FY23 Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne JAG)
DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
Application # A-479335

Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA) State Implementation Plan:

The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants is responsible for the DCRA data collection within the District of Columbia. Currently the District of Columbia does not have a DCRA reporting law nor a website where reported deaths are listed. However, OVSJG has a Memorandum of Understanding with The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) who works with justice system stakeholders through effective informal agreements to provide information regarding death-in-custody cases. These stakeholders include Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)- Central Cell Block hold facilities and the Department of Corrections (DOC)- Central Detention Center Facility and DC Jail, and Department Youth Rehabilitation Services- two Juvenile Centers. Currently the District of Columbia does not have boot camps. OCME also retrieves information from the Open Data DC Reporting System regarding deaths resulting from a traffic collision during a pursuit with law enforcement.

All agencies listed report deaths in custody to OCME. Once the information is reported OCME enters the collected information onto a password protected spreadsheet. Currently there are no notable challenges with this process Using the information from the Access database, the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants does a review of the information provided by OCME and does additional check by looking at the news, social media, etc. After the check OVSJG then manually uploads the appropriate information to the BJA PMT website as required. If an investigation is pending and OVSJG receives the updated death information. OVSJG works with the help desk to unlock the report and update the information. Also, OVSJG has held a

DCRA training with OCME in 2020 and will conduct training in the future as needed. OVSJG would like to receive on-going technical assistance from BJA.