

**2014 JAG APPLICATION
PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

The Governor's Crime Commission, a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, is the state agency established to serve as the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety for the development and implementation of criminal justice policy. The mission of the Governor's Crime Commission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of this state, to enhance public safety, and to reduce and prevent crime by improving the criminal justice system.

The Crime Commission consists of 42 members including the Governor, and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety who serves as an ex-officio officer. By statutory authority, membership includes the following:

- the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- the Attorney General
- the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts
- the Secretary of the Department of Human Services
- the Assistant Secretary of the Division of Corrections
- the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- the Assistant Secretary of the Division of Juvenile Justice
- a Superior Court Judge
- a District Court Judge
- a defense attorney
- 3 sheriffs
- 3 chiefs of police
- 6 private citizens
- 3 county officials
- 3 mayors or municipal officials

- 2 members each of the North Carolina Senate and the House of Representatives

The Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) is responsible for researching statewide issues under review and using the evaluation results to make recommendations to the governor for any statutory changes or additions to North Carolina law. The Commission is solely responsible for the development and implementation of the comprehensive state strategies for disbursement of all Byrne/JAG grant funds annually across the state. The GCC meets at least four times per year with individual review committees meeting as often as needed.

The GCC meets in early June to begin the JAG Solicitation process. Every GCC meeting is open to the public and the meeting notices and final agendas are published on the GCC website. The full Crime Commission; along with the committees, meet to begin their discussion of the JAG solicitation and how best to administer the funding that will be awarded to potential subgrantees.

This June discussion allows all facets of the community, many which are represented on the Crime Commission, to look at the upcoming JAG priorities and establish their own funding priorities that will be put out to the subgrantees. The June meeting allows this collective community to establish a draft of the items they would like to consider for funding purposes. The GCC office staff will share issues that are received by members of the community during this period of time and those items will be brought before the Commission at future meeting.

Conversely, the Commission members will receive feedback from their communities and that information will also be shared at future meetings. Members of the Commission then work with staff during the summer to research and fine tune these funding priorities with additional support language being included, such as funding caps, specific types of programs or equipment that will be funded, and other parameters to make these funding considerations more plausible. The full Commission then reconvenes in September to ratify these priorities so that proposals can then be

solicited. These funding priorities are then posted on the GCC website and an open solicitation is also posted on the website for all interested parties to review.

The GCC openly solicits pre-applications from law enforcement agencies, governmental bodies, and non-profit service providers each year during an application window that normally runs from early fall beginning in November through the end of the January of the following year. The planning staff provides applicants with technical assistance in the development of their proposals through a series of workshops held annually across different regions of state during the first month of the process and by offering continued technical support during the application process. The planning staff also conducted a live webinar that was broadcast statewide and has this webinar recorded on its website for anyone potential sub-grantee to access at their convenience. These workshops provide prospective grantees an opportunity to find out about potential funding opportunities and also to serve as an open dialog for information exchange. There are times when the exchange during these sessions has helped lay the path for other funding priorities. This gives prospective applicants a chance to receive all of the information and expectations regarding the grant process and an opportunity to ask questions in detail.

Great lengths are taken to ensure that each jurisdiction's systematic conditions including the geographic socio-economic factors are presented in context to help determine the areas of greatest need. The end result of this practice is the wide distribution of Byrne funds across all of North Carolina. In order to further the equity of the process, the GCC membership is assigned to one of various sub-committees to read, evaluate, rate, and recommend or reject each individual pre-application.

The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee utilizes the Byrne/JAG funds on an annual basis, which are broken down into the four major areas of Drug Control and Substance Abuse

Treatment, Juvenile Justice, Courts and Corrections, and Information and Technology Systems.

It is not exclusively limited to these four areas as Prosecution, Community Corrections, and Crime Victim and Witness Programs also benefit from these funds.

Each committee will recommend a variety of programs that go far beyond their traditional funding allowances. The committees try to focus on programs that consider and utilize evidence-based practices and factor various criminal justice issues in determining program development. It also allows the SAA to draw on their partnerships to address widespread community issues.

Description of Programs to be funded over the Grant Period

The GCC will still try to ensure that the following program areas are supported with JAG Funds for 2014:

A. Law Enforcement Programs

- JAG funds will be used to support both local and state law enforcement agencies. JAG funds will continue to provide the necessary equipment and overtime funding for small police departments across the state. These funds will also be used to help large statewide public safety agencies, such as the State Highway Patrol, with the infrastructure needs for statewide communication and connectivity.
- Specialized Investigative Units that target Prescription Drug abuse. The GCC will work with agencies that want to combat this growing problem in their community by helping establish programs through local law enforcement agencies.

- Drug Trafficking Reduction Programs, specifically designated investigative units that target money-laundering operations, and specifically designated investigative units that target large regional property crime rings.

B. Juvenile Justice Programs

Funding will be considered for programs with either a prevention or intervention element incorporated in it. The intention of these programs will be to focus on at-risk youths and try to prevent them from entering the adult incarceration system.

C. Court/Prosecution Programs

The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission will continue to work and help support the state's Administrative Office of the Courts in court improvement projects. These projects will have the ability to help provide staffing, technological, and administrative needs to the large judicial system in North Carolina. The GCC will also continue to work with its Special Prosecutors program, which helps local district attorneys clear a large backlog of cases. These programs allow the prosecutor to bring up federal charges on offenders, which will keep them incarcerated for a much longer period of time. The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee will also work with piloting a small number of Veteran Treatment Courts across the state to help the thousands of veterans that are currently living in the state and the thousands more that are now returning to the state. Many of these veterans are returning with substance abuse and mental health issues. These courts are specifically designed to help them in a safe and secure setting giving them the proper resources to address their needs.

D. Statewide Infrastructure

The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission will continue to fund and support statewide infrastructure projects. Many of these projects will be to ensure interoperability between all public safety agencies within the state to ensure that in a large scale event or disaster, everyone will be able to communicate with everyone else. This large scale initiative has been a priority of the State of North Carolina since the events of September 11, 2001. Other large statewide infrastructure projects include the Statewide Warrant Repository, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, and the Mobile Data Network.

E. Community Corrections Programs

The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission will continue to fund and support programs that will enhance the community corrections model. The Committee will also work with various Re-Entry programs across the state to help transition offenders back into mainstream society. These programs will also work with gang involved offenders in working with their particular needs into assimilating back into society.

F. Crime Victim and Witness Programs

The Criminal Justice Improvement Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission will continue to provide some support to the SAVAN automated victim's notification system that allows crime victims to be updated on status changes within the North Carolina Department of Correction of their offenders. This system serves as the state's official victim's

notification system. The Committee will also work with the Administrative Office of the Courts to help provide some awareness training for Elderly Abuse.

Timeline of Activities

June – September 2013 – Members of the Governor’s Crime Commission conduct a series of meetings to determine funding priorities. These meetings involve various stakeholders from the community and are always open to the public. The Governor’s Crime Commission takes all topics and recommendations under consideration when determining its funding priorities.

September 2013 - Members of the Governor’s Crime Commission approves the 2012 JAG funding priorities.

October 1, 2013: Funding Priorities posted on Governor’s Crime Commission Website.

October 2013 - The public and interested parties attend a grant writing workshop hosted by the Governor’s Crime Commission for which staff is available to discuss funding priorities and provide instruction regarding the application process.

November 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014 – The Governor’s Crime Commission accepts grant applications into the Grants Enterprise Management System (GEMS). Staff is available to provide technical support.

February 1, 2014 – May 31, 2014 – Grant applications are reviewed and staff works with applicants to ensure all applications are in proper order.

February 2014 – Criminal Justice Improvement Committee reviews, scores, and discusses grant applications. The committee makes recommendations on which applications should be funded.

March 2014 – The Governor’s Crime Commission discusses committee recommendations and votes on the funding of grant applications.

March 31, 2014 – Applicants are notified of the recommendations made by the Governor’s Crime Commission.

June 2014 – Successful applicants must attend a grant award workshop to receive instruction regarding the use and provisions of federal funding, information regarding reporting and receive technical support from staff.

After July 1, 2014* – Applicants will receive grant award packets.

July 1, 2014* - Federal Project Period Start Date – grant projects are engaged in project activities, reports are made and processed.

***This date varies based on receipt of federal funding to North Carolina from BJA**

Performance Management Measure

As recipients of JAG funding, the Governor’s Crime Commission will report to OJP/BJA as required. Sub-recipients of 2014 JAG funding are required to submit quarterly reports into the BJA Performance Management Tools (PMT) system and are provided instruction of the same at the June 2014 grant award workshops. The staff at the Governor’s Crime Commission creates the user profiles for sub-recipients. The staff provides the User ID and passwords to the sub-recipient. At the completion of each quarter, staff monitors the submission of PMT reports by sub-recipients and the sub-recipient is instructed to provide a copy of the completed report to their GCC Grants Management Specialist. After all sub-recipients have submitted their quarterly report, GCC staff creates a report from PMT and submits it to OJP as required. The subgrantees are also required to submit an annual progress report to GCC as part of their reporting requirements.

Coordination Efforts with other Criminal Justice Agencies

The Governor's Crime Commission serves as the Chief Advisory Board to the Governor for criminal justice issues in the State of North Carolina. The composition of the Crime Commission is a coordinated effort to bring these agencies and issues to one common table. Representation on the Crime Commission includes law enforcement, prosecution, the courts system, the juvenile justice system, human service providers, as well as members of the general public. This body has served as the research and design section for criminal justice issues in this state. Ideas are brought to the body from the membership as well as the outside public and discussed. Many of these ideas then become policy initiatives that are then taken to the state General Assembly for possible legislative actions. Many of these ideas also become funding considerations and then are put into our annual grant cycle solicitation. The Crime Commission has helped forge partnerships on both a local and state level. It has helped form joint task forces that help reduce the influx of drugs in the state. It has helped connect the state together by creating the VIPER radio network, which allows all public safety agencies across the state to talk to each other via 800 MHz radios. The Governor's Crime Commission also has a policy of not funding stand-alone IT systems. This ensures that all of the information systems that are funded by the commission have the ability to work with each other which allows for all public safety agencies to communicate and share information among one another. These efforts are coordinated with the various state agencies; NC Department of Justice and the Administrative Office of the Courts; along with local law enforcement agencies. The Governor's Crime Commission has also served as the catalyst for the advent of School Resource Officers in the school systems of North Carolina. This body has done great coordination efforts in the past and will continue on in the future. The role of the Governor's Crime Commission is even more important now in these tough budget times. Resources are scarce and with the coordinated efforts of the Governor's Crime Commission, both local and state agencies will benefit greatly.

State Strategic Plan for 2014

The GCC has undergone numerous changes in leadership and staffing over the last fiscal year. The Executive Director has changed, the Chairman of the Crime Commission has changed, multiple members of the staff have either been reduced in force due to budget reductions and/or retirement, and there have been many changes at the top levels of state government, including a new Governor. The GCC has always tried to work on a minimal Byrne Strategy, but with all of the changes that have occurred already and with more to come, it has been decided to start anew. The GCC would like to develop a new and updated State Strategic Plan for the JAG funds. The GCC has reached out to the National Criminal Justice Association to start working with them to help develop a state strategy for JAG. The formal request has been submitted to NCJA. The previous strategies factored in issues that have recognized the challenges of dealing with the national recession, state budget deficits and decreased revenues strapping state and local governments. The GCC would still like to incorporate these points in its new plan. This makes it more important than ever to be fiscally responsible and to stretch tax dollars by prioritizing the most essential of criminal justice needs. North Carolina seeks to fund programs that are both sound data driven models and are able to demonstrate that they make a measurable difference, and can be widely replicated across the state.

The strategic planning issues for the Governor's Crime Commission will be defined in a three-step process: (1) examine criminal justice data from statistical, human, and institutional sources, (2) identification of the problems and (3) identification of actions to combat those problems. From this perspective, new missions and strategies will be developed and from those strategies program and funding priorities are then explored.

Review Narrative

The State of North Carolina will make its Fiscal Year 2014 JAG application available to the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission for its review and comment on June 12, 2014.

The State of North Fiscal Year 2014 JAG Application has not yet been made available for public review and comment. It will be available after the Governing Body reviews it on June 12, 2014.

Governing Body Review

A final review mechanism is put in place to ensure that every grant recommended is in keeping with the overall state strategy. The GCC Executive Committee (which serves as the Governing Body for the JAG Application) consists of the chairs of each of the standing sub-committees that meet to review proposals and grant applications and recommends action to the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety. **This review of the applications by the GCC's governing body took place on March 6, 2014. Due to the timing of the JAG Application this year and a revamping of the Commission, the GCC's governing body review of the JAG Application will take place on June 12, 2014 as part of the full Governor's Crime Commission meeting.**

The entire final package is then reviewed by staff and if adjustments are found to be made, it is then brought back to the Executive body and recommendations and revisions are made and are then forwarded to the Governor for final approval.