

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
STATEWIDE PLAN FFY 2010
CFDA #16.738

Connecticut's FFY10 Justice Assistance Grant Plan will support the priorities and policy objectives identified in *Public Act 08-01 An Act Concerning Criminal Justice Reform*. This important legislation put into place measures to ensure community safety and victim's rights, as well as development of community-based corrections programs to reduce repeat criminal behavior and ensure offender accountability. The primary intent of the legislation is to develop a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system.

STATE LEVEL JAG FUNDS (59% JAG 2010 AWARD)

The federal 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 occur at the state level except for municipal law enforcement. The greatest challenge to Connecticut is to strike a balance in its use of JAG Grant funds so that the benefits of a very centralized justice system are maximized to address the needs in the system.

The federal formula for the JAG 2010 allows the SAA to retain 59% of the federal award for "state-level" projects and 10% for administrative costs.

A. Funding Priorities and Objectives

Systems Improvement:

- Improve and expand information technology systems to support legal defense of indigent populations.
- Provide training to public defenders so that they may participate in developing innovative community-based recidivism reduction initiatives.
- Improve and expand information technology systems for prosecutors. The ARRA JAG funds supported the first phase of a new case management information system that will enable prosecutors to share, analyze and transmit data in a more efficient and timely way.
- Promote diversity and cultural competency among criminal justice agency staff and support development of culturally appropriate services.
- Assess cost-efficient uses of public funds and evaluate existing services to determine the most effective practices for reducing recidivism.
- Develop, install, or expand data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems, linking police, prosecutors, courts, prison, parole and probation for the purpose of identifying and tracking crime data.
- Develop and improve forensic laboratory capabilities to analyze crime data.

Public Safety and Accountability

- Develop and implement innovative evidence-based community re-entry strategies using models developed by the USDOJ technical assistance providers and outcomes data compiled by the state agencies.
- Develop an inter-agency demonstration project to improve the oversight and monitoring of high-risk domestic violence offenders and sexual offenders using evidence-based models and promising practices evaluated by the NIJ, BJA and OVV.

B. Sub-Grant Process and Timeline

August 2010 – September 2010: OPM will convene inter-agency workgroups to identify options for activities and services that address the JAG objectives and priorities, establish an allocation plan and coordinate development of an inter-agency implementation strategy.

October 2010 – OPM will sub-grant funds to agencies and organizations to launch projects contingent on receipt of the federal grant funds.

LOCAL PASS-THROUGH FUNDS (41% JAG 2010 AWARD)

The State's SAA is required to "pass-through" 34% 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

- Improve and expand information systems and communications technology for local governments.
- 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.
- Support crime prevention and intervention services for the juvenile population.
- Support demonstration of community and neighborhood programs that assist citizens in preventing and controlling crime.

D. Local Level Planning Process

September – October 2010: OPM will convene an Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and options for strategies and activities to address the objectives for the 2010 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, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Department of Corrections.

October 2010 – November 2010: 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 2010: 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 very 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 because 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 for Connecticut’s JAG grant is a sub-division of the “governing body of the state”.

H. Public Comment

In accordance with past practice, the JAG 2010 Plan will be posted in the Connecticut Law Journal as well as posted on the SAA website.

ABSTRACT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
STATEWIDE PLAN FFY 2010

Connecticut's FFY 2010 JAG funds will be distributed according to the federal formula: 59% of the programmatic funds will support "state-level" projects; and 41% of the funds will "pass-through" to local governments.

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 occur at the state level except for municipal law enforcement. The 2010 JAG funds will be used, in part, to implement the policy objectives established in Public Act 08-01 An Act Concerning Criminal Justice Reform. This important legislation put into place measures to ensure community safety and victim's rights, as well as development of community-based corrections programs to reduce repeat criminal behavior and ensure offender accountability.

The 2010 JAG funds will also support innovative and evidence-based approaches to reducing criminal behavior and improving the operation and outcomes of components of the criminal justice system ranging from enforcement, prosecution, sanctions and prevention.