

Louisiana Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, Annual Brief 2022-23

Since the adoption of a three-year strategic plan in November 2021, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and its stakeholders has been working diligently on the goals and objectives pertaining to the 2022-23 fiscal year. While a complete annual report will be delivered in November 2022 (a year after the strategic plan's adoption), this brief provides the status of pertinent goals and measurable objectives in compliance with grant guidelines. The first annual report driven from this strategic plan will be attached to the 2023FY Byrne JAG grant application.

Goal 1: Drive Partnership Buy-in

Objective 1.1: Obtain letters of commitment from 50% of agency or organization heads that correspond to each stakeholder type/representation by the end of fiscal 2022.

Status: Louisiana Byrne JAG program lead – Linda Gautier – is working with agency/organization heads to secure letters of commitment by October 31, 2022. Ms. Gautier has secured informal agreements of participation with a large share of individual Sheriff's, the Indigent Defense board, the Crime Victims Reparations Board, and the Louisiana District Attorney's Association to date this year.

Objective 1.3: Obtain letters of commitment from 90% of Law Enforcement Planning Districts or Criminal Justice Coordination Councils by end of fiscal 2022.

Status: Louisiana Byrne JAG program lead – Linda Gautier – is working with planning districts or coordination councils to secure letters of commitment by October 31, 2022. Ms. Gautier has secured informal agreements of participation with a large share of *commission members* at this time, and is in constant contact with the planning districts or coordination councils.

Objective 1.4: Increase partnership buy-in by 25% annually by measure of percentage increase of partnerships that participate in the annual survey through providing constituent contact information to LCLE or that communicate how to participate in the survey to its constituents.

Status: The LCLE received 61 responses to its annual survey in 2021-22, up from 34 responses from the previous year (an increase of 79%). Ms. Gautier worked closely with agency heads and commission members to disseminate the information about the survey and to solicit responses effectively. It is the hope of LCLE that formalized agreements to disseminate the survey information (including its annual results) and solicit further participation will continue to provide improved feedback among stakeholders.

Goal 2: Drive Engagement of Stakeholders

Objective 2.1: Increase the percentage of stakeholder participation (judges, district attorneys, public defenders, correctional officials, law enforcement officials, et cetera) by

region. Specifically, increase the attendance of stakeholders at regional planning meetings by 10% each fiscal year by stakeholder type/representation.

Status:

Objective 2.2: Increase the inquiries about Byrne/JAG to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement by 10% each fiscal year.

Status:

Objective 2.3: Increase participation in a Byrne/JAG annual survey by 10% for each stakeholder type/representation.

Status: The LCLE received 61 responses to its annual survey in 2021-22 from six sectors – law enforcement (N=26), public defense, prosecution, courts, corrections, and victim’s assistance, up from 34 responses from the previous year sourced from four sectors – public defense (N=26, the majority of responses), courts, corrections, and prosecution. Ms. Gautier worked closely with agency heads and commission members to disseminate the information about the survey and to solicit responses effectively. It is the hope of LCLE that formalized agreements to disseminate the survey information (including its annual results) and solicit further participation will continue to provide improved feedback among stakeholders. Nine sectors remain “untouched,” yet continued efforts show marked improvement in increasing coverage of stakeholder *type*.

Discuss changing circumstances in the state, if any, since the strategic plan was adopted.

As with many communities around the country, a share of Louisiana communities (particularly its urban centers) is facing challenges with stark increases of violent crime. Even if tangible increases are not realized, the perception among stakeholders and citizens alike is that violent crime is impacting quality of life across the state. This highlights the need to seek out reliable data-driven solutions to ensure that stakeholders invest wisely in programming to help tackle these issues.

Describe how the state plans to adjust funding within and among each of the JAG Program areas.

Over the course of the next fiscal year, Byrne JAG program manager Gautier will work closely with stakeholders to disseminate the results of the annual survey to help drive conversations about how to align perceived stakeholder needs with available funding. The LCLE will develop an annual Byrne JAG report detailing how grant funds are being spent in stark relief with the stated need of stakeholders to help trigger meaningful conversations about the use of these grant resources. Most of these conversations will occur among the individual planning districts and in state-level planning conferences.

Provide an ongoing assessment of need.

These efforts are ongoing.

Discuss the accomplishment of the goals identified in the strategic plan.

See above.

Reflect how the plan influenced funding decisions in the previous year.

The strategic plan is yet to realize any gains in helping to shape funding decisions based on a data-driven methodology. These gains will begin to occur over the next fiscal year.

2023 LOUISIANA DCRA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Data Collection Infrastructure

State Death -in-Custody Law: Louisiana currently does not have a death-in-custody law

Reporting Universe: Non-federal law enforcement agencies, municipal or parish jails/lockup facilities, state prisons and juvenile facilities- Approximately 301

Non-Participating Agencies: Unknown

Non-federal law enforcement agencies, municipal or parish jails/lockup facilities, state prisons and juvenile facilities are made aware of the law and that reporting should be made to LCLE through our on-line reporting system.

Engagement: LCLE's continuous out-reach methods are, but not limited to; attending Sheriffs Association annual conference, Chief's Association semi-annual conference, yearly new police chief's training, quarterly meeting with juvenile detention directors /stakeholders, department of corrections staff, Louisiana State Police and other stakeholders within the universe. Email blast and LCLE DCRA reporting brochures are distributed as well.

TTA Provision: Guidance is provided to state and local reporting agencies quarterly, semi-annually and on a need bases.

TTA Needs: Currently we are not seeking TTA from BJA

DCRA Website: LCLE Death -in Custody website <https://lclelsac.com/deathincustody/>

Data Collection Methods

Data Collection Responsibility: The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) is the state agency responsible for DCRA collection.

Data Collection Tools: A death-in-custody reporting tool is located on the LCLE website

Defining Challenges: Receiving DCRA information in a timely manner. Agencies are asked to submit deaths quarterly with reports due by the 10th day following the quarter end. This time frame allows time to review and process submission into the BJA PMT system. Ensuring all reportable types of death -in custody are reported.

Overcoming Challenges: Reminders to jurisdictions about quarterly reporting. Continuous outreach to jurisdictions by attending trainings, conferences, and meeting with stakeholders in the DCRA reporting universe. On LCLE's DCRA reporting website, examples of reportable and non-reportable scenarios are listed. DCRA reporting brochures are also available.

Reporting Data to BJA

Reporting Data: LCLE uses the PMT data import feature in the BJA PMT system.

Quality Assurance: Staff reviews for accuracy, completeness, duplication, erroneous submissions, and incomplete description of death.

Records Pending Investigation: Inquires are made to jurisdictions when pending investigation is listed in the death reporting record. LCLE notifies jurisdictions about the need for more or updated information on the status of the death.