

Where does Crime Stoppers Miami-Dade (CSMD hereafter) get the funding to operate?

While private donations and fundraising contribute to the operating income of CSMD, the lion's share (95%) emanates from the statutorily mandated collection from individuals convicted of a crime in Miami-Dade County (\$20.00). This applies to withheld adjudications, pre-trial diversion programs and other alternative sentencing and is collected as a line item within the court cost schedule of fees. Collections accrue by and to the benefit of each county. The Clerk of Court collects the revenue and retains \$3.00 of the \$20.00 and the remaining \$17.00 is submitted to the Department of Financial Services for deposit into the statutorily created "Crime Stoppers Trust Fund" (hereafter CSTF). The Crime Stoppers statute designates the Florida Attorney General's Office (hereafter AGO) as the fiduciary of the funds and the AGO withholds 12.5% of the remainder of each county's collections as a cost/commission for administering the CSTF.

What does that mean to CSMD?

For Fiscal Year 2014-15 the breakdown (approximate) will be:

Total Court Collections	\$ 410,000.00
Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts	(20,000.00)
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Remainder	\$ 390,000.00
AGO 12.5%	(48,750.00)
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Available funding from CSTF	\$ 352,250.00
FY 2014-15 (July 1-June 30)	

Are these "taxpayer dollars" ?

Absolutely not; they are penalty dollars assessed upon convicted criminals and have no budgetary impact annually.

Can each Crime Stoppers program spend it's annual fund allotment as they see fit?

Yes and No. The AGO has chosen to disburse the funds through its boilerplate grant framework used for the Trust Funds it oversees. For example, each program must spend 50% of its allotment for Rewards and Public Awareness initiatives, 20% for Operating Costs and a maximum of 30% for salaries. Further, the three categories are broken down into allowable line items within each area.

** I have attached a copy of our "Grant" (in actuality not a grant, but rather a delivery mode of our locally collected funds). As you will see, "Grant" language starts to reveal the AGO's attitude of entitlement and control. This was clearly not the spirit of the Crime Stoppers Act, and certainly goes against that spirit in that the AGO 's philosophy and managerial practices have become increasingly adversarial to the Programs. This has, in fact, become the single greatest difficulty faced by the 32 county Programs that cover the State of Florida. It is hard to believe that a state-wide elected Cabinet Officer would allow its subordinate staff to treat grass-roots , crime-fighting private 501©(3) foundations with such utter disregard and disrespect. While I am a paid Executive Director, most small programs are operated by unpaid volunteers. What has created this increasingly difficult situation ? As an almost 30 year personnel manager I can say that it is an anomaly. It has grown in a bottom to upward motion. Low-level, bureaucratic account clerks (budget management staff) with only the slightest scintilla of law enforcement awareness, not experience, exercise control over the programs. Their next level of supervision, an example being Mr. Emery Gainey whom you met over the phone, actually have some degree of law enforcement experience but defer to their underlings. I am the most vocal opponent of this shameful cadre, including Pam Bondi herself, and I pay the price.*

Consider this position as we have been denied access to our prior approved funds for Legal Expense. Not taxpayer dollars, but rather locally collected funds intended to support crime-fighting methods and needs county by county.(I have attached my budget description of these Legal

*Expense needs specific to the risks in our litigious atmosphere.) Remember that it is these funds that they are withholding and denying our access to.) Miami-Dade County is far different from Jackson County. We solve violent crimes, murders, kidnappings on a daily basis. Jackson County suffers from livestock thefts. Why do I mention Jackson County? The "Budget Manager" for the Crime Stoppers Trust fund is the owner of a flower shop, lives in Jackson County, was the volunteer coordinator for Crime Stoppers of Jackson County and has never served in any law enforcement capacity whatsoever. Additionally, she is the most powerful bureaucrat exercising control over all 30 programs. She was riding along on our teleconference with Emery Gainey and must have taken great delight in our disadvantage. **