacting everyone, and breaking cycles of violence. **We need to look at all of the systemic changes needed to create a healthier, stronger community, and partner with other organizations to establish a safe zone/physical location for community members to be, to exercise, get healthy foods, receive support, access services and take better care of one another. Reach one, teach one!**