

FY'2014 JAG Program Narrative

1. State Administrative Agency

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency is the designated State Administrative Agency of the American Samoa Government, responsible for the administration of the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Bureau of Justice Assistance-Office of Justice Programs of the U. S. Department of Justice. Also in accordance with the code of laws and statutes of the Territory of American Samoa as prescribed under Title 46 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency shall serve as the local clearinghouse for federal grant programs awarded to the Territory of American Samoa under the Omnibus Crime Control & Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is an executive agency of the American Samoa Government designated to be the State Administrative Agency (SAA) responsible for the program administration and fiscal monitoring of the Justice Assistance Grant Program in the territory of American Samoa. The CJPA was created by statute under Title 46, Chapter 01 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, A.S.C.A.

The administrative percentage allowed for the State Administrative Agency is configured at ten percent of the total FY'2014 Justice Assistance Grant Award. This percentage is proposed to be expended on the salaries of personnel positions that are to provide direct services to the administration of the FY'2014 Justice Assistance Grant Program. The balance remaining wherefrom shall be utilized for cost-sharing measures within the State Administrative Agency and for attendance to the required conferences with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and relative national organizations in the interest of criminal justice federal grant programs.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency does not receive any local funding sources from the American Samoa Government, but operates solely on the administrative percentages from the various federal grant programs it administers.

The following projects are the direct recipients of the American Samoa JAG Program 'FY 2014 Funding. Each project has its own core area of concentration and is well within the principles of the American Samoa Criminal Justice System and its concentration.

2. 5% Criminal Records Improvement Mandate

The 5% Criminal Records Improvement Mandate is allocated directly to the Criminal Records Information Systems with the Department of Public Safety. The expenditures that are to be funded with this specific budget allocation are related directly to the upgrading of the current systems at the Criminal Records Division of the Department of Public Safety and to ensure system capabilities are within federal guidelines.

The Criminal Records Division of the Department of Public Safety is currently undergoing upgrades to its current system and is hopeful to be well on par with that of federal and states' partner's capabilities to improve law enforcement services in the territory.

3. High Court – Judicial Training

The High Court of American Samoa is the recipient of JAG funds directed to assist the Court system with its duties and functions in interpreting the laws of the territory. Funding allocation is expected to be expended directly on travel/training budget category of the American Samoa Government budget code, thus enabling the Chief Justice, Associate Chief Justice, District Court Judge, and the Associate Judges to travel to the regional judicial trainings with the U.S. Territories of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia. It is also expected that the judiciary will attend judicial trainings hosted by the federal and state governments, as well as capacity development trainings for the probation officers of the court, Marshall of the Court, and the Clerk of the Court and support staff.

4. AG Drug & Violent Crime Prosecution

The Department of Legal Affairs – Office of the Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting drug & violent crime in the territory. The Attorney General's Office Drug & Violent Crime Project's primary goal is to ensure such prosecutions are carried out in the most optimum manner for the overall satisfaction of the law in American Samoa. The primary goal of the project is to ensure enhanced prosecutorial training and promptness to prosecute in the high level and sophisticated nature of drug and violent offenders in the territory.

The project funds are to be expended on the recruitment and salaries of the two prosecutor positions and training development in dealing with the sophistication and

complication of drug and violent crime in American Samoa. The prosecution project represents a crucial link within the criminal justice system in American Samoa.

5. DPS - Criminal Investigations & Intelligence Bureau

The Criminal Investigations & Intelligence Bureau of the Department of Public Safety is the investigative arm of the Department of Public Safety. The JAG program continues to support this project with the primary goal of providing funding support for the enhancement of investigative capabilities, and to provide training development for the detectives of the bureau.

The continuity of law enforcement training is a must, due to the nature of law enforcement, as well as capacity development among the investigative personnel ranging from juvenile crime & delinquency to serious adult crimes. The investigations are a lengthy process, which requires training, experience, and proper support. Therefore, this project

6. TREASURY – Customs Canine Enforcement

The Department of Treasury – Customs Canine Enforcement Project continues to thrive in its border interdiction efforts. The interception of illegal drugs and controlled substances is the primary project goal.

The proposed funding under the FY'2014 Justice Assistance Grant Award is to be expended on the enhancement and improvements to the security of the additions to the project. The security enhancement requires additional transportation modes, medical treatment and examinations, as well as the daily maintenance and care for the canines'.

7. DPS – K-9 Enforcement Unit

The Department of Public Safety Canine Enforcement Unit is the latest addition to the JAG funding allocation. The DPS Canine Enforcement Unit was created to assist in the drug interdiction efforts of the Vice & Narcotics Unit, the Criminal Investigations Division as well as contributing to the overall mission of the Department of Public Safety.

The Proposed funding allocation for this project is to be expended on personnel costs, training and travel in canine handling and supervision, medical treatment and examinations as well as the daily maintenance and care for the canines.

8. DPS - Manu'a Law Enforcement Services

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) Manu'a Law Enforcement Services Project is an original project funded under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program. The JAG program continues to fund this project with the primary goal of providing law enforcement capabilities and support for the main purpose of law and order in the Manu'a Islands.

The proposed funding allocation is to be expended on the salaries of the twenty police officers, as well as a lease agreement for office space entitled DPS – Manu'a Ofu & Olosega Sub-Station. The twenty police officers are all residents of the Manu'a Islands, comprised of Tau, Ofu & Olosega Counties.

9. Community-Based Policing/Community Services

The Community-Based Policing Initiatives/Community Services Project is also an original project funded under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program. The project goals continue to require that the project personnel engage in bridging the gap between the government and the communities to address the issues of truancy, as well as juvenile crime and delinquency.

The personnel positions have provided monitoring services within the village communities, which focus specifically on identifying the troubled youth within the village communities, whom have encountered social problems and are then directed to the appropriate health and social services personnel, or are referred directly to law enforcement or the village council of chiefs and elders for adjudication. The project personnel also continue to work closely with the Department of Public Safety in a support services capacity during incidents of increased enforcement, and as needed.

10. Evaluation of Program

The Evaluation of Program Project is the required funding source utilized by the State Administrative Agency specifically for evaluation services. The proposed funding shall aid in the contracting of evaluation services, thus providing the State Administrative Agency with evaluative results that are very important to the preparation of the required State Annual Report.