

## **Program Narrative**

The Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) purpose is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state and local criminal justice systems by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development and planning. The Commission is charged with developing a long-range public safety plan for Oregon, which includes making recommendations on the capacity and use of state prisons and local jails, implementation of community corrections programs and methods to reduce future criminal conduct. The Commission has a role in funding, evaluating and disseminating best practices to Oregon's specialty courts. The CJC also serves as Oregon's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) for the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the State Administrating Agency (SAA) for the Byrne JAG state funds. Additionally, the CJC conducts research, develops fiscal impact estimates of crime-related legislation, acts as the statistical and data clearinghouse for public safety, administers Oregon's felony sentencing guidelines and provides staff to advisory committees regarding asset forfeiture and racial profiling.

The 2013 Oregon legislature passed House Bill 3194, Oregon's Justice Reinvestment legislation. House Bill 3194 charged the CJC with serving as a clearinghouse and information center for the collection, preparation, analysis, and dissemination of the best practices applicable to specialty courts. This includes the development of standards. CJC has developed a peer review process applicable to adult drug courts and continues to provide grants to the majority of Oregon's problem solving courts. A portion of the 2014 JAG funds would continue to serve Oregon's problem solving courts through grants, upgrades to data collection efforts and disseminating best practices. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) funding priorities for the 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) fits within the Law

enforcement and Drug treatment and enforcement program areas. Additional information for each program area follows.

## **Program Area #1 - Law enforcement**

### **Community Policing**

The 2013 Oregon legislature passed House Bill 3194, Oregon's Justice Reinvestment legislation, which contains a provision to create an *Oregon Center for Policing Excellence (CPE)* in the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). The purpose of the center is to make policing in Oregon more effective and efficient by developing and promulgating updated skills in policing among officers, managers and administrators; and making use of the body of knowledge of effective and efficient methods in policing. This project would seek to provide leadership, examine real community public safety problems, and enhance and deliver training to public safety personnel.

The CPE started its first Organizational Leadership and Management Academy course in March 2014. One component of these classes for middle managers and supervisors *is exposure to the principles of problem-oriented policing (e.g. SARA model) and getting the students to work on real problems*, using both case studies from police agencies in Oregon and on problems that exist in their own communities. A portion of 2014 JAG funds would be used to further the CPE's efforts to build capacity in the area of community policing as stated under (d) below.

According to statute the Oregon CPE shall provide opportunities for:

(a) Practitioners to present actual problems to researchers in order to identify potential approaches to resolving the problems. (b) Researchers to present to practitioners the results of research on effective and efficient methods of policing. (c) Practitioners and researchers to form

partnerships to test the effectiveness of practices and approaches. (d) The development and delivery of training to public safety personnel in this state to enhance their skills related to: (A) Problem solving; (B) Leadership and facilitation; (C) Effective application and use of information from reputable research; and (D) Identifying and addressing future challenges affecting public safety.

The CJC will engage the DPSST to scope in more detail a project in 2015 to build capacity in Oregon with enhancement to the leadership program's training and overall deployment and application of community policing skills and knowledge. In addition to this work, the CJC is partnering with Portland State University to obtain a grant to conduct community policing research activities that would serve as a compliment to the work that JAG funds would accomplish.

## **Program Area #2 – Drug treatment and enforcement**

### **Specialty Court Grant Program**

The goal of CJC's Specialty Court Grant Program is to support several of Oregon's existing problem-solving and drug court programs serving adults, juveniles, and families, with a particular emphasis on stabilizing programs that are facing budget cuts and operating with reduced resources. The funding priorities for the Specialty Court Grant Program are based on research that has shown that drug courts are an effective method of engaging drug addicted offenders of medium to high risk of recidivism in treatment, while holding them accountable and protecting public safety through intensive supervision. Research indicates that drug court participants tend to have longer treatment stays, higher completion rates, and lower recidivism and drug use than those who access treatment as part of traditional probation. CJC grant funds

are to be primarily used to fund treatment capacity (i.e. addiction treatment, mental health, employment services, etc.), ancillary services and court coordinator staff.

For an applicant to receive CJC grant funds, they must demonstrate the following:

1. Adherence to the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts and Oregon’s adult drug court standards (to be released in July 2014). These Oregon-specific standards were developed from best practice research and align with the NADCP National Standards, volume 1 (alignment with volume 2 will be assessed following their release in 2014).
2. Treatment providers must utilize evidence-based practices within their programs. Grantees proposing the use of an evidence-based program should carefully consider the feasibility of replicating the selected program at the local site, in terms of whether the specific administrative, staffing, training, and service delivery (core components and dosage) requirements can be met.
3. Adult drug court applicants must participate in a peer review of their program. The peer review process is grounded in Oregon’s adult drug court standards and researched best practices; and
4. Awardees must agree to provide program performance data to the CJC on a quarterly basis.

### **Results from Oregon Drug Courts**

The CJC contracted with NPC Research, located in Portland, OR, to conduct an evaluation over 5,000 offenders in 20 Oregon Drug Courts from 2000-2006. This evaluation was funded by a separate 2008 BJA Discretionary Statewide Drug Court grant. The evaluation found that the drug courts reduced criminal recidivism by 20% compared to similar offenders treated in a “business as usual” condition. Oregon Drug Courts generated \$2.41 in criminal justice savings

for each dollar invested. The complete report contains outcome, cost-benefit, and best practice information and can be found at our website- [www.oregon.gov/cjc](http://www.oregon.gov/cjc).

### **Oregon's Strategic Planning Process**

Oregon just completed a three year Justice Reinvestment effort with technical assistance from the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States (PEW) as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative of the United States Department of Justice. This work resulted in 2013 legislative action<sup>1</sup> to implement Justice Reinvestment in Oregon. Oregon is now in Phase II of Justice Reinvestment, the implementation phase, and is receiving technical assistance from the Vera Institute.<sup>2</sup> The CJC has also been accepted into Phase IV of the Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) in Local and State Criminal Justice System Initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections.<sup>3</sup> This application seeks to fund aspects of the Justice Reinvestment legislation, specifically, the establishment of a Center for Policing Excellence in the DPSST and enhancements to the Specialty Courts Program administered by the CJC.

As part of the final negotiation of the Justice Reinvestment legislation, the Governor directed the CJC to include un-obligated FY 2010–FY 2013 JAG funds into implementation efforts starting in July 2013. This targeting of the funds accelerated the utilization of existing JAG awards into Oregon's current biennium spending plan. These prior year JAG funds are obligated to the Specialty Court Grant Program cycle ending in June 2015. The CJC intends to obligate a portion of the 2014 funds to the Specialty Courts Grant Program again, effective July

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<sup>1</sup> Oregon House Bill 3194 Enrolled

<sup>2</sup> Vera Institute Phase II Acceptance Letter dated December 13, 2013

<sup>3</sup> EBDM Phase IV Acceptance Letter, dated April 2, 2014

2015. To do this, CJC will seek applications and make awards March 2015 through June 2015. CJC intends to obligate the Community Policing award in late 2015. The project still requires a scope of work to be developed and this work is expected to begin in early 2015. Awarding of this project is expected mid to late 2015.

The 2013 Justice Reinvestment legislation guides Oregon's strategic initiatives for the next 5-10 years. All 36 Oregon counties opted to participate in Justice Reinvestment during the 2013-2015 biennium.<sup>4</sup> To fully implement the bill, a new Task Force on Public Safety was created and is tasked with implementing the legislation and providing the legislature with a report of Oregon's progress in October 2016. Additionally, a Grant Review Committee was created to develop rules that operationalize the program, which CJC will then administer as a grant incentive program effective July 1, 2015. Oregon has been organized, for purposes of implementation, into 4 Regional Implementation Councils (RICs) that meet quarterly to receive and analyze data and share best practices.<sup>5</sup> The data presented at the RICs include prison use (statewide, regional and county specific), comparison to before Justice Reinvestment, sentencing impacts, probation revocations, length of stay and transition leave. The RICs are made up of local criminal justice professionals, including District Attorneys, County Commissioners, Community Corrections, Law Enforcement, Department of Corrections representatives, Defense counsel and other state and local stakeholders.

Oregon JAG grants help with funding gaps in the system. Historically, these funds have provided financial support to drug courts, reentry services, drug interdiction, outcome evaluations and other criminal justice priorities. Ongoing funding to specialty courts is a gap in Oregon, as there is not a statewide coordinated program operated by the judicial branch since

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<sup>4</sup> Oregon 2013-15 Reinvestment Formula Distribution

<sup>5</sup> Regional Implementation Council data PowerPoint example

2009, the same year the CJC became Oregon's SAA for the JAG funds. The Oregon legislature continues to direct the CJC to have greater involvement in funding and disseminating best practices for many of Oregon's specialty courts. The Justice Reinvestment state funds are being used locally to develop capacity to assess offenders, in some cases, prior to sentencing, to bolster evidence-based programs as alternatives to using incarceration and re-entry services to support successful transition from incarceration back to the community.

### **Plan for Collecting and Submitting Performance Measurement Data**

The CJC collects specialty court performance data on a quarterly basis from its sub grantees that aligns with BJA performance metrics. All federally funded CJC sub grantees submit quarterly reports using the PMT questionnaires and enter the data directly into the PMT system. CJC staff then reviewed and ensure reporting is accurate and complete before submitting the reports in PMT.

The CJC also has access to official records, including statewide arrest records, court records, and Department of Corrections (DOC) felony conviction data. We work collaboratively with DOC and State Police to collect data to evaluate our programs for effectiveness and efficiency. Related to the Community Policing project is a proposed partnership with Portland State University, who is currently seeking grant funds from the National Institute of Justice to conduct research that will support and encourage problem-oriented policing in small and rural departments.

### **Variable Pass-Through**

As noted in the budget, CJC expects to easily exceed its Variable Pass-Through requirement. All grant funds with the exception of administration and the less than \$10,000

amounts will be passed through to local jurisdictions. The less than \$10,000 amount will be provided locally to drug court programs and through the community policing training available to all state law enforcement.