

Request for Applications – Justice Assistance Grant Programs

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system during the 2016 grant cycle.

Purpose: The purpose of this solicitation is to reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system.

Available Funding: Federal funds are authorized under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG), 42 U.S.C. 3751(a). JAG funds are made available through a Congressional appropriation to the United States Department of Justice. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Funding Levels:

Minimum: \$10,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: None

Standards: Grantees must comply with the standards applicable to this funding source cited in the *Texas Administrative Code* (1 TAC Chapter 3), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

Prohibitions: Grant funds may not be used to support the following services, activities, and costs:

- 1) inherently religious activities such as prayer, worship, religious instruction, or proselytization;
- 2) lobbying;
- 3) any portion of the salary of, or any other compensation for, an elected or appointed government official;
- 4) non-law enforcement vehicles or equipment for government agencies that are for general agency use;
- 5) weapons, ammunition, tasers, explosives or military vehicles;
- 6) admission fees or tickets to any amusement park, recreational activity or sporting event;
- 7) promotional gifts;
- 8) food, meals, beverages, or other refreshments;
- 9) membership dues for individuals;
- 10) any expense or service that is readily available at no cost to the grant project or that is provided by federal, state, or local funds (i.e. supplanting);
- 11) fundraising;
- 12) construction, renovation or remodeling;
- 13) medical services;
- 14) transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for participants, when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training;
- 15) legal services for adult offenders; and
- 16) any other prohibition imposed by federal, state, or local law.

Eligible Applicants:

- 1) State agencies;
- 2) Units of local government;
- 3) Independent school districts;
- 4) Senior Universities;
- 5) Judicial Districts;
- 6) Native American tribes; and
- 7) Community supervision and corrections departments.

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Projects must focus on reducing crime and improving the criminal justice system.
- 2) Eligible applicants must provide law enforcement, corrections, or judicial services.
- 3) In order for an applicant to be eligible, the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions reported to the Texas

Request for Applications – Justice Assistance Grant Programs

Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2009 through 2013. This requirement must be met by August 1, 2015.

- 4) Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and must have been current for the three previous years.
- 5) Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>).
- 6) Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Project Period: Grant-funded projects must begin on or after October 1, 2015, and expire on or before September 30, 2016. Grant-funded equipment only projects are generally awarded for a six month grant period. CJD will consider any other proposed changes to the start or end dates on a case-by-case basis.

Application Process: Applicants must access CJD's grant management website at <https://eGrants.governor.state.tx.us> to register and apply for funding.

Preferences: Preference will be given to programs addressing one or more of the following areas which are listed in order of priority:

- 1) Crime Data – Enhancements to records management systems to allow local law enforcement to contribute appropriate data: a) to the National Data Exchange (N-DEX) through the Texas Data Exchange (TDEX) application hosted by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), or b) to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) through the Uniform Crime Reporting section at DPS. (NOTE: Units of local government providing law enforcement services are encouraged to take advantage of funding under this priority. It is anticipated that NIBRS reporting will become mandatory for larger jurisdictions.);
- 2) Mental Health – Specialized training to increase the number of mental health officers and the ability of law enforcement to work with individuals diagnosed with mental illness;
- 3) Trafficking – Projects that disrupt drug and human trafficking including areas along and near major state corridors;
- 4) System Improvements – Projects that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices; and
- 5) Innovative or Evidence Based Programs – Projects that reduce crime and violence in areas with high crime rates or organized criminal activity.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: All applications must be certified via CJD's grant management website on or before February 27, 2015.

Selection Process:

- 1) For eligible local and regional projects:
 - a) Applicants are responsible for contacting their applicable regional council of governments (COG) regarding their application. Each of Texas' 24 COG's holds its own application workshops and facilitates application prioritization for certain programs within its region.
 - b) Applications will be forwarded by CJD to the appropriate COG.
 - c) The COG's criminal justice advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications based on state priorities, identified community priorities, cost and program effectiveness.
 - d) CJD will accept priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.
 - e) CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, approved COG priorities, reasonableness of the project, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.
- 2) For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by CJD staff members or a review group selected by the executive director. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

Contact Information: If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants help desk at eGrants@governor.state.tx.us or (512) 463-1919.