

STATE OF ARKANSAS  
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM  
STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN  
June, 2014

## **SUMMARY**

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Intergovernmental Services as the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) convenes regularly with an advisory council (Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council) to make recommendations and plan for strategies and activities directing the use of JAG funds within the State. The Council is established and defined by Arkansas statutes and given authority over the distribution of state and federal funds for law enforcement and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment. The role of the Council is to ensure a framework is established and maintained for the planning, budgeting and spending of federal and state funds on alcohol and drug education, prevention, treatment, and law enforcement in a manner that meets the needs of the local community and the state. The Council is composed of representatives from a broad spectrum of disciplines, and includes the State Drug Director, private citizens, and professionals in law enforcement, prosecution, medical and behavioral health, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, corrections, and education.

## **CURRENT STRATEGY**

For funding under the JAG grants, the Council has given priority in funding considerations to multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (DTFs) for investigation and prosecution of drug crimes within the State. Arkansas currently has nineteen (19) DTFs who provide services across the State by assisting local law enforcement in undercover operations, reduction of illicit drug activities, and other drug eradication operations. These DTFs are a critical component of addressing the State's drug crime problems. JAG is currently the main source of funding available to local and state law enforcement for multijurisdictional drug enforcement, including methamphetamine initiatives, and is a critical source of funds for law enforcement collaboration and prisoner reentry programs. All 19 multijurisdictional drug task forces in Arkansas receive support from JAG grants.

Arkansas statewide strategic plan for the use of JAG funds follows the federal allocation required for distribution of a pre-determined percentage of the funds to local initiatives and pass-through to small jurisdictions that are ineligible for a direct JAG award. The statewide strategic plan for use of JAG funds in Arkansas is as follows:

- ❖ Ten percent of the total JAG award is used for the State's administrative cost related to JAG program
- ❖ Rural local law enforcement agencies who did not meet the criteria for a direct award are allocated a portion of the remaining balance based on information received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The State calculates an equitable distribution of funding based on the total threshold amounts as determined by BJA.

- ❖ The remaining JAG amount is made available for local projects by open solicitation with priority given to collaborative law enforcement activities specifically addressing drug crime and prosecution (multijurisdictional task force operations)

The Council has determined that drug task forces have benefitted Arkansas and there is a great need for these programs to continue unabated. In addition to the federal funds allocated to drug task force operations, the DTFs receive supplemental support from special state revenues.

## **DEVELOPING STRATEGY**

Further strategic plans:

### **September – December 2014**

- Continue the review of current programs and the development of standards for salaries and define a standard list of items for funding for the DTFs.

### **January – March 2015**

- Continue to work with DTFs in both in-person training sessions and by providing strategies to assist them in addressing performance gaps noted in their monthly reports to IGS.
- Analyze statistical data including population served, number of arrests, convictions, and other relevant factors to determine effective strategies.
- Assist DTF staff in the establishment and continuation of evidence based projects or programs to guide funding decisions for the State in upcoming Byrne JAG grant cycles.