Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)

2026 Request for Proposals

Applications Are Due July 21, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST

ATTENTION: This solicitation is for grant funding that the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) administers that originates from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. To continue program activities designed to maintain public safety services, OCJS will proceed with this solicitation, however, OCJS anticipates that new grant guidance may be issued in 2026 to reflect DOJ's revised policies and priorities. Updated DOJ guidance could impact grant terms and conditions and the availability of funding for any grants that are awarded from this solicitation. OCJS will share new grant conditions, guidance, and requirements with all grantees as they become available. In some instances, executed grant contracts may be revised or cancelled.

By submitting an application, the potential subrecipient understands that if awarded funding pursuant to this solicitation, the terms, the conditions, and the availability of continued funding are subject to future communications and guidance from DOJ.

Nicole M. Dehner, Executive Director
1970 W. Broad Street
P.O. Box 182632
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2632 U.S.A.

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.

Contents

OCJS and JAG 2

What to Expect 2

Award Notifications and Expectations 3

Length of Funding 4

Eligible Applicants 5

Applicant Training 5

Program Purpose 5

Evidence Based Programs and Practices 6

Step Down and Match 7

Fiscal Considerations 9

Post Award Reporting Requirements 11

Proposal Components Checklist 12

Format and Submission 12

DOJ Revised Policies and Priorities Notice 13

2026 JAG Program Areas: Goals, Priorities, and Requirement 13

2026 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Proposal Narrative 26

Law Enforcement Task Force Guidelines 28

Proposal Components Checklist 34

OCJS and JAG

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. By statute, OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and products, develops training, resources, and best practices for criminal justice professionals and communities. OCJS has been designated by Governor Mike DeWine to administer the FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant Program.

Proposed to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant programs so that agencies can prioritize their funding needs and choose where to place justice funds.

In 2024, OCJS implemented its strategic plan. The action items included identifying priority areas for funding and encouraging projects to use evidence-based practices in their funded programs. The "Goals, Priorities and Requirements" section of this document outlines these priorities, and references evidence-based practices for OCJS funding areas. Fiscal year 2026 applicants must continue to follow these most recent guidelines.

What to Expect

Application. For technical assistance on any part of the JAG application, call OCJS at 614.466.7782 and ask to speak to your Grants Coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: Grants Administration Contact | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov).

Review. OCJS staff and external criminal justice professionals competitively review JAG proposals using an established process discussed in the "Proposal Narrative" section below. Reviewers evaluate applications based on their alignment with funding priorities, the strength of their proposed activities in response to the problem they identified, clear and measurable objectives, and a budget that is allowable and directly relates to the proposed activities. OCJS conducts internal compliance reviews of funded projects, assessing the timeliness and thoroughness of their financial and programmatic reporting. The OCJS Executive Director makes final funding recommendations, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety approves them.

NOTE: OCJS cautions strongly against the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the drafting of an application. Tools such as ChatGPT can be problematic when employed for grant writing as specific information needed about a particular community is often lacking. Further, AI has been known to make assumptions that are inaccurate or misleading about a particular problem or program, which causes challenges during grant review. However, should your agency choose to utilize AI tools such as ChatGPT in the creation of its application, that must be disclosed in the Executive Summary under the project description. In addition, the agency submitting the application is responsible for the entirety of its content, even if AI incorporates incorrect information into the application.

Peer Grant Reviewer. OCJS encourages applicants to participate in the peer review process. Participating as a peer grant reviewer is an important role and provides an excellent opportunity for participants to strengthen grant writing skills, gain knowledge, and share programmatic best practices occurring throughout the field. OCJS confirms reviewers based on the number of applications received, availability of reviewers, and other aspects related to coordinating review teams. OCJS compensates reviewers. If interested in participating as a grant reviewer, please email Markie Hinkle or Linda Mielcarek using the subject line "2026 Peer Review" by July 10, 2026.

Award Notifications and Expectations

OCJS will notify projects, instructing them that they are required to complete all forms and pre-award conditions electronically through the Online Grants Management System. Forms and assurances included with pre-award conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Certification Form
- Civil Rights and EEOP Questions Part 1 Form
    - The Federal Office of Civil Rights has temporarily paused the collection of EEOP information. The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) will notify subgrantees selected for award via email when additional information, the website and/or associated tool become available.
- Standard Assurances Form (including conflicts of interest)
- Special Conditions Form
- Fidelity/Surety Bond (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Proof of Tax-Exempt Status (Note: only applicable for non-profit applicants)
- Registration in the System for Award Management (www.sam.gov)
- Certification of background checks for those who work with minors
- Confidentiality and Privacy Protections Form (see Note*)
- Most recent single, external, or annual financial review audit. For applications with both a subrecipient and implementing agency, the audit should be for the subrecipient.

***Note:** OCJS subgrantees are prohibited from disclosing personally identifying information collected in connection with victim services requested, utilized, or denied through the grantee and their subgrantee's programs, to any third party or third-party database without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person, unless compelled by statutory or court mandate. Where there is a mandate to release information, grantees and subgrantees must make reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information. They must also take necessary steps to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of the information. Regarding unemancipated minors or persons with disabilities lacking capacity to consent, a parent or guardian may consent to the disclosure; however, an abuser of a minor, person with disabilities, or the minor's other parent is prohibited from giving consent to the disclosure. If a minor or a person with a legally appointed guardian is permitted by law to receive services without the parent's or guardian's consent, the minor or person with a guardian may release information without additional consent.

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is the state administering agency for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grant program and the STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program. OCJS requires all recipients of funding from our office, ***regardless of the source***, to comply with the Confidentiality and Privacy Provisions. OCJS subgrantees will be required to document their compliance. This is a safeguard OCJS is following to ensure the safety of adult, youth, and child victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their families to protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services.

Average Award Amount. In 2024, the average award (***i.e., first-year award of OCJS dollars - not including match***) across all funded projects was $30,049.12 (ranging from $4,554.72 - $150,000.00).

Length of Funding

All awards will be for 12 months of funding, operating from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

Eligible Applicants

All JAG applicants must have an organization, or subrecipient, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. Eligible JAG subrecipients include:

1. A unit of local government that has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a city, county, township, or village. If two or more jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency's fiscal officer, or
2. State agencies, state-supported universities, or
3. Statewide and local nonprofit or faith-based associations, or
4. Law enforcement agencies applying under this solicitation must be in compliance with crime statistics reporting, using either the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) or the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Collection Application (NCA), per Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62(C)(6).

NOTE: Projects implemented by courts, law enforcement agencies, and mental health boards may not act as their own subrecipients. Pass-through agencies will also need to be involved in programming.

Applicant Training

A voluntary Bidders Training webinar for the 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)) program will take place **June 16, 2026, from 10:00AM to 11:30 AM**. The training will provide information helpful for both the application preparation and review process. Register for the Bidders Training webinar.

Program Purpose

Applicants can use JAG funds for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice for any one of the following Program Purpose Areas:

A Law Enforcement Programs

B Crime Prevention Programs

C Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry Programs

D Courts, Specialty Dockets, Defense, and Prosecution Programs

E Victim Services Programs

F Cross-agency and Cross-system Collaboration, Training and Research Programs

G Planning Grants

Applicants are responsible for submitting their proposal under the correct program category.

Evidence-Based Programs and Practices

OCJS prioritizes funding evidence-based programs and practices. The Bureau of Justice Assistance, which oversees the federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, has placed strong emphasis on improving the quantity and quality of programs and practices that are effective in the criminal justice system. They have defined 'evidence-based' as those programs and practices with causal evidence of effectiveness, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. The strength of causal evidence will influence the degree to which they consider a program or practice to be evidence-based.

For projects that intend to implement a program or practice, the project description should clearly explain:

- the program or practice that will be implemented,
- whether the program is considered evidence-based,
- the research documenting the effectiveness of the program or practice, and
- local data (if available) that demonstrates the need for the project and/or its effectiveness after it is implemented.

Applicants will find information on evidence-based criminal justice programs and data sources on the following OCJS sites:

- OCJS maintains a list of some of the more effective and/or common practices known to prevent or reduce crime and other harms that can lead to crime.
- The OCJS website also provides a listing of other registries of evidence-based programs and practices from across the criminal justice continuum.
- OCJS provides access to Ohio crime data, dashboards, and reports.

Additionally, applicants can find links to listings of evidence-based programs and practices within each JAG program category in the JAG Program Areas, Goals, and Allowable Activities section.

Applicants who propose programs or practices that are not evidence-based must clearly explain why they expect that the program or practice will be effective, and how they will evaluate it.

Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS). OCJS has made available a pool of academic researchers who are willing to provide technical assistance at no cost to applicants who seek assistance in the planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of their proposed project. These researchers are part of the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS). Interested applicants should complete all components of their proposal, note in the Project Description whether they are considering requesting assistance from the OCCS, and describe the type of assistance they would like to have. If OCJS funds your grant application, we will connect you with a researcher with expertise in your field once your project meets all pre-award conditions. Applicants will find information on the OCCS and the types of assistance they can offer at the following link: Ohio Consortium of Crime Science | Office of Criminal Justice Services.

Step Down and Match

Each grant year, all applicants must submit a complete application for the new grant cycle. If the project is a continuation of a previous project, please mention this in the Project Description and provide the grant number. ***Failure to provide this information may jeopardize your funding***. **Please note that the amount of OCJS funding for the step-down projects is contingent upon the amount of funding OCJS will receive under FY2026. Projects may be subject to a reduction in OCJS funds.** The A01 Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces are not subject to step down funding. For all other projects, step-down funding follows these guidelines: an eligible project may apply for 75% of its total operating cost for the first two years. The local match requirement is 25%. For the third year of funding, the project can only request 50% of its total project operating cost and must then provide 50% match. For the fourth year of funding, the project can only request 25% of the project and must provide 75% match.

The following is an example of the four-year step-down cycle:

Example: First Year	Total Project Cost =	$20,000
	75% Federal Share =	$15,000
	25% Local Match =	$ 5,000
Example: Second Year	Total Project Cost =	$20,000
	75% Federal Share =	$15,000
	25% Local Match =	$ 5,000
Example: Third Year	Total Project Cost =	$20,000
	50% Federal Share =	$10,000
	50% Local Match =	$10,000

Example: Fourth Year	Total Project Cost =	$20,000
	25% Federal Share =	$ 5,000
	75% Local Match =	$15,000

Once a project has completed the four-year step-down cycle, the project will no longer be funded unless there are extenuating circumstances that OCJS is made aware of and has approved additional funding for in advance. Parties interested in additional JAG funding can submit an application that proposes an expansion or enhancement of the previous project, a new focus of the previous project, or a new project altogether. These projects can serve a different target population, operate in a new service area, or offer new or enhanced programming.

Note: If the primary purpose of the grant is to fund technology improvements, it should be directly tied to a program model that can and will be implemented throughout the step-down process. Programs that request technology improvements should anticipate continuing the programmatic elements of the approved program without:

1) changing the technology request or
2) applying for unrelated, additional funds throughout step-down. Programs that request funds for new, unrelated programming or technology will need to reapply as a Year 1 program.

Funding for these projects is competitive and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For step down related questions, email Markie Hinkle (614-644-2183) or email Linda Mielcarek (614-644-7733)

Costs used towards match must be reasonable, allowable, and supported by documentation.

Cash Match

Acceptable forms of Cash Match include:

- state or local budget items or appropriations identified as binding commitments of project match,
- funds contributed from private sources, like corporate or private donations,
- funds from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 5305, et. seq.,
- funds from the Appalachian Regional Development Act, and project income.

In-Kind Match

Acceptable forms of In-Kind Match include:

- donations of expendable equipment, supplies, workshop, or classroom materials and workspace, and
- the monetary value of donated time, contributed by volunteers such as professional, technical, skilled, or unskilled personnel if services are an integral and necessary part of the

project. The maximum allowable rate for volunteers is $15.00.

Match Waivers
Applicants can request to have their match portion waived if they can demonstrate that economic conditions have significantly undermined their ability to provide match. Interested applicants must upload a match waiver request as an attachment to their application. **NOTE: Applicants can upload the waiver to the *Notes and Attachments* section of the application forms in the** Online Grants Management System**.**

Fiscal Considerations

All subrecipients are bound by the Standard Federal Subgrant Conditions | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov). Project directors and fiscal team members are required to attend a mandatory online orientation. Please note: the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant is a reimbursement grant. Projects will submit Quarterly Subgrant Reports through the online grants management system to request reimbursement for approved grant expenses. Reimbursements are contingent on meeting the requirements of the grant including but not limited to performance reporting requirements as described in the Pre-Award Conditions. **Failure to timely report may impact the amount or availability of future funding an organization is eligible to receive.**

- **Fiscal Requirements**
    a. OCJS is committed to ensuring grant payments to Subawardees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. To enhance existing accounts receivable procedures, OCJS requires all Subawardees receiving State of Ohio payments via paper check to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For organizations with multiple physical address codes, specific EFT locations (accounts) may be connected to each address code. Here you can access Electronic Funds Transfer Instructions.

    b. Single, External, or Financial Statement Review Audits. Applicants are required to upload a copy of the organization's most recent Single, External, or Financial Statement Review Audit to the Notes and Attachment section of the application. This allows OCJS to ensure requirements are met for 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(f). Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996, and the OMB Circular A-133. 2 C.F.R 200.331(f) requires any organization exceeding $750,000 in federal funds for federal grants issued prior to 10/1/2024 and $1,000,000 after 10/1/2024 to have a Single Audit completed and uploaded into the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. External or Financial Statement Review Audits must be dated within the last 24 months. Failure to provide the necessary audit documents may impact OCJS' ability to fund an organization.
    c. General Ledger. Applicants are required to confirm the ongoing active use of a general ledger defined as a complete record of all the financial transactions over the life of

your organization. The general ledger holds all the information needed to prepare financial statements and includes assets, liabilities, equity (net asset), revenue and expenses.

d. Specific cost limits exist for certain allowable costs including:
    - Lodging and meal per diem rates, which cannot exceed the rates set by the federal Government Services Administration (GSA). The rates can be found at GSA Per Diem Rates.
    - Mileage rates, which cannot exceed the rates set by Ohio Budget Management (OBM). The current rate, $0.58 per mile, can be found at OBM Travel Rule.
    - Laptops, which cannot exceed $1250.
    - Cell phones, which cannot exceed $600.
    - Direct Client Expenses for car repairs are capped at $1,500.
    - OCJS has implemented a Gift Card Policy for any organizations providing gift cards as part of a grant. Each organization is required to implement a gift card policy meeting the requirements. The policy and requirements can be found at: OCJS Gift Card Policy

e. Each application receives a Pre-Risk Assessment to determine risks associated with financial integrity. If an applicant is determined to be moderate, high, or priority high risk, specific conditions of awards may be required as part of the award process.
    - An applicant may be deemed unqualified due to poor performance history or lack of demonstrated honesty or ethics.

All associated costs listed in the grant budget must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the grant; be consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures that apply uniformly to both Federal and State awards; and be allocable to the grant. A list of generally unallowable costs can be accessed at Unallowable Costs | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov).

Applicants are encouraged to review the OJP guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting that is available on the OJP web site at Office of Justice Programs: Financial Guide. The guidance generally prohibits using funding to provide food and beverages at conferences. The guidance also sets upper limits on many conference costs, including facility space, audio/visual services, logistical planning services, programmatic planning services, and food and beverages (in the rare cases where food and beverage costs are permitted at all). ***Prior review and approval of conference costs can take time (see the guidance for specific deadlines), and applicants should consider this when submitting proposals***. Applicants should also understand that conference cost limits may change and that they should regularly check the guidance for updates before incurring such costs.

Refer to the OCJS Financial Budget Definition Reference Guide for additional information on budget related terms.

Costs associated with language assistance (if applicable): If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate. (**§ 33.52 Civil rights.** The Justice Assistance Act provides that "no person in any state shall on the ground of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under or denied employment in connection with any programs or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title." Section 809(c)(1) of the Act. Recipients of funds under the Act are also subject to the provisions of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and the Department of Justice Non-Discrimination regulations 28 CFR part 42, subparts C, D, E, and G.)

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section of the OJP "Other Requirements for OJP Applications" web page at Office of Justice Programs: Civil Rights Overview.

Post Award Reporting Requirements

All JAG subgrantees are required to submit **quarterly** performance measurement reports to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) using their BJA Performance Measurement Tools (PMT) website. The due dates are April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15. The Bureau of Justice Assistance considers late reports overdue. **Projects that do not timely report may be subject to freezing or cancellation of funds**.

Proposal Components Checklist

Use the following checklist as a general guide for submitting proposals to OCJS. Read the entire JAG RFP before completing and submitting proposals.

- ❑ Title Page
- ❑ Problem Statement/Target Population
- ❑ Project Description
- ❑ Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles
- ❑ Project Objectives
- ❑ Timeline/Activities
- ❑ Organization Capacity
- ❑ Collaboration Board
- ❑ Executive Summary
- ❑ Budget

Format and Submission

Applicants must submit proposals online through the Online Grants Management System, by 5 p.m. EST on July 21, 2026. Please visit the Grants Management System. PLEASE NOTE: ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE NEW GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THE INTELLIGRANTS SYSTEM WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS.

***OCJS will not review late applications or consider them for funding*.** Failure to follow the specified application requirements will also disqualify applications from review and consideration for funding.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be completed and submitted through the OCJS Grants Management System to be considered for funding. When an application is successfully submitted, the banner at the top of the screen will turn green, and you will receive a confirmation email.

For technical assistance on any part of the JAG application, call OCJS at 614.466.7782 and ask to speak to your Grants Coordinator. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: Grants Administration Contact | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov).

Regional Planning Units. For applicants submitting proposals for a local project in Cuyahoga, Franklin or Lucas County, OCJS will forward your Regional Planning Unit a copy of your application who will review and prioritize it. NOTE: OCJS Subject Matter Experts review A01 and A03 projects as well as statewide projects located in these counties.

ATTENTION: This solicitation is for grant funding that the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) administers that originates from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). To continue program activities designed to maintain public safety services, OCJS will proceed with this solicitation, however, OCJS anticipates that new grant guidance may be issued in 2026 to reflect DOJ's revised policies and priorities. Updated DOJ guidance could impact terms and conditions and the availability of funding for any grants that are awarded from this solicitation. OCJS will share new grant conditions, guidance, and requirements with all grantees as they become available. In some instances, executed grant contracts may be revised or cancelled.

By submitting an application, the potential subrecipient understands that if awarded funding pursuant to this solicitation, the terms, the conditions, and the availability of continued funding are subject to future communications and guidance from DOJ.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Areas, Goals, and Allowable Activities

Please be aware that all projects are subject to the current Presidential Action and Executive Orders of the President's Administration. Applicants at a minimum must be aware of and compliant with Presidential Actions and Executive Orders. A complete list of Presidential Actions and Executive Orders can be found here.

Listed below are the JAG Program Areas (A-G) and their goals. Applicants must apply under one of these program areas.

A. Law Enforcement Programs

Law enforcement agencies applying under this solicitation must be in compliance with crime statistics reporting, using either the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS) or the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Collection Application (NCA), per Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62(C)(6).

1. Multi-Jurisdictional Task Forces (A01)

The goal of the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force is to reduce the impact of drug and firearm traffickers, gangs, pharmaceutical diversion, terrorism, and other organized criminal activity on the health and safety of Ohioans through multi-jurisdictional collaboration.

For more information about Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force programs, see the "Task Force Guidelines" section near the end of this document.

Allowable Task Force activities include:

- Enforcement and interdiction
- Deflection and community outreach

2. Law Enforcement Programming (A02)

The goal of this program area is to provide public safety measures that meet the needs of local communities through innovative criminal justice programs and develop enforcement and training programs that prioritize the needs of victims, suspects, or offenders. Agencies are strongly encouraged to submit applications for projects that incorporate evidence-based practices.

OCJS maintains a list of some of the more effective and/or common evidence-based law enforcement programs here - List of Evidence-Based Practices for JAG. Applicants will find additional effective, evidence-based law enforcement models at the following registries:

- Best Practices Guide: Recruitment, Retention, and Turnover of Law Enforcement Personnel
- Principles-of-a-Comprehensive-Recruitment-Hiring-Promotion-and-Retention-Strategy.pdf
- The Office of First Responder Recruitment has resources on the recommended selection components for hiring a law enforcement officer. The Selection Process | Department of Public Safety
- Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy: Evidence-Based Policing Playbook
- Proactive Policing: Effects on Crime and Communities
- National Institute of Justice: CrimeSolutions.gov
- National Policing Institute

Allowable activities include:

- Recruitment and hiring initiatives (this does not include academy costs)
- Adult and juvenile crime prevention and reduction programs
- Law enforcement deflection, diversion, and crisis response
- Law enforcement training

- Law enforcement community outreach
- Officer wellness

3. **Law Enforcement Equipment (A03)**
   The goal of this program area is to procure equipment, computer technology, and other materials directly related to law enforcement functions. Please note: OCJS does not consider traffic enforcement equipment a priority funding area at this time and related requests will not be granted.

Please note – if applying for equipment or technology that are already available as a free or low- cost resource, the application must explain why the currently available resource(s) are not sufficient for the agency's needs and how a purchase or lease of the equipment or technology will be more efficient and effective for the agency. Additionally, the application must clearly explain who from the agency will operate or use the equipment or technology and describe relevant training and/or certifications obtained that qualify the personnel to utilize or deploy the equipment or technology. Finally, the agency must also certify that it has policies in place governing the appropriate uses of any such equipment or technology.

By way of example, the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) provides a number of analytical and support services such as extraction and analysis of cell phones and other electronic devices, criminal case support, tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence support, trend analysis, cryptocurrency tracing, and dark web investigations. If you are applying for tools or resources that are duplicative of this type of free resource, be sure your application provides express details as to the need and why the current ONIC resources are not going to meet that need.

If applying for FLOCK or surveillance equipment, upload copies of department policies regulating the use of license plate reader surveillance equipment. If no such policy exists, a sample policy will be provided and the agency should commit to implementing a surveillance policy within a one-year timeframe from the date of award, or in the alternative, no later than the submission of the last QSR (if awarded) before grant closing.

Requirements for the A01, A02 and A03 Program Areas

- The A03 Program Area is only available to law enforcement agencies.
- Proposed ***Activities*** **must** supplement, not replace, local enforcement activities.
- Include the number of officers per shift in your application
-

If your agency is eligible to receive FY 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds directly from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, you will not be eligible to apply for the JAG A03 category through OCJS [Ohio LOCAL JAG ALLOCATIONS (ojp.gov)]**.**

B. Crime Prevention Programs (B01)

The goal of the Crime Prevention Programs grant area is to prevent and reduce crime from occurring, by supporting practices that work with individuals ***prior to*** their commitment of crimes **or** that ***improve the environment*** within which crime develops or occurs (e.g., families, schools, communities). Projects that provide services to offenders or alleged offenders following arrest or filing charges in court are not prevention for the purposes of this program. Such projects should apply for funding under another JAG program area (e.g., Corrections, Courts, etc.). Projects that use evidence-based models receive funding priority.

Allowable activities include:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Community violence intervention programming (non-LE)
- Crisis response (non-LE)
- Juvenile-focused prevention programming
- Adult and youth drug and mental health crime prevention programming
- Other prevention programming
- Community outreach
- Training for prevention professionals
- Technology improvement[1]

OCJS maintains a list of some of the more effective and/or common evidence-based prevention and education programs here - List of Evidence-Based Practices for JAG. Applicants will find additional effective, evidence-based crime prevention models at the following registries:

- National Institute of Justice: CrimeSolutions.gov

[1] Refer to page 11- Technology Improvements restrictions and requirements.

- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): Benefit-Cost Results
- Institute of Medicine: Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders among Young People
- Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development

Unallowable project requests: crime deterrent hardware, D.A.R.E.

C. Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry Programs (C01)

The goal of this program area is to increase community-based alternatives to incarceration and detention for non-violent offenders in Ohio. Treatment programs must address offender's criminogenic needs and improve offender assessments. Programs may be residential and/or non-residential settings. OCJS prioritizes evidence-based projects that implement and adhere to the ***Principles of Effective Intervention***, including prioritizing high-risk offenders, assessing offenders' needs, designing responsivity into programming, developing behavioral management plans, delivering services using cognitive-based strategies, motivating and shaping offender behavior, engaging the community, and identifying outcomes and measuring progress.

Reentry Coalitions bring together and educate local communities and stakeholders on re-entry related issues and needs. The mission of these coalitions is to promote successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, reduce recidivism and increase public safety. Funding can be used to support the goals of reentry coalitions related to housing, employment, financial management, substance abuse, education and transportation.

Allowable activities include:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Offender mental health and substance use assessment and treatment
- Crisis response programming
- Training for corrections professionals
- Technology improvement[2]

[2] Refer to page 11- Technology Improvements restrictions and requirements.

OCJS maintains a list of some of the more effective and/or common evidence-based practices known in corrections, community corrections, and reentry – List of Evidence-Based Practices for JAG. For more information about evidence-based corrections and reentry programs, also visit:

- National Institute of Justice: CrimeSolutions.gov
- U.S. Department of Justice: National Institute of Corrections
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): Benefit-Cost Results
- Council of State Governments: What Works in Reentry?

Unallowable project requests: **Scared Straight

D. Courts, Specialized Dockets, Defense and Prosecution (D01)

The goal of the courts, specialized dockets, defense and prosecution category is to support cost-effective programs that contribute to the reduction of crime, enhance public safety, and promote the fair and equitable treatment of victims and defendants/offenders. Projects should support programs that assist in the timely clearing of cases, help to decrease the dockets, and focus on tailoring services to ensure accountability on the part of the offender while also ensuring offenders return to the community with the appropriate services and supervision to help lower recidivism. OCJS prioritizes projects in the following categories that are evidence-based or that incorporate evidence-based practices.

Allowable activities include:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Specialized dockets
- Prosecution and specialized prosecution
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
- Diversion programming
- Training for court professionals
- Technology improvement[3]

Requirements for the D01 Program Area

Specialized docket projects must coordinate with the Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Section, and meet their required certification standards. Priority will be given to specialized docket programs that:

[3] Refer to page 11- Technology Improvements restrictions and requirements.

- Are in "Initial Review" or otherwise certified with the Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Dockets Section at the time of application submission;
- Demonstrate collaborative efforts between the courts (i.e., judge, prosecution, defense, and probation/parole, etc.) and community groups/resources (i.e., treatment and programming providers); and
- Utilize assessment tools and measures to determine risk and need of the ***Target Population*** (e.g., medium to high risk).

Pretrial diversion projects must demonstrate in the Project Description any evidence-based practices appropriate for the intended target population. All projects must adhere to Ohio Revised Code 2935.36 Pre-Trial Diversion Programs. OCJS prioritizes diversion programs that:

- Demonstrate collaborative efforts between the courts (i.e., probation/parole, prosecution, defense, etc.) and community groups/resources; and
- Utilize assessment tools and measures to determine program eligibility, risk, and needs of the target population (e.g., low to medium risk, first time court appearance, non-violent offense, etc.).

Projects seeking to **increase the number of cleared cases or decrease court dockets** must clearly demonstrate within the Project Description effective practices to help courts reduce the time-to-disposition of pending cases, remove barriers to the timely resolution of cases, and apply creative solutions to improve case flow.

**Unallowable project requests: court security projects.

OCJS maintains a list of some of the more effective and/or common evidence-based practices known in courts, specialized dockets, defense and prosecution – List of Evidence-Based Practices for JAG. For more information about exemplary courts, specialized dockets, defense, and prosecution, visit:

- National Institute of Justice: CrimeSolutions.gov
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): Benefit-Cost Results
- Domestic Violence Evidence Project

E: Victim Services (E01)

The goal of the victim services programs is to provide individual victims of crime with services to help them overcome the trauma of victimization, participate in all critical stages of the criminal justice process, and to help assist them in returning to full and active lives.

Allowable activities include:

- Recruiting and hiring
- Direct victim services
- Community outreach
- Training for victim services professionals
- Staff wellness
- Technology improvements[4]

Requirements for the E01 Victim Services Program Area

Applicants must articulate how they will prohibit program activities that compromise victim safety and recovery in their Project Description, including:

- Policies and procedures that exclude any victims from receiving safe shelter, advocacy services, counseling, and other assistance;
- Prohibit requiring mediation or counseling for couples as a systemic response to domestic violence, human trafficking or sexual assault, or in situations in which child sexual abuse is alleged;
- Prohibit requiring victims to report sexual assault, stalking or domestic violence or human trafficking crimes to law enforcement or forcing victims to participate in criminal proceedings;
- Prohibit supporting policies or engaging in practices that impose restrictive and/or mandatory conditions to be met by the victim to receive services (e.g., attending counseling seeking an order of protection);
- Prohibit sharing confidential victim information with outside organizations and/or individuals without the documented consent of the victim; and
- Prohibit procedures that would penalize or impose sanctions on victims of domestic violence or sexual assault for failure to testify against the abuser and/or the perpetrator.

Applicants must describe how any training for project staff is provided by a state or national entity that provides role-specific training, as well as training around model provided. If the agency itself provides the training, the applicant needs to describe how it has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a tribal, state, territorial, or local domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking victim service provider or coalition, as well as appropriate tribal, state, territorial, and local law enforcement official.

[4] Refer to page 11- Technology Improvements restrictions and requirements.

- Include a confirmation that any professional facilitating behavioral health services and legal services to individuals has a current license/certification in good standing with the Board or State Agency statutorily responsible for oversight. Discuss how successful completion of the project is realistic given the key staff implementing the project.
- If advocates provide specialized services (e.g., legal or medical advocacy), please provide information on specific training they will receive. For example, legal advocates need to receive training on the unauthorized practice of law, protection order processes, victims' rights (including Marsy's Law) and other aspects of this role. All advocates are expected to receive an introductory 40-hour training offered by a state organization (e.g., OAESV, ODVN, OAG, etc.), training on victims' rights (including Marsy's Law) and information on new best practices or legal changes (e.g., Strangulation statute). If an advocate is credentialed, please note if it is through OAN or NOVA.
- In cases where positions have not been filled, the applicant should clearly describe a reasonable approach and criteria for hiring experienced and qualified staff.

Ohio Revised Code Section 2907.10 "Preliminary polygraph test of sex offense victim" requires the following:

- (A) (1) "A peace officer, prosecutor, or other public official shall not ask or require a victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of the alleged sex offense."
- (A) (2) "The refusal of the victim of an alleged sex offense to submit to a polygraph examination shall not prevent the investigation of the alleged sex offense, the filing of criminal charges with respect to the alleged sex offense, or the prosecution of the alleged perpetrator of the alleged sex offense."

Applicants will find a list of some of the more effective and/or common evidence-based practices in victim services. For more information about victim service models, visit:

- National Institute of Justice: CrimeSolutions.gov
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP): Benefit-Cost Results
- Domestic Violence Evidence Project

F. Cross-agency and Cross-System Collaboration, Training Programs, Technical Assistance, and Research (F01)

The goal of Cross-agency and Cross-System Collaboration, Training and Technical Assistance projects is to improve criminal justice systems by promoting collaboration, training and/or technical assistance across systems - in particular law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and correction agencies. OCJS prioritizes projects that are evidence-based or that incorporate evidence-based practices and that have one or more of the following goals:

- Cross-systems collaboration, training and technical assistance (F01)
- Data and information sharing initiatives (F02)
- Research and evaluation (F03)

The goal of Research projects is to generate evidence critical to the development of sound criminal justice policy. Research projects should advance knowledge and understanding of emerging crime and justice issues in Ohio using scientific methodologies.

While all technical assistance and research programs will receive funding consideration, OCJS prioritizes projects in the following categories:

1. ***Place Network Investigation (PNI)*** projects within cities, villages or townships – suggested topics include: 1) Evaluating the process of building the elements of a place network investigation project, in particular the ***PNI Board***, 2) Identifying challenges to implementing PNI projects - especially dealing with problem place managers, 3) Evaluating the impact of a place network investigation project on disrupting criminal networks and reducing violent crime rates in identified locations. 4) Evaluating other place-based law enforcement strategies that problem-solve with other government agencies to identify the factors that are increasing the likelihood of criminal activity occurring in places, and that work together to address the identified factors and reduce the likelihood of crime occurring. Technical assistance for agencies exploring or implementing PNI are also viable projects for funding.

2. ***Police-Community Relations*** – suggested topics include: 1) Resident perspectives of law enforcement practices in high crime hotspots, 2) Parent and/or educator perspectives of law enforcement practices within schools, 3) A program evaluation that examines a project designed to improve police-community relations. Technical assistance for agencies exploring or implementing Police-Community Relations projects are also viable for funding.

3. ***Ohio Collaborative Certification or Accreditation Programs*** – suggested topics include: 1) An evaluation of the process of certifying/accrediting law enforcement agencies; 2) Identifying barriers/challenges to certifying/accrediting law enforcement agencies; 3) Identifying best practices in certifying/accrediting law enforcement agencies.

4. ***Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Partnerships*** to divert individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorder from the criminal justice system – Suggested topics include: 1) Evaluating the role of certified peer support mentors, 2) Outcome evaluation of local deflection/diversion programs and/or core practices within these programs, 3) Feasibility/process of merging alternative response practices (e.g., QRT and mobile crisis response teams, especially in rural communities). Technical assistance for agencies exploring or implementing Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Partnerships are also viable projects for funding.

5. ***Human Trafficking*** – suggested topics include: 1) Evaluation of Ohio human trafficking cases that have been successfully prosecuted including providing an overview of case characteristics, victim and offender characteristics, charges, and sentencing outcomes. May include a process evaluation of court and system processes that support successful prosecution, 2) Evaluation of housing models for survivors of human trafficking, with either an adult or youth focus, with a special emphasis on integrating human trafficking-specific services within the context of domestic violence/intimate partner violence shelters and programming, 3) Evaluation of the similarities and differences in system response and service needs when working with survivors of labor trafficking compared to survivors of sex trafficking.

6. ***Sexual Assault Kit Testing*** – suggested topics include: 1) Evaluating challenges around the submission of sexual assault evidence kits (e.g., processes, transportation, etc.)submission to labs, 2) Promoting best law enforcement practices for sexual assault and strangulation (e.g., documentation, evidence collection, medical treatment/assessment, submission to labs, tracking results, etc.).

7. ***Sexual Assault Kit Storage –*** suggested topics include: 1) Identifying sexual assault kit storage and destruction practices, 2) assessing current storage capacity and limitations, 3) identifying specific training needs around best practices.

8. ***Jail or prison reentry programs/practices***—suggested topics include: 1) A process evaluation of reentry practices in one or more jurisdictions (e.g., what they look like and how well they meet individuals' material and psychological needs), 2) Identifying/navigating barriers to re-entry for individuals with sex offender registration restrictions, 3) Evaluating the value of adding peer mentors to re-entry projects. Technical assistance for agencies exploring or implementing jail or prison reentry programs or practices are also viable projects for funding.

9. ***Domestic Violence Response – Domestic Violence Response –*** suggested topics include: 1) Evaluating the capacity (e.g., training, documentation, evidence collection, assessments/medical treatments, connection to community resources, etc.) of law enforcement to respond to domestic violence, 2) Evaluating law enforcement's training, usage, and implementation of lethality assessments, 3) Identifying and evaluating best law enforcement practices related to strangulation (e.g., training, documentation, evidence collection, assessments/medical treatments, sending swabs to labs, tracking results, connection to community resources, etc.). Process evaluations including identifying implementation of best practice barriers and challenges as well as impact evaluations are both welcome. Technical assistance for agencies exploring or implementing domestic violence prevention or reduction programs are also viable projects for funding.

In addition to applications seeking to provide technical assistance to a specific jurisdiction in implementing crime reduction strategies and topics listed above, training and technical assistance instruction specific to crime reduction strategies for Ohio jurisdictions will also be considered for funding.

G. Planning Grants (G01)

Applicants may submit proposals for an amount of funding designated toward start up and planning activities for new projects, prior to participation in step-down funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The planning grant period is an opportunity that may be used toward activities that historically impact the success of programs throughout stepdown funding. Under this funding, select grantees are eligible for up to $20,000[5] toward capacity building and program development activities including, but not limited to:

- Costs associated with recruiting, hiring, and training Program Coordinators, or other frontline staff for the proposed project;
- Costs associated with community needs assessments used, in part, to determine needs of specific groups within the identified target population;
- Curriculum development as applied to the target population. ***Note: Applicants should identify a general curriculum (evidence-based or best practice) or model in their proposed application***; and

[5] Requested amounts and costs are subject to OCJS approval.

- Assessment development to ensure that individuals are being appropriately and consistently referred to program services throughout the program period. Examples include risk assessments and performance assessments.

Once the startup funding period is complete, programs who would like to continue to receive funding through JAG will be required to reapply for funding as a first-year program. The requirements to receive JAG funding after the startup period include:

- Apply for and meet the requirements of the 2025 JAG Request for Proposals. Applications are subject to the same review process as all other JAG applications for the given year;
- Successfully complete fiscal monitoring and/or complete the Virtual Fiscal Grants Management Academy if assigned;[6]
- Successfully complete programmatic monitoring;[6]
- Participate in OCJS's Grant Writing Training if the program manager or other staff have not done so within the last three years; and
- Complete a detailed program implementation plan once startup funding is no longer available utilizing the model provided to your agency through your grant's pre-award conditions.

Planning grantees are highly encouraged to work with the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS) to develop project activities and materials, and develop an implementation plan for stepdown funding during the planning grant period. Funding to work with OCCS is separate from the proposal request and is at no cost to grantees if projects are awarded. Work with OCCS should be considered when planning and within the applicant's project proposal.

Applications submitted under the planning category are required to meet the same components outlined in the "Proposal Components Checklist" on page 34 and the Proposal Narrative explanation starting on page 26.

[6] OCJS will contact your program to schedule on-site visits.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Proposal Narrative

Problem Statement

Applicants should clearly describe the crime or justice problem that needs addressed and its impact on the community. Grant reviewers evaluate applications on how effectively they:

- clearly describe the nature and scope of the problem based on relevant national, state, and local data/statistics, as well as agency statistics, to document the existence of the problem. Applicants can find relevant state and local data online on the Data, Reports & Dashboards | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov).
- discuss the short and long-term consequences of the problem on the community if not addressed, and how the problem will impact the community if OCJS does not fund the proposed project.
- clearly identify the project's ***Target Population*** to be served by the project. The applicant must clearly describe the identified target population and explain its connection to the problem that needs addressed. Applicants must provide relevant demographic information that describes the target population.
- identify other resources in the community that are currently available to address the problem and/or explain why existing resources are not sufficient to address the problem. If no resources exist, applicant should discuss the gaps in services and explain how the proposed project will help alleviate those gaps.

Project Description

Applicants should describe a plan of action that the proposed project will implement to address the problems identified in the ***Problem Statement***. Grant reviewers will evaluate applications on how well they:

- describe the proposed activities and approach (i.e., model or practice) the project will take given the nature of the problems the applicant identified. The approach should seem logical given the characteristics and needs of the identified Target Population.
- document evidence that the model or practice chosen is appropriate for the outcomes the program wants to achieve with the Target Population ***and*** clearly justifies why the applicant selected the particular program model for implementation. **Applicants should provide a detailed discussion on their plan to implement a model that is evidence-based or incorporates evidence-based practices of their field**.
- clearly demonstrate how they will ensure fidelity to the evidence-based model. Projects that implement evidence-based practices with fidelity ensure that their core services, components,

and procedures are consistent with the evidence-based model they utilize. Applicants must provide adequate discussion of the resources that are required to implement their project, and the resources should be reasonable given the scope and detail of their identified approach.
- address specific criteria described under the requested funding category from pages 12 through 21.

Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles

Applicants should describe a plan of action that the proposed project will implement to sustain the program activities discussed in the Project Description. Applicants should also describe previous accomplishments and obstacles they experienced when carrying out similar activities that were discussed in the Project Description. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

- explains the steps that will be taken to ensure long-term program sustainability (i.e., the ability for the program to maintain its services over time). The applicant must demonstrate commitment to the program by describing a plan for maintaining programmatic activities after OCJS funding ends. If the current proposal requests funding for an organization that has participated in a stepdown cycle, significant information about long-term sustainability needs to be provided.
- describes any previous program accomplishments and how these accomplishments influence program activities. If the current proposal requests funds for a continuation of programming activities, these accomplishments should be related to programming that was completed under previous funding.
- describes any previous or ongoing programmatic obstacles or challenges and how they were addressed. If the current proposal requests funds for a continuation of programming activities, these obstacles should be related to programming that was completed under previous funding.

Project Objectives

Project Objectives measure changes that result from implementing the proposed project with the ***Target Population*** during the grant year. Applicants should describe these anticipated changes (or outcomes). Achieved project objectives should reflect measurable changes for the target population due to the services offered by the program during the grant year. There are two types of project objectives:

1) **Process objectives** describe the "processes" (***Activities***) that a program will implement during the grant year.
2) **Outcome objectives** describe the measured changes that will result from implementing the proposed project during the grant year.

Applicants must provide at least one process objective and one outcome objective. Applicants should use the sample Performance Objectives listed on the OCJS website (OCJS Grants Performance Objectives) to help them select at least two objectives that correspond to the applicant's program area**.**

- **Objective:** Describe the measure of change that will result from the proposed project (e.g., increase by 25 in number of victims served; decrease by 10% the number of robberies reported to law enforcement; maintain at 15 the number of crime prevention programs presented to residents during the grant period).
- **Performance Indicator:** Describe what is being measured to track progress (e.g., a count of victims served; a count of robberies; a count of crime prevention programs).
- **Baseline:** The baseline is the starting value at the beginning of a project, and it serves as a reference point to measure change over time. Baseline numbers are used to compare "before" and "after" to assess impact. If no attempts to evaluate services have been made to date, then the baseline is zero.
- **Performance Data Collection:** Discuss the procedures and strategies for collecting, analyzing, storing and reporting the data (e.g., data collection through a records management system; hand-entered into a spreadsheet; collected via survey). This should include discussing how anonymity and confidentiality are maintained. Applicants should use the most recent statistics available for your application.

Grant reviewers evaluate applications based on how effectively they:

- clearly identify project objectives,
- clearly identify performance indicators,
- clearly identify any baseline data that exists from the most recent prior year of the project, and
- clearly identify how the data will be collected.

Timeline and Activities

Applicants should describe how the programmatic and grant administrative activities as well as the related outcomes and objectives will be reasonably achieved in the given project period. Grant reviewers evaluate applications based on how effectively they:

- present a comprehensive, thorough ***Timeline*** that is well defined and comprehensively specifies what will be done, who (individuals and organizations) will do it, and when it will be accomplished. Include activities such as anticipated ***Collaboration Board*** meetings, OCJS grant reporting deadlines and any other activities specific to the project. Include program implementation activities as well as grant administration activities. The ***Timeline*** should be

reasonable given the nature of the problem, the ***Target Population***, and the approach/response discussed in earlier sections of the application.

- If applicable, list any other deliverables that the project will create and/or use throughout the project.
- The timeline of activities should be detailed, align with the project description and be clearly organized. Activities may be grouped together as daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly (divide into quarters), and annually.

Organization Capacity

Applicants should provide a comprehensive discussion of the history and accomplishments of the organization and staff responsible for implementing the project to illustrate their capacity to implement the project. Identify any key staff that will be involved in the project, including the project director and other individuals who will be responsible for administering the grant and implementing the program. Grant reviewers will evaluate applications in terms of how effectively they:

- clearly identify the mission of the agency that will serve as the subrecipient and/or implementing agency. The application should clearly demonstrate the capacity of the subrecipient and implementing agency to administer grants of similar size and scope as the project submitted for funding. The applicant should demonstrate that they have adequate resources (i.e., personnel/staff, infrastructure to support an additional program, computers, software, etc.) to implement the project as proposed.
- clearly identify the key staff, including any volunteers that will be participating in the proposed project, including their qualifications, experience, and education.
- discuss how successful completion of the project is realistic given the key staff implementing the project. Project applications that have position vacancies should clearly describe a reasonable approach and criteria to hire experienced and qualified staff.

Collaboration Boards

Collaboration Boards are essential to the funding process. The leadership, oversight and direction they provide help projects achieve their goals and objectives through a shared community vision. Collaboration Boards should be comprised of agency representatives as well as relevant stakeholders from the community, including but not limited to representatives from: child and family services, community organizations, schools, hospitals, mental health and/or substance abuse agencies, local law enforcement, court systems, including victim advocates, probation officers, the prosecutor's office, etc. ***The Collaboration Board is not an agency's Board of Trustees or Advisory Board.*** The Collaboration Board **must** conduct meetings ***at least quarterly,*** prepare meeting agendas, and keep

minutes of discussion items. These meetings must include an overview of program activities during the quarter, updates on progress towards project objectives, discussions about successes and challenges encountered during the quarter, and expectations for program activities during the next quarter. Applicants should describe the collaborative effort between the applicant and other organizations. OCJS expects projects to adhere to all these requirements. Failure to hold quarterly Collaboration Board meetings or keep meeting minutes may result in the freezing or cancellation of funds.

Grant reviewers will evaluate the application in terms of how effectively they:

- identify the organizations that will participate in the Collaboration Board that will be responsible for overseeing the project. Describe their roles and demonstrate their commitment to the project. The applicant may use an existing community board or group to provide oversight to the project and act in the capacity of the Collaboration Board. Signed commitment letters will be required from all representatives on the Collaboration Board
- describe the extent and nature of the collaborative effort and how the role and function of each organization supports the overall goal of the project. Applicants should clearly link partner agencies with their roles and functions within the collaborative group.
- provide details describing the management of the collaborative group. The applicant should list the anticipated dates of quarterly meetings, how the applicant will notify board members of upcoming meetings, and the process for distributing and maintaining records of minutes of meetings. If the applicant uses an existing community board or group to serve as the Collaboration Board, describe how the group will provide specific oversight for this project.
- describe how the collaborative group will work together to achieve project goals and objectives.

Applications must include commitment letters from all collaboration board members. Letters must be submitted on the collaboration board member's letterhead, include the board member's position within the agency and their signature, and detail the member's role and commitment as a partner within the proposed project. All applicants are required to upload collaboration board letters into the Online Grants Management System in the "Notes & Attachments" section of the online application. Applications without collaboration letters are incomplete and considered ineligible for funding.

Collaboration letters are not required for the A03 Law Enforcement – Equipment Only category if applying for single agency use equipment.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary serves as a concise and accurate description of the proposed project and should not introduce new information. The information provided should serve as a summarized version of the overall application narrative.

Purpose Statement

The purpose statement should be clear and concise. It describes what the applicant is going to do, the population that is going to be served, how it will be accomplished and why it is important. Information provided within the purpose statement is reported to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting system in response to FFATA legislation.

Problem Statement and Description

The applicant must provide a condensed version of the problem statement and project description and ensure activities, dates, data/statistics align with previously presented statement narratives.

Participating Agencies/Collaboration

The applicant must provide a detailed collaboration board list.

Budget

Describe any costs associated with implementing the program. Grant reviewers will evaluate the budget in terms of how effectively it:

- presents a clear and detailed budget with a narrative that explains and justifies the budget information.
- justifies the costs of the proposed program and that the costs are considered reasonable and cost-effective in view of the types and range of ***Activities*** to be conducted, the number of participants to be served, and the expected results and benefits.
- if funds are requested for a service contract, the contract must be within the award period and details of the contract must be broken down in the budget
- clearly states how the applicant will use match funds and the source of match funds.
- External Audit or Financial Report - upload a copy of your organization's most recent external audit or most recent financial report to the Collaboration Board section of the application. This allows OCJS to ensure requirements are met for 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(f). Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996, and the OMB Circular A-133.

Applicants should include all staff salaries that they will seek reimbursement for in the ***Personnel*** cost category. It is important to include any changes that may occur over the course of the funding period including raises or cost of living increases. Fringe benefits may include: Fringe Benefits Summary | Office of Criminal Justice Services (ohio.gov)

- PERS (government agencies)
- FICA (private agencies)
- Unemployment Compensation
- Defined retirement benefit plan (private agencies)
- Medicare
- Health, dental, and vision insurance
- Life insurance
- Long term and short-term disability insurance
- Employee assistance programs
- Paid time off (vacation, sick, compensatory, holiday, and personal) accrued and used during the award period.

Here applicants will find unallowable costs for the JAG program and other grant programs.

This space is intentionally left blank.

Multi-Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Task Force Guidelines for 2026 Justice Assistance Grant Application

Please read these guidelines prior to completing the grant application. If you have any questions, contact Markie Hinkle at 614-644-2183 (mehinkle@dps.ohio.gov) or Linda Mielcarek at 614-644-7733 (lamielcarek@dps.ohio.gov).

OCJS categorizes multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force applications based upon the following funding maximums. There will be four categories in all, each with a defined maximum level of funding. Funding maximums do not guarantee funding or funding at that level. Funding may also reflect the overall JAG funding level

- **Category 1**: Population served greater than 500,000; funding maximum: $150,000.
- **Category 2**: Population served 250,000-499,999 and counties served five or less; funding maximum: $105,000.
- **Category 3**: Population served 150,000-249,999 and counties served four or less; funding maximum: $75,000.
- **Category 4**: Population served less than 150,000 and counties served two or less; funding maximum: $60,000.

✓ **Population Served Estimate.** Each task force project must include in their application's ***Problem Statement*** a "Population Served Estimate" based upon the 2020 census data found on the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Strategic Research website.

✓ **Counties Served**. Each task force must also indicate a numerical "Counties Served" designation in their application's ***Problem Statement***. The "Counties Served" number includes all counties being served by the task force with the participation of that county's sheriff on the ***Collaboration Board***. When a task force exclusively serves a municipality without the participation of the sheriff of the jurisdiction, the population estimate shall include only the population for that municipality. When two task forces have overlapping, or concurrent jurisdictions, the two task forces will split the population estimate for that jurisdiction equally.

Note: If a task force does not match into a specific category based on population served and counties served then it should apply in the higher funded category. For example, if the population served is 125,000 and counties served is four then the task force can apply based on Category 3 because counties served is four or less, not two or less.

Proposal Components Checklist

ALL components within each section of the RFP must be addressed and clearly described. Use the following as a checklist to ensure all required components are addressed. Read the entire 2026 JAG RFP before completing and submitting proposals.

- ❑ Title Page
- ❑ Problem Statement/Underserved Population (pg. 26)
- ❑ Project Description (pg. 26)
- ❑ Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles ()
- ❑ Project Objectives (pg. 27)
- ❑ Timeline/Activities (pg. 28)
- ❑ Organization, Staff Capacity (pg. 29)
- ❑ Collaboration Board (pg. 29)
    - All applicants must upload FY 2026 JAG commitment letters from each Collaboration Board member and upload to the Notes & Attachment section.
    - Letters must be on each Collaboration Board member agency's letterhead.
    - The letters must describe each member agency's role and demonstrate commitment to the proposed project.
    - External Audit or Financial Report (Upload to the Notes & Attachment section of the application.)
- ❑ Executive Summary (pg. 30)
- ❑ Budget (pg. 31)

Americans with Disabilities

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is committed to ensuring equal access to assistance programs, information, and services, regardless of disability. OCJS understands some individuals with disabilities may need an accommodation in order to have access to or participate in OCJS programs or services. OCJS understands accommodations vary depending upon the needs of the individual. Therefore, accommodation requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information regarding accommodations, or to request an accommodation, please email the Department of Public Safety's ADA Unit. Additional information regarding disability accommodations can also be found on the Privacy Notice and Policies page of the Department of Public Safety's website.