

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM  
STATEWIDE PLAN FFY 2016  
CFDA #16.738  
DUNS NUMBER 807853015  
CCR Valid Until August 2016**

Connecticut's **FFY16 Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Plan** will provide state agencies and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prevention programs, community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement and technology improvement programs.

Allocation priorities include: recidivism reduction, community re-integration, interventions for mentally ill offenders, law enforcement response to heroin epidemic, technology improvements and compliance with Civil Rights Act.

**STATE LEVEL JAG FUNDS (Estimate: \$811,000) (63.2% JAG 2016 AWARD)**

The federal JAG program requires the **State's Administrative Agency (SAA)** to "pass-through" a federally-determined percentage of the State's JAG award to local governments. The funds remaining may be allocated to "state-level" or "state-wide" projects operated by a state agency. The "**state level**" projects are a critical component of the JAG Plan given the structure of Connecticut's criminal justice system. Connecticut is a small state with a single-tiered, unified court system and **all criminal justice functions are funded and administered at the state level except for municipal law enforcement**. Unlike many other states, Connecticut has **no county or local government systems** responsible for jails, prison, parole, probation, indigent defense, victim services, prosecution and enforcement. Therefore, the JAG State-level funds must address a multitude of inter-related functions and operations while the Local Pass-through funds are used for local government law enforcement functions.

The federal formula for the JAG 2016 allows the SAA to retain approx. 63.2% of the federal award for "state-level" projects and 10% for administrative costs.

**FFY2016 State-Level JAG Priorities:**

As the State Administering Agency (SAA) for five federal criminal justice grants, OPM is responsible for assuring that all sub-recipients are in compliance with applicable federal and state financial and programmatic requirements. The SAA must verify that funds are expended within federal program policies and ensure those funds are used to achieve maximum results while supporting priority policy objectives through a strategic planning approach.

Connecticut's FFY2016 State-Level JAG funds will focus on issue areas addressed by the [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission \(CJPAC\)](#), which is a multi-disciplinary planning group of stakeholders representing state and local government agencies as well as community-based organizations and service providers.

**CJPAC Stakeholders: CJPAC includes the following state and local government agencies and non-profit community-based organizations:**

- **Department of Correction (DOC)**  
All jails and prisons in Connecticut are operated under authority of DOC.
- **Judicial Branch Courts**  
All criminal courts in Connecticut are operated under authority of the Judicial Branch.
- **Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JB CSSD)**
- Court Support Services Division oversees pretrial services, probation, diversionary program services, treatment, family services, divorce and domestic violence, as well as juvenile residential centers including Juvenile Detention. Bail/IAR (Intake, Assessment, and Referral) provides pre-trial information to the Court and assistance to released defendants. Bail Commissioners and IAR Specialists handle pre-trial release and court appearances as well as arraignment services.
- **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**  
DMHAS is responsible for publicly funded mental health and substance abuse services statewide. DMHAS Forensic Division (DMHAS DFS) funds services and housing for people with mental illness and/or addictions who are justice involved.
- **Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)**  
DESPP includes the Division of State Police and serves as the local law enforcement agency for sixty-eight small local jurisdictions.
- **Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS)**  
DPDS provides legal counsel to “indigent” accused adults and juveniles state-wide.
- **Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) (Prosecutors)**  
All criminal matters in Connecticut are prosecuted under authority of DCJ.
- **Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**  
Represents local government law enforcement perspective of policy reform.
- **Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) (advocacy organization)**  
CCADV is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of domestic violence.
- **Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) (advocacy organization)**  
CONNSACS is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of sexual violence.

**A. Funding Priorities and Objectives**

**Priorities and objectives are based on issues identified and discussed at the *Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)* during the period of September 2014 through May 2016.**

**Systems Improvement**

- **Ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws:** State Administering Agencies (SAAs) have a responsibility to monitor their sub-recipients to ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws. Recipients of federal financial assistance have an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) from meaningful access to important benefits, rights, programs, information, and services. The

SAA must provide periodic training sessions for its sub-recipients on their obligations to comply with the applicable civil rights laws and nondiscrimination provisions and DOJ implementing regulations.

### **Public Safety and Accountability**

- **Support Governor Malloy's Second Chance Initiative** to reduce recidivism and provide low-risk offenders with opportunities to be productive members of society.
- **Ensure community safety and prevent gun violence** through enforcement of firearms laws and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms; support evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies.
- **Improve policies, procedures and protocols** for police, prosecutors, probation and parole response to mentally ill offenders through specialized intervention units and training initiatives involving collaborations between criminal justice agencies and mental health providers.
- **Expand interventions and treatment options for women offenders** held in jail and prison facilities as well as women offenders in a community-based corrections program. Reduce risk of recidivism through evidence-based protocols and practices.

The ***Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)*** identified and discussed policy priorities, gaps in services and emerging needs as follows:

**CJPAC meetings convened on January 28, 2016; February 25, 2016; March 31, 2016; April 28, 2016 and May 26, 2016:** CJPAC discussed priority areas for Governor Malloy's Second Chance Initiative, which includes a series of policies and procedure reforms to decrease incarceration rate, reduce recidivism and provide opportunities for non-violent, low risk offenders to emerge from the criminal justice system as productive members of society. The meetings included discussion on the effectiveness and impact of re-entry and recidivism intervention strategies and confirmed the need for evidence based programs. CJPAC meetings also explored ways to expand and improve addictions services for offenders to prevent future criminal activity and avoid deeper involvement in the criminal justice system. CJPAC considered expansion of a prison-based methadone assisted therapy program as part of a post-prison release re-integration plan. CJPAC identified and discussed specific policies and procedure improvements needed to increase opportunities for offenders to succeed in society upon release from prison. CJPAC analyzed data trends and noted the significant drop in the male incarceration rate, while the female incarceration rate remained unchanged.

**CJPAC meetings convened on September 24, 2015, October 29, 2015 and November 19, 2015:** CJPAC examined recidivism data for former prison inmates and discussed re-entry options for low-risk offenders and innovative approaches to reduce risk level for mentally-ill offenders; including expansion of pre-trial diversion options. CJPAC continued to discuss the dramatic increase in heroin usage and overdose deaths and identified the need for a multi system response comprised of addictions experts, mental health providers and police. CJPAC also identified need additional training for police as well as other criminal justice professionals to improve response to mentally ill offenders. CJPAC members discussed priority need to develop and implement cross-disciplinary interventions for mentally ill offenders with specialized focus on young adult population and police emergency response.

**CJPAC meetings convened on January 29, 2015; February 26, 2015; March 26, 2015; April 30, 2015; May 28, 2016 and June 25, 2015 to address the following issues:** Discuss priority issues areas for JAG planning purposes: gun violence and trafficking of firearms, community re-entry support services and recidivism prevention strategies, specialized interventions for women offenders and mentally ill offenders; and monitoring of high-risk violent offenders. Reviewed data on women offenders and recidivism. Discussed ways to improve oversight of high-risk offenders and identified priority services needed for the “pre-trial” population. CJPAC continued to discuss need for improvements in community re-entry services as well as priorities areas of addressing mentally offenders and high risk offenders. CJPAC discussed the need to develop new approaches to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases as well as develop policies and protocols to respond to other violent crimes and implement evidence-based interventions.

## **B. Sub-Grant Process and Timeline**

**May 18, 2016:** OPM convened a cross-agency workgroup to develop the purpose areas for the JAG allocation plan. The workgroup included Department of Correction (DOC), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Court Support Services Pre-Trial Agency, and victim advocacy organizations (Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS). The meeting included a discussion of priority service needs for women offenders, pre-trial diversion options, re-integration and risk-reduction interventions for women offenders as well as reviewed planning stages for expansion of the DOC Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) program. The workgroup examined data on women offender arrest, pre-trial status, incarceration and violations.

**May 25, 2016:** The cross-agency workgroup conducted a site visit at the state’s women’s prison facilities and convened a focus group of women inmates to gain insight on their experience and needs in order to develop more effective risk-reduction alternatives and improve availability of training programs to support successful community re-integration.

**July – September 2016:** The cross-agency workgroup will develop a detailed plan to coordinate expansion of women offender diversion programs and re-integration services as well as create an assessment and outcomes measurement plan.

**September 2016 - October 2016:** OPM will develop an allocation plan based, in part, on the status of state-funded services and projection of future demand for services and crime trends.

**November 2016 - January 2017 –** OPM will sub-grant funds to agencies and organizations to launch projects contingent on receipt of the federal grant funds.

## **LOCAL PASS-THROUGH FUNDS (36.8% JAG 2016 AWARD)**

The State’s SAA is required to “pass-through” 36.8% of its federal grant award to local governments plus an additional 8% to a set of very small local governments, many of which receive their police services from the State Police.

## **C. Funding Priorities and Objectives**

**Consistent with the overall priorities of the federal JAG program, the local-pass-through funds will be allocated to address policies, practices and services that are evidence-based as**

**demonstrated through assessment data or national research. Allocation decisions will be based on needs as well as impact on other components of the criminal justice system.**

- Ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws.
- Improve and expand information systems, and communications technology for local governments participating in a regional initiative involving shared resources and collaboration.
- Provide access and resources for in-state training for local police departments with a priority focus on first responders to mentally ill offenders and de-escalation techniques.
- Provide access and resources for in-state training for local law enforcement response to heroin epidemic.
- Support transition to National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

#### **D. Local Level Planning Process**

**July 2016 – August 2016:** OPM will convene an Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and options for strategies and activities to address the objectives for the 2016 JAG Local Pass-Through funds and funds referred to as the “less than \$10K”. The Committee will include the Connecticut Police Chief Association, police department representatives from different regions throughout the state and other stakeholders.

**September – October 2016:** The Advisory committee will review data indicative of the “gaps” and needs in the criminal justice system at the local level; and recommend options for grant funded strategies.

**November – December 2016:** OPM will develop an allocation plan based on the options proposed by the Advisory Committee; and determine the contracting process.

#### **E. COORDINATION EFFORTS**

Connecticut has a centralized and unified criminal justice system. Connecticut is divided into 169 municipalities. There is no county government. There is no overlap of functions such as might arise with county government or a multi-tier court system. The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court. With the exception of local police services in the larger communities, all criminal justice functions are provided by state agencies.

All of the criminal and juvenile justice formula grant programs emanating from the U. S. Department of Justice, except the Victims of Crime Act, are administered by the same unit within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The Office of Policy and Management, the state administrative agency (SAA) for the JAG Grant, is well positioned to coordinate JAG Grant activities with other federal and state initiatives given that it is the state’s budget and planning agency.

In addition to serving as the SAA for the JAG grant, the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) of OPM is statutorily required to develop strategic plans to improve the outcomes and operation of the criminal justice system. The CJPPD collaborates with the state criminal justice agencies and local governments in assessing and analyzing existing functions and identifying opportunities for improvements in services to promote greater public safety. The CJPPD Undersecretary serves as the chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)

which is charged with developing strategies to prevent prison and jail overcrowding and creating an offender community reentry strategy.

## **F. PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

OPM requires the JAG sub-grantees to submit performance data as well as financial data on a quarterly basis. Both the programmatic data and financial data are aggregated into “state-wide” reports which are submitted to the federal agency via GMS.

## **G. Governing Body Review**

The SAA (OPM CJPPD) for Connecticut’s JAG grant is a sub-division of the “governing body of the state” (Connecticut Office of Policy and Management).

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) made its Fiscal Year 2016 JAG application available to the Office of the Secretary, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for its review and comment on 06/29/2016.

## **H. Public Comment**

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) made its Fiscal Year 2016 JAG draft application available to citizens for comment through public comment sessions at CJPAC meetings October 2015 through May 2016. The final application will be posted on the SAA website for public review/comment.