

## **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant State Application Process**

# 2024

### **Background**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary vehicle of federal criminal justice funding to states and local jurisdictions. The Commonwealth of Kentucky receives an annual award from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) based on a federal funding formula which factors in Kentucky's share of violent crime and population. JAG funds awarded to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in state budget fiscal year (SBFY) 2024 will be awarded to subgrantees to build or sustain innovative programs within eligible JAG Program purpose 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
- Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives

### **SBFY 2024 Award Administration**

The Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC), the State Administering Agency for federal criminal justice grants in Kentucky, will coordinate diverse funding sources to ensure delivery of the most efficient and effective programs and policy development. JPSC plans to make approximately \$2.05 million in JAG awards in SBFY 2024 to law enforcement agencies and private nonprofit organizations through a competitive application process. It is anticipated there will be at least 15 projects supported with these valuable resources. Grant awards will be approved for one year and administered by the JPSC Grants Management Division (GMD).

Kentucky's solicitation for JAG awards issued in SBFY 2024 will be open from April 22, 2024, until May 17, 2024. All submitted applications will be reviewed and awards recommended with an effective date of October 1, 2024. Federal funds will be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and will not replace or supplant nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. Compliance with all applicable federal guidelines will be enforced.

## **JAG Strategic Plan Priorities (2019-2024)**

**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.**

Funding will be used for programs proven to provide meaningful addiction treatment and recovery services for inmates and to decrease substance misuse and availability in 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.**

Funding will be used to support evidence-informed recidivism reduction initiatives that target underlying drivers of recidivism and evidence-informed prison population reduction strategies that have been shown to minimize risk to the public.

**03 To address bias and racism in our justice system.**

Funding will be used for training programs proven to reduce bias and racism within the justice system and for obtaining technical assistance to develop new or revise existing policies and/or protocols to reflect best or promising practices for addressing and reducing bias and racism within criminal justice system agencies and among their employees.

**04 To strengthen law enforcement training to continue public safety in our communities.**

Funding will be made available to provide law enforcement with training on best practices for engaging communities and keeping them safe.

JPSC's electronic grants management system and Kentucky's accounting system have adequate components and controls in place to ensure the proper tracking of all fund transactions. The JPSC will submit all financial and programmatic reports, performance measure data, and grant information as required by BJA. In addition, Grants Management Division (GMD) staff will provide ongoing assistance to subrecipients and perform monitoring visits to ensure subrecipients' compliance with all JAG special conditions and provisions. The monitoring visits will give GMD staff firsthand knowledge of the specific details of each project and, at the same time, foster good working relationships between the division and subrecipients.

## **Allocation of Funding**

Priority funding considerations in effect for the upcoming application cycle are established with the statewide JAG Strategic Plan (2019-2024) and communicated in the set of application guidelines and instructions accompanying the competitive funding opportunity. Programs selected for funding will be required to meet criteria from one of the nine purpose areas as outlined in the JAG solicitation and demonstrate a direct connection to one or more of the established JAG funding priorities.

Kentucky has historically funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (DTFs) with JAG funds. In 2021, one hundred percent of JAG funds supported DTFs across the state during a period JAG funds were one of the only sources of funding available for small, local law enforcement agencies. Based on input from stakeholders, including law enforcement, lawmakers, treatment and prevention professionals, and concerned

citizens, the JPSC expanded the JAG funding priorities for 2019-2024 beyond DTF enforcement activities as a part of the federally required strategic planning process. The JPSC began to implement these new funding priorities in the funding cycle for SBFY 2022.

Recognizing the ongoing need to continue to address substance abuse across the Commonwealth, the JPSC has continued to fund DTFs with a goal of disrupting mid-to upper-level drug trafficking organizations. In SBFY 2023, JPSC began utilizing funds to support additional activities aligning with JAG funding priorities, such as local police social worker and community mental health support team programs, and a program aimed at reducing recidivism among people leaving incarceration and returning to their communities. In determining funding recommendations, the Commonwealth considers other funding options that may be available or in place for priority program areas, as well as the needs and availability of services in the state. JPSC will comply with federal program pass-through requirements to units of local government and small law enforcement jurisdictions.

### **JAG Strategic Plan (2024-2029)**

The JPSC is currently developing a new JAG strategic plan for 2024-2029 in accordance with federal program requirements. The new strategic plan is being designed in consultation with local governments and stakeholders representing all segments of the criminal justice system, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, reentry services, behavioral health, and the community. The plan will identify challenges and opportunities facing the Commonwealth, describe evidence-based and evidence-gathering approaches employed to prevent crime and recidivism, and establish funding priorities for the administration of Kentucky's JAG program.

### **Public Comment**

JPSC invites feedback from the State Legislature and members of the public on the state application process and how JAG grants may be used to improve the administration of Kentucky's criminal justice system. In addition to informing the evaluation of SBFY 2024 applications, public comments will also be considered in the development of the 2024- 2029 JAG Strategic Plan. Comments may be submitted to JPSC by 6:00 p.m. EST on May 30, 2024, through the following link:

<https://justice.ky.gov/Departments-Agencies/GMD/Pages/jagreview.aspx>