

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM  
STATEWIDE PLAN FFY 2014  
CFDA #16.738  
DUNS NUMBER 807853015  
CCR Valid Until August 2014**

Connecticut's **FFY14 Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Plan** will provide state agencies and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention programs, community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.

Allocation priorities include: reduction in firearms violence, interventions for mentally ill offenders, law enforcement response to heroin-related criminal activity, heroin treatment and intervention, criminal justice system response to violent victim crimes, technology improvements for local governments and compliance with Civil Rights Act.

**STATE LEVEL JAG FUNDS (63.2% JAG 2014 AWARD)**

The federal JAG program requires the **State's Administrative Agency (SAA)** to "pass-through" a federally-determined percentage of the State's JAG award to local governments. The funds remaining may be allocated to "state-level" or "state-wide" projects operated by a state agency. The "**state level**" projects are a critical component of the JAG Plan given the structure of Connecticut's criminal justice system. Connecticut is a small state with a single-tiered, unified court system and **all criminal justice functions are funded and administered at the state level except for municipal law enforcement**. Unlike many other states, Connecticut has **no county or local government systems** responsible for jails, prison, parole, probation, indigent defense, victim services, prosecution and enforcement. Therefore, the JAG State-level funds must address a multitude of inter-related functions and operations while the Local Pass-through funds are used for local government law enforcement functions.

The federal formula for the JAG 2014 allows the SAA to retain 63.2% of the federal award for "state-level" projects and 10% for administrative costs.

**FFY2014 State-Level JAG Priorities:**

As the State Administering Agency (SAA) for five federal criminal justice grants, OPM is responsible for assuring that all sub-recipients are in compliance with applicable federal and state financial and programmatic requirements. The SAA must verify that funds are expended within federal program policies and ensure those funds are used to achieve maximum results while supporting priority policy objectives through a strategic planning approach.

Connecticut's FFY2014 State-Level JAG funds will focus on issue areas addressed by the [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission \(CJPAC\)](#), which is a multi-disciplinary planning group of stakeholders representing state and local government agencies as well as community-based organizations and service providers.

## A. Funding Priorities and Objectives

Priorities and objectives are based on issues identified and discussed at the *Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)* during the period of September 2013 through May 2014.

### Systems Improvement

- **Improve information analysis systems:** Provide data and analysis to assess cost-efficient uses of public funds and evaluate existing services to determine the most effective practices for reducing recidivism.
- **Ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws:** State Administering Agencies (SAAs) have a responsibility to monitor their sub-recipients to ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws. Recipients of federal financial assistance have an obligation to reduce language barriers that can preclude persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) from meaningful access to important benefits, rights, programs, information, and services. The SAA must provide periodic training sessions for its sub-recipients on their obligations to comply with the applicable civil rights laws and nondiscrimination provisions and DOJ implementing regulations.

### Public Safety and Accountability

- **Ensure community safety and prevent gun violence** through enforcement of firearms laws and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms; support evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies.
- **Support cross-disciplinary initiatives focused reduction in heroin-related** crime and increased access to treatment for heroin addiction as well as evidence-based early intervention approaches.
- **Improve policies, procedures and protocols** for police, prosecutors, probation and parole response to mentally ill offenders through specialized intervention units and training initiatives involving collaborations between criminal justice agencies and mental health providers.
- **Provide training to community-based organizations** regarding policies and procedures in criminal justice agencies; police protocol and procedures, court process, probation and parole process.
- **Improve criminal justice system response to victims of violent crime** including sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims. Reduce risk of recidivism in cases involving high-risk offenders through evidence-based protocols and practices.
- **Implement policies, procedures and services which have been recognized as a promising practice or evidence-informed practice as found in the U.S.D.O.J online resource tool - CrimeSolutions.gov.** The tool provides assessments based on three decades of research; and recognizable evidence ratings by certified reviewers with research and subject area expertise. CrimeSolutions.gov is intended to increase the use of evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice and victim services settings; inform practitioners and policy makers about what works using the best available evidence.

The ***Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC)*** identified and discussed policy priorities, gaps in services and emerging needs as follows:

**09/26/2013:** CJPAC identified need to develop policies and interventions to improve oversight of high-risk sex offenders and identified priority services needs for the “pre-trial” population. CJPAC discussed ways to improve monitoring and control of violent offenders, particularly domestic violence offenders. CJPAC identified priority needs to prevent gun violence through enforcement of firearms laws and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms; and support evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies.

**10/31/2013:** CJPAC identified need to develop data analysis tools to assess current uses of funds and determine the most effective practices for reducing recidivism. The commission members discussed impact of re-entry and recidivism reduction strategies and indicated need to implement evidence based programs. CJPAC discussed priority need to reduce gun violence particularly in largest urban areas with higher number of shooting incidents.

**11/21/2013:** CJPAC discussed the need to develop new approaches to intervening in high-risk domestic violence cases as well as develop policies and protocols to respond to other violent crimes and implement evidence-based interventions. CJPAC members discussed priority need to develop and implement cross-disciplinary interventions for mentally ill offenders with specialized focus on young adult population and police emergency response.

**12/12/2013:** CJPAC discussed the need to sustain evidence based approaches to ending gun violence and continue to develop tools and resources to assess outcomes. Priority policy areas under discussion: mass violence, gang and drug-related homicides, domestic violence homicide. CJPAC also continued to discuss priority need to improve services for mentally ill population and create rapid access to intervention services.

**01/30/2014:** CJPAC continued to identify and discuss the need to dedicate resources to addressing gun violence including policies and protocols to reduce domestic violence homicides as well as implement evidence-based practices to prevent recidivism for violent crime related to drugs and gangs. CJPAC discussed urgent need to develop policies and services in response to the emerging heroin crisis and heroin-related deaths.

**03/27/2014:** CJPAC identified priority need to develop policies and procedures to respond to escalating opiate usage and heroin-related deaths. CJPAC discussed need for legislation and new policies related to use of NARCAN. CJPAC members also discussed need for development of multi-disciplinary approaches to prevention and intervention in opiate addictions as well as identified need to develop policy options related to narcotics investigations and police response.

**04/24/2014:** CJPAC identified priority issue areas for criminal justice system as: reduction in recidivism, reduction in high risk cases, reduction in gun-related violence, specialized crisis intervention teams for young offenders as well as mentally ill offenders, policies and procedures to divert young adults from the adult criminal justice system and assessment of outcomes. CJPAC also discussed priority need to improve policies and protocols to support victim’s access

to services and enforce victim's rights. CJPAC identified need to provide training to community-based organizations regarding policies and procedures in criminal justice agencies; police protocol and procedures, court process, probation and parole process.

**05/24/2014:** CJPAC continued to discuss priorities related to mentally ill offenders with a particular focus on policies and procedures for probation and parole agencies response to cases involving mental health issues. CJPAC identified priority need to support evidence-base collaborations, such as Crisis Intervention teams, to deescalate safety risks in cases involving mentally ill offenders. CJPAC continued to identify gun violence as a priority issue area. CPAC continued to discuss priority issues related to young offenders and strategies for higher risk cases as well as discussed need to develop probation case management teams (such as YOUTH UNITY) to prevent recidivism. CJPAC continued to identify domestic violence homicide as a priority issue area and discussed strategies to reduce fatalities and improve criminal justice system response as well as discussed need for legislation related to enforcement of restraining orders. CJPAC continued to identify substance abuse related crime and recidivism as a priority issue area and discussed need for substance abuse treatment for recently released inmates.

**06/26/2014:** CPAC continued to discuss priorities related to gun violence, enforcement of firearms laws, and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms as well as need to develop evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies.

## **Timeline for Planning State-Level JAG Projects**

### **July 2014:**

SAA develops eligible "**purpose areas**" based on CJPAC priorities;

- **Reduce gun violence;**
- **Intervene in heroin-related crime;**
- **Improve criminal justice system interventions for mentally ill population;**
- **Reduce recidivism for high-risk offenders, including domestic violence and sex offenders;**
- **Improve criminal justice system response to victims of violent crime;**
- **Implement policies, procedures and services recognized as a promising practice or evidence-informed practice.**

### **August 2014:**

SAA establishes the following grant parameters: eligibility requirements, sub-recipient grant period, reporting process, assessment and evaluation requirements, allowable budget components and inter-agency collaboration process. SAA develops a preliminary allocation plan based on the priority purpose areas.

### **September 26, 2014:**

Convene CJPAC meeting to discuss development of five projects which address the Priority Purpose Areas and comply with the SAA eligibility criteria. CJPAC members identify options for evidence-based models and "promising practices" to support the priority purpose areas.

**October 2014:** SAA collaborates with the "front-line" state agencies to develop project specific goals, objectives, strategies and timelines as well as preliminary sub-recipient budgets.

**November 2014:** Convene CJPAC to review and approve sub-recipient project proposal.

SAA integrates the project-specific goals and objectives in to FFY 2014 JAG Implementation Plan and submits the Plan to CJPAC.

**December 2014 – March 2015:** SAA collaborates with front-line agencies regarding sub-recipient award process and contractor procurement as well as “roll-out” of funds.

**March 2015:** SAA reports to CJPAC on status of commitments and “roll-out” to sub-recipients.

## **LOCAL PASS-THROUGH FUNDS (36.8% JAG 2014 AWARD)**

The State's SAA is required to "pass-through" 36.8% of its federal grant award to local governments plus an additional 8% to a set of very small local governments, many of which receive their police services from the State Police.

### **B. Funding Priorities and Objectives**

**Consistent with the overall priorities of the federal JAG program, the local-pass-through funds will be allocated to address policies, practices and services that are evidence-based as demonstrated through assessment data or national research. Allocation decisions will be based on needs as well as impact on other components of the criminal justice system.**

- Ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws.
- Improve and expand information systems, and communications technology for local governments participating in a regional initiative involving shared resources and collaboration; with priority focus on enforcement of firearms laws.
- Expand evidence-based law enforcement initiatives targeting reduction in gun crime and violent crime and intervention with high-risk offenders.
- Provide access and resources for in-state training for local police departments with a priority focus on first responders to mentally ill offenders and de-escalation techniques.
- Provide equipment and support to local police agencies to improve operational efficiencies through expanded participation in the states E-Citation electronic traffic ticket and infraction program.
- Provide equipment and support to local police agencies to meet statewide mandate to develop a new standardized method to more efficiently and effectively collect racial profiling data from traffic stops.

### **C. Timeline for Planning JAG Local Pass-Through Projects**

**October 2014 – December 2014:** OPM will convene an Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and options for strategies and activities to address the objectives for the 2014 JAG Local Pass-Through funds and funds referred to as the "less than \$10K". The Committee will include the **Connecticut Police Chief Association**, police department representatives from different regions throughout the state and other stakeholders.

**January 2015– March 2015:** The Advisory committee will review data indicative of the "gaps" and needs in the criminal justice system at the local level; and recommend options for grant funded strategies.

**April 2015 – June 2015:** OPM will develop an allocation plan based on the options proposed by the Advisory Committee; and determine the contracting process.

#### **D. COORDINATION EFFORTS**

Connecticut has a very centralized and unified criminal justice system. Connecticut is divided into 169 municipalities. There is no county government. There is no overlap of functions such as might arise with county government or a multi-tier court system. The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court. With the exception of local police services in the larger communities, all criminal justice functions are provided by state agencies.

All of the criminal and juvenile justice formula grant programs emanating from the U. S. Department of Justice, except the Victims of Crime Act, are administered by the same unit within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The Office of Policy and Management, the state administrative agency (SAA) for the JAG Grant, is well positioned to coordinate JAG Grant activities with other federal and state initiatives given that it is the state's budget and planning agency.

In addition to serving as the SAA for the JAG grant, the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) of OPM is statutorily required to develop strategic plans to improve the outcomes and operation of the criminal justice system. The CJPPD collaborates with the state criminal justice agencies and local governments in assessing and analyzing existing functions and identifying opportunities for improvements in services to promote greater public safety. The CJPPD Undersecretary serves as the chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC) which is charged with developing strategies to prevent prison and jail overcrowding and creating an offender community reentry strategy.