



EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL (JAG) GRANT

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Government of the United States Virgin Islands through the Law Enforcement Planning Commission will utilize 2014 grant funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to support the following programs and initiatives: training, SORNA, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, research and evaluation, data collection and criminal justice information systems under the seven (7) purpose areas over the next four (4) years. The funding years will begin October 1, 2013 and end September 30, 2016. Priority will be given to applicants who focus on evidence-based programs and with a proven and effective track record. Further, the Virgin Islands will support, replicate and expand systems that reduce cost while not jeopardizing public safety and trust. LEPC recognizes that the decline in our local economy has resulted in significant pressures on the criminal justice system. In these perplexing times, shared priorities and leveraged resources can make a significant impact on the delivery of funds. In light of this, JAG recipients will be advised of several areas of priority that may be of help in maximizing the effectiveness of JAG funding. LEPC will allocate and will ensure that (3) three percent of this FY 2014 JAG award be used for criminal record improvement efforts consistent with the purposes of the NICS Act.

The Virgin Islands funding priorities are:

A. Law Enforcement Programs (Eligible Agencies are the Virgin Islands Police Department, Department of Planning and Natural Resources and Port Authority Police Department)

- To provide continual training programs that will affect the overall operational effectiveness in reducing violent crime to include homicides, felony assaults and gang violence in the Virgin Islands.
- To purchase up-to-date bulletproof vest and supplies that will assist with the operations of law enforcement.

B. Prosecution and Court Programs (Eligible Agencies are the Department of Justice and the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands)

- To continue staffing the Homicide/Violent Crime Unit in the territory. The unit will focus on violent crimes, gun crimes and homicides.
- To utilize JAG funding for expert and witness travel for the prosecution of cases.

C. Prevention and Education Programs (Eligible Agencies are non-Profit organizations and government agencies)

- To provide funding assistance to community organizations, schools and neighborhoods to prevent delinquency, and reduce and deter juvenile and adult crime.
- To provide an annual gang prevention and intervention conference to law enforcement, community leaders and schools.
- To host Annual Night Out Against Drugs, crime and Violence to promote a safe and crime-free environment bring all the non-profits and community organizations together.

D. Corrections and Community Corrections Program (Eligible Agencies are Bureau of Corrections)

- To improve and enhance the correctional system through innovative programs that address technology learning, GED education classes, after-care, prison industries and employment and skill-building programs.
- To provide the prison re-entry program to inmates that are in their last term of their sentences.

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Coming off two consecutive years marking the highest murder rates in the territory's history, the Virgin Islands saw the number of violent deaths drop by almost 30 percent in 2011.

The 48 homicides last year, of which three were vehicular homicides, brought the Virgin Islands back to the levels of 2007 and 2008.

Police said the decrease from the all-time high of 66 homicides in 2010 was evidence of the community's newfound respect and trust in the V.I. Police Department and an increased effectiveness in solving and prosecuting the criminals responsible for the heightened levels of bloodshed.

Elevated levels of arrests for violent crimes coupled with a prolonged drop in the number of serious crimes reported have made police officials confident that their strategies are beginning to show results.

While the number of homicides in 2011 has decreased from last year, so has the rate of homicides solved by police - falling from about 70 percent in 2010 to less than 20 percent of homicides solved in the first three quarters of 2011.

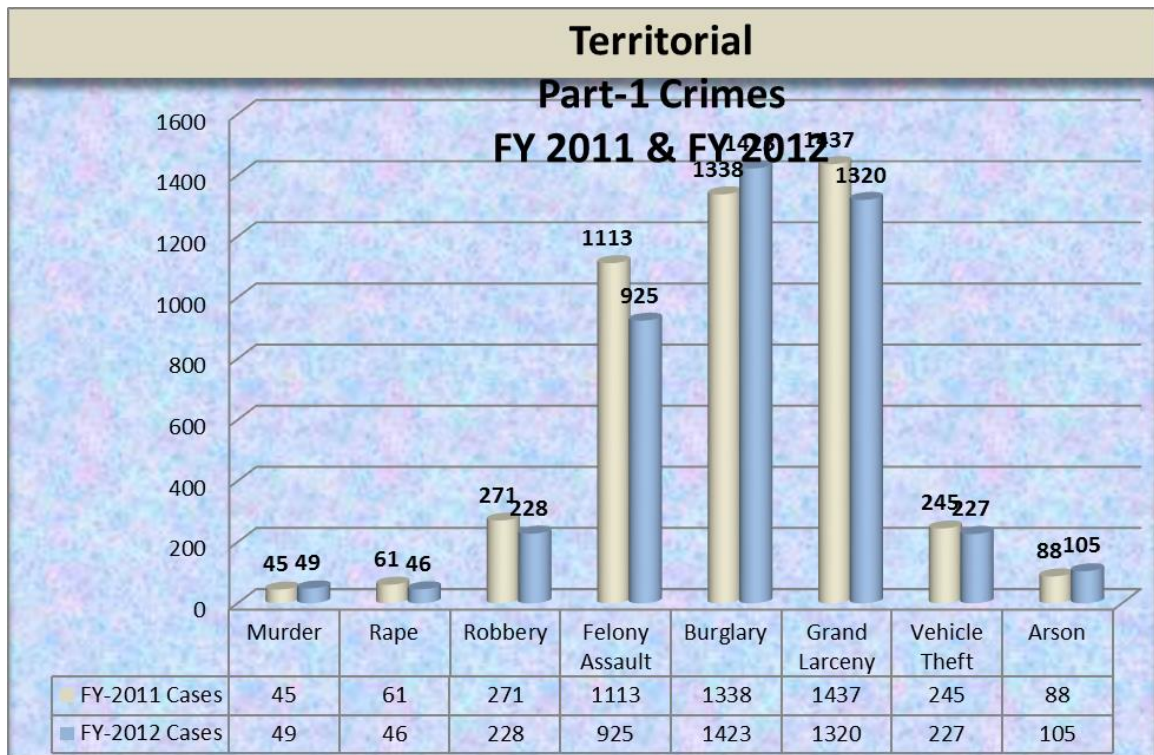
**Virgin Islands Police Department
Part-1 Crimes
Territorial**

Classification	FY-2011 Cases	FY-2012 Cases
Murder	45	49
Rape	61	46
Robbery	271	228
Felony Assault	1113	925
Burglary	1338	1423
Grand Larceny	1437	1320
Vehicle Theft	245	227
Arson	88	105

Experts say the numbers seen in the Virgin Islands are indicative of problems that are serious in origin and complicated to solve.

Not only is the Virgin Islands the most violent and deadly place in the United States on a per capita basis, but the territory has maintained a homicide rate during the last decade that makes it one of the most deadly places in the world, with about 42 homicides per 100,000 residents from 2004 to 2009. It is more aptly comparable with South and Central American nations or its Caribbean counterparts than anywhere in the United States, where the average is less than five homicides per 100,000 people.

One distinction of homicides in the Virgin Islands is that many appear to be carried out in personal retaliation for other crimes, police officials said. In other areas of the Americas coping with high homicide rates, the control of lucrative drug routes or political affiliations tend to be behind the killings, according to reports from international organizations.



Law Enforcement

The mission of the Virgin Islands Police Department is to ensure the safety and protect the life and property of the residents and thousands of visitors to the Virgin Islands; to prevent crime, preserve the public peace and tranquility; to detect and arrest criminal offenders; to enforce all laws, ordinances and provisions of the V. I. Code over which the Department has jurisdiction.

The Virgin Islands Police Department will fund continual training programs that will affect the overall operational effectiveness in reducing violent crime to include homicides, felony assaults and gang violence in the Virgin Islands. Also, the purchase up-to-date bulletproof vest and supplies that will assist with the operations of law enforcement.

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) Enforcement Division is responsible for maritime enforcement of laws. As peace officers, DPNR enforcement can provide drug and gun interdiction enforcement on the waters surrounding the islands. Also, human trafficking and the entry of illegal immigrants are problematic.

The Port Authority Police Department provides law enforcement function on the islands port of entries and at the airport. With the trans-shipment of drugs through the ports, this law enforcement arm is critical in combating the flow in and out of the territory.

Accomplishments: The community's newfound respect and trust in the V.I. Police Department and an increased effectiveness in solving and prosecuting the criminals responsible for the heightened levels of bloodshed.



2012 Victims and killers

- Average age of victims: 29
- More than 90 percent of the victims were male
- Average age of murder defendants: 24
- About 80 percent of the defendants charged with murder were male

Cause of death

- Gunshot: 38
- Stabbing: 5
- Set on fire: 1
- Beating: 1
- Vehicle: 3

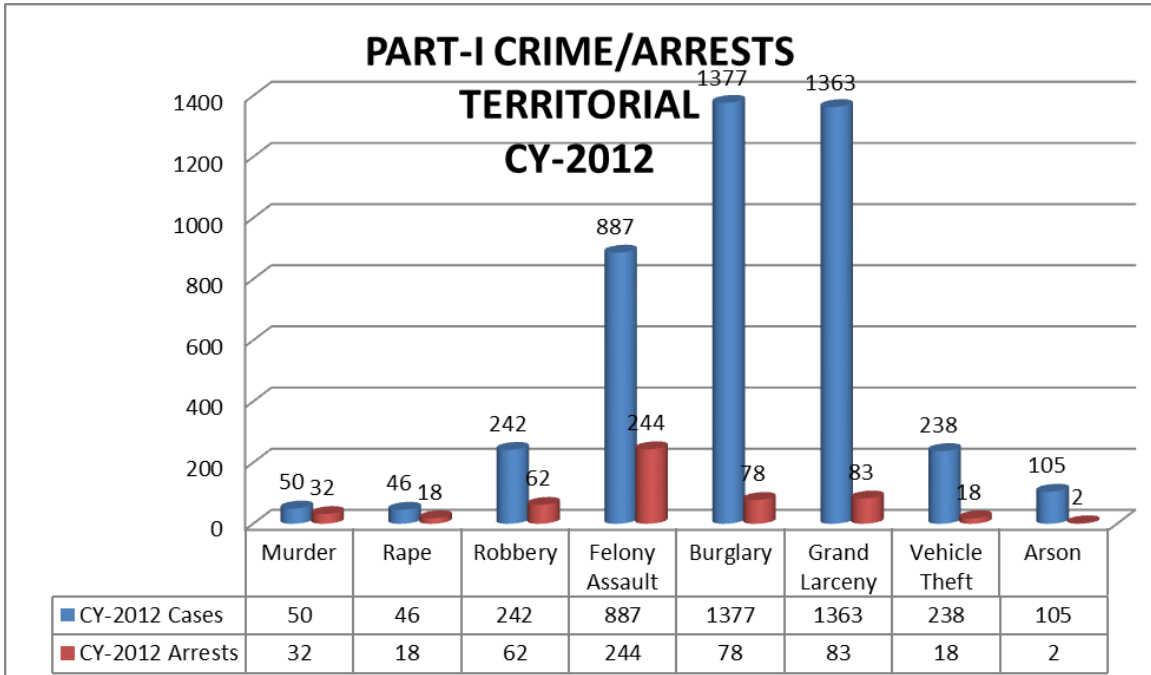
Prevalent locations

On St. Croix

- Frederiksted: 6
- Estate Richmond: 6
- Christiansted: 3
- Grove Place: 2
- Glynn: 2

On St. Thomas

- Charlotte Amalie: 4
- Anna's Retreat: 4
- H.H. Bergs Homes: 2

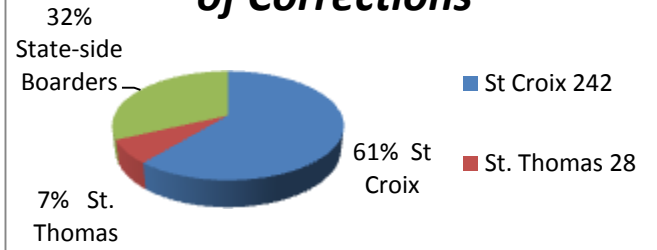


Corrections

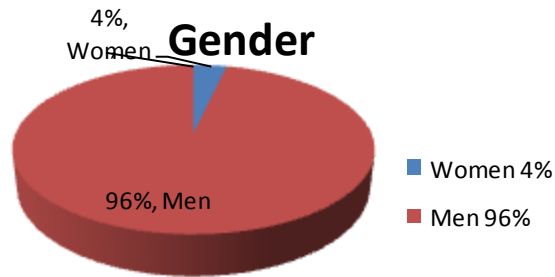
The Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections (BOC) is committed to providing an environment that is safe and secure for all adult offenders and staff that allows for the development of social skills and values through programs, training and activities conducive to change while ensuring community and public safety. It is the intent of the Bureau of Corrections to utilize JAG funds to improve the delivery of prison services through continued training of staff, acquisition of equipment and expansion of treatment programs and activities that result in industry best practices. Adult men make up the majority of prisoners, so therefore program targeting males are critical.

With an active consent decree, the BOC needs JAG funds to continue enhancing the agencies mission.

Inmates under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Corrections



Gender



Prosecution

The Department of Justice mission is to prosecute all violations of the Virgin Islands Criminal Code. To strengthen the ability of the Attorney General Office to prosecute the perpetrators of criminal acts committed in the Virgin Islands, the DOJ must obtain JAG funding to support the homicide and violent crime units and to continue funding additional training for prosecutors, investigators and support staff. Special efforts will focus on drugs, guns and violent crimes. Having a full complement of prosecutors to handle to caseload is critical. The JAG funds will provide those additional resources.

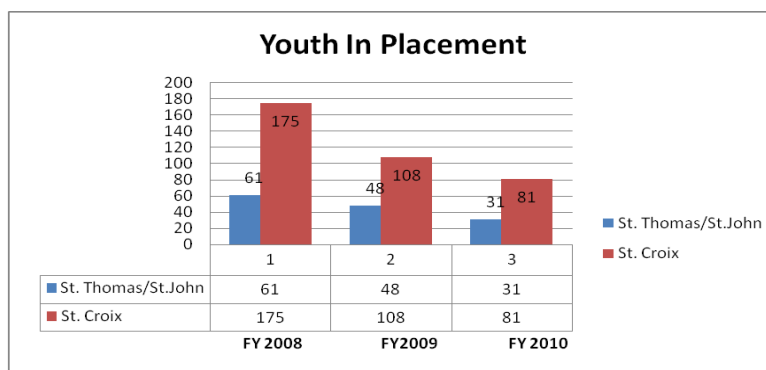
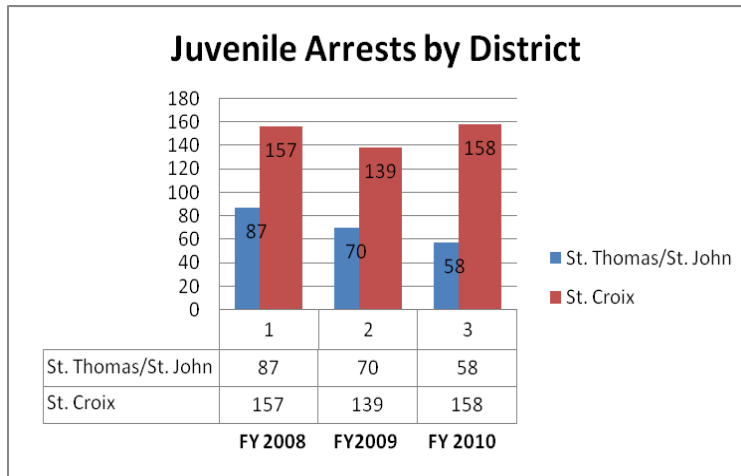
Accomplishment: The VI Attorney General's Office has maintained a conviction rate over 80 percent on St. Thomas during the last three years.

Prevention and Education Programs

The decline in our local economy has resulted in significant pressures on the criminal justice system that is adversely affecting prevention and education programs. Accordingly, LEPC will continue to assist community-groups, communities, schools and neighborhoods groups to prevent delinquency, reduce and deter juvenile crime through prevention, intervention and educational programs. More importantly, juveniles are being transferred to adult court to face prosecution is constant. Many service providers mission is to eliminate the number of minors being tries as adults. Programs to funds early prevention and intervention are priorities. JAG Funds will focus on these types of programs to impact education, skill building, gang activities and delinquency.

Accomplishments: the community's newfound respect and trust in the V.I. Police Department through prevention outreach programs.





TERRITORY'S PRIORITIES:

Governor John deJongh, Jr will establish the territory's priorities for the 2014 JAG grant based on local trends and his initiatives. Law Enforcement, prosecution and corrections will be high funding priorities. Non-profits which include community based groups will also benefit from the 2014 JAG funding. The Virgin Islands will prioritize and allocate funding to those applicants who focus on evidence-based programs and projects with proven track records. Although the JAG 2014 funding level is reduced, territory-wide prevention and intervention programs, law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, technology and training will be funded over the 4-year grant period. Sub-recipients of JAG funds will be ask to do more with less funding and document performance measures during the life of the program. Funds will be subgranted to government agencies, faith-based organizations and non-profit organizations to implement JAG program activities.

Coordination between and among public agencies and non-profits will be conducted through coalitions such as the V.I. Prevention Council, Inc., Unity Coalition and other community groups. The grant awards will be processed and be available for the beginning of the fiscal year and be active for 12 months.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:

In April 2013, LEPC will engaged a strategic planning to assess needs based upon data, develop priorities, and invest in strategies that are research or evidence-based and address their priority needs. The strategic plan spanned for three-years. With the technical assistance provided by NCJA, LEPC's draft Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2013–2014 will work to: ***Reduce crime and Violence, promote an efficient and fair criminal justice system and prevent juvenile crime and gang violence.*** Recognizing the need to be innovative, yet evidence-based and results-driven, LEPC will focus on five major strategic areas:

1. Reduction of violent crime, the improvement of community safety, and support for public safety.
2. Reduction of gang violence and prevention.
3. Integration of evidence-based, research-driven strategies into the day-to-day operations of the programs, LEPC administers and supports.
4. Increasing program effectiveness with a renewed emphasis on data analysis, information sharing, and performance management.
5. Ensuring LEPC's organizational excellence.

LEPC contacted all stakeholders to plan for the FY 2014 application in March 2014. The stakeholders were law enforcement agencies, Superior court, prosecutors from the DOJ, victim advocates, service providers, non-profits, Faith-based community and corrections officials. The data collected by the Virgin Islands Police Department (Planning and Research Unit) and the Department of Human Services were used for the JAG application. The final Plan will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

PLAN FOR COLLECTING AND SUBMITTING PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The Law Enforcement Planning Commission will continue to collect and report on our performance measures by requesting that subgrantees funded through the Byrne JAG funds provide on a quarterly basis, the number of citizens involved in programs, number of juveniles served by programs, number of elderly citizens served by programs, number of offenders arrested, number of offenders prosecuted, number of investigations conducted, number of offenders in prison/jail-based programs, number of offenders in community-based programs, number of prison/jail-based programs, number of records automated, number of systems enhanced or automated, number of offenders arrested for gang-related offenses, and number of offenders prosecuted for gang-related offenses. Our plan has not changed.

The collection will be accomplish through emails, information letters, pre and post surveys which is intended to meet federal program performance levels. This information will be submitted through BJA performance measures website and also included on BJA grants management system. All performance reports are filed in a master grant file.

The Virgin Islands Statistical Analysis Center (VISAC) will serve as the hub that supports all facets of the diverse law enforcement mission. The system will consist of data management, analytical, statistics and visualization capabilities that support the operational needs of our law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. VISAC will be the go-to source for information that will facilitate more effective policy and strategic planning decisions that affect law enforcement and criminal justice in the territory.

The SJS program is designed to maintain and enhance each state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through the collection and analysis of data. The collection of crime data could provide important information to the policy makers in the territory for major decision making and fund allocations. An improved territorial crime data set that is consistently reported with valid data would create at least two advantages to the territory's policy makers. First, it would provide useful information to plan the allocation of funding as well as the development of criminal justice policies and procedures. The ability to contrast trends in our own crime data with those of other territories and the rest of the country can reveal important clues to the best way to address those trends and put a perspective on the relative importance of the trends in the community. Additionally, the data will be used to assess justice system operations and evaluate programs to determine efficiency and effectiveness. Second, by consistently and accurately collecting crime data the territory is able to support BJS in their effort to support SACs to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice on a national level. The territory can also use this opportunity to fully participate in programs such as the UCR program that might enable the territory to become eligible for Byrne funds that would expand support for our law enforcement agencies. Obtaining eligibility for Byrne funding is a long term goal and outside the scope of the proposed project. Our immediate goal is to successfully implement a SAC that can consistently and effectively provide crime data that is an accurate reflection of the criminal trends occurring in the territory thereby providing useful information to policy makers and allowing BJS to comply with its authority to publish and disseminate statistical information on crime and the operation of justice systems.

BJS has recommended that the territory receive \$50,000 in funding to establish a SAC.

COMPETITIVE AWARD PROCESS:

The Governor's priorities guide the local JAG funding process which is continued from previous years. LEPC ensures that the grant solicitation and award process is fair and open for competition. Virgin Islands Code Title 31, Section 231-239 demands transparency and fairness in the award of any funds to include JAG funding.

LEPC advertise the JAG Requests for Proposals in all media outlets to include the daily newspapers and online newspaper sources. No deadline has been set since funding is on hold.

After proposals are submitted to LEPC by the deadline, an internal review will take place and the recommendations will be submitted to the Director of LEPC for review. Once the Director of LEPC make a review, all recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor for final decision on his priorities.

Priorities based on community input and feedback were: faith-based initiatives, prevention after school programs, enhanced training for law enforcement, technology enhancements, increase personnel, on-going training programs, rehabilitation/treatment and evidence-based programs. Individuals were given the opportunity to provide input and suggestions on funding priorities. Also, the VI Prevention Council reviewed funding priorities and trending statistics.

LEPC priorities for funding will be based on delivery of services, past track record with the expenditures of grant funds, responsiveness to the RFP, program scope, fiscal accountability and programmatic reports.

Grant award agreements will be prepared and a start-up conference will be scheduled to review the grant award document and special conditions for new programs. During the start-up conference, civil rights training is provided to all attendees. Information is distributed and contact information and resources are shared. That civil rights compliance is verified at site visits.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Implementation Requirement

The Territory of the Virgin Islands is in compliance with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

SORNA funds have not been awarded since the Virgin Islands are remedying O.I.G. Audit findings. As soon as the audit recommendations are satisfactorily addressed and closed, the SORNA funds will be awarded to the VI Department of Justice to funds personnel and fringe benefits.