

## FY 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Application

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. OCJS is the lead criminal justice planning agency for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding annually. Through its research, technology, grants administration, and programmatic initiatives, OCJS serves agencies and communities that are committed to reducing and preventing crime in Ohio. OCJS has been designated by Governor John Kasich to administer the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program.

### **Ohio's Strategy/Funding Priorities**

OCJS designed a JAG Request for Proposal (RFP) which conveys the requirements and mission of the JAG grant program - preventing and controlling crime based upon local needs and conditions. OCJS utilizes a number of resources to inform state and local recipients of the JAG RFP. These resources included the OCJS *Criminal Justice Bulletin*, a newsletter which is sent to law enforcement, courts, and key service providers, and the OCJS website, which has the OCJS grants calendar and a link to the current solicitation on the grants homepage. ([www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm)).

Additionally, after release of the RFP, OCJS hosts a Bidders' Conference for potential applicants. The purpose of the Bidders' Conference is to review the application requirements specific to the JAG program while providing a forum for potential grantees to ask general questions about the grant writing process. In addition to explaining the JAG requirements, details on how to submit an application are explained. For 2015 the Bidder's Conference was provided in the webinar format and a recording was made available to potential applicants on the OCJS web site.

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As part of Ohio's JAG RFP, OCJS utilized the current purpose areas under the JAG Program: Law Enforcement; Crime Prevention; Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry; Courts, Defense, Prosecution and Victim Services; Cross-agency and Cross-system Collaboration and Training and Research; and JAG LE programs. Each applicant must address a goal for the program area in which they are applying as well as provide performance measures and corresponding baseline data. Additionally, each applicant must address the following narrative sections of the application: Problem Statement/Target Population, Project Description, Project Objectives, Timeline/Activities, Organization and Staff Capacity, Collaboration Board Support Letters, and Budget. Applicants are encouraged to contact the OCJS regional grant coordinators during the open solicitation process in the event they need assistance with any part of the proposal and/or application process.

It is through the narrative section of the grant application that OCJS places emphasis on programs that utilize evidence-based practices. The RFP outlines the goals and priorities for each of the Purpose Areas and specific details regarding evidence-based practices are given to applicants. In the Law Enforcement Program Area, applicants are directed to a website devoted to the evidence-based policing matrix for examples of model programs. The Crime Prevention Program Area provides a link to the Blue Print for Violence Prevention website where applicants can find information on exemplary violence prevention programs. Multiple links that direct applicants to evidence-based practice models are provided in the Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections and Reentry Program Area as well as the Defense, Prosecution and Victim Services Program Area. The RFP also instructs potential subrecipients to provide a

detailed discussion on their plan to implement a model that is evidence-based or grounded in best practices for the field.

OCJS utilizes a competitive grant selection process. This process begins with an internal review conducted by the OCJS grant coordinators ensuring all past grant recipients have maintained strict fiscal and programmatic compliance with the required state and federal guidelines. The success or failure of an applicant who has previously received an award is specifically accounted for in the compliance scoring matrix. For new applicants, the historical information sections are not included in the scoring.

The next step of the grant selection process involves peer review, where OCJS selects a team of subject matter experts in the field to review the grant applications based upon a scoring matrix that is used to evaluate the quality and completeness of the application. This is another area where OCJS places emphasis on projects using evidence-based practices. OCJS prioritizes funding projects that use evidence-based practices by awarding the maximum amount of points for applicants that demonstrate the use of evidence-based programs and/or practices for the project. The Grant Review Guideline Handbook instructs reviewers to consider whether the project will be implemented consistent with the evidence-based model or practice. Questions regarding evidence-based practices comprise 25 percent of the 2015 peer review score. OCJS recognizes there are not evidence-based programs to fill everyone's needs. When no evidence-based program exists, applicants are to provide information (including statistics) to explain why the program or practice will be effective. Peer reviewers score the applicant's explanation of why a particular program or practice was chosen and whether the reviewer thinks there is any evidence to support its success.

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The peer review team reviews the merits of each grant proposal and provides a funding recommendation, along with written substantive comments to OCJS to support the recommendation. Upon receipt of the peer reviewers' input, the substantive comments and recommendations are compiled and analyzed in preparation for a final internal grant review with the OCJS Executive Director. The analysis includes the cumulative scores from the Compliance and Peer Reviews, which are then entered into OCJS's Grants Management System.

During Executive Director's review, staff from the following OCJS sections, Grants Administration, Grants Monitoring and Fiscal Compliance, Law Enforcement Services and Policy and Research, along with the OCJS Executive Director and Deputy Director review and discuss peer review team comments and recommendations to make final funding decisions. OCJS ensures the equitable distribution of the JAG funds. Additionally, funding decisions reflect OCJS's commitment to fund projects in highly-populated areas, historically depressed regions and within Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties. Director's review scores are entered into OCJS's Grants Management System for a final score, which is comprised of 10 percent for the Compliance Review, 60 percent for the Peer Review and 30 percent for the Executive Director's Review.

Once the Executive Director's review concludes, the Ohio Department of Public Safety Director reviews the final decisions. The decisions are posted to OCJS's web site notifying projects of funding decisions. The applicants which were awarded, that have not complied with required information in the RFP, or whose baseline data is not adequate will receive pre-award conditions explaining any necessary corrective action to be taken before the grant is officially awarded. The pre-award conditions, which include

revised budgets and necessary administrative forms, must be addressed by the project's director, who is named on the title page of the application. The revised information must be submitted and approved by OCJS before an agency is awarded.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

In May 2011, OCJS launched a multi-phased strategic planning initiative to provide the necessary framework and resources needed to complete a comprehensive statewide criminal justice plan to guide its priorities and funding strategy for Ohio. Between May and December 2011, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, many of whom hold positions as heads of local and state agencies. Based on information obtained from these interviews, a statewide online survey was implemented to solicit input from a wide range of local, state, and federal criminal justice stakeholders in the areas of prevention, law enforcement, judiciary, corrections, juvenile justice, victim advocacy, policy, and government/legislature. Regional focus groups were then conducted to further refine the key issues and concerns identified as high priority in the survey.

The data gathered in the process of strategic planning strongly highlighted gaps in the state's needed resources for criminal justice purposes, particularly in the following areas:

- Resources and updated equipment for law enforcement
- Hiring of more skilled staff in key areas of the criminal justice system such as law enforcement, prosecutors and defense counsel

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- Access to and resources for training and education across all areas of the criminal justice system, including the General Assembly on the potential effects of proposed legislation
- Resources (including access to data and data sharing capabilities) to support overall strategies to reduce recidivism as well as to inform offender decision making
- Access to and resources for community based services for juvenile and adult offenders, particularly those with specialized needs (mental health, substance abuse, sex offenders)
- Awareness and use of evidence-based practices in all areas of criminal justice
- Greater involvement and collaboration with universities, researchers
- Improved data sharing and coordination of all relevant stakeholder groups (including non-traditional groups)
- Development of multi-system collaborations for strategic planning purposes
- Resources to allow the sharing of criminal justice data
- Resources to support and coordinate evidence-based community prevention, intervention, and diversion programs
- Involvement of researchers in statewide initiatives, including access to/collection of data
- Resources to meet the needs of victims, including crisis services
- Development of a multi-systemic effort to keep victims safe

Each JAG funding category was reviewed by the OCJS Policy and Research section to incorporate the findings of the interviews, focus groups, and survey.

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Recommendations were made to the Executive Director and Chief of Grants. The end result was substantial modifications to the 2012 JAG Request for Proposals (RFP).

Specifically, the RFP was modified to prioritize criminal justice programs and practices that met two conditions: 1) identification by stakeholders as being a high priority for their communities; 2) use of an evidence-based program, or elements of a program, which are evidence-based. Within each category of the 2012 JAG RFP, the following priorities were identified:

### Law Enforcement

- Emphasis on use of evidence-based practices, with reference to the evidence-based policing matrix website
- Priority projects identified, including equipment and technology improvement, data-driven policing strategies
- Training and education

### Crime Prevention Programs

- Emphasis on evidence-based practices, with reference to the Blueprint for Violence Prevention website
- Priority projects identified, including specific evidence-based community and school based prevention programs, mentoring programs, and therapy programs
- Training and education

### Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Corrections, Reentry

- Priority given to those programs that implement and adhere to the Principles of Effective Intervention, specifically substance abuse and mental health treatment, reentry, youth treatment and services, reentry programs

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- Training and education

### Courts, Defense, Prosecution, Victim Services

- Priority given to specialized dockets, diversion programs, victim services
- Community control, transitional control, and post-release control programs that adhere to the Principles of Effective Intervention
- Training and education

### Cross-Agency and Cross-System Collaboration and Training

- This was a new category based on the volume of feedback received by OCJS on the need to enhance and expand collaborations and trainings

One major change to the 2012 JAG RFP was the removal of the Research category. This was done in response to the feedback received from many that OCJS needs to find ways to develop practical partnerships with the research community so that the criminal justice community can tap into their expertise and develop knowledge on evidence-based practices. In response to this, the funding from the Research category was used to develop the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS), which provides research, evaluation, data analysis, and other technical support directly to local Ohio agencies who seek assistance in solving local crime and justice problems. The consortium, which began development in April 2012, consists of criminology and criminal justice researchers from colleges and universities across Ohio, and is one mechanism to bridge the gap between research and practice. Because Research is critical to the development of sound criminal justice policy, OCJS opted to include this as a part of one of the purpose areas in the 2015 RFP. Additionally, OCJS identified several topics

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that are of great concern to a community's safety, including human trafficking, reentry and heroin/opiate abuse.

In addition to identifying priorities in each JAG funding category, resources were provided in the RFP where applicants could obtain information on specific evidence-based practices. Resources such as CrimeSolutions.gov, the Evidence-Based Policing matrix, Blueprints for Violence Prevention, Principles of Effective Intervention, and Evidence-Based Practices in Community Correction were identified within the respective JAG funding categories, and applicants were encouraged to refer to them when developing their applications. Applicants were also directed to the OCJS website for additional resources on evidence-based practices.

The funding priorities identified in the 2012 JAG RFP are reviewed each subsequent year by OCJS Administration, Grants, and Policy and Research staff, and this year the established priorities were determined to be appropriate for the 2015 JAG RFP. Additional resources on evidence-based practices have been added to the RFP for use by applicants. In addition, a document on performance measures was created and placed on the OCJS website for applicants to refer to when developing performance measures for their programs. For 2015 OCJS provided a list of standardized output and outcome based objectives that were used to guide applicants in determining appropriate measures.

The state's criminal justice needs and gaps in services that were identified through OCJS's multi-phase initiative have been formalized through the writing of the OCJS Strategic Plan, which is currently available and identifies some solutions taken to address the gaps and needs.

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Attached you will find a current version of OCJS' strategic plan. Also, visit [www.ocjs.ohio.gov/strategic\\_plan.stm](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/strategic_plan.stm) to read the results of the activities that were undertaken by OCJS to identify criminal justice needs in Ohio.

- Core Group Interview Executive Summary
- Core Group Interview Summary
- Focus Group Summary
- Criminal Justice Needs Assessment Summary
- Ohio Criminal Justice Statistics

### **Coordinating Efforts with State and Local Agencies**

OCJS coordinates with several state and local agencies regarding the criminal justice initiatives for the state of Ohio.

**The Ohio Human Trafficking Taskforce.** The Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force was formed to marshal the resources of the State of Ohio to coordinate efforts to identify and rescue victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives. Eleven state agencies are members of the task force and have worked to identify service gaps and made recommendations for filling those gaps. The Task Force consists of the following agencies: Governor's Office of Health Transformation, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (formerly Drug and Addiction Services and Mental Health), Department of

Education, Department of Medicaid, Department of Youth Services, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health and Ohio Board of Cosmetology.

**Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT).** Under Gov. Kasich's leadership, the GCOAT was established to address the continuing epidemic of misuse and abuse and overdose from prescription opioids. GCOAT consists of five working groups: 1) Treatment; 2) Professional Education; 3) Public Education; 4) Enforcement; 5) Recovery Supports. A number of state department directors lead these committees, and state department staff and representatives from various stakeholder organizations participate.

**Regional Planning Units (RPUs).** Ohio's major metropolitan areas have organized to form RPUs for the purpose of more adequately addressing the local needs of justice systems and developing a local strategic plan. The program involves OCJS and the RPUs working together to build regional programs, with OCJS providing data and technical assistance in the RPU planning process. The RPUs represent Columbus/Franklin County, Cleveland/Cuyahoga County and Toledo/Lucas County. Each RPU is a statutorily established planning body with a criminal justice policy board. Their responsibilities include:

- The establishment of a criminal justice policy board made up of individuals representing a cross section of the local criminal justice system and the local human services system.
- The planning and establishment of priorities for the local communities by holding public meetings to secure input from all segments of the community.
- The development of funding priorities based on local input.

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- The preparation and dissemination of funding guidelines and applications.
- The review of applications and awarding of funds to local applicants.
- The provision of technical assistance to local sub-recipients and their constituents.
- The employment of a community engagement model in the administration of block grant funds.

OCJS provides guidance on local strategic planning membership; however, the selection of the planning group members is made by the regional planning units. The regional bodies employ a community engagement model. These regions build on the extensive array of planning bodies already in existence (e.g. county corrections boards, mental health/substance abuse boards, DV task forces).

For the previous two years, the RPUs ranked the applications submitted to OCJS from their respective regions and provided feedback and funding recommendations based on the needs of the RPU's area. OCJS has taken those recommendations into account when making funding decisions. This same process will be used for 2015 funding.

**Ohio Supreme Court.** – Drug Courts, which are primarily funded by OMHAS with program standards established by the Ohio Supreme Court. Drug courts seek to integrate alcohol and drug abuse treatment into court proceedings by diverting drug offenders from the criminal justice system into treatment. Drug courts can be operated through various funding sources in Ohio. Funds from the JAG program are expended on drug courts, so proper coordination is critical. Currently, Ohio has over 50 drug courts in operation. The Supreme Court of Ohio recognizes OCJS as the evaluator of the statewide drug court program.

**Ohio Consortium of Crime Science (OCCS).** – The OCCS began in 2012 when

OCJS, with the assistance of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati, met with researchers from public and private institutions to discuss the creation of a formal mechanism through which researchers can partner with practitioners to share information and expertise and offer evidence-based solutions to local crime and justice problems. Out of this grew the Ohio Consortium of Crime Science, or OCCS. The Consortium currently consists of more than 40 criminology and criminal justice researchers from 14 colleges and universities across Ohio. The goal of the OCCS is to provide research, evaluation, data analysis, and other technical support at no cost to local Ohio agencies who seek assistance. Researchers who are a part of the Consortium are paired with practitioners based on their area of expertise and geographic location. A small stipend is provided to the researcher who undertakes the request for assistance. The researcher works side-by-side with the practitioner through the project's completion. With the diversity of institutional representation on the Consortium in terms of both geography and subject matter expertise, the OCCS can meet the specific and unique needs of Ohio communities large and small, urban and rural.

The Consortium serves as the backbone for creating academic-practitioner partnerships in local communities throughout Ohio and will provide criminal justice practitioners and policymakers with the knowledge, tools, and materials that could have a tremendous impact on the ultimate safety of the community. The benefits are mutual: the Consortium both strengthens individual and institutional capacities for research and learning and enhances public knowledge on important criminal justice issues.

**Coordination with State Agencies and Associations**

**Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC).** ODRC operates adult correctional institutions and regional probation and parole offices. ODRC provides OCJS with comprehensive data underscoring statewide needs of the correctional system, including ODRC institutions. This relationship, along with The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), perpetuated the Therapeutic Communities that have been established in ODRC institutions with the help of federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant dollars. Representatives from ODRC work in conjunction with OCJS staff in the Ohio community corrections organizations.

**Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS).** ODYS provides care and housing for juvenile felony offenders who were either committed to a state institution or a community corrections facility. OCJS has worked closely with ODYS in identifying local and state needs and in joint funding initiatives. OCJS also worked with ODYS through RSAT grant funds to establish an institutional-wide drug treatment program for youth offenders. In response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act related requirements, OCJS has assisted ODYS with Cultural Assessments to create environments that foster safety for youth, staff, and the public.

**Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).** OhioMHAS plans, initiates and coordinates an extensive system of alcohol and other drug addiction services designed to prevent abuse and treat Ohio's addicted populations. The application must show written documentation that the substance abuse agency is certified. The RSAT program, along with other drug intervention and prevention

programs funded through JAG and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), guarantees future coordination and collaboration with OhioMHAS.

**Ohio Attorney General's Office (AG).** The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, statewide elected officials, the Ohio General Assembly, and all state departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. The AG's office contains three subdivisions that have special relevance for OCJS: The Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation (BCI&I), the Ohio Organized Crime Investigation Commission (OOCIC), and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). Representatives from the AG's office serve on many committees with OCJS, especially in the area of Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS). The AG's office serves on the OIBRS advisory board at OCJS. Through BCI&I, the AG's office provides individual narcotics agents throughout the state to offer investigative assistance to various narcotics task forces. The AG's office also has undercover narcotics agents who work with local law enforcement agencies to become aware of local issues which, when appropriate, are passed on to OCJS. In addition, OCJS is partnering with the OAG's office to provide training and technical assistance to local law enforcement on clandestine laboratory training as well as methamphetamine lab cleanup.

**Ohio Department of Health (ODH).** OCJS collaborates with the ODH on several efforts. The agencies, along with the OAG's Office created the Interagency Victim Assistance Coordinating Committee (IVACC) which meets every other month to coordinate funding and services among member agencies that support services to victims of crime, and to identify critical issues affecting funded programs and victims of crime that need to be addressed by staff from the three state funding agencies. OCJS's Policy

and Research staff also participates ODH's Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership and is involved in the Data Action Group for that partnership.

**Ohio Crime Prevention Association (OCPA).** OCPA addresses youth, senior, community, commercial and management issues related to crime prevention. This association is comprised of professionals from the public and private sectors of numerous local communities, especially law enforcement. District meetings are held on a monthly basis. Regional meetings are held on a quarterly basis, while a statewide training conference is held on an annual basis. Representatives from OCJS are members of the association and attend regional and district meetings as well as an annual conference.

**Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA).** BSSA is comprised of county sheriffs across the state. The purpose of this organization is to share information, discuss local problems and make recommendations for improvements. BSSA also presents issues derived from local levels to the policy makers at the state level. BSSA is represented on the NIBRS Advisory Board at OCJS. BSSA holds a position on the CJIS Governing Board. OCJS has had the opportunity to formally participate in the BSSA annual conferences by making presentations on NIBRS, grantsmanship and other topics.

### **Coordination with Federal Agencies**

Without coordination and direct involvement from federal, state and local criminal justice authorities, the goals of this strategy, especially as related to drug eradication and Ohio's multi-jurisdictional drug task forces, could not be fulfilled.

**Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).** For Ohio, the DEA's Detroit office, which serves Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky, plays an important role in the operation of

the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces funded through JAG. The task forces are required to operate in conjunction with a state or federal enforcement agency, such as the DEA and FBI. The DEA provides detailed drug statistics and patterns of trafficking throughout the region and their impact on Ohio cities.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).** The FBI plays an important role in the operation of the JAG grant's drug task forces. The FBI also helps in the training of drug task force officers and directly participates in many of the task force investigations. In addition, the FBI is an active member on the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA) hosted by OCJS.

#### **Coordination with Federal Grant Programs**

**S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program** - Administered by OCJS. The purpose of VAWA is to assist states and units of local government to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving crimes against women. The VAWA program focuses mainly on female victims of crime. Ohio grants funds to law enforcement, prosecutors, and direct victim service providers, based on the federally mandated percentages to allocate the money across the state.

**Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Program** - Administered by ODYS. In 1974, Congress passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The act was designed to address juvenile delinquency at the community level. The act also created the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and provided for the Title II Formula Grant program. In order to participate in the program, Ohio must maintain compliance with the following core requirements of the Act:

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1. The removal of status offenders (unrulies) from secure settings.
2. The removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups.
3. The problem of juvenile delinquency.
4. The disproportionate confinement of minority youth.

By executive order, the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice has the authority to oversee the development and approval of Ohio's juvenile justice funding plan that would include any subgrants pursuant to these directives. Council members are persons with training, experience or special knowledge in preventing and treating juvenile delinquency, or in administering of juvenile justice programs.

**Juvenile Justice Title V - Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention**

**Programs** - Administered by ODYS. In 1992, Congress established the Title V Grant program to develop local-level comprehensive prevention and treatment programs for at-risk youth. Title V's focus is on primary prevention programs in the community. It is built on the premise that preventing delinquent behavior is more cost effective than incarceration or rehabilitation. Title V is based on the Communities That Care model created by Developmental Research and Programs, Inc., of Seattle. The model is designed to evoke community mobilization through collaboration and commitment. Funding is designed to fill gaps in resources, to leverage other funding sources, to strengthen existing prevention programs, and to obtain the commitment of key community leaders in affecting change in service delivery.

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG LE)** – Administered by OCJS. Although the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant combines both the Byrne and LLEBG programs, OCJS continues administering our old LLEBG program as

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JAG LE through the JAG funding cycle. Eligible grantees may use these funds for hiring, training and employing on a continuing basis new or additional law enforcement officers, and necessary support personnel; paying overtime to employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purposes of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel; and procuring equipment, computer technology, and other materials directly related to law enforcement functions. Allowable costs include equipment needed to implement OIBRS. Funded OIBRS projects will be required to report OIBRS data within a specified time after completion of the subgrant, and the records management system, vendor must be an Ohio certified OIBRS vendor.

**National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)** – Administered by OCJS. The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) funds from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) improve state level criminal history systems. These funds have assisted the state in continuing to implement projects under the Ohio Criminal History Improvement Plan. NCHIP has currently taken on approximately 15 specific initiatives to further this goal. The monies of the NCHIP program are coordinated with the monies spent on information systems and technology funded through JAG grants.

**Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT)** – RSAT funds are administered by OCJS. Ohio funds subgrants to state agencies and local units of government operating substance abuse treatment programs. Special program requirements mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice include providing aftercare services. Offenders must participate in a treatment program, not less than six months no more than 12 months in duration, unless the offender drops out or is terminated. Residential treatment facilities must be set apart from the general correctional population.

**Performance Measurement Data**

As a requirement of the JAG program, OCJS mandates all projects submit performance data to BJA, through the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) application. OCJS requires all subrecipients to complete their Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) report by the fifteenth day after the close of the quarter. This provides OCJS staff time for validation and to contact any subrecipient that has not reported. As the end of the subrecipients' PMT reporting period approaches, the Policy and Research Section run a list of all subrecipients that have submitted PMT data to that point. Subrecipients that have not reported are contacted by OCJS staff and told they must submit a report or risk having funds frozen.

Once PMT reporting is complete, OCJS's Policy and Research staff randomly sample approximately 10 percent of subrecipients. The subrecipient sample is divided among Policy and Research staff based on subject matter expertise. Suspicious data is identified. Staff members assess PMT data. Programmatic monitoring visits and data validation are utilized to assess the data, if correction is needed Policy and Research staff contacts the subrecipient to clarify any questionable data. The subrecipient enters the corrected data in the PMT; however, as a final step, OCJS staff confirms that the corrected data have been entered.

All projects funded through JAG 2009 or later report through the PMT system. OCJS provides each project with the username and password for their program and validates the submitted data in accordance with the quarterly schedule. OCJS also collects performance data in collaboration with groups representing the respective program areas. Moreover, OCJS occasionally funds studies or evaluations per year on

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specific projects or programs for more formal assessment of a project's performance in meeting criminal justice priorities for the State of Ohio. Semi-annual performance data has been used in a variety of OCJS publications such as the Ohio Task Force Annual Reports.

Since the commencement of the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, Ohio has awarded federal funds to help the State of Ohio fight drugs and crime. OCJS continues to improve the RFP and grant review process in a way that allows various communities throughout the state to develop programs that meet specific and unique needs. This is especially true in the development of Ohio's strategic plan. OCJS is committed to continuing to reach out to areas of the state that have yet to apply for JAG funding. Finally, state and local efforts funded through the JAG program are contributing to a safer Ohio. Support for numerous ongoing programs and new initiatives will ensure that the JAG program remains an essential component of Ohio's comprehensive crime and drug control strategy as we progress through the next four years. Ohio will continue to use 10 percent of the federal award for administrative costs associated with the program.

OCJS released the FY 2015 JAG RFP on May 1, 2015. Applications were due to OCJS by June 1, 2015. Applicants will be notified of funding by November 16, 2015 with projects beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016. The FY 2015 JAG application will be posted on the OCJS website for a 30 day period to fulfill the public comment period. The application was sent to the Governor's Office for review by a governing body on June 29, 2015.