

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT  
FY 2014 FORMULA PROGRAM

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

1. STATE STRATEGY/FUNDING PRIORITIES

Funding awarded under the FY 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program State Solicitation (JAG 2014) will be used to continue and compliment programs launched under New Jersey's strategy to combat crime through targeted investigations and prosecutions.

New Jersey has experienced a high volume of violent crime in many of its urban areas. Gangs that had been rooted in a city or region of the State continue to expand their turf, causing a rash of shootings and violent crime. These gangs, fueled by the revenues of drug distribution and armed with illegally obtained guns, have threatened the safety of our residents and the vitality of our cities and towns. New Jersey's strategic plan focuses on investigations and prosecutions as critical components to addressing violent crime. New Jersey is on the forefront of using intelligence-led, data-driven policing strategies to deploy limited policing resources.

JAG 2014 funds will support the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices Gang, Gun, and Narcotics Task Forces, the Attorney General's New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Organized Crime, Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force and the Division of Criminal Justice's (DCJ) Multi-Jurisdictional Gangs, Guns & Narcotics Task Force (Statewide Task Force). The County task forces will continue to target drug enforcement where such enforcement is consistent with the task forces' larger mission of suppressing gangs and gun violence. The task forces will continue to work to deprive profit-minded criminal groups of their sources of income, whether the gangs derive their income from the sale of controlled dangerous substances or profit-

motivated acts of violence. The evolutionary transformation of the task forces likely will produce changes in the identification of targets. In selecting drug distribution targets and cases, prosecutors should focus special attention on those dealers who use or carry firearms or otherwise employ violence as part of their drug-trafficking activities. The NJSP's Task Force consists of three regional bureaus in the northern, central, and southern areas of the State. These bureaus employ the intelligence-led policing model and state of the art intelligence analysis to target violent street gangs and narcotics traffickers. DCJ's Statewide Task Force investigates and prosecutes members of criminal gang organizations, gun traffickers and gun trafficking organizations, whose operations transcend county jurisdictions or operate across State lines into or out of New Jersey. The Statewide Task Force works cooperatively with federal, county and local law enforcement officials.

The continued trend of New Jersey criminals opting for the use of guns to carry out criminal acts often resulting in violence is alarming. Shooting incidents in urban areas such as Newark and Trenton are beginning to outpace investigative efforts to solve and ultimately prevent them. Additionally, the upward trend in carjacking in the state coupled with bright line incidents where innocent victims have been killed is distressing. Lastly, the number of recidivist offenders, whether street gang members or plain serial offenders, that are being found possessing crime guns continues to escalate. From a smart policing perspective addressing these ever-present issues involved with gun crime requires an initiative that encompasses:

- the coupling of training and outreach;
- investigations, intelligence and analysis;
- ballistics and time-to-crime examinations to link gun crime to offenders; and
- new technologies.

On September 13, 2013, New Jersey's Legislature found that to further provide for the public safety and the well-being of the citizens of New Jersey, and to respond to growing dangers and threats of gun violence, it was critical for New Jersey law enforcement departments and agencies to fully participate, through the utilization of electronic technology, in inter-jurisdictional information and analysis sharing programs and systems to deter and solve gun crimes. The Legislature determined that the best policy for the State's various law enforcement agencies to fully utilize the federal Criminal Justice Information System to transmit and receive information relating to the seizure and recovery of firearms by law enforcement, in particular the National Crime Information Center System to determine whether a firearm has been reported stolen; the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives E-Trace System to establish the identity of a firearm's first purchaser, where that firearm was purchased and when it was purchased; and the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network to ascertain whether a particular firearm is related to any other criminal event or person.

New Jersey's law calls for the following:

- All local and county police authorities shall submit a quarterly report to the Attorney General, on forms prescribed by the Attorney General, which shall contain the number and nature of offenses committed within their respective jurisdictions, the disposition of such matters, information relating to criminal street gang activities within their respective jurisdictions, information relating to any offense directed against a person or group, or their property, by reason of their race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or ethnicity and such other information as the Attorney General may require, respecting information relating to the cause and

prevention of crime, recidivism, the rehabilitation of criminals and the proper administration of criminal justice.

- A law enforcement officer who responds to an offense involving criminal street gang activity shall complete a gang related incident offense report on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of State Police. All information contained in the gang related incident offense report shall be forwarded to the Superintendent of State Police for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report.
- A law enforcement officer who seizes or recovers a firearm that was unlawfully possessed, used for an unlawful purpose, recovered from a crime scene or is reasonably believed to have been used in or associated with the commission of a crime, or is otherwise acquired as an abandoned or discarded firearm shall complete, within 24 hours, of the entering of the required information relating to that firearm into the New Jersey Trace System and such other State and federal database systems.

This Statewide Gun Violence Reduction Initiative will effectively increase the New Jersey law enforcement community's capabilities for addressing gun violence and auto theft. In addition, this initiative will assist immensely with carrying out the State's legislative objectives delineated. From a smart policing perspective addressing these ever-present issues involved with gun crime requires a strategy that encompasses:

- the coupling of training and outreach;
- investigations, intelligence and analysis;
- ballistics and time-to-crime examinations to link gun crime to offenders; and
- new technologies.

This initiative will be achieved by including:

- Violent crime reduction efforts in place by the NJ Office of Attorney General;
- Existing investigative, ballistic, and forensic capabilities provided by the New Jersey State Police Investigations Branch;
- Existing intelligence and analysis initiatives in place at the New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center,

The NJSP, in partnership with the NJ Division of Criminal Justice, is uniquely situated to accomplish the objectives and evaluate the results of this intelligence-led, data driven effort that will be established through existing information sharing networks, collaborative regional relationships, and technical capabilities. Successfully carrying out the objectives listed above will require the Department of Law and Public Safety, to apply training and outreach, intelligence and analysis, and new technologies in a synchronized and programmatic manner.

JAG 2014 funds will provide support to the 21 County Prosecutors' Megan's Law and Local Law Enforcement Initiative. County prosecutors can use grant funds to support salaries, overtime, supplies, or equipment in order to assist in the implementation of the act or to fulfill other law enforcement needs during the grant period.

Finally, JAG 2014 funds will continue to support Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) improvement projects, vital to the integration of statewide information sharing networks. JAG Funding will provide for the implementation of a solution by the New Jersey State Police that will enhance the ability of law enforcement and prosecution personnel to collect, identify, track and solve potential Human Trafficking and Child Sex Trafficking cases. This project will implement solution components such as a Human Trafficking Tips and Leads system, a facial recognition component, and will leverage the Collaboration and Analytics platform that has

currently been installed at the New Jersey Regional Operational Intelligence Center (ROIC) and New Jersey Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region. Additionally, other components will be implemented and include Webforms, as well as a smart phone handheld application to enable the law enforcement community and the general public to submit tips and leads for follow up and analysis by local and State law enforcement personnel. JAG funding will also be used to automate the New Jersey State Parole Board's (NJSPB) 15,000 parolee case management systems with the NJ/FBI NCIC, Supervised Release File. This project will be a collaboration of efforts with the NJSPB and the NJSP and upon completion will immediately improve officer safety as any contact within the United States by law enforcement with any of NJ parolees that results in an NCIC inquiry will immediately notify the inquiring law enforcement officer of the supervision status of a parolee and relevant details regarding the parolee's supervision.

#### The State Sub-Award Process

1. DCJ's Program Development & Grants Section administers the JAG program.
2. Proposed subgrants are reviewed and approved by the L&PS through the Consolidated Grants Management Office (CGMO).
3. All projects are subgranted by Program Development & Grants Section to divisions within L&PS (e.g., NJSP), other State agencies (e.g., Department of Corrections), local units of government (municipal and county), and non-profit agencies.
4. Subgrants may be offered by formula, competitive or on a strategic basis. If required, a Notice of Availability of Funds (NOAF) is published in the New Jersey Register.
5. Subgrant projects are assigned to a Program Analyst. Once a completed subgrant application is received and considered satisfactory, the subgrant application is reviewed and approved by an Internal Grant Review Committee.

6. Upon approval, the Subgrant project grant package is processed within CGMO, recommending the Attorney General or designee signs the contract.
7. Upon Attorney General or designee signature, the executed contract is sent to the subgrantee.

The State Sub-Award Timeline

<b>Objectives/Activities</b>	<b>Subgrant Process</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Law Enforcement	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies 2 months from date of federal award - State agencies	Ongoing from start of project
Prosecutors & Courts	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies	Ongoing from start of project
Justice Information Sharing	6 months from date of federal award - local agencies 6 months from date of federal award - State agencies	Ongoing from start of project

Description of Programs to be Funded

Purpose

Area

- 1 County Multi-Jurisdictional Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force  
The task forces, each under the operational control of the county prosecutor, target drug and violent crimes within their jurisdictions.
- 1 DSP Organized Crime, Gangs and Narcotics Task Force  
The task force targets aspects of narcotic distribution and gang activity within the State through intelligence led policing.
- 1 Statewide Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force  
The task force targets aspects of narcotic distribution and gang activity within the State through intelligence led policing.
- 1 Statewide Gun Violence Reduction Initiative  
This initiative shall address issues involved with gun crime through a smart policing strategy that encompasses investigations, intelligence and analysis; training and outreach; ballistics and time-to-crime examinations to link gun crime to offenders; and acquire new technologies.
- 6 Criminal Justice Information Sharing  
For the integration and enhancement of New Jersey’s statewide information sharing networks. Initiatives are coordinated through the CJIS Policy Committee.

N/A Program Administration

Funds will be applied to costs associated with personnel directly involved in the administration of the JAG programs. Responsibilities will include fiscal and programmatic oversight, technical assistance, ongoing review, monitoring, assessment, and reporting for all JAG programs. Actual costs will be charged based on time sheets reflecting the actual time worked on JAG.

2. STATE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, PRIORITIES & FUNDING STRATEGY

New Jersey's strategic plan combats crime through targeted investigations and prosecutions using intelligence-led, data driven policing strategies. The following persons/groups help guide New Jersey's priorities and funding strategy for JAG:

- Acting Attorney General John J. Hoffman and Elie Honig, Director, Division of Criminal Justice - The Attorney General, working with DCJ, NJSP, the Regional Operations Intelligence Center and local police departments, examines crime data and hot spots and makes assessments about effective deployments. The State plan has been to reduce violent crimes with the strategic use of limited resources as set forth in the initiatives in this application.
- CJIS Policy Committee - The committee is represented by the Attorney General's Office, NJ State Police, the Administrative Office of the Courts, Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Department of Corrections, Office of Information Technology, Juvenile Justice Commission, the NJ Jail Wardens Association, NJ Chiefs of Police Association, NJ Parole Board, NJ Sheriffs Association, and other criminal justice agencies.
- County Prosecutors Monthly Meetings - The Division of Criminal Justice exercises the Attorney General's authority under the Criminal Justice Act (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-98 et seq.) to supervise the operations and administration of the



twenty-one county prosecutors and county and municipal police departments. Monthly meetings are held within the Division of Criminal Justice to address various criminal justice issues, identify needs and gaps in services and coordinate law enforcement planning efforts statewide.

- County Narcotics Commanders Association - Other forms of local data analysis supporting the State strategy include quarterly meetings of the County Narcotics Commanders Association, which share information and discuss strategies being employed by the County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Forces to address violent crimes and Law Enforcement Training initiatives creating a law enforcement officer network to share and discuss crime and effective responses.
- Office of the Attorney General Consolidated Grants Management Office (CGMO) - CGMO convenes a weekly consolidated grants meeting for the purpose of ensuring coordination of resources and services within L&PS. Grants personnel from the various divisions within L&PS (DCJ, NJSP, Highway Traffic Safety, Civil Rights, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and OAG) meet weekly to share information and coordinate federal programs, where appropriate.

### Engagement of Local Communities

Local communities, in coordination with local law enforcement, are engaged in the planning process. The crime data from the local communities is collected and analyzed to support New Jersey's crime prevention strategies and funding priorities. JAG prevention programs focus on giving local communities the tools to analyze crime data and the flexibility to implement crime prevention projects to address the specialized needs of their neighborhoods.

Through local law enforcement, community members focus on crime data in their neighborhoods, which leads to effective prevention and delinquency programming.

Local law enforcement is directly engaged in the State's strategy through the collection and sharing of crime data with the ROIC. The ROIC collects, assesses and produces information and intelligence products aimed at targeting recidivist offenders and suppressing gun violence. The ROIC, in turn, utilizes this locally collected data for violence prediction purposes, and to better assist communities to prevent and address violent crime.

#### Data and Analysis Supporting State Strategy

The data and analysis supporting the State strategy comes from local and State sources with the nucleus being the ROIC. The ROIC is operated by the NJSP and is comprised of more than 10 agencies, 40 analysts, and interagency liaisons. The ROIC collects, analyzes and distributes crime data to all of its partners. The ROIC spearheads interagency collection efforts, primarily with local jurisdictions throughout the State, to collect, assess and produce information and intelligence products aimed at targeting recidivist offenders and suppressing gun violence.

For example, the ROIC produces the NJ POP (Pins on Paper) Monthly Report, which provides current and warning intelligence on threat, crime and gun violence analysis. The NJ POP report examines the shooting-hit data throughout the State using CrimeTrack, which is available to all law enforcement agencies using the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC). Each NJ POP report identifies hot spots by region, provides temporal and spatial analysis, shows gang-involved shootings, and draws associations between weapons recovered, recidivist offenders, and shooting motivations across jurisdictional boundaries. The NJ POP report assists local, municipal and county law enforcement agencies to combat violent crime using accurate, timely and effective data analysis, and to employ intelligence-led, data-driven

policing strategies.

The ROIC works with police departments in Jersey City, Newark, Trenton, Paterson, Perth Amboy and Camden, among others, which come together with federal and State law enforcement partners to exchange intelligence and coordinate enforcement operations through bi-weekly meetings called Violent Enterprise Source Targeting (VEST). These meetings seek to focus interagency resources on reducing violent crime trends in these cities. VEST meetings are driven by statistical analysis and specific crime information provided by the host agency and participants. VEST information is published in the NJ POP report. The ROIC also works with cities to exchange crime data and trends.

New Jersey analyzes violent crime data using information provided from the ROIC and Uniform Crime Data to make determinations on how best to strategically provide sorely needed resources to local-level police departments and county prosecutors' offices, in the effort to reduce violent crime through intelligence-led policing initiatives. New Jersey law enforcement professionals and police organizations are no longer working independently. Crime patterns and trends are being tracked and shared to assist New Jersey in implementing strategies that cross traditional borders.

Additionally, firearm data is used to assist in intelligence-led policing efforts. Firearms trace data is entered into the federal eTrace system and gun crime evidence is entered into the National Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

Other forms of local data analysis supporting the State strategy include quarterly meetings of the County Narcotics Commanders Association, which share information and discuss strategies being employed by the County Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Forces to address violent crimes and Law Enforcement Training initiatives creating a law enforcement

officer network to share and discuss crime and effective responses.

The exchange of crime data by local communities and the ROIC is critical as violent crime evolves in New Jersey. Gang violence in New Jersey has changed as street gangs mature and consolidate their networks. According to the most recent release, January 2011, of “Gangs in New Jersey: Municipal Law Enforcement Response to the 2011 NJSP Gang Survey,” compiled by the NJSP, gang presence in New Jersey remains widespread, having a presence in all 21 counties, including urban, suburban and rural areas. Forty-three gangs were identified with more than 100 members. These gangs were spread out among 14 towns, six of which had multiple gangs of more than 100. Half of all municipalities report the presence of gangs in their schools. Of those municipalities that reported the presence of gangs, one-third reported an increase in gang activity. The gang survey’s data is being used by State and local law enforcement agencies to direct their strategies to the most pressing violent crime needs.

#### Gaps in State’s Needed Resources

JAG 2014 funding will be utilized to provide critical resources to support local and State criminal justice initiatives, such as personnel, equipment and training when there is no other available funding. JAG 2014 funding will be awarded to agencies to meet essential services in keeping our communities safe and to support needed CJIS improvements to enhance data sharing efficiencies among criminal justice agencies.

### 3. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS WITH OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES IN THE STATE

Under New Jersey’s unified system of law enforcement, the Attorney General, as the chief law enforcement officer of the State, has supervisory authority over the 21 county prosecutors and all other law enforcement departments and agencies throughout the State. DCJ’s

Program Development and Grants Section is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) for federally assisted criminal justice programs. The Criminal Justice Director reports directly to the Attorney General. We are uniquely positioned to assume a leadership and oversight role in developing and implementing JAG 2014 programs that require strong partnerships among the various levels of criminal justice agencies. DCJ staff is experienced in providing technical assistance for effective program implementation and maximizing and leveraging resources through a coordination of services. Staff from the OAG's CGMO convenes a weekly consolidated grants meeting for the purpose of ensuring coordination of resources and services within L&PS. Grants personnel from the various divisions within L&PS (DCJ, NJSP, Highway Traffic Safety, Civil Rights, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and OAG) meet weekly to share information and coordinate federal programs, where appropriate.

DCJ has direct responsibility for the administration of the JAG Program, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG Recovery) Program, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant (RSAT), and the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program (BVP). On behalf of the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's Office, DCJ is the fiscal agent for the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program. DCJ also administers the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC): Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding (formula grants) and the Office of Victim Witness (OVW): STOP Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) formula grants.

DCJ also oversees New Jersey's Safe and Secure Communities Program (State funding for additional police officers to address crime in a community oriented manner), State-funded prevention initiatives (at-risk youth programs), and the Body Armor Replacement Program (State funding to purchase body armor for law enforcement and correctional officers).

In addition to grants administration, the DCJ's primary responsibilities include planning, program development, technical assistance, monitoring, and coordination of resources. Analysts assigned to the unit work closely with subgrantees to establish partnerships that expand and enhance programs.

#### 4. DATA COLLECTION & SUBMISSION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES

To comply with Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) reporting requirements, DCJ collects JAG Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data, Narrative Questions, Annual Reports, and Performance Metrics from JAG subgrantees or subrecipients. JAG subrecipients will be expected to complete DCJ's own quarterly narrative reports, BJA Narrative Questions, and quarterly PMT data. Narrative data will be collated, reviewed and approved by DCJ staff, and uploaded to the BJA PMT and the Grant Management System (GMS) as required.

DCJ collects BJA's PMT data electronically on Excel spreadsheets, which are stored on a network drive. Access will be limited by password to ensure data control, and all changes will be tracked by the DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts before the final submission. New subrecipients receive training on PMT data collection and reporting. Subrecipients are responsible for collecting and reporting PMT data electronically to the DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts. DCJ's Research and Evaluation analysts review and reconcile the subrecipients' spreadsheets. DCJ Research and Evaluation analysts collate and upload the subrecipient data into the required PMT reporting system. Once the draft has been reviewed and approved, the Research and Evaluation analysts post the final data to BJA's PMT. Annually, DCJ uploads the PMT data to GMS.