

ATTACHMENT 1

STATE OF NEW JERSEY **EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT** **FY 2010 FORMULA PROGRAM**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

1. STATE STRATEGY/FUNDING PRIORITIES

Funding awarded under the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program State Formula program (JAG 2010) will be used to continue and complement programs launched under New Jersey's Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods.

In 2006, New Jersey experienced pockets of violent crime in many of our urban centers. Gangs that had been rooted in a city or region of our state began to travel and expand their turf, causing a rash of shooting and violent crime. Criminal gangs, fueled by the revenues of drug distribution and armed with guns illegally obtained, threatened the safety of our residents and the vitality of our cities and towns. After a year of research and meetings with representatives of our state departments, local governments, community stakeholders and experts in the field, the Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods (the Crime Plan) was released in October 2007. (<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>) New Jersey's statewide strategic plan focuses on three components critical to addressing violent crime: enforcement, prevention and reentry. The enforcement component encourages and assists law enforcement agencies to move towards intelligence-led, data-driven policing strategies. The prevention component develops and expands evidence-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth. The reentry component focuses on discharge planning and wrap-around services for inmates in county jails and state prisons.

The strategy reflects the commitment to help citizens live and work free of the fear of violence and called for collaboration of state agencies in allocating resources. It was however, the

release of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program (JAG Recovery), that allowed the Attorney General to move forward with the implementation of initiatives and many evidence-based programs identified in the strategy.

Now, under the direction of our current Attorney General Paula Dow, the statewide Crime Plan is being reviewed with a focus on identifying components of the plan that are working well, as well as those features that need to be refined or replaced. A working group has been established representing all elements of the criminal justice system. Additionally, as part of this process, the Attorney General has asked the 21 County Prosecutors to anticipate crime problems that may arise during the upcoming summer months. Prosecutors have been asked to meet with the chief law enforcement executives and other appropriate officials in their county to identify local crime problems that are likely to develop within their county jurisdiction this summer and to articulate the steps that are needed to address those problems.

Primarily, New Jersey will utilize funding to support criminal justice-partnership programs and local police initiatives to reduce violent crime. With our JAG Recovery programs underway, New Jersey will build on project successes and implement new data-driven, collaborative-criminal justice community partnership projects. The Criminal Justice Information System Improvement programs, vital to the integration of statewide information sharing networks, remain a priority.

The State Subaward Process & Timeline

| Objectives/Activities | Subgrant Process | Completion Date |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Law Enforcement | 5 months local 2 months state | On going from start of project |
| Criminal Justice Partnerships | 5 months local 2 months state | On going from start of project |
| CJIS | 5 months local 5 months state | On going from start of project |

1. The Division of Criminal Justice, Program Development & Grants Section (Grants) administers the JAG program.
2. As appropriate, Grants may work with the Office of the Attorney General (Attorney General, Criminal Justice Director) to further develop subgrant program criteria.
3. Proposed subgrants are reviewed and approved by the Department through the Consolidated Grants Management Office (CGMO).
4. All projects are subgranted by Grants to Divisions within the Department (e.g., State Police), other State agencies (e.g., Department of Corrections), local units of government (municipal and county), or non-profit agencies.
5. Subgrants may be offered by formula, competitive or strategy basis. If required, a Notice of Availability of Funds is published in the New Jersey Register.
6. Subgrant projects are assigned to a Program Analyst.
7. Once a completed subgrant application is received and considered satisfactory by the Program Analyst, the Program Analyst prepares the subgrant application for the Internal Grant Review Committee (Grant Review).
8. The Subgrant project grant package is processed within the Department (DCJ, OAG and AG) recommending the Attorney General or designee sign the contract.
9. Upon Attorney General or designee signature, the executed contract is sent to the subgrantee.
10. Subgrant project can be reimbursed for project expenses within the project period and begin fiscal and programmatic reporting.

Description of Programs to be Funded

For a listing of the programs that will be funded under New Jersey's JAG 2010 program, see Attachment 2, Budget and Budget Narrative.

2. STATE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS & PRIORITIES & STRATEGY

The State's Crime Plan was developed employing crime data and a collaborative planning process. Coordinating Councils for Enforcement, Prevention and Reentry were established and utilized for the implementation and coordination of programs. Councils had wide-ranging involvement from experts in their respective fields. Representation included participation from state and local governments, non-profits, community agencies and agencies in the private sector. Subcommittees were established for Prevention and Reentry Councils to handle areas unique to those fields.

Attorney General, Paula Dow, has established a working group to identify components of the present law enforcement plan that are working well, as well as those features that need to be refined or replaced. A summer neighborhood initiative is in the process of being implemented which will establish task forces in selected jurisdictions to monitor crime trends and problems. The goal is to have a framework in place, in high-crime areas, when violent and property crime tend to peak.

Engagement of Local Communities

Our Crime Plan is based on increased accountability for all state, county and local criminal justice agencies through a collaborative, data-driven, evidenced-based process. For each category, working groups met with experts in their respective fields, representatives of state and local governments, law enforcement, community-based organizations, education, social service agencies, and representation from the private sector to coordinate resources and to ensure that a collaborative, multi-pronged approach to enhanced public safety was formulated.

Additionally, County Community Justice Coordinators operating in ten of New Jersey's counties serve as the bridge between law enforcement and community residents. The coordinators work with designated communities to examine their crime data and design programs to address these individual needs. Local advisory boards serve as the vehicle to review crime data, discuss

community problems and define short and long term objectives and to discuss trends and assess progress. County Coordinators submit quarterly progress reports and we hold semi-annual meetings with the Coordinators to discuss implementation, progress, needs and crime trends.

Our JAG funded Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Intervention (NCPI) programs are structured to have local communities define a specific problem in their community, analyze the factors contributing to the problem, and implement a program that is tailored to the site-specific crime issue. Currently operating in twelve communities in New Jersey, each NCPI advisory board/steering committee includes police officials along with other key community stakeholders such as criminal justice agencies, faith-based leaders, education officials, social service providers, representatives of city government, and community and youth representatives. These advisory boards are a mechanism that New Jersey deems valuable in engaging local communities in the planning process, monitoring crime problems/solutions and for the implementation of evidence-based local programs.

New Jersey will utilize JAG 2010 funds to support the Police Community Partnership Program. Based on the Weed and Seed model, police officers are employed to act as the liaison between law enforcement and the community. Additionally, through several of law enforcement and criminal justice partnership initiatives, community involvement is pivotal to the success of our crime reduction strategies.

Data and Analysis Supporting State Strategy

The New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC), operated by our Division of State Police is comprised of more than 10 agencies, 40 analysts and interagency liaisons, produces the NJ POP (Pins on Paper) Monthly Report. The NJ POP Report provides current and warning intelligence on threat, crime and gun violence analysis. The NJ POP Report also examines the

shooting-hit data throughout the state using CrimeTrack, which is available to all law enforcement using NCIC. Each NJ POP report identifies hot spots by region, provides temporal and spatial analysis, shows gang-involved shootings, and draws associations between weapons recovered, recidivist offenders, and shooting motivations across jurisdictional boundaries. The NJ POP Report assists local municipal and county law enforcement agencies to combat violent crime using accurate, timely and effective data analysis and to employ intelligence-led, data-driven policing strategies. No longer are law enforcement professionals and police organizations, working in silos. Information and knowledge are crucial for the good of public safety. The ROIC analysts provide key data to other state-wide initiatives that cross traditional borders. Crime patterns and trends are being tracked to assist New Jersey to implement strategies designed to keep people safe. Additionally, firearm data is used to assist in intelligence-led policing efforts. Firearms trace data is entered into the federal eTrace system and gun crime evidence is entered into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

In New Jersey, the ROIC has spearheaded an interagency collection efforts, primarily with local jurisdictions throughout the state, to collect, assess and produce information and intelligence products aimed at targeting recidivist offenders and suppressing gun violence. Police departments in Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Paterson, Perth Amboy and Camden, come together with federal and state law enforcement partners to exchange intelligence and coordinate enforcement operations through bi-weekly meetings called V.E.S.T. (Violent Enterprise Source Targeting). V.E.S.T. focuses interagency resources at violent crime trends in these cities. V.E.S.T. meetings are driven by statistical analysis and specific crime information provided by the host agency and participants. V.E.S.T. information is also published in the NJ POP Report. Similar law enforcement working groups that share information, also operate in the state under various partnership programs.

We are analyzing violent crime data using information provided from the ROIC and Uniform Crime Data to make determinations on how best to strategically provide sorely needed resources to local-level police departments and county prosecutors' offices in the effort to reduce violent crime through intelligence-led policing initiatives.

Gaps in State's Needed Resources

New Jersey continues to face an unprecedented financial crisis. In February 2010, the Governor signed Executive Order 14 declaring a state of fiscal emergency to address the \$2.2 billion budget gap that remained in State Fiscal Year 2010 budget. On March 16, 2010, Governor Chris Christie and the State Treasurer outlined the severity of the State's FY 2011 budgetary crisis as "the most challenging budget in our history." In State FY 2011, New Jersey faces a \$10.7 billion deficit, an approximate 10% unemployment rate, "the highest tax burden in the country, and the worst climate for business development in America." Budget in Brief, State OMB FY2011 Budget (March 16, 2010).

To address these drastic times, the Governor has included in his budget reductions that directly affect law enforcement activities:

- Urban Enterprise Zone Revenue Sharing placed on hold (where 37 economically challenged municipalities charge half the standard sales tax rate, with all or a portion of collections dedicated for use within the zones for economic development projects).
- no new State Police class of recruits.
- defer purchases of new cars for State Police.

Other state reductions in municipal aide in turn affect criminal justice budgets (jails, parole, probation, law enforcement) in an effort to make up municipal and county budget deficits. Many local police departments and correctional agencies are laying off personnel to meet budget shortfalls.

JAG 2010 funding will be utilized to provide resources to support local and state criminal justice initiatives, such as personnel, equipment and training when there is simply no other available funding. JAG funding will be awarded to state and local agencies to meet critical services in keeping our communities safe and to support needed CJIS improvements to enhance data sharing efficiencies among criminal justice agencies.

3. COORDINATION OF EFFORTS INVOLVING JAG & RELATED JUSTICE FUNDS

Under New Jersey's unified system of law enforcement the Attorney General, as the chief law enforcement officer of the State, has supervisory authority over the 21 county prosecutors and all other law enforcement departments and agencies throughout the state. The Program Development and Grants Section, the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for federally assisted criminal justice programs, is located within the Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice. The Criminal Justice Director reports directly to the Attorney General. We are uniquely positioned to assume a leadership and oversight role in developing and implementing JAG 2010 programs that require strong partnerships among the various levels of criminal justice agencies. SAA staff is experienced in providing technical assistance for effective program implementation and maximizing and leveraging resources through coordination of services. Staff in the Office of the Attorney General, the Consolidated Grants Management Office (CGMO), convene a weekly consolidated grants meeting for the purpose of ensuring coordination of resources and services within the Department. Grant personnel from the various divisions within the Department of Law and Public Safety (Divisions of Criminal Justice, State Police, Highway Safety, Civil Rights, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General) meet weekly to share information and coordinate federal programs where appropriate.

New Jersey's SAA, has direct responsibility for the administration of the Edward Byrne

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act :Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG Recovery) Program, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (RSAT), and the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program (BVP). In addition, DCJ oversees the competitive Targeting Violent Crime Initiative under the 2007 Byrne Discretionary Program and OJJDP's Gang Prevention Coordinator Grant Program. On behalf of the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's Office, DCJ is the fiscal agent for the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program and the federal Anti-Gang Initiatives. DCJ also administers OVC's Victims of Crime Act Funding (VOCA formula grants) and OVW's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (VAWA formula grants).

DCJ also oversees New Jersey's Safe and Secure Communities Program (provides funding for additional police officers to address crime in a community oriented manner), Prevention Initiatives (provides funding towards at-risk youth programs), Operation CeaseFire (multi-pronged initiative to address shootings, involves law enforcement and community outreach components) and the state-funded Body Armor Replacement Program (provides state funding to purchase body armor).

In addition to grants administration, primary responsibilities include planning, program development, technical assistance, and coordination of resources. Analysts assigned to the unit work closely with subgrantees to establish partnerships that expand and enhance programs.

4. DATA COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To comply with BJA's reporting requirements, DCJ will employ current procedures used to collect JAG PMT data, Narrative Questions and Annual Report and Performance Metrics. JAG subrecipients will be expected to complete DCJ's own quarterly narrative reports, BJA Narrative

Questions and quarterly PMT data. Narrative data will be collated, reviewed and approved by SAA staff and uploaded to BJA PMT and GMS annually.

DCJ will collect BJA's PMT data on Excel spreadsheets which are stored on a network drive. Access will be limited by password to ensure data control, and all changes will be tracked by the DCJ Research & Evaluation analysts before the final submission. New subrecipients will receive training on PMT data collection and reporting. Subrecipients will be responsible to collect and report PMT data electronically to the DCJ Senior Research and Evaluation analysts. DCJ's Research and Evaluation analysts will review and reconcile the subrecipients' Excel spreadsheets. DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts will collect the subrecipient data into the required PMT reporting system. Once the draft has been reviewed and approved, the Research & Evaluation analysts will post the final data to BJA's PMT. Annually SAA will upload the PMT data to GMS.