

2025

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
STATE APPLICATION PROCESS

TEAM 
KENTUCKY®

JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant State Application Process

2025

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 (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) based on a federal funding formula that factors in Kentucky's share of violent crime and population. Under the FY25 JAG program, the U.S. DOJ BJA allocated \$2,342,010 to Kentucky.

FY25 Federal JAG 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.

In 2026, JPSC will run a competitive grant application process using FY25 federal JAG funding. Any state agency, unit of local government (i.e., city, county, township, town, or federally recognized American Indian tribe) or not-for-profit organization will be eligible to apply for award funds.

JPSC Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center (CJSAC) staff will complete a thorough review of all applications using a scoring rubric. These scores will be used to inform funding recommendations and selections.

JAG Program Areas

1. Law enforcement programs.
2. Prosecution and court programs.
3. Prevention and education programs.
4. Corrections and community corrections programs.
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).
8. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.
9. Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including but not limited to mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.
10. Programs to purchase and operate unmanned aircraft to benefit public safety.
11. Programs to purchase and operate counter-UAS systems

2024-2029 Kentucky JAG Strategic Plan Funding Priorities

- 01** To fight addiction and reduce overdose deaths through improved enforcement, prevention, and access to treatment
Funding will be used for programs proven to provide meaningful addiction treatment and recovery services, law enforcement programs focused on disrupting mid- to upper-level drug trafficking organizations, and prevention programs to reduce substance misuse in Kentucky communities.
- 02** To implement smart-on-crime reforms to decrease recidivism and reduce prison and jail populations while preserving public safety
Funding will be used to support evidence-informed recidivism reduction strategies and “second chance” programs that target drivers of recidivism.
- 03** To pursue innovative programs that address crime and violence reduction strategies.
Funding will be used to tailor programs and responses to state and local crime issues using data and analytics. It will also enhance public safety and security by increasing engagement with community members and building partnerships with community organizations to develop a shared vision and approach to addressing crime.
- 04** To support law enforcement training to improve public safety and strengthen officer safety and wellness.
Funding will enhance law enforcement training, including innovative methods such as virtual reality and the application of best practices regarding decision-making, use of force, and de-escalation.

Applications that are approved for funding will receive a one-year subaward, with an anticipated start date of October 1, 2026.

Federal funds will supplement existing funds for program activities and will not replace or supplant non-federal funds appropriated for the same purpose. Compliance with all applicable federal guidelines will be enforced.

JPSC’s electronic grants management system and Kentucky’s accounting system have adequate components and controls to ensure proper tracking of all fund transactions. JPSC will submit all financial and programmatic reports, performance measure data, and grant information as required by BJA. In addition, JPSC staff will provide ongoing assistance to subrecipients and perform monitoring visits to ensure subrecipients’ compliance with all JAG special conditions and provisions. Monitoring visits will provide JPSC with direct, firsthand knowledge about project operations while fostering meaningful, productive relationships between the cabinet and its subrecipients.

Allocation of Funding

Priority funding considerations for the upcoming application cycle are established by the 2024-2029 Kentucky JAG Strategic Plan 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 in one or more of the eleven purpose areas outlined in the JAG solicitation and to demonstrate a direct connection to one or more of the established Kentucky JAG funding priorities.

Kentucky has historically funded multijurisdictional drug task forces with JAG funds. JAG funding has also been used to support addiction support services, recidivism-reduction programs, violent crime reduction, and law enforcement training. JPSC will comply with federal program pass-through requirements to units of local government and small law enforcement jurisdictions.

2024-2029 Kentucky JAG Strategic Plan

During the development of the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, JPSC partnered with the National Criminal Justice Association to develop and distribute a 21-question stakeholder engagement survey. JPSC distributed the survey to a spectrum of criminal justice system partners and community service providers to identify statewide criminal justice priorities and needs. 108 respondents took part in the survey. Respondents represented an array of organizations across the state of Kentucky, including law enforcement, courts, prosecution, victims' services and assistance, domestic violence service providers, public health entities, faith-based community organizations, and behavioral health providers. The stakeholder survey revealed that drugs such as opioids and methamphetamine are a primary concern.

Public Comment

JPSC invites feedback from the State Legislature and members of the public on the state application and how JAG grants may be used to improve Kentucky's criminal justice system. Comments may be submitted to JPSC by 6:00 p.m. EDT on June 12, 2026, through the following link: [JAG Review](#)

To view the full application, please click here: [FY25 JAG \(CFDA# 16.738\) KY Federal Application](#)

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