



KENTUCKY JUSTICE &  
PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

# JAG 2021

## FUNDING SUMMARY

**2021 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant  
Award Recommendations**

**Award Period October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022**

## INTRODUCTION

This is the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's Executive Summary for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award Recommendations, which will encompass the grant period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

The mission of the KJPSC is to ensure the safety and security of Kentucky communities through a fair and impartial administration of taxpayer resources. Our approach centers on protecting citizens, restoring victims and reforming wrongdoers - all in a focused environment where everything is measured for accountability and performance. The Cabinet seeks the best possible return from our public safety investment, using evidence-informed programs, fiscal discipline, and data-driven strategies. Likewise, we are committed to holding offenders to the highest standards of personal accountability and responsibility.

The Grants Management Division (GMD), within the KJPSC, prepared this Funding Summary.

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
Justice Assistance Grant Funding	4
State Administering Agency	4
Funding Availability	5
Funding Priorities	5
JAG 2021-22 Solicitation	6
Award Recommendation Process	6
Award Recommendations	7
Future Funding Opportunities	7
Final Approval	7

# JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (34 U.S.C. 10151-10726) is the primary vehicle of federal criminal justice funding to states and local jurisdictions. JAG funds awarded to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2021 will be awarded to subgrantees to fund enhancements for law enforcement agencies and for nonprofit agencies to build innovative programs.

The legislatively authorized purpose areas are flexible and designed to enable states to target resources where the need is the greatest. In general, JAG funds awarded to a state may be used to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas:

## **JAG Purpose Areas**

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams

## STATE ADMINISTERING AGENCY

The Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet (KJPSC) is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal criminal justice grants in in Kentucky. The KJPSC coordinates diverse funding sources, including JAG grants, to assure delivery of the most efficient and effective programs and policy development. Within the KJPSC, the Grants Management Division (GMD) is responsible for administration of JAG subawards from application through closeout, as well as subrecipient monitoring and implementation of an annual competitive JAG solicitation process.

As the SAA, the KJPSC has sole discretion to determine which organizations will receive funds, and the amount of their awards, subject to the requirements of JAG and the provisions of the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) programmatic and financial guidelines. The KJPSC ensures compliance with the pass through requirement that designates 40.5% of Kentucky JAG funds for local units of government.

## FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The KJPSC was awarded \$2,131,843 in JAG funds for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021-22. At the time of solicitation, the final award amount was unknown. Accordingly, Kentucky's JAG 2021-22 solicitation conveyed an anticipated \$1,800,000 million in funding would be available to programs based on award projections.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

Historically, Kentucky has placed special emphasis on multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (MJDTFs) that provide specialized law enforcement support to and in coordination with local, state, and federal agencies and advance statewide drug control priorities. In 2019, ninety percent of JAG funds supported MJDTFs across the state. Based on input from stakeholders, including law enforcement, lawmakers, treatment and prevention professionals, and concerned citizens, the KJPSC adopted a Strategic Plan with new priorities for JAG funding.

The *JAG 2021 Annual Report* prepared in accordance with the 2020 JAG solicitation and the *DTFs and JAG Funding Priorities 2021* resource published on the KJPSC GMD website communicated these priorities to recipients of prior year

### JAG Funding Priorities

- 01** To provide meaningful addiction treatment and recovery services to help inmates and juvenile offenders overcome addiction and stronger substance abuse treatment and prevention programs to combat drug addiction within Kentucky communities.
- 02** To aggressively pursue and implement smart-on-crime reforms to reduce prison and jail populations and decrease recidivism while preserving public safety.
- 03** To address bias and racism in our justice system.
- 04** To strengthen law enforcement training to continue public safety in our communities.

JAG awards and potential applicants. All applicants were notified that KJPSC GMD would continue funding MJDTFs, primarily those with a goal of disrupting mid- to upper-level drug trafficking organizations, and which track performance over time and demonstrate efficiency.

## JAG 2021-22 SOLICITATION

As the SAA, the KJPSC GMD follows a documented methodology for selecting subrecipients, follows the DOJ BJA rules and guidelines, and typically uses a competitive process to fund eligible subrecipients. The JAG 2021-22 solicitation was publicly advertised and open from May 14 to June 18, 2021. Applications were submitted in *Intelligrants 10* (IGX), the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's electronic Grants Management System. GMD staff were available throughout the application process to offer technical assistance with the IGX platform.

- A total of 11 prospective subrecipients applied for JAG 2021-22 awards and requested a total federal share of \$1,757,930.
- All applicants had received a JAG subaward during the prior year.
- All applicants requested support for MJDTF activities.

## AWARD RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

A fair and consistent methodology was applied to all application review and recommendation decisions. Applicants were notified of the application review criteria and process through the solicitation. The process is summarized below:

### **JAG 2021-22 AWARD RECOMMENDATION PROCESS**

#### **Application Review**

Each application was reviewed by at least two external Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). SMEs generated reviewer comments for each application, which will be made available to applicants upon request. Additionally, each application was reviewed by three (3) members of the GMD staff/internal SMEs who also generated reviewer comments.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Risk Assessments were completed jointly in IGX by JAG Program and Financial Managers assigned to each 2020 award and who have the most familiarity with each subrecipient.

## **JAG 2021-22 AWARD RECOMMENDATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)**

### **Subject Matter Expert Group Review Meetings**

GMD staff/internal SMEs met on August 20, September 7 and September 15 to review the applications, risk assessment scores and the review comments and made initial funding recommendations. Requests for additional information were also sent to select applicants and those responses were also reviewed and considered.

## **AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**\$1,698,441** in JAG 2021-22 awards were recommended by GMD in support of 11 programs. All applicants received awards and for most applicants, all requested, allowable expenses were funded.

## **FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

KJPSC GMD recommends that another solicitation be opened for 2021-22 specifically for applications to fund discretionary programs. GMD also recommends that approximately \$240,000 be set aside for this purpose. Funded discretionary projects will be those that advance the new priorities set forth in Kentucky's *2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan*. Allocating JAG funds for these programs will support long-term investments in public safety and enhance other law enforcement initiatives to better protect Kentucky citizens.

## **FINAL APPROVAL**

GMD's award recommendations were submitted to KJPSC leadership and the Governor's Office for final approval.

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