

## Attachment #5

### Florida's JAG Strategic Plan

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Florida Statutes require long-term, strategic planning at the state level. Florida's State Comprehensive Plan (§ 187, Fla. Stat. (2013)) covers a wide variety of issues including Public Safety. This plan is updated by the Florida Legislature biennially. In addition, the Florida Statutes (§ 216.013) also require each state agency develop a Long Range Program Plan as defined in § 216.011(z):

*"Long-range program plan" means a plan developed on an annual basis by each state agency that is policy based, priority driven, accountable, and developed through careful examination and justification of all programs and their associated costs. Each plan is developed by examining the needs of agency customers and clients and proposing programs and associated costs to address those needs based on state priorities as established by law, the agency mission, and legislative authorization. The plan provides the framework and context for preparing the legislative budget request and includes performance indicators for evaluating the impact of programs and agency performance.*

These Plans are in effect for five years and are updated annually. Criminal Justice related agencies affected by this planning requirement include: Corrections, Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (includes Florida Highway Patrol), Justice Administration (includes State Courts and Public Defenders), Juvenile Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal Affairs and Attorney General, Military Affairs (provides law enforcement training and youth drug prevention), Parole Commission, and State Court System (Supreme Court). In addition, the Office of the Attorney General maintains the *FLORIDA GANG REDUCTION STRATEGY*.

While Florida has a robust strategic planning process, as described above, this process does not drive funding decisions for local-share Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding. Instead, funding decisions are made at the local community level. The Florida Administrative Rule mandates the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) use a specific formula based on population and crime statistics to allocate the available funding to Florida's sixty-seven counties. This process has many advantages. First, it fairly allocates funding in a way that will benefit the most people and significantly impact the areas of greatest need. Second, it compels community-based planning as cities and counties must identify for themselves the needs that are most significant in their jurisdictions. Third, it creates buy-in among subgrantees as they are able to fund projects that meet their needs and coincide with local long range planning. Fourth, it involves a wide spectrum of stakeholders in communities across the state including law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, courts, non-profit organizations, and faith-based and community groups.

FDLE encourages strategic planning at the county level. Specifically, each county is encouraged to form a criminal justice coordinating/planning group to identify and implement criminal justice priorities for the county, to plan strategies to address those priorities, to identify areas of greatest need, and to review all possible sources of revenue to make sure that funds go to the programs or issues that need them most. This recommendation is formalized in the Florida Administrative Rule (Fla. Admin. Code R. 11D-9.005). FDLE requires units of government within a county reach consensus about the

use of JAG funds available in their county. This process results in Florida JAG funding driven by needs at the local level and reaching all levels of the criminal justice system.

FDLE's JAG Program Announcement to potential subgrantees also encourages counties to request funding for projects that support the priorities of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, such as reducing gun violence, recidivism reduction and justice system realignment, indigent defense, and evidence-based "smart" programs. While subgrantees are encouraged to support these priorities, FDLE usually funds projects in all seven allowable program areas and does not limit the types of programs to be funded within the JAG guidelines.