



Department of Finance and Administration

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Office of Intergovernmental Services

Date: August 31, 2017

To: All Stakeholders for the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG State Solicitation

From: State Administering Agency (SAA) –DFA-Intergovernmental Services

RE: **Request For Review and Comments:** Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2017 State Application

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY2017 State Solicitation can be found at

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGstate17.pdf>

The Arkansas Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY 2017 State Application is available on the DFA-IGS website under Announcements & News Releases for review and comments. Below is the link.

<http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/newsEvents/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have comments regarding the solicitation, the state's application for 2017, or how the State of Arkansas might use these funds in the future, please submit in writing to igs.jag@dfa.arkansas.gov on or before September 30, 2017.

2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

PROJECT ABSTRACT

As the designated state administrative agency (SAA), the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services (DFA-IGS) is responsible for the administration of various federal grant programs including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG).

Statewide Impact

The state of Arkansas gives funding priority for Byrne JAG to multi-jurisdictional drug task forces entities (DTFs) to perform a broad range of enforcement and collaboration efforts and activities to address drug trafficking and drug-related crimes across the State. Currently the State has nineteen 19 DTFs that covers approximately two-thirds of Arkansas' seventy-five (75) counties. These DTFs in coordination with other local, state, and federal agencies, perform drug interdiction and eradication along major interstates, highways, and byways of the State. Their impact has resulted in substantial decreases in methamphetamine labs across Arkansas, seizures of over 1.3 million grams of controlled substances and assets valued over at \$2.4 million statewide, and successful investigations of drug-related crimes.

Byrne JAG funding is critical in order to continue ongoing efforts of the DTFs unless (and until) other sources of funding are made available. Annually, the operational budgets for the 19 DTFs exceed \$3.7 million to sustain current efforts. The Byrne JAG funds in addition state level resources provided by a special revenue fund (State Drug Crime Enforcement and Prosecution fund) will allow continued support to the 19 DTFs across the state. In the past, when Byrne JAG award was substantially more than it is now, the DTF's were supported fully from Byrne JAG. Now Byrne JAG supports approximately forty-five percent (45%) of the DTF's annual operations cost.

Local Impact

The Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services (DFA-IGS) will continue to administer JAG pass-through funding to units of local government as required per BJA. These local jurisdictions will receive awards based the variable pass-through (VPT) percentage as calculated by the Bureau of justice Statistics.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Statement of Problem

Arkansas has two funding priorities under Byrne JAG: multi-jurisdictional drug task forces entities and local law enforcement through VPT awards. Local jurisdictions may use their awards for equipment and other one-time use projects in alignment with the purpose areas of Byrne JAG.

Arkansas' focus in administering Byrne JAG to DTFs is to effect problems of drug trafficking, including the possession, manufacturing and distribution of controlled substances and drug crime networks and to enhance the quality and effectiveness of drug enforcement and prosecution.

Project Design and Implementation

The Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council is a key stakeholder in the strategic planning process. The Council consist of a diverse group of individuals appointed by the Governor to represent multiple disciplines from many sectors of the state including: state police, education, corrections, highway and transportation, state crime lab, department of health, Arkansas National Guard, local police, judges, health professional and public citizens.

The Council has the responsibility for overseeing all planning, budgeting, and implementation of expenditures of state and federal funds allocated for alcohol and drug education, prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. The Law Enforcement Committee (a committee of the Council) assist the SAA in reviewing applications for funding and determining recommendations to the full council for approval.

The Council has unanimously supported prioritizing funding to the DTFs for statewide drug enforcement operations.

Capabilities and Competencies

The SAA engages the Council (which is comprised of a broad array of disciplines) to effect the State's strategic planning and coordination efforts. Participation of council members has been key in identifying strategies for the State's criminal justice dollars.

Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Performance Measures

To ensure compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, the SAA requires sub grantees to report data that captures the required accountability measures. Sub grantees are made aware of this requirement to submit performance measures as a part of the award process as well as the quarterly reporting requirements. The performance measurement reporting tool is utilized by the sub grantee quarterly to capture required program information and activities. The reporting tool is submitted quarterly along with any additional program data and statistics required by DFA-IGS. Sub recipients are made aware of this requirement in the special conditions before the sub grant is awarded. The special conditions are part of the award agreement. To ensure reporting is done in a timely manner in PMT, DFA-IGS (Grantee) enters the sub recipient's performance measure data in the reporting system and complete the GMS reporting requirements. For the JAG funded projects, reporting activity will be conducted quarterly for PMT and semi-annual in GMS.

STATE OF ARKANSAS
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN
August, 2017

SUMMARY

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services as the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) convenes regularly with an advisory council (Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council – (The Council) to make recommendations and plan for strategies and activities directing the use of JAG funds within the State. The Council is established and defined by Arkansas statute and given authority over the distribution of state and federal funds for law enforcement and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment. The role of the Council is to ensure a framework is established and maintained for the planning, budgeting and spending of federal and state funds on alcohol and drug education, prevention, treatment, and law enforcement in a manner that meets the needs of the local community and the state. The Council is composed of representatives from a broad spectrum of disciplines, and includes the State Drug Director, private citizens, and professionals in law enforcement, prosecution, medical and behavioral health, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, corrections, and education.

CURRENT STRATEGY

For funding under the JAG grants, the Council has given priority to multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (DTFs) for investigation and prosecution of drug crimes within the State. Arkansas currently has nineteen (19) DTFs who provide services across the State by assisting local law enforcement in drug trafficking, undercover and other drug eradication operations. These DTFs are a critical component of addressing the State's drug crime problems. JAG is currently the main source of funding available to local and state law enforcement for multijurisdictional drug enforcement, including methamphetamine initiatives, and is a critical source of funds for law enforcement collaboration and prisoner reentry programs. All 19 multijurisdictional drug task forces in Arkansas receive support from JAG grants.

Arkansas statewide strategic plan for the use of JAG funds follows the federal allocation required for distribution of a pre-determined percentage of the funds to local initiatives and pass-through to small jurisdictions that are ineligible for a direct JAG award. The statewide strategic plan for use of JAG funds in Arkansas is as follows:

- ❖ Ten percent of the total JAG award is used for the State's administrative costs related to JAG program
- ❖ Rural local law enforcement agencies who did not meet the criteria for a direct award are allocated a portion of the remaining balance based on information received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The State calculates an equitable distribution of funding based on the total threshold amounts as determined by BJA.

- ❖ The remaining JAG amount is made available for local projects by open solicitation with priority given to collaborative law enforcement activities specifically addressing drug crime and prosecution (multijurisdictional task force operations)

The Council has determined that drug task forces have benefitted Arkansas and there is a great need for these programs to continue unabated.

DEVELOPING STRATEGY

Further strategic plans:

June 2017

- Convene with a Committee of the Council to review current programs and identify funding gaps.
- Develop an integrated approach for addressing funding gaps through other sources of funding, including the use of the statutorily created fund specifically for DTFs.

January – March 2018

- As part of monitoring review process, review performance of funded entities and determine strategies for addressing performance gaps.
- Analyze statistical data including population served, number of arrests, convictions, and other relevant factors to enhance strategies currently being used and create additional strategies.
- Seek to identify projects with strong evidence base to guide funding decisions for the State's July 2018 grant cycle in cooperation with the Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council.