

Tennessee's Strategy for the 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant assists the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs in carrying out a multi-faceted response to crime and victimization in Tennessee by supporting the improvement of the infrastructure of the criminal justice system and by enabling innovation and funding new ideas and strategies to combat crime. Tennessee's implementation of this program is designed to adapt as changes occur to the system. Tennessee commits to accomplishing this while staying within the boundaries of the National Drug Control Policy. Through scheduled meetings and other formalized gatherings (round table discussions, etc.) OCJP has determined the priorities to fund. Priority will be given to programs that employ evidence-based strategies.

This plan specifically targets evidence-based interventions that support the Governor's Public Safety Action Plan. The Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs participates in planning meetings and has identified areas of the Governor's plan where OCJP can impact the outcomes through funding projects. Specifically, OCJP is targeting priority areas that address the following areas with JAG funding:

- Domestic Violence
- Methamphetamine production and distribution
- Human Trafficking
- Gang Activity
- Re-entry from incarceration to communities
- Other Drug and Violent Crime Activity
- Technology and Planning/Evaluation

In planning for the 2016 Byrne/JAG grant the Office of Criminal Justice Programs leadership looked at current funding across Tennessee and reviewed data collected from our various state level partners including but not limited to: the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, the Tennessee Department of Correction, the Tennessee Chiefs of Police Association, the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Department of Safety, the Tennessee Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Directors, the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force, the Tennessee Regional Organized Crime Information Center, the Tennessee Re-Entry Committees, the Tennessee Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the Tennessee Community Crime Reduction Projects and others.

In November 2015, OCJP hosted our annual planning meeting of local criminal justice practitioners, representing Judges, District Attorney Generals, Public Defenders, Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs. These professionals brought decades of experience in their respective fields to bear on OCJP's strategic planning process. They provided valuable insight on the current needs in local communities and offered their expertise on problems, needs and possible solutions in the Criminal Justice System. This group identified the following possible opportunities for improvement:

- Vertical and Specialized Prosecution for gang related cases
- Improving state capacity to process forensic evidence to include:

- Training for law enforcement
- Decreasing the backlog of evidence at crime labs
- Training for county medical examiners
- Victim Programs such as family justice centers
- Increased evidence-based programs for community supervision of offenders to reduce recidivism, such as day reporting centers.
- Pre-Trial Release
- School Intervention Strategies to include:
 - Positive Action
 - Gang Resistance and Education Training
- Improvements to the court system such as:
 - An integrated and automated computer system
 - Video capabilities between courts and jails
- Continued emphasis on coordinated law enforcement efforts in:
 - Drug Enforcement
 - Gang Interventions
 - Domestic Violence Response
 - Local Community Crime

Their insight confirmed needs expressed in meetings with our state level partners and enhanced this strategic planning process.

Each fall, OCJP staff reconciles the grants that were allocated with the funds expended. After the reconciliation process, the Criminal Justice Unit is able to begin its strategic planning process. For State FY 2017, OCJP anticipates allocating new JAG funds to state and local entities.

The goal of Tennessee's project is to improve and enhance Tennessee's programs in the areas of prevention and education; law enforcement; planning, evaluation and technology; prosecution and court; corrections and community corrections; and victim services.

Strategy 1 Prevent crime through the increased coordination and collaboration of law enforcement agencies, education agencies, social service agencies, and communities.

Strategy 2 Demonstrate with actionable data how effective community collaboration can be for (a) preventing serious crime, (b) enforcing community standards on serious crime, and (c) preventing repeat offenses among these offenders.

Strategy 3 Enhance the ability of federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies using jointly controlled operations to remove specifically targeted mid and upper-level narcotics trafficking through investigation, arrest, prosecution, and conviction.

Strategy 4 Enable law enforcement agencies to be more effective by using analysis to direct a targeted approach against the many facets of criminal activity.

Strategy 5 Assist criminal justice personnel in receiving the most current training on specialized topics.

Strategy 6 Replace equipment when old equipment has become inoperable or antiquated.

Strategy 7 Improve criminal justice information sharing and integrated systems.

Strategy 8 Develop pretrial services that offer meaningful alternatives to incarceration.

Strategy 9 Provide mechanisms for decreasing the backlog in the court system.

Strategy 10 Continue to develop a continuum of treatment for prisoners, jail inmates, and those under community supervision.

Strategy 11 Make positive differences in the lives of crime victims and their families.

OCJP will continue to coordinate with all national, state, and local stakeholders in the implementation of the Byrne JAG program. OCJP has fully incorporated the Performance Measurement Tool into our subgrantee reporting process.

The list below is an estimate of the grants funded by priority area and represents current grants being continued as well as new grants received through open solicitation.

Summary of Program Responses with Corresponding Byrne JAG Purpose Area

Program Responses	# Projects	JAG Purpose Area
1. Community Crime Prevention	4	Prevention and Education
2. Targeted Community Crime Reduction	2	Prevention and Education
3. Multi-Jurisdictional Drug & Violent Crime Task Forces	19	Law Enforcement
4. Innovations in Criminal Investigations	1	Law Enforcement
5. Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	4	Law Enforcement
6. Criminal Justice Professional Enhancement Training	1	Prevention and Education
7. Law Enforcement Equipment	10	Law Enforcement
8. Pretrial Service Delivery	3	Prosecution & Court
9. Criminal Justice Tech Improvement	1	Prosecution & Court
10. Correctional Programming	2	Law Enforcement
11. Victim Services	4	Corrections/Community Corrections Crime Victim & Witness