

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant State Application Process

2023

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 2023 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 (JPSC) plans to make approximately \$1.6 million in awards to a variety of projects throughout the state. It is anticipated that there will be at least 13 projects supported with these valuable resources.

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. 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 JPSC modified the JAG funding priorities for 2019 - 2024 as a part of the strategic planning process. The JPSC began to implement these new funding priorities in the funding cycle for state budget fiscal year (SBFY) 2022 and will continue to evaluate these efforts in preparation for developing a new JAG strategic plan for 2024 - 2029.

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 JPSC will continue to fund DTFs, 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. In SBFY 2022, the JPSC began utilizing funds to support additional discretionary activities that align with JAG funding priorities, such as implementing police social worker and community mental health support team programs in local police departments.

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 JPSC, 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 JPSC 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 will 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 JPSC. Compliance with all applicable federal guidelines will be enforced.

Kentucky's solicitation for SBFY 2023 closed on May 19, 2023. All 17 submitted applications were reviewed and awards will be recommended with an effective date of October 1, 2023. Programs selected for funding will be required to meet criteria from one of the eight purpose areas as outlined in the JAG solicitation. Grant awards will be approved for one year.

The 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 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 good working relationships between the division and subrecipients.

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