



Department of Finance and Administration

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Office of Intergovernmental Services

Date: August 23, 2018

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 2018 State Application

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY2018 State Solicitation can be found at

<https://www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGState18.pdf>

The Arkansas Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY 2018 State Application is available for review and comments.

[See Next Page For Application](#)

If you have comments regarding the solicitation, the state's application for 2018, 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, 2018.

PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

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).

The project identifiers that will be associated with the JAG proposed projects are listed below.

- Body Armor – Ballistic –Resistant
- Body-Worn Cameras
- Computer Software/Hardware
- Equipment-General, Tactical, Video/Audio
- Indigent Defense
- Strategic Planning
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Taskforces

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Description of the Issue

State's Strategy/Funding Priorities – Arkansas' two funding priorities under Byrne JAG are multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces entities and local law enforcement. The local jurisdictions may use their awards for equipment and other one-time use projects that are in alignment with the purpose areas of Byrne JAG.

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

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 Arkansas has nineteen 19 DTFs that covers approximately two-thirds of States' 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. Over the last 12 months, the Drug Task Forces impact has resulted in drug confiscations of over 27 million grams of drugs and seizure of assets valued over \$3 million statewide. In addition, 702 drug organizations were disrupted and 105 dismantled. There were over 3,000 ongoing investigations with over 5,000 drug-related arrests made in the last state fiscal year.

Byrne JAG funding is critical for the ongoing efforts of the DTFs. Annually, the combined operational budgets for the 19 DTFs exceeds \$4.1 million. Their efforts are being sustained through both federal and state funding. The Byrne JAG funds and state level resources (State Drug Crime Enforcement and Prosecution fund and State Appropriate Match) allows continued support to the 19 DTFs across the state. Byrne JAG supports approximately forty-five percent (45%) of the DTF's annual operational cost. In order to sustain the state's DTFs, all JAG funds (excluding the jurisdiction with less than \$10,000 set-a-side amount and the 10% administrative costs) are awarded for the efforts and operations of the DTFs.

Local Impact-The Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services (DFA-IGS) continues to administer JAG funding to units of local government as required per BJA (jurisdiction with less that \$10,000). These local jurisdictions will receive awards based on the Bureau of Justice Assistance's pre-calculated amount. These awarded funds typically assist local jurisdictions (law enforcement units) with small equipment needs.

As the State moves towards a facilitated strategic planning process, funding priorities will be determined by a comprehensive assessment and a review of the data collected from stakeholders.

At this time, there are not any NIBRS implementation challenges. The State of Arkansas has completed its transition to NIBRS. Arkansas has met compliance for the required 2021 NIBRS reporting.

Below is an outline of the sub grant award process and timeline:

June 1, 2019 - JAG sub-recipients are notified of continuation funding for the 2018-19 grant year cycle/2019-20 grant year cycle

July 1, 2019 – Sub Grants Awards are issued (Project Period: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

August 15, 2019 – The first request for reimbursement for 2019-20 sub-grant year due to the Grantee (Sub Recipient’s reimbursement request are to be submitted by the 15th of each month)

August 2019 – July 2020

Review expenditures and confirm proper documentation for all sub-recipients activities

October 30, 2019, January 30, 2020, April 30, 2020; July 30, 2020

PMT reporting due from sub recipient 20 days before the federal reporting date for the SAA

October 30, 2019 - Closeout Sub Awards for 2017 federal Byrne JAG Award

March 1, 2020 – May 30, 2020

During this period, monitoring of sub-grants will be conducted in-person and/or enhanced desk reviews by Grant Analysts. Monitoring reports are to be completed to document the results and the process

Project Design and Implementation

The Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council is a key stakeholder in the strategic planning process. The Council consists 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 professionals 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) is available to assist the SAA in reviewing applications for funding. The Law Enforcement committee reviews the SAA funding recommendations and forwards them to the full council for approval.

With limited strategic planning, the Council thus far has unanimously supported prioritizing funding to the Drug Task Forces (DTF) for statewide drug enforcement operations and efforts. In order to comply with the FY 2019 JAG strategic plan, DFA-IGS has started to facilitate a strategic planning process to engage stakeholders from across the justice criminal system. The process will include: an assessment phase which will identify the gaps in the State's needed resources for criminal justice, a determination of goals to improve the administration of the criminal justice system, and identification of evidence-based approaches to addressing and preventing crime including an evaluation for effectiveness and performance. The overall goal of this strategic planning process is to set the state's priorities, coordinate efforts, and determine funding allocations.

An overview of the State Strategic Planning Process Timeline is below:

- DFA-IGS will identify the key stakeholders and conduct an assessment of the gaps and the needed resources for improvement. **(December 31, 2018)**

- DFA-IGS and the Arkansas Alcohol Drug Abuse Coordinating Council Chair will establish a Core Strategic Planning Team to review the information received from the assessment as well as review any data related to criminal justice. **(January 2019)**
- DFA-IGS and the Core Strategic Planning Team will prioritize the system needs, set funding priorities, and develop goals with measureable objectives. **(June 30, 2019)**
- Finalize the Strategic Plan and post for comments. **(July 30, 2019)**

To assist with the development of the strategic planning process and finalize the plans, DFA-IGS will utilize BJA's Training and Technical Assistance and attend the next NCJA Strategic Planning Regional Training.

Capabilities and Competencies

Currently, the SAA does not participate in any other strategic planning/coordination efforts with other criminal justice agencies. The SAA is in the process of engaging the Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council to develop the State's strategic plan. The SAA will facilitate and coordinate these efforts. Previous participation of council members have been key in identifying strategies and setting priorities for the State's criminal justice dollars. Additional strategic planning/coordination efforts with the United States Attorney Offices Eastern and Western Districts are pending for Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) as well as the partnering with the Single State Agency for substance abuse (Office of the State Drug Director/Department of Human Services) for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program.

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 in addition to 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) will enter 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.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

FY 2018 State Solicitation

**STATE STRATEGIC PLAN
FFY18**

**NOT AVAILABLE AT THE
TIME OF FY18 APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Status: In Process –

Tentative Date for Completion July 30, 2019