

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

DATE: February 12, 2015

**SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Executive Steering
Committee's Funding Recommendations.
Requesting Approval.**

AGENDA ITEM: D

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

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Summary: This agenda item requests approval of grant awards for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, as recommended by the JAG Executive Steering Committee (ESC). If the proposed list of grantees is approved by the Board, the grants will become effective March 1, 2015 and will expire December 31, 2017. The \$16,669,430 available for local assistance will be allocated among thirty-two (32) counties based upon the funding formula previously approved by the Board, to include eight (8) large counties, eight (8) medium counties and sixteen (16) small counties. These awards represent funding for the first year of the three-year cycle. Annual reallocations in FY 2015 and FY 2016 will be dependent upon grantee performance and the availability of federal JAG funds.

Background: This recommendation represents the culmination of 15 months of work on the part of the JAG ESC. Members of the JAG ESC, appointed in September 2013, have worked with staff of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to bring about a major shift to the administration of the JAG Program in California.

Review of New State Strategy for JAG

This shift came as the result of a comprehensive strategic planning process undertaken by the BSCC, in partnership with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), to include a statewide stakeholder survey, several public comment sessions and three day-long ESC meetings. This strategic planning process produced a new multi-year JAG strategy for California, approved by the Board on January 16, 2014, as follows:

1. The strategy will honor responses from the 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 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.

Prior to the current funding cycle, the JAG Program was allocated to all California counties via a non-competitive application process. As a part of this new state strategy, the ESC agreed that JAG funding should be allocated on a competitive basis to small, medium and large counties, according to the following formula: 20 percent to small; 30 percent to medium, and 50 percent to large. Within this formula, the Board set funding thresholds for each category at its September 11, 2014 meeting:

- Small counties: \$220,000
- Medium counties: \$715,000
- Large counties*: \$1,045,625
*(*with the exception of Los Angeles County, whose threshold would be set at double the large county threshold, or \$2,091,250)*

Perhaps the most notable change recommended by the JAG ESC and adopted by the Board was the requirement for counties to use a “community engagement model” in the development and execution of their local JAG strategies. Applicants were required to establish a JAG Steering Committee that included of a balanced array of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders. The steering committee was charged with: 1) working together to collectively identify the community’s needs, develop a strategy, prioritize funding and identify measurable outcomes; and 2) guiding the implementation and monitoring of the JAG program within its jurisdiction.

Request for Proposal Timeline

- On September 11, 2014, the Board approved release of the FY 2014 JAG Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP was posted to the BSCC website and distributed to stakeholders on September 15, 2014.
- On October 13, 15 and 17, 2014, the BSCC held bidders’ conferences in central, southern and northern California, respectively. Prospective applicants were given the opportunity to ask questions about the RFP and BSCC staff provided clarification on RFP instructions.
- In October and November, BSCC posted four sets of Frequently Asked Questions with answers to the BSCC website.
- On November 24, 2014, JAG proposals were due to the BSCC. Fifty-one (51) proposals were submitted, representing 52 of the 58 counties, to include:
 - 14 of 15 large counties,
 - 13 of 13 medium counties, and
 - 25 of 30 small counties (including one joint application representing two counties).
- From December 1-19, 2014, BSCC staff completed a technical review of each proposal. All proposals were deemed eligible to proceed.
- On January 7, 2015, a Rater Training was provided to ESC members. Each ESC member was assigned to either the small, medium or large county team. ESC members were prohibited from rating on a team that contained proposals from counties within which they lived or worked. ESC members began rating the proposals immediately following the training.

- On January 26, 2015, ESC members submitted their rating forms containing scores for each proposal.
- On January 30, 2015, the JAG ESC convened to conclude the rating process. At this meeting, each rating team (small, medium and large) met as a small group. During small group discussions, raters were able to discuss their scores and make adjustments based on further review of the proposals. At the conclusion of this meeting, the entire ESC came back together to view the final rankings and finalize funding recommendations within each of the three county categories.

The ESC is recommending funding for 32 counties, to include eight (8) large counties, eight (8) medium counties and sixteen (16) small counties. Attached is a list of those counties recommended for funding, with corresponding funding amounts (note that one county in each of the three categories will be offered partial funding, due to their place in the ranking). The third page of this attachment contains a list of all other applicants (Attachment A). Attachment B contains a summary of each of the proposals recommended for funding.

Should the Board authorize staff to proceed with the ESC's recommendations, BSCC staff will conduct a grantee briefing once all grant awards are executed. Program operations will begin March 1, 2015.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed list of counties to receive Fiscal Year 2014 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding, as recommended by the JAG Executive Steering Committee, for a grant period of March 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017 (these funds represent the first year of the three-year grant period, with funding for years 2 and 3 subject to reapplication and availability of federal funds).

Attachments:

- A. List of Counties Recommended for Funding by the JAG ESC (with All Other Applicant Counties)
- B. Project Summaries of Proposals Recommended for Funding