

California Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
2026 Application - Proposal Narrative
Board of State and Community Corrections

A. Description of Need

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is the designated State Administering Agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. The BSCC is in the fifth year of implementing its current Multi-Year JAG State Strategy, the purpose of which is to support public safety efforts in California. California's criminal justice system serves a diverse population of over 39 million people in 58 counties covering more than 163,000 square miles. Specific issues and resource gaps vary widely from community to community, necessitating a broad approach to supporting the criminal justice system. California counties are called upon to provide a myriad of public safety services while frequently impacted by fiscal and staffing challenges. California's geography also presents unique challenges, as many counties cover vast unincorporated rural areas, making response time and access to resources difficult. BSCC's JAG State Strategy supports the varied needs of California counties by funding projects within five of the JAG Program Purpose Areas (PPA) while allowing flexibility within those PPAs to enable each county to focus on the specific needs of its community.

Issues from Previous JAG Awards

JAG subrecipients funded by the prior awards were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering aftereffects. Many faced significant challenges in hiring and retaining qualified staff and in executing project subcontracts, significantly delaying the implementation of their projects. BSCC continues to work with subrecipients via monitoring and technical assistance to help them work through project delays and modify budgets where appropriate to more fully implement their projects. Additionally, BSCC has returned to the practice of having a full-time Field Representative dedicated to

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the JAG Program to provide more focused technical assistance and monitoring. Staffing challenges had previously forced the agency to split the JAG Field Representative's time between JAG and other grant programs.

B. Project Design and Implementation

Process for Engaging Stakeholders and Coordination

The JAG 2026 award will support criminal justice activities in accordance with the current Multi-Year State Strategy, which was approved by the BSCC Board in September of 2022 to direct BSCC's JAG activities from 2022 to 2027. BSCC began the process of gathering information and data to inform an update to its JAG State Strategy in September of 2020. In partnership with the National Criminal Justice Association, the BSCC gathered input from interested parties through a year-long public input process consisting of two virtual listening sessions, a written comment period, and a web-based survey. Findings from this information and data gathering process were documented in the *2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program: Results of the Information and Data Gathering Process to Inform an Update to the JAG State Strategy*.¹

The JAG State Strategy combined the information received from the planning process described above with the PPAs that have been in place since 2013 and were retained by the 2018 Executive Steering Committee. The JAG State Strategy and associated grant solicitations and awards were approved by the BSCC Board, which includes diverse representation in breadth of expertise, experience, and geography, as shown in the table below:

¹ Report findings are available at https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Attachment-E-1-JAG-Findings-Info-and-Data-Gatherings-2021-Report-11_9_21.pdf.

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Current BSCC Board Membership - 2026		
1	Linda Penner, Chair	Chairperson, Board of State and Community Corrections
2	Jeffrey Macomber	Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) <i>(Ex-Officio Member)</i>
3	Bryan Bishop	Director, Division of Adult Parole Operations, CDCR <i>(Ex-officio Member)</i>
4	Eric Taylor	Sheriff, San Benito County <i>(A county sheriff in charge of a local detention facility which has a BSCC rated capacity of 200 or less inmates)</i>
5	Christopher Clark	Sheriff, Santa Cruz County <i>(A county sheriff in charge of a local detention facility which has a BSCC rated capacity of over 200 inmates)</i>
6	Laura Capps	Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County
7	Kirk Haynes	Chief Probation Officer, Fresno County <i>(A chief probation officer from a county with a population over 200,000)</i>
8	Jennifer Branning	Chief Probation Officer, Lassen County <i>(A chief probation officer from a county with a population under 200,000)</i>
9	Janet Gaard	Retired Judge, Yolo County <i>(A judge appointed by the Judicial Council of California)</i>
10	William "Bill" Scott	Chief of Police & Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority <i>(A chief of police)</i>
11	Scott Budnick	Founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition <i>(A community provider of rehabilitative treatment or services for adult offenders)</i>
12	Angeles D. Zaragoza	Less Restrictive Program Subject Matter Expert with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration <i>(A community provider or advocate with expertise in effective programs, policies, and treatment of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders)</i>
13	Norma Cumpian	Assistant Deputy Director, Women's Department, Anti-Recidivism Coalition <i>(A public member)</i>
14	Dr. Karen Lai, MD	Berkeley, Alameda County <i>(A licensed health care provider)</i>
15	Dr. Gena Castro Rodriguez, PsyD, LMFT	San Francisco, California <i>(A licensed mental or behavioral health care provider)</i>

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Stakeholder engagement was also required at the subrecipient level. To respond to a JAG Request for Proposals (RFP), prospective subrecipients are required to form a local JAG Steering Committee comprised of stakeholders representing diverse disciplines with experience and expertise in the prospective interventions to be addressed by the proposed JAG project. The local JAG steering committees prioritize community needs, determine project priorities, and develop a Project Work Plan that is submitted to the BSCC. Stakeholders identified for membership on the local JAG steering committees were required to possess a working knowledge of the problem areas being discussed within the identified JAG PPAs to help ensure meaningful engagement, planning and coordination.

JAG subrecipients are encouraged to proactively address resource gaps by consulting with the BSCC. Typically, the local JAG steering committees guide subrecipients in identifying challenges and developing local solutions that meet their needs. BSCC staff offer technical assistance to help subrecipients address these gaps as needed. The BSCC plans to continue these practices in future RFPs.

Coordination of State and Related Justice Funds

The BSCC frequently coordinates with state and local partners on criminal justice matters. These coordination efforts allow the BSCC to effectively administer state and federal funding in a timely manner. When appropriate, the BSCC encourages subrecipients to leverage federal, state, local, and private funds to increase project capacity. In instances where outside funds are leveraged within a JAG project, the BSCC tracks and reports all federal funds separately to ensure funds are not comingled.

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Subaward Process and Timeline

The Multi-Year JAG State Strategy identified five PPAs that BSCC's JAG Program will support. A visual representation of the PPAs in the current JAG State Strategy is shown in the table below:

JAG Program Purpose Area	Priority Areas of Need
Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs	• Crisis intervention teams
	• Co-responder initiatives (law enforcement and mental health clinicians working together to respond to calls for service involving a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis)
	• Residential in-patient behavioral health treatment programs
	• General mental health services
Drug treatment and enforcement programs	• Co-occurring treatment (e.g., substance use and mental illness or other chronic health conditions)
	• Community-based substance use residential treatment
	• Community-based substance use outpatient treatment
Prevention and education programs	• School violence
	• At-promise youth
	• Mental health education
	• Job-specific training and certification programs
Law enforcement programs	• Violent crime reduction initiatives
	• Drug enforcement
	• Crisis intervention/mental health/suicide prevention
	• Pre-arrest diversion
	• Mental health training for law enforcement
Prosecution and court programs	• Problem solving courts (e.g., mental health, veterans, drug, reentry)
	• Gun/gang prosecution
	• Violent crime prosecution and defense
	• Innovations in indigent defense
	• Mental health liaisons

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California's Multi-Year JAG State Strategy is shown below:

California's Multi-Year State Strategy for the JAG Program
(1) Provides equal emphasis to Program Purpose Area (PPAs): ▶ PPA 1: Law enforcement programs ▶ PPA 2: Prosecution and court programs ▶ PPA 3: Prevention and education programs ▶ PPA 5: Drug treatment and enforcement programs ▶ PPA 8: Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs (2) Considers the needs of small, medium, and large counties. (3) Bases funding on local flexibility, on the needs of the juvenile and adult criminal justice communities, and on input from a balanced array of stakeholders. (4) Requires applicants to: a. incorporate evidence-based principles and programs for all funded projects. b. demonstrate a collaborative strategy based on the community engagement model that involves multiple stakeholders in the project or problem addressed. (5) Funded programs should: a. emphasize reducing recidivism, racial and ethnic disparities, and violence. b. incorporate trauma-informed care and be culturally informed, competent, and responsive. c. prioritize mental health needs and the avoidance of system involvement, within each PPA. d. prioritize community-based organizations as service providers.

BSCC anticipates releasing a competitive solicitation (RFP) in late 2026 with the corresponding three-year grant period beginning in mid-2027. In accordance with the Multi-Year JAG State Strategy, the subawards will fund projects that address the PPAs identified above. BSCC plans to convene a Scoring Panel comprised of a cross-section of subject matter experts to rate proposals and develop funding recommendations for the BSCC Board. The Board will approve, reject, or revise those recommendations.

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C. Capabilities and Competencies

The BSCC has extensive experience in successfully administering a wide range of state and federal public safety, reentry, violence reduction, and rehabilitative grants to state and local governments and community-based organizations, including prior JAG awards. Through its Corrections Planning and Grant Programs division, the BSCC currently administers approximately \$1.5 billion in grant funding, through more than 600 unique grant agreements.

Data Collection Plan

The BSCC requires all subrecipients to comply with the specific data collection and reporting requirements of the JAG Program. This includes, but is not limited to, submissions to the Justice Grants System (JustGrants), the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT), and the BJA Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Reporting Portal (as applicable). Reporting requirements and due dates are reflected in the BSCC's Grant Agreement with each subrecipient.

Additionally, the BSCC encourages JAG subrecipients to set aside a minimum of five percent of the total grant award for data collection and evaluation efforts, including the development of a required Local Evaluation Plan and a Final Local Evaluation Report.

The purpose of the Local Evaluation Plan is to ensure that projects funded by the BSCC can be evaluated. Subrecipients are required to submit a detailed description of how they will assess the effectiveness of the proposed program in relationship to each of the goals and objectives identified in their proposals. This description should address the evaluation design or model that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project component(s), with the project goals and the project objectives clearly stated.

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Subrecipients should also describe the process and outcome evaluations. Once submitted, any modifications to the Local Evaluation Plan must be approved in advance by the BSCC. Subrecipients are strongly encouraged to use outside evaluators to ensure objective and impartial evaluations.

Following project completion, subrecipients are required to complete a Final Local Evaluation Report. The purpose of the Final Local Evaluation Report is to determine whether the overall project was effective in meeting the goals and objectives laid out in the grant proposal, i.e., did the project achieve its intended outcomes? To do this, the grantee must assess and document the effectiveness of the activities that were implemented within each individual project component. The methods by which the project measures for effectiveness should have been described in the previously submitted Local Evaluation Plan.

Capacity to Administer JAG Awards and Subawards

BSCC assigns a team to each grant, generally consisting of a Field Representative, an Analyst II, and a Research Data Specialist, along with supervisory and support personnel. This team administers the subawards, which includes subrecipient monitoring. Subrecipient monitoring activities include regularly scheduled virtual meetings with each cohort, individual technical assistance calls as needed, fiscal desk reviews, Initial Monitoring Visits, and Comprehensive Monitoring Visits. As discussed above, the BSCC has returned to the practice of having a full-time Field Representative dedicated to the JAG Program to provide more focused technical assistance and monitoring. Staffing challenges had previously forced the agency to split the JAG Field Representative's time between JAG and other grant programs.

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Additional Strategic Planning/Coordination Efforts

In September 2024, the BSCC was awarded \$16.6 million in federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) funding. As with the prior SCIP award, the BSCC successfully collaborated with partners from the Judicial Council of California (JCC) and BSCC's State Crisis Intervention Advisory Board to continue its multipronged approach to decreasing gun violence, supporting local jurisdictions in their efforts to improve firearms relinquishment procedures, and supporting the enhancement of collaborative court programs that address behavioral health issues, with a focus on people who are at higher risk for gun violence. This collaboration resulted in 2025 Byrne SCIP subawards made California cities and counties, as well as subawards to California Courts via the JCC.

Evidence-Informed Programs

The BSCC is committed to supporting a focus on better outcomes in the criminal justice system and for those involved in it. JAG subrecipients were encouraged to focus on the following principles when designing their projects:

- **Is there evidence or data to suggest that the intervention or strategy is likely to work, i.e., produce a desired benefit?** For example, was the intervention or strategy you selected used by another jurisdiction with documented positive results? Is there published research on the intervention you are choosing to implement showing its effectiveness? Is the intervention or strategy being used by another jurisdiction with a similar problem and similar target population?
- **Once an intervention or strategy is selected, will you be able to demonstrate that it is being carried out as intended?** For example, does this intervention or strategy provide for a way to monitor quality control or continuous quality improvement? If this intervention or strategy was

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implemented in another jurisdiction, are there procedures in place to ensure that that you are following the model closely (so that you are more likely to achieve the desired outcomes)?

- **Is there a plan to collect evidence or data that will allow for an evaluation of whether the intervention or strategy worked?** For example, will the intervention or strategy you selected allow for the collection of data or other evidence so that outcomes can be measured at the conclusion of the project? Do you have processes in place to identify, collect and analyze that data/evidence?

The JAG State Strategy requires all funded projects to incorporate evidence-based principles and programs into funded projects. Applicants responding to the RFP were required to describe the use of evidence in their project design, which was one of the factors on which proposals were rated.