

Q&A Session for BJA 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program – Local Solicitation

This has been edited to remove duplicate questions and questions not related to the solicitation.

Session number: 27625524317

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Starting time: 1:08 PM

Q: Can funds be used to send police officers to well-being seminars for first responders?

A: Yes.

Q: Can police agencies use funds to establish an oversight unit?

A: Yes.

Q: For the SF-424, question 15, Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project, is an attachment required?

A: No.

Q: Do the seminars require prior approval from DOJ?

A: Any such seminars should be included in the budget submission with the application.

Q: Can these funds be used for License Plate Readers?

A: Yes. LPR's are allowable.

Q: Is it possible for local governments awarded under this solicitation to be awarded as subrecipients from states that are awarded the state-level funding?

A: Yes. Local governments that receive direct local JAG awards are also Do child advocacy centers do to receive subawards from State Administering Agencies through State JAG under the variable pass through amounts.

Q: The radios we currently have will be obsolete soon. Can we use JAG to buy new radios for the department?

A: Yes.

Q: Can police agencies use this funding for 911 recording equipment, social media monitoring or interview room recording equipment?

A: Yes.

Q: Can multiple criminal justice programs related within a mental health safety net be funded under this solicitation, or is it limited to one program per award?

A: Yes, multiple programs can be funded.

Q: Apologies if this is a repetition of what is about to be covered, but it is correct that our organization must be listed on the eligibility list in order to be eligible.

A: Only units of local government listed on the JAG edibility list are eligible to apply. <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2023-allocations>. Units of local government not listed can reach out to State Administering Agency for their state to determine if funding is available through the state JAG award share. <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview>

Q: Can recipients of JAG funds subaward the funds to nonprofit community partners?

A: Yes. See FAQ #10 at <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: Can police agencies use these funds to purchase investigation equipment?

A: Yes.

Q: Can the funds be used for security features on municipal government buildings (i.e., card reader for entry to the building)?

A: Yes, security enhancements such as card reader installation would be allowable.

Q: Are school district police departments eligible for JAG funds?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the difference between the local JAG grant and the FDLE JAG countywide grant? Can local law enforcement agencies apply for both?

A: FDLE's JAG countywide grant is most likely a program operated through their state JAG award, which they are using to issue subawards to local entities. The local JAG grant is a BJA formula grant program issued directly to units of local government. For more information, see the JAG FAQs at <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: What about funding a new CAD/RMS system?

A: Yes, that is allowable.

Q: Is crime lab equipment and training eligible?

A: Yes, that is allowable.

Q: Can drones be purchased with JAG funds?

A: No. UAV's are not allowable.

Q: Can funds be used for additional training for officers if it fits the criteria?

A: Training for LE officers is allowable under JAG.

Q: Are radar/lidar equipment like radar speed signs eligible for funding using JAG grants?

A: Yes.

Q: Is a County eligible if there is an asterisk at direct allocation?

A: The * represents identified disparity and the county would share the award with the jurisdictions listed. Please see the JAG FAQs (<https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>) for more information.

Q: If we receive a direct local allocation, but also want to apply for a state allocation; can they be separate unrelated projects?

A: Yes.

Q: Do child advocacy centers Nonprofit (501c3) organizations qualify for JAG funding?

A: Nonprofits are not eligible to apply. However, nonprofits may be eligible to receive subawards from an eligible applicant. See FAQ #10 <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: If our law enforcement services now cover local beaches, can this grant pay for equipment such as wave runners or other life-saving equipment?

A: Life-saving equipment is allowable. With regard to wave runners, please see the JAG Prohibited and Controlled Equipment Guidance, which will be discussed later in more detail.
<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/jagcontrolledpurchaselist.pdf>

Q: How would a local law enforcement agency work with local churches or non-profit charter schools to potentially use these funds in an effort to improve security and safety at those entities?

A: JAG recipients are encouraged to use funds for crime prevention efforts to increase patrols and deployments that bolster the security of at-risk nonprofit organizations including synagogues, churches, mosques, and other places of worship. JAG funds cannot be used to support any security enhancements or any equipment to any nongovernmental entity that is not engaged in criminal justice or public safety.

Q: Are license plate readers and related equipment like LPR mobile trailers eligible to be funded using JAG grants?

A: Yes, however motorized trailers may require a waiver depending on state law/licensing. Please see the JAG FAQs for more information. <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: Sheriff's Offices are not eligible to apply?

A: They may apply on behalf of the County, if the County has a "Doing Business As" UEI

Q: Can JAG funds be used to contract a company for drone first responder services and/or to train personnel to operate drones?

A: Yes, however, UAV/ UAS equipment and purchases are not allowable.

Q: Can we use the funds to continue our cold case unit for funding civilian researchers and sending evidence to private labs?

A: Yes.

Q: Will you cover the state solicitation in this webinar?

A: This webinar only covers Local JAG.

Q: Ok, so if we aren't listed on the 2023 local JAG allocations list, then we aren't eligible for any JAG Funding, correct?

A: Correct, however you can contact your respective State Administering Agency (SAA) for potential available JAG funding through the state. <https://www.ojp.gov/funding/state-administering-agencies/overview>.

A: Not for a direct allocation; however you may contact your SAA to see if a subaward is available.

Q: Can JAG awards be used to replace law enforcement equipment that has reached its end of life? And equipment that the agency is required under MOU to issue to its officers, such as flashlights and ballistic helmets?

A: Yes.

Q: There is a lot of information being covered. Can you pls tell me where I can find this PowerPoint so I can follow when filling the application?

A: The recording and slides will be posted online within approximately one week of this webinar at <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171790>.

Q: If our agency already has a K9 dog, can we use the JAG funds to just pay for the dog and K9 officer training only?

A: Yes, but please be cognizant of supplanting (i.e. Fed funds cannot replace local funds for the exact same line item).

Q: Can it be used for Automatic License Plate Reader Cameras?

A: Yes.

Q: Are Detention Centers eligible to use JAG funds to expand an existing Taser program within the detention center?

A: Yes.

Q: Can funds be used for (a) drug court expansion (b) jail-based medication assisted treatment programs?

A: Yes.

Q: Would a District Attorney General Office apply under the local solicitation?

A: Eligible applicants are limited to units of local government, which is defined as a town, township, village, parish, city, county, borough, or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state; or it may be a federally recognized American Indian tribal government that performs law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). A unit of local government also may be any law enforcement district or judicial enforcement district established under applicable state law with authority.

Q: Is active shooter training allowable? and cameras for our forensic and investigations divisions?

A: Yes

Q: If we do not intend to partner with the disparate municipality, are we still required to complete an MOU and share the funds?

A: The JAG Program statute requires that local applicants be a unit of local government, which, as described in the eligibility section, includes a town, township, village, parish, city, county, borough, or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state, or it may be a federally recognized Indian tribal government that performs law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). However, a Sheriff's office can be listed as doing business as for the eligible jurisdiction.

A: The MOU is required to be completed and signed the chief executive of all disparate jurisdictions, even if the jurisdiction is not receiving funds.

Q: I'd like to check if the Airport Authority is eligible for this fund?

A: Eligible applicants are limited to units of local government, which is defined as a town, township, village, parish, city, county, borough, or other general-purpose political subdivision of a state; or it may be a federally recognized American Indian tribal government that performs law enforcement functions (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior). A unit of local government also may be any law enforcement district or judicial enforcement district established under applicable state law with authority.

Q: Would redaction technology be eligible under JAG? This technology would allow crime scene footage to be edited before release for public viewing.

A: Yes.

Q: Our disparate jurisdiction (the County) was allocated in this grant. This has not happened before. So, do we just add the DOJ allocated amount to the disparate allocations amounts?

A: The determination must be made at the local level, among each disparate jurisdiction, and documented in the MOU.

Q: Would An airport police department commissioned on behalf of the airport authority be eligible?

A: Only the unit of local government is eligible to apply.

Q: We are a County that will be serving individuals within the disparate municipality, but the full scope of work will not be completed within the disparate municipality. My question is whether we must obtain an MOU from that municipality in order to apply?

A: Jurisdictions in a disparate situation will need to submit an MOU.

Q: If my county is a desperate, should we use the total amount of the allocation on the SF-424?

A: Please see the disparate FAQs that start on page 15: <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: Are water rescue kits acceptable for Edward Byrne funds?

A: Yes.

Q: Can funds be used to purchase forensic software programs?

A: Yes

Q: Can category 2 applicants go over the 10-page limit?

A: Yes.

Q: Are external carriers for law enforcement officers allowable? (Not bulletproof vests, but vests by which to carry two-way radios, tasers, etc.)

A: Yes.

Q: Would it be permissible to use the grant to fund a one-year fellowship program?

A: Potentially, but more information would be required.

Q: Where does it designate our jurisdiction as category 1 or 2 in reference to the grant narrative submission?

A: Category 1 are units of local government that are eligible to apply for an award that is less than \$25,000.

Q: The K9 dog would be donated and there was no money allocated in our local department budget to purchase a dog or pay for training. So should we be clear of the supplanting?

A: you can fund the training with JAG.

Q: Are we allowed to fund promotional items?

A: More information is necessary to provide a determination.

Q: If both disparate agencies accept the money would the fiscal agent list the disparate agency as a subrecipient? i.e., City, fiscal agent, lists County, disparate jurisdiction, as a subrecipient?

A: Correct. The fiscal agent (direct applicant) for the disparate group would list other disparates as subrecipients.

Q: Just to clarify if we have a disparate LEA we are partnering with and we are the Lead, they do not need to have the Chief Executive Certification?

A: Only the fiscal agent (direct applicant) applying on behalf of the disparate group needs to submit the CE Cert.

Q: For the Chief Executive for a city, can the City manager sign or does it have to be the Mayor?

A: If the City Manager is the highest ranking official and is authorized to sign, then yes.

Q: Does the MOU need to be submitted with the application or can it be submitted after the fact?

A: It can be submitted after and the grant manager processing the application will add a withholding condition to the award package which will be cleared post-award.

Q: Ballistic helmets are not considered body armor, correct?

A: Correct.

Q: Do external carriers count as body armor?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you point me to a resource for firms to assist with writing and submitting grant requests? If so, can the fees they charge be paid from grant funding?

A: Grant writing costs are not allowable.

Q: You said the Project Abstract is to be uploaded but it is not an attachment. It is a JustGrants web-based form.

A: It is a web-based form.

Q: Can these funds be used to purchase computers and programs for digital forensics?

A: Yes.

Q: For disparate jurisdictions, is there only 1 application/allocation? And is the applicant/fiscal agent the agency allocated?

A: Only one application is submitted, and that applicant serves as the fiscal agent. The fiscal agent distributes funds to the other eligible entities via subawards.

A: Jurisdictions in the disparity can decide which jurisdiction within the grouping is the fiscal agent and submits the application on the group's behalf. This should include the MOU which states the award amount per jurisdiction.

Q: Can funding be used to attend a community outreach conference and to support a community outreach cookout for gun violence prevention?

A: Yes.

Q: Can patrol units be purchased from JAG.

A: Yes.

Q: Based on our city deadlines, We cannot get this before our governing body for review 30 days before the application deadline. It will be 20 days before the application deadline. Is that a problem.

A: No, this is not a problem. Please submit your application and we will include an award condition withholding funds until you are able to submit the chief executive certification post-award.

Q: Do you need to have a body-worn camera policy before applying for the grant? We currently do not have cameras and would be starting the program with the funds. We currently don't have cameras or policy.

A: No. However, you will be unable to access funds until the body worn camera policy certification is signed and submitted.

Q: Are electric bicycles for police patrol personnel an allowable expense under JAG?

A: Yes.

Q: Can funds be used for GPS equipment, ballistic helmets, and other swat related equipment?

A: Yes, but please refer to the prohibited and controlled equipment guidance.
<https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-controlled-purchase-list.pdf>

Q: Can a 911 center within a county use the funds for cybersecurity?

A: Yes, this is potentially allowable.

Q: You have mentioned a public comment form to be done 30 days before 30 days of application submission, can you elaborate more on that? Also, that means it's due before 7/31.

A: This is part of the Chief Executive Certification, and this can be submitted post award. A withholding special condition will be placed on the award until this is received.

Q: Washington State is re-evaluating passthrough funding programs, and is moving away from funding taskforces. Our Regional Safe Streets Taskforce is dependent on this funding. Are the allocations listed

the absolute max allowed for direct federal funding? If we already use our direct allocations for equipment purchases, are there other direct funding options for our Taskforce that will eventually not be funded through WA?

A: Yes, the allocations listed are the maximum direct allocations. For other task force funding options, please view our BJA funding page for information on funding opportunities.

Q: We were hoping to use grant funds to supply Public Defender Attorneys with iPad to further paperless courtroom.

A: That would be allowable.

Q: For clarification for the required 30-day review, if the application is due on 08/24, does that mean it must be submitted to the governing body 30 days prior to that?

A: If the 30-day Gov Body notification does not take place 30 days prior to application submission, you should still submit the application by the deadline and an award condition will be added to the award that withholds expenditures. That condition will be cleared post award once the CE Cert (which certifies the Gov Body requirement was satisfied) is submitted.

Q: Quick question if a town ship and village is located within a county that has already been awarded can they apply separately?

A: Only eligible units of local government that are listed on the JAG web page (<https://bj.a.ojp.gov/program/jag/fy-2023-allocations>) should submit an application.

Q: Would our normal bullet proof grant reimbursement be effected if our proposal was for a completely different kind of body armor not available under the base grant, and is designed to be used for a different threat type not met with a standard vest.

A: It is possible based on the BVP statute, yes. However, BJA typically prioritizes funding for large jurisdictions based on crime rates above the national average rather than whether or not JAG funding was received.

Q: Are all subrecipients required to submit a Certification page, or is only the fiscal agent required?

A: The body worn camera and body armor certifications are required for subrecipients, if applicable.

Q: I don't see jet skis listed in the prohibited items list. Is this prohibited or does it require a waiver.

A: Jet skis would be part of Category B – Statutorily Prohibited without Waiver.

Q: If an armored vehicle was listed in the budget narrative of a previous JAG grant and the grant was awarded, do we still need to submit the approval request form?

A: Yes.

Q: What Category would a SWAT vehicle fall under?

A: It depends on the details of that vehicle. For example, if the SWAT vehicle is armored, it would fall within Category A. If not, it would fall within Category B.

Q: If we want to provide LE an option of 2 different wellness seminars to attend, would we just list that in the budget narrative since they have different costs and itemize that out with an explanation

A: Wellness seminars are allowable; as long as it is not the same seminar both could be funded if they fit within the scope of your project.

Q: Would traffic patrol vehicles be eligible for JAG?

A: Yes.

Q: Can it cover a purchase of an ATV? We are in the country and have a big need for off-road capability.

A: Yes. see Category B – Statutorily Prohibited without Waiver.

Q: Is a vehicle used for patrol by civilian community service officers not sworn law enforcement officer, would it qualify as a patrol vehicle? Such a vehicle will include police dept decals, etc.

A: This does not appear to qualify as a police cruiser, and would therefore require a waiver under Category B – Statutorily Prohibited without Waiver.

Q: Why must we submit a progress report in PMT and JustGrants? This seems redundant.

A: The performance metric information is entered in PMT, and then uploaded in to JustGrants, which is the system of record.

Q: Is the allocation amount the TOTAL available for the 2 year award period, or is it an annual amount?

A: It is the total.

Q: Can an AFIS (fingerprint machine) be purchased with JAG funds?

A: Yes.

Q: For a category 2 submission, does the project length have to be four years? Or can we request category 2 funding for a period of only 2 years. If it is possible, would one be more beneficial than the other? Would that make a difference.

A: All category 2 awards are made for 4 years, but the grant can be closed by the recipient as soon as the grant is complete.

Q: Am I able to purchase laptops with this grant?

A: Yes.

Q: Horses for patrol functions.

A: Allowable.

Q: Is a contract for drone services or training personnel to operate and receive FFA certification allowable use of funds.

A: Yes. However, UAS and associated accessories are not allowable.

Q: The JAG NOFO listed the Grants.gov deadline as 8/24 and the JustGrants deadline as 8/31. This is different from the slide included in this presentation. Will you clarify the deadline dates?

A: Grants.gov deadline: August 24, 2023, 8:59 p.m. ET.

JustGrants deadline: August 31, 2023, 8:59 p.m. ET.

A: The presentation we are using today provides general information for multiple programs, so will not provide specific dates.

A: In terms of Local JAG, the deadlines are 8/24 for Grants.Gov and 8/31 for JustGrants. Sorry for any typos that indicated otherwise.

Q: Would this grant allow funding of new Bailiff positions within a tribal court system?

A: Yes.

Q: Are subrecipients required to have UEIs even if we are applying as a disparate jurisdiction?

A: Subrecipients must have a UEI and be registered in SAM.

Q: Once the SF424 and SFLLL have been completed and the application opens in Just Grants, does that indicate that the grants.gov portion of grant is complete?

A: Yes. Once you have completed the SF-424 and SF-LLL, Grants.gov will validate your information and either return your application with errors or in the event there are no errors, will automatically transfer the application to JustGrants to complete.

A: Yes.

Q: Does the 30-day Public Comment period apply to Category 1 Applicants?

A: The Governing Body and Public Comment requirements under JAG are statutory and applied to all categories.

Q: Hello, I am writing from a department in the city of Seattle, WA. Our city already has a direct allocation and WA commerce has a state wide allocation. Are we eligible to apply or do we need to directly connect with the direct grantees?

A: The city is eligible to apply for local JAG, but is part of a large disparate group within King County. <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/fy23-jag-local-allocations-WA.pdf>

A: Please refer to the updated Prohibited & Controlled Equipment guidance; the answer depends on what year of JAG funding as well. <https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/jag-controlled-purchase-list.pdf>

Q: Where can we find more information on the fellowship grant program?

A: All of BJA's available funding opportunities can be found here: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/current>

Q: Are rifles that are less than 50 caliber eligible? If so, do they require prior approval from JAG?

A: The following is included in Category D: Specialized firearms and ammunition under .50 caliber. This excludes service-issued handguns, rifles, or shotguns that are issued or approved by the agency to be used during the course of regularly assigned duties.

Q: Just to clarify if the local allocation is \$50K in 2023, is that the total amount that can be requested in the proposal, or can the proposal include additional funding for each year?

A: The maximum allowable amount is 50k in this case.

Q: Can someone clarify exactly what additional documentation a partnering disparate agency must submit with the Lead Agency?

A: I plan on addressing this in more detail verbally at the end of the presentation. The fiscal agent applies on behalf of all disparate jurisdictions in the disparate group, and would include budget information and program narrative information for all disparates. The MOU that shows how funds will be distributed amongst the disparate jurisdictions is also provided.

Q: Do you have to apply for both grants in order to be eligible to apply for the grant?

A: Please clarify this question. This funding opp is for FY 23 Local JAG only.

Q: Just to confirm, can the JAG grant can be used for a hand held narcotics detector?

A: Yes.

Q: It was stated that the purchase of equines for the Patrol function was allowable; is their training also allowable?

A: Yes.

Q: If we are applying as a disparate jurisdiction and one of the subrecipients does some lobbying, do they report that to the Fiscal Agent to include on the SF-LLL?

A: The SF-LLL only includes information for the applicant agency (fiscal agent).

Q: It is anticipated that JAG awards will be conducted annually? In other words, does it make sense to start planning now so as to be fully prepared in advance of the 2024 award cycle?

A: JAG funding information is made available annually and eligibility is tied to the JAG formula. For more information, please see the JAG FAQs and/or Technical Report. <https://bj.a.ojp.gov/doc/jag-faqs.pdf>

Q: Does the public comment requirement for the application of funds require that applications be posted 30 days for public comment prior to the application deadline? Does this require a posted draft application before July 31 for public comment for this solicitation? Thank you.

A: There is no 30-day timeframe associated with the public comment requirement.

A: The public comment requirement does not require the 30-day review period, only the governing body review.

Q: Can funds be used to purchase a body scanner for a detention center?

A: Yes.

Q: Can disparate partners use JAG funding to purchase promotional items such as brochures, pamphlets, information materials, business cards, coffee mugs, cups, pens, t-shirts, caps, tote bags, pencils, and/or key chains?

Q: If we are eligible for funding, can we make the purchase now? What are the requirements around timeline and purchasing requirements?

A: No, you must first apply, receive an award and ensure all award conditions are satisfied prior to expending funds.

A: The project period start date for JAG is retroactive back to 10/1/22.

Q: This might not be the appropriate time to ask this question, but our agency is planning to purchase an LPR system. Can JAG funds be utilized to purchase an extended warranty?

A: Yes, but the warranty period cannot exceed the project period end date, or be prorated.

A: To clarify, amount of JAG funding used to pay for the warranty can be prorated.

Q: We were instructed by DOJ that City of Tucson was one entity. We have been working to get all the grants in the City's UEI. We are almost done with the transition as we have a few last grants closing soon. NOW it sounds like that is opposite of what Eulana is stating. Please advise if we should continue using the City of Tucson or convert back to the Police Department UEI .

A: Thank you, Lynn. The UEI legal name must be for the City in order to be eligible for local JAG. The PD can be the DBA. If the PD is the legal name, that would not be an eligible scenario.

Q: Can this grant be used for new sights and slides for officer firearms?

A: Yes, as long it is consistent with the controlled expenditures guidance.

Q: Can use this grant to make education materials with knowledge information about drugs and folders the increase our new and permanent campaign against fentanyl use?

A: Yes.

Q: Due to the fact that FY 23 JAG funding covers retroactive purchases dated from 10/1/2022 onwards,, can we complete the purchase now to then submit a reimbursement from the JAG allocation once funds are received?

A: Obligations are allowable dating back to 10/1/22 under FY 23 JAG.

Q: "No, you must first apply, receive an award and ensure all award conditions are satisfied prior to expending funds." Concerning this response, we are then eligible for reimbursement through JAG funding after it is obligated?

A: Yes, you may reimburse back to the project start date.

Q: Going back to the question of warranties, can the warranty period extend beyond the grant period as long as we are not using grant funds to pay for the time period the warranty extends past the grant period? Kind of confusing, but I can clarify if necessary.

A: Yes, that would be allowable.

Q: AEDs for patrol officers?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the web address for the training videos?

A: <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/training/training-virtual-sessions>

Q: Does this mean the governing body has to begin reviewing the application by July 31? Like our Board of Supervisors?

A: The governing body should have up to 30 days to review your JAG application. However, if they approve the application, the 30-day review period may be waived.

Q: Concerning the Governing Body and public comment requirement, can you please clarify or expound on this:

Are you saying that a completed application must be submitted to the governing body for review for 30 days... BEFORE we submit the application on Grant?

A: No, you can submit the application without the Gov Body requirement having been satisfied and funds will be withheld until the requirement has been satisfied.

Q: My organization has submitted through Intelligrants in the past. Is there any reason that we have to stay with them or is it possible to submit through BJA?

A: You are free to submit directly. The two step process is outlined on page 3 of the solicitation. <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/O-BJA-2023-171790.pdf>

A: I am not familiar with Intelligrants. In order to apply for this funding, you must apply through grants.gov and JustGrants.

Q: If our agency has active JAG grants on JustGrants with the Police Department UEI, can we merge it to the new account using the city's UEI?

A: The UEI should be for the city. You may use the City's UEI with a "Doing Business As" (DBA) as the PD.

Q: Are the amounts listed in the "Jag Allocations" for a specific county, the only amount that is available? For example my county shows \$13,905. Or is this amount the last approved amount from a previous grant application from the county?

A: The amount listed is the total amount the unit of local government is eligible to apply for, yes.

Q: Would printers for patrol vehicles be a qualified purchase for JAG?

A: Yes
