

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant State Application Process

2021

Program Narrative

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program 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 Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet (KJPSC) plans to make approximately \$1.8 million in awards to a variety of projects around the state. It is anticipated that there will be at least 10 projects supported with these valuable resources.

Kentucky has historically funded multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (MJDTFs) with JAG funds. In 2019, ninety percent of JAG funds supported MJDTFs across the state. JAG funds are 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 KJPSC modified the JAG funding priorities for 2019-2024 as a part of the strategic planning process. After allowing a year for funded agencies to prepare for this change, the KJPSC will begin to implement these new funding priorities in the funding cycle for state budget fiscal year (SBFY) 2022.

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.**

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.

Recognizing the ongoing need to continue to address substance abuse across the Commonwealth, the KJPSC will continue to fund MJDTFs, primarily for those with a goal of disrupting mid- to upper-level drug trafficking organizations and which request reasonable and allowable funding and track performance over time that demonstrates efficiency. However, the KJPSC will also begin utilizing funds to support other discretionary activities that align with the JAG funding priorities. Programs selected for funding will be required to meet criteria from one of the eight purpose areas as outlined in the JAG solicitation.

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

The KJPSC, as the State Administering Agency for federal criminal justice grants in Kentucky, will coordinate diverse funding sources to assure delivery of the most efficient and effective programs and policy development. The KJPSC will ensure compliance with the pass through requirement that designates 40.5% of Kentucky JAG funds for local units of government. Federal funds will be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and not replace or supplant nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. There will be a 10% cash match required for all JAG funds provided through the KJPSC and compliance with all applicable federal guidelines will be enforced.

Kentucky's solicitation for SBFY 2022 is currently open. All applications completed and submitted will be reviewed and awards will be made with an effective date of October 1, 2021. Grant awards will be approved for one year.

The KJPSC's electronic grants management system and Kentucky's accounting system have adequate components and controls in place to ensure the proper tracking of all funds transactions. The JPSC will submit all financial and programmatic reports, performance measure data, and subgrant information as required by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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 a good working relationship between the division and subrecipients.

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