Extension justification for PRESS implementation evaluation

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The City of New Haven's new PRESS (Program for Reintegration, Engagement, Support and Safety initiative) seeks to provide an integrated, multi-agency approach to gun violence prevention. The Press initiative is a collaborative case management model which aims to support people with current or previous firearms convictions as they leave incarceration, and gang or group members identified as being at a higher risk of being involved with firearms. The PRESS implementation evaluation is a formative and process evaluation of the Press initiative.

Data concerning staff perceptions and experiences of the collaborative model are being gathered through interviews with multiple stakeholders over time, and observations of collaborative meetings. The researchers will engage in a reflexive "action-research" approach, whereby inquiry, discussion, and problem-solving of the implementation difficulties will occur while the research is underway. The research activities include interviews with key stakeholders and clients, review of case files, non-participant observation of collaborative meetings, and participant observation in senior leadership meetings. In total, the implementation evaluation will include 54 interviews with 27 individuals, comprised of three staff from each of the following agencies: Project More; Project Longevity; CT VIP; Project Safe Neighborhood; Department of Probation, Department of Corrections; New Haven Police Department; New Haven Health Department; and staff from three additional community agencies (i.e.: Ice the Beef). 20 PRESS initiative clients will be interviewed concerning their experiences on the program, and 30 case files will be analyzed. 35 non-participant observations of case conferences and team meetings, combined with participant observations of five leadership meetings will be conducted in order to gain a thorough insight into implementation and service delivery issues.

The implementation evaluation is due to expire on June 30th 2024. The University of New Haven is seeking a no-cost extension to extend the implementation evaluation until December 31st 2024. The reasons for the extension are due to delays accessing

employees, meetings, clients, and case files. There was a need to agree a memorandum of understanding with a key agency, which was executed and it ends on December 31st, 2024.