

California Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
2022 Application - Proposal Narrative

A. Description of the Issue

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is the designated state administering agency for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. California's 2022 JAG Program will focus on mental health, drug treatment, violence reduction, and recidivism.

In September 2020, the BSCC began the process of gathering information and data to inform an update to its Multi-Year JAG State Strategy. 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: Findings from the Information and Data Gathering Process to Inform an Update to the Multi-Year JAG State Strategy¹.

Program Purpose Areas

California will implement a new Multi-Year JAG State Strategy with this application. The Multi-Year JAG State Strategy will combine the information received from the most recent planning process with the Program Purpose Areas (PPA) that have been in place since 2013. Five PPAs have been identified. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, and Drug treatment and enforcement programs are the two new PPAs that emerged from the most recent strategic planning process. The Prevention and education programs PPA is an overlapping PPA that was identified in 2013 and in the most strategic planning process. Law enforcement programs and Prosecution and court programs are two ongoing PPAs from 2013. A

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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visual representation of the Program Purpose Areas and Priority Areas of Need is reflected below:

JAG PPA	Priority Areas of Need
Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis intervention teams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential in-patient behavioral health treatment programs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General mental health services
Drug treatment and enforcement programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-occurring treatment (e.g., substance use and mental illness or other chronic health conditions)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based substance use residential treatment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based substance use outpatient treatment
Prevention and education programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School violence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-promise youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job-specific training and certification programs
Law enforcement programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent crime reduction initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug enforcement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis intervention/mental health/suicide prevention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-arrest diversion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health training for law enforcement
Prosecution and court programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem solving courts (e.g., mental health, veterans, drug, reentry)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun/gang prosecution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent crime prosecution and defense
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovations in indigent defense
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health liaisons

A visual representation of California's overarching Multi-Year JAG State Strategy is provided below:

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California's Five-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.

Subaward Process and Timeline

To ensure successful program design and implementation, the BSCC uses Executive Steering Committees (ESCs) to make decisions related to the BSCC's programs. ESCs are composed of subject matter experts and stakeholders representing both the public and private sectors. The BSCC includes diverse representation on its ESCs in breadth of experience, geography, and demographics. The BSCC Board convenes and approves ESCs to carry out specified tasks, including state strategies and the development of Request for Proposals (RFP) for

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grant funds. The BSCC also uses Scoring Panels to complete the reading and rating of proposals and develop scoring recommendations for the Board. ESCs submit grant award recommendations to the BSCC Board, and the Board then approves, rejects, or revises those recommendations. The BSCC convened an 11-member ESC to develop the prior JAG RFP, which will largely be used in the BSCC 2022 JAG RFP. That ESC included a cross-section of subject matter experts as shown below:

2018 JAG ESC Membership		
1	Linda Penner, Chair	ESC Chairperson, Chairperson, Board of State and Community Corrections
2	Mark Delgado	Executive Director, Los Angeles County's Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, Los Angeles County
3	David Fernandez	Senior Special Agent, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
4	Robin Lipetzky	Public Defender, Contra Costa County
5	Lyle Martin	Police Chief, Bakersfield Police Department, Kern County
6	Steve Meinrath	Attorney, Sacramento County
7	Jonathan Raven	Chief Deputy District Attorney, Yolo County
8	Darren Thompson	Sheriff-Coroner, San Benito County
9	Erik Upson	Police Chief, Benicia Police Department, Solano County
10	Erica Webster	Juvenile Justice Advocate, Sacramento County
11	Charles Wilhite	Ph. D., Director, Criminal Justice, Azusa Pacific University, San Diego

The BSCC will release a new JAG Request for Proposal no later than November 2022. The BSCC 2022 JAG RFP will require all applicants to submit proposals in alignment with the identified PPAs and the Multi-Year JAG state strategy. Responses to the RFP will be reviewed by a diverse cross-section of subject matter experts who will make funding recommendations to the BSCC Board. Funded projects will be under contract from March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2026.

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B. Project Design and Implementation

Stakeholder Engagement, Planning and Coordination

To apply for the BSCC 2022 JAG RFP, prospective applicants, also referred to as JAG subrecipients, must form a local JAG Steering Committee comprised of stakeholders representing diverse disciplines who have experience and expertise in the prospective interventions to be addressed by the JAG proposal. The local JAG Steering Committee will determine the community needs and reflect them in a Project Work Plan that will be submitted to the BSCC. Stakeholders identified for membership on the local JAG Steering Committee shall possess a working knowledge of the problem areas being discussed within the identified JAG PPAs. To help ensure meaningful engagement, planning and coordination. The local JAG Steering Committee will be asked to:

- Identify priorities and the community needs.
- Determine the intervention (PPA) type needed to address the local need.
- Develop the local strategies to address the local community need.
- Identify the projects and/or services to be provided to address the community need.
- Develop written operational policies/procedures for the Local JAG Steering Committee to include but not be limited to meeting frequency of not less than once a year, maintenance of agendas and meeting minutes. The written policy/procedure should also include strategies for inclusion of the local community members at the meetings. Applicants may add any other information that they would like.
- Provide ongoing oversight of the project

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Resource Gaps

JAG subrecipients will be encouraged to proactively address resource gaps by consulting with the BSCC. Typically, through the local JAG steering committees subrecipients identify challenges and develop local solutions that meet their needs. Whenever possible, BSCC staff will offer technical assistance to help subrecipients address these gaps.

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 leveraging federal, state, local, and private funds. In instances where leveraging occurs within a program, the BSCC tracks and reports all federal funds separately to ensure funds are not comingled.

C. Capabilities and Competencies

Additional Strategic Planning/Coordination Efforts

In June 2020, the BSCC awarded \$15 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to help address the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19. This funding helped provide emergency housing and covered costs associated with increasing housing capacity and providing quality assurance of housing to ensure safe housing standards were implemented. The BSCC and CDCR collaborated to efficiently administer funding in a timely manner to meet a growing need. These efforts allowed thousands of people released from state prison to have assistance meeting their housing needs met prior to release.

Evidence-informed programs

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The BSCC is committed to supporting a focus on better outcomes in the criminal justice system and for those involved in it. JAG subrecipients will be 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 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 Multi-Year JAG State Strategy will require all funded projects to incorporate evidence-based principles and programs into the funded project.

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D. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures

Data Collection Plan

The BSCC will require all subrecipients to comply with the specific data collection requirements of the JAG Program. This includes, but is not limited 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 will require JAG subrecipients to set aside at least 5 percent of the total grant award for data collection and evaluation efforts, including the development of a 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 will submit a detailed description of how they will assess the effectiveness of the proposed program in relationship to each of its goals and objectives identified in their respective proposals. This detailed 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. 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 (including each individual component) was effective in meeting the goals laid out

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in the Local Evaluation Plan. To do this, the grantee must assess and document the effectiveness of the activities that were implemented within each individual project component. These activities should have been identified in the previously submitted Local Evaluation Plan.

Additional Application Components

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity

The BSCC intends to award JAG funds on a competitive basis. The BSCC will ensure that the subrecipients maintain research and evaluation independence; including appropriate safeguards to ensure research and evaluation objectivity and integrity, and review of potential conflicts of interest.

State Strategic Plan or Annual Report

The Multi-Year JAG State Strategy is discussed in the Description of the Issue section of this application.

Disclosures and Assurances

Disclosure of Duplication in Cost Items

The Board of State and Community Corrections does not have any pending applications for federally funded grants or cooperative agreements that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed in the application under this solicitation and would cover any identical cost items outlined in the budget submitted to OJP as part of the application under this solicitation.

Applicant Disclosure and Justification – DOJ High Risk Grantees

The Board of State and Community Corrections is not currently designated high risk by another federal grant making agency.