

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: January 16, 2014

**SUBJECT: Proposed Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Executive Steering Committee Funding Strategy
for Fiscal Year 2014-2017. Requesting Approval.**

AGENDA ITEM: I

RESOURCE PERSON: Daryle McDaniel

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

Summary:

This agenda item asks the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to approve the four-year strategy of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Executive Steering Committee (ESC). The current four-year cycle for the JAG program began in fiscal year (FY) 2013, but the board opted at that time to set funding for just one year. The state must report to the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) how JAG funding will be used in each year of the four-year grant period. After approving the year-one allocations in September 2013, the board asked for stakeholder input on how to focus the increasingly diminishing JAG grant awards over the final three-years of this grant cycle and beyond. The Board appointed an ESC to develop the funding strategy that is outlined in this report.

Background:

On July 1, 2012 state law transferred the administration of JAG funds from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to the new BSCC. BSCC became the State Administrative Agency (SAA) responsible for oversight of funds for JAG, a federal public safety program administered by the BJA. The JAG program has seven categories in which money can be allocated, called Program Purpose Areas (PPAs) which are:

- (1) Law enforcement
- (2) Prosecution, court and defense
- (3) Prevention and education programs
- (4) Corrections and community corrections
- (5) Drug treatment and enforcements
- (6) Crime victim and witness initiatives
- (7) Planning, evaluation and technology improvement

The JAG program was transferred to BSCC in the last year of the prior four-year cycle (2009-2010 through 2012-2013). During the July 2012 Board meeting, the Board agreed to continue the funding approach of Cal OES for the final year. This minimized the disruption for the existing JAG grantees and allowed BSCC to establish the systems and processes to undertake the administration of a new program. The Cal OES funded programs were:

- Anti-Drug Abuse Enforcement Team
- Drug Endangered Children (DEC)
- CrackDown Multi-Community Task Force

- Marijuana Suppression Program
- Campaign Against Marijuana Planting Program

At the March 14, 2013 Board meeting, BSCC staff presented a planning process to develop a new four-year strategy and advised the Board of the release of the 2013 JAG state solicitation, which would be due to the BJA before our new strategy was completed. The Board authorized BSCC staff to survey stakeholders and collect public comments on the best use of JAG funds in California. The Board also asked that staff confirm with BJA that the state could submit an interim application detailing the Board's planning and development activities.

The BJA approved the staff request to submit the 2013 JAG state application outlining our strategic plan development activities and projected timelines for the completion of the new four-year strategy, and the development of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) to distribute the state JAG funding.

On August 2, 2013, the BSCC sent the interim state JAG application to BJA. In the application BSCC staff explained that we were analyzing the survey results that ultimately could result in a change in the strategic plan. BJA then placed special conditions on the 2013 allocation until BSCC could specify how the state allocation would be used.

On September 12, 2013, the Board approved the formation of an ESC to develop the subsequent three-years of the JAG four-year strategy and RFP for FY 2014. The Board also required the ESC to use the 2013 stakeholder survey as a guide in the development of the state JAG strategy.

On September 25, 2013, the Board approved continued funding for one year for all existing JAG programs. In addition, the Board added funding for a year for the California Youthful Offender Re-entry (Cal-YOR) program.

On October 7, 2013, BJA released all the special conditions for the 2013 JAG allocation.

On October 30, 2013, BJA released to the BSCC \$20 million for distribution to grantees. BSCC staff is reviewing and making final preparations for the distribution of the FY 2013 funding to the grantees. BSCC staff anticipates the rollout of JAG funding for FY 2013 during January 2014.

For the next three years of the JAG funding, BSCC staff anticipates the state application will be released before the federal budget is approved so the state won't know the amount of federal funding that will be received. By March 2014, our strategy language must be in place to meet BJA application requirements.

2013 JAG Stakeholder Survey Results

The Board approved a proposal to initiate a stakeholder survey to gather input for the best uses of JAG funding in California. BSCC worked with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), which receives funding from BJA to assist State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) with strategies to engage criminal justice stakeholders in a community-based planning process. BSCC and NCJA staff developed the survey questions and format.

The 2013 Stakeholder Survey was available online at the BSCC website throughout April 2013. BSCC staff also emailed the survey to 400 individuals and organizations representing 30 types of stakeholders and members of the public. The NCJA managed the survey, and analyzed and prepared the results of the 890 responses. The survey asked respondents to prioritize their public safety priorities. The results are:

- Prevention and Education
- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution, Courts, Defense

The survey also asked the respondents to rank program initiatives within each of the seven program purpose areas. The following is a summary of the top two priority program initiatives selected by the survey respondents across the system within each PPA:

Purpose Area 1- Law Enforcement

1. Gang Violence
2. Violent Crime Reduction

Purpose Area 2- Prosecution, Courts, Defense

1. Problem Solving Courts
2. Gun/Gang Prosecution and Violent Crime Prosecution and Defense

Purpose Area 3- Prevention and Education

1. Gang Initiatives
2. Juvenile Delinquency and Substance Abuse

Purpose Area 4- Corrections and Community Corrections

1. Alternatives to Incarceration – Residential and Nonresidential
2. Community-Based Outpatient Treatment

Purpose Area 5- Drug Treatment and Enforcement

1. In-Custody Treatment
2. Community-Based Outpatient Treatment

Purpose Area 6- Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement

1. Data Collection and Information Sharing Technology to Support Crime Fighting Strategies
2. Technology to Support Case Management

Purpose Area 7- Crime Victim and Witness Protection

1. Children Exposed to Violence
2. Direct Victim Services, e.g., advocacy, accompaniment

Public Comment Sessions

Also during April 2013 BSCC staff and a member of the Board held three public comment sessions across California. Fifty-five speakers commented at sessions attended by more than 150 representatives of 33 local and state law enforcement agencies and two youth services agencies. The law enforcement representatives requested continued funding of existing multijurisdictional drug and human trafficking enforcement task forces. Two youth programs -- the California Youthful Offender Reentry (Cal-YOR) Program and Homeboy Industries -- sought funding for re-entry programs. Six victim services agencies requested additional funding for direct victims services and to address the issue of human trafficking.

Executive Steering Committee

On November 4, 2013 the ESC met with committee Co-Chairs and Board Members Dean Growdon and David Steinhart to consider survey results and develop the strategy for the remaining three-years of cycle of the four-year cycle.

California's first year of the four-year JAG for FY 2013 continues support for the law enforcement and drug suppression programs and priorities funded in previous cycles. In addition, first year funds have been made available to support the Cal-YOR projects.

JAG subsequent three-year strategy:

1. The strategy will honor responses from California stakeholders in the survey with priority given to the survey supported areas of:
 - Education and Prevention
 - Law Enforcement
 - Prosecution, Courts and Defense
2. The needs of the small, medium, and large counties will be taken into account.
3. Funding will be based on local flexibility on the needs of the juvenile and adult criminal justice communities and on input from a balanced array of stakeholders.
4. Applicants must demonstrate a collaborative strategy based on the community engagement model that involves multiple stakeholders in the project or problem addressed.
5. Some emphasis in the strategy will be given to the development of innovative and/or promising strategies to reduce crime and recidivism.

Upon the Board's approval of the ESC's strategy recommendation the ESC will proceed with the development of the RFP which will add the infrastructure and program parameters to the JAG strategy and program. The program parameter recommendation will then be brought back before the Board for approval in March 2014.

Recommended Action Needed:

BSCC staff requests approval for the following:

1. Approval of the entire four-year JAG strategy.
2. Approval for the ESC to proceed to the RFP stage of the JAG funding process.

Resource Person: Daryle McDaniel, Field Representative; (916) 341-7392, and daryle.mcdaniel@bscc.ca.gov