



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#)' (OJP) [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications for funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by assisting state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2015 State Solicitation

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. The allocations list can be found at: www.bja.gov/Funding/15JAGStateAllocations.pdf.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register in [OJP's Grants Management System](#) (GMS) prior to submitting application for this funding opportunity. Registration is required for all applicants, even those previously registered in GMS. Select the "Apply Online" button associated with the solicitation title. All registrations and applications are due by 8:00 p.m. eastern time on June 30, 2015.

For additional information, see "[How to Apply](#)" in Section [D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 1-888-549-9901, option 3, or via e-mail to GMS.HelpDesk@usdoj.gov. The [GMS](#) Support Hotline hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight eastern time, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen GMS technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the BJA contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen GMS Technical Issues" in the [How to Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center: toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at

301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email responsecenter@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date. You may also contact your [State Policy Advisor](#).

Release date: April 30, 2015

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Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program: FY 2015 State Solicitation (CFDA #16.738)

A. Program Description

Overview

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (42 U.S.C. § 3751(a)) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.

Program-Specific Information

JAG funds may be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, strategic planning, research and evaluation (including forensics), data collection, training, personnel, equipment, forensic laboratories, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems that will improve or enhance such areas as:

- Law enforcement programs.
- Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense.
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs.
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

States and territories are strongly encouraged to use JAG funding in support of their existing statewide strategic plan. If available, applicants should attach a current version of their state's strategic plan to their application. If such a plan does not now exist, states/territories should develop and undertake a strategic planning process, using a community engagement model, in order to guide spending under this and future fiscal year allocations. Statewide strategic plans should describe the state's strategic planning process that guides its priorities and funding strategy and should include a description of how local communities are engaged in the planning process and the data and analysis utilized to support the plan. It should also identify the stakeholders currently participating in the strategic planning process, the gaps in the state's needed resources for criminal justice purposes, and how JAG funds will be coordinated with state and related justice funds.

The Department continues to assess the extent to which states are engaged in strategic planning in making allocation decisions about JAG funds and the extent to which the recommendation that these efforts include all criminal justice stakeholders, including indigent defense, are being followed to ensure fairness in the criminal justice system. If such a strategic plan or planning process does not currently exist, the program narrative should describe the state's plan and timeline for developing such a process. Training and technical assistance (TTA)

is available from [BJA's TTA providers](#) to assist states with the development of their strategic planning process and their plan to fund evidence-based projects.

In partnership with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), BJA continues to work with State Administering Agencies (SAAs), State Analytical Centers (SACs), and their research and data analysis partners to: assess needs based upon data, develop priorities, invest in strategies that are evidence-based, and address priority needs. To ensure that the impact of JAG funding decisions is considered across the entire criminal justice system, BJA is strongly encouraging state and local jurisdictions to bring **all** system stakeholders together in the strategic planning process. BJA's recommended guidelines are that at a minimum, the strategic planning process includes law enforcement, courts, prosecutors, indigent defense providers, victim advocates, and corrections and community corrections officials. BJA will continue to provide valuable technical assistance in 2015 through NCJA for comprehensive criminal justice planning that includes bringing all criminal justice stakeholders to the table to develop innovative strategies to improve the fair administration of justice. For more information, see the [National Center for Justice Planning web site](#).

Beginning in FY 2014, BJA posted [each state's strategic plan](#) on the BJA web site in order to promote transparency in terms of each state's spending priorities, the process by which funding decisions are made, and which of your stakeholders are involved. In FY 2015, BJA will continue to post each state's strategic plan. If you do not have a strategic plan, BJA will continue to use the program narrative that is submitted with your application. As BJA's web site is publicly available; **please ensure that law-enforcement sensitive material is removed prior to submission.**

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. OJP's [CrimeSolutions.gov](#) web site is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

A useful matrix of evidence-based policing programs and strategies is available through the [Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy](#) at George Mason University. In the reentry field, a summary of research-based reentry strategies is available on the National Reentry Resource Center's [What Works in Reentry Clearinghouse](#) link. BJA offers a number of program models designed to effectively implement evidence-based strategies including Smart Policing, Smart Supervision, Smart Pretrial, Smart Defense, and Smart Prosecution. BJA encourages states to

use JAG funds to support these “smart on crime” strategies, including effective partnerships with universities and research partners and with non-traditional criminal justice partners.

JAG Priority Areas

BJA recognizes that there are significant pressures on state and local criminal justice systems. In these challenging times, shared priorities and leveraged resources can make a significant impact. In light of this, it is important to make SAAs and local JAG recipients aware of several areas of priority that may be of help in maximizing the effectiveness of JAG funding at the state and local level. The following priorities represent key areas where BJA will be focusing nationally and invite each state and local JAG recipient to join us in addressing these challenges as a part of our JAG partnership:

Reducing Gun Violence

Gun violence has touched nearly every state, county, city, town, and tribal government in America. In an effort to address this continuing need BJA encourages states and localities to invest valuable JAG funds in programs to: combat gun violence, enforce existing firearms laws, improve the process used to ensure that those prohibited from purchasing or owning guns are prevented from doing so, enhance reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#), and provide active shooter response training to law enforcement officers and first responders.

While our nation has made great strides in reducing violent crime over the last decade, some municipalities and regions continue to experienced unacceptable levels of violent crime at rates far in excess of the national average. In 2014, as part of BJA’s longstanding commitment to support effective strategies to reduce violent crime, BJA launched the [Violence Reduction Network](#). By the end of FY 2015, 10 VRN sites, working with a broad network of federal, state, and local partners will be implementing data-driven evidence-based strategies to reduce deeply entrenched violent crime in those communities. SAAs and localities with VRN sites are strongly encouraged to join the VRN network and help address funding gaps in violence reduction efforts in those communities. For information on VRN, see www.bja.gov/Programs/VRN.html.

Body-Worn Cameras, Storage, and Policies

Over the past several years, law enforcement agencies across the country have begun equipping their officers with body-worn cameras (BWCs). The important benefits of BWCs, and the challenges in implementing BWC programs, are highlighted in several recent publications: see the Office of Justice Programs’ Diagnostic Center report [Police Officer Body-Worn Cameras: Assessing the Evidence](#), and the COPS Office and Police Executive Research Forum paper, [Implementing A Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned](#).

JAG funding is an important potential source of funding for law enforcement agencies implementing new BWC programs or enhancing existing programs. JAG funds may be used to purchase BWCs and for costs associated with the BWC program, such as storage and policy development. Similarly, SAAs are encouraged to use either their Variable Pass-Through (VPT) or their “less than \$10,000” funding that is added into the state award to set aside funds to assist small departments implement BWC programs.

Agencies using JAG funds to purchase BWC equipment or to implement or enhance BWC programs should, as a best practice, have policies and procedures in place related to equipment usage, data storage, privacy, victims, access, disclosure, training, etc. Officers, prosecutors, defenders, victims and privacy advocates, and community groups should be consulted early in the BWC policy development process to guide and inform policy and procurement

decisions. BJA plans to release a BWC Toolkit and web site in spring 2015 that will share model BWC policies, resources, and best practices to assist departments in implementing BWC programs.

Recidivism Reduction, Pretrial Reform, and Justice System Realignment

In this time of fiscal austerity and smaller state and local budgets, reducing unnecessary incarceration in a manner that promotes public safety is a paramount goal. Effective community supervision of non-violent offenders coupled with evidence-based program interventions can result in significant reductions in recidivism. A priority funding area is the implementation of effective pretrial services programs. The use of validated risk assessment tools to inform pre-trial release decisions is critical. For a variety of resources, or to request BJA supported technical assistance from the Pretrial Justice Institute, see www.pretrial.org. Another priority for JAG funding is to support innovative programs and approaches in probation and parole supervision that improve services to offenders and increase collaborative efforts among community supervision agencies with law enforcement and the courts.

Another promising approach to justice systems reform is the [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#) (JRI), a public-private partnership between BJA and the PEW Public Safety Performance Project. Currently, 17 states and 17 local governments are working to control spiraling incarceration costs through JRI and reinvesting in evidence-based criminal justice programs and strategies. Strategic investment of JAG funds to implement JRI legislation and policy changes in those states and localities can augment federal funds and achieve greater cost savings and reinvestments in programs to promote public safety. (See the Urban Institute's [Justice Reinvestment Initiative State Assessment Report](#).)

Indigent Defense

Another key priority area is support for indigent defense. BJA continues to encourage states and SAAs to use JAG funds to support the vital needs of the indigent defense community, as indigent defense reform continues to be a concern that needs to be addressed across the nation. In 2002, the American Bar Association (ABA) published [Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System](#) which represent fundamental building blocks for implementing quality legal representation for indigent defendants.

Improving Mental Health Services

Disproportionate numbers of people with mental illness are involved in the criminal justice system often as a result of untreated or undertreated mental illness. This is an issue that impacts numerous facets of the criminal justice system. BJA encourages states to utilize JAG funding in support of programs and policy changes aimed at the following: identifying and treating people with severe mental illness before they reach crisis point; training law enforcement and correctional officers on mental health and mental health related crisis-intervention; increasing justice system diversion strategies to divert offenders with mental illness from unnecessary arrest and incarceration to more appropriate and cost-effective community-based treatment and supervision; mental health courts, allowing inmates to continue psychotropic medication in jails; and improving oversight of mental health care in jails, increasing post-jail housing options and enhancing community mental health services. (See [Adults with Behavioral Health Needs under Correctional Supervision](#).) BJA provides technical assistance to states with increasing access to health care benefits. Information can be found at www.bjatrain.org.

B. Federal Award Information

BJA estimates that it will make up to 1,100 Local and 56 State/Territory awards totaling an estimated \$255.7 million.

Awards of at least \$25,000 are 4 years in length, and award periods will be from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2018. Extensions beyond this period may be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of BJA and must be requested via GMS no less than 30 days prior to the grant end date.

Awards of less than \$25,000 are 2 years in length, and award periods will be from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016. Extensions of up to 2 years can be requested for these awards via GMS no less than 30 days prior to the grant end date, and will be automatically granted upon request.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Eligible allocations under JAG are posted annually on BJA's JAG web page: www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=59.

Type of Award¹

BJA expects that it will make any award from this solicitation in the form of a grant.

JAG awards are based on a statutory formula as described below:

Once each fiscal year's overall JAG Program funding level is determined, BJA partners with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to begin a four-step grant award calculation process which consists of:

1. Computing an initial JAG allocation for each state and territory, based on their share of violent crime and population (weighted equally).
2. Reviewing the initial JAG allocation amount to determine if the state or territory allocation is less than the minimum ("de minimus") award amount defined in the JAG legislation (0.25 percent of the total). If this is the case, the state or territory is funded at the minimum level, and the funds required for this are deducted from the overall pool of JAG funds. Each of the remaining states receives the minimum award plus an additional amount based on their share of violent crime and population.
3. Dividing each state's final award amount (except for the territories and District of Columbia) between state and local governments at a rate of 60 and 40 percent, respectively.
4. Determining local unit of government award allocations, which are based on their proportion of the state's 3-year violent crime average. If a local eligible award amount is less than \$10,000, the funds are returned to the state to be awarded to these local units

¹ See generally 31 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6305 (defines and describes various forms of federal assistance relationships, including grants and cooperative agreements (a type of grant)).

of government through the state agency. If the eligible award amount is \$10,000 or more, then the local government is eligible to apply for a JAG award directly from BJA.

State Administering Agency Responsibilities

In each state and territory, the Governor or other Chief Executive Officer designates an agency (the State Administering Agency) to apply for and administer these funds. The SAA will be responsible for:

- Preparing and submitting the state JAG application.
- JAG requires that states pass through a predetermined percentage (variable pass-through)² of funds to units of local government, such as a city, county, township, or town. Calculated by BJS, this percentage is established by assessing the total criminal justice expenditures by the state and units of local government. If an SAA believes its assessment is incorrect, the SAA may appeal the percentage by providing alternate, verifiable data to BJA. Current Variable Pass-through percentages (VPT), which SAAs are required to use in the administration of FY 2015 JAG awards, can be found at: www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGvpt.pdf.

In addition to the predetermined pass-through percentage, states must also distribute or pass-through funds from the “less than \$10,000 jurisdictions” which have been added to the state’s award. These less-than \$10,000 funds must be awarded by the state to state police departments that provide criminal justice services to units of local government and units of local government whose allocation is less than \$10,000.

- Ensuring an inclusive planning process, including consultation with tribal representatives and other criminal justice stakeholders.
- Ensuring any court disposition or other records generated by JAG-funded programs are made available to state repositories if they are relevant to NICS determinations.

Financial Management and System of Internal Controls

If selected for funding, the award recipient must:

(a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the non-federal entity is managing the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These internal controls should be in compliance with guidance in “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the “Internal Control Integrated Framework”, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

² If an SAA wishes to fund a project that will be administered by the state but be counted as variable pass-through for JAG purposes, it may do so if the project will directly benefit a unit(s) of local government, and if each local jurisdiction to benefit voluntarily signs a waiver. This waiver must certify that the local jurisdiction recognizes that the funds in question are set aside for local government use, believes that the proposed project will provide a direct local benefit, and agrees that funding the project at the state level is in the best interests of the unit of local government. See the JAG FAQs on BJA’s JAG web page for an example.

(b) Comply with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal awards.

(c) Evaluate and monitor the non-federal entity's compliance with statute, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal awards.

(d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings.

(e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or the non-federal entity considers sensitive consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

In order to better understand administrative requirements and cost principles, award applicants are encouraged to enroll, at no charge, in the Department of Justice Grants Financial Management Online Training available [here](#).

Budget Information

Administrative Funds – An SAA may use up to 10 percent of the state award, including interest, for costs associated with administering JAG funds.

Supplanting – Supplanting is prohibited under JAG. Applicants cannot replace or supplant non-federal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. See the JAG FAQs on BJA's JAG web page for examples of supplanting.

Leveraging of Grant Funds – Although supplanting is prohibited, the leveraging of federal funding is encouraged. For example, a city may utilize JAG and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) money to fund different portions of a fusion center project. In instances where leveraging occurs, all federal grant funds must be tracked and reported separately and may not be used to fund the same line items. Additionally, federal funds cannot be used as match for other federal awards.

Trust Fund – SAAs may draw down JAG funds in advance. To do so, a trust fund must be established in which to deposit the funds. The trust fund may or may not be an interest-bearing account. If subrecipients draw down JAG funds in advance, they also must establish a trust fund in which to deposit funds. This trust fund requirement does not apply to direct JAG award recipients or subrecipients that draw-down on a reimbursement basis rather than in advance.

Prohibited and Controlled Uses – JAG funds may only be expended within the JAG purpose areas. Within these purpose areas JAG funds may not be used directly or indirectly for security enhancements or equipment to nongovernmental entities not engaged in criminal justice or public safety. In addition, JAG funds may not be used directly or indirectly to purchase items listed at: www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGControlledPurchaseList.pdf.

This JAG controlled purchase list represents a combination of BJA controlled items and those controlled under the Executive Order on "Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition" that was signed on January 16, 2015. Pursuant to Executive Order 13688 (Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition), a federal inter-agency working group has been charged with, among other things, 'developing a consistent

Government-wide list of controlled equipment allowable for acquisition by LEAs, as well as a list of those items that can only be transferred with special authorization and use limitations.’ The working group’s recommendations, which are due to be delivered to the President in mid-May, may alter the BJA controlled items list. Grantees are reminded that they must follow the most current version of the controlled items list in order to purchase the equipment.

No items on this list can be purchased without first submitting a detailed justification that supports the need for this equipment. Applicants must show both extraordinary and exigent circumstances that require the purchase of such equipment. Upon approval from the BJA Director, this equipment may be purchased with JAG funds. Grantees are **strongly encouraged** to submit this justification at the time of application. In particular, any justification that cannot show the exigent nature of the purchase and why it could not be submitted at time of application will not be approved.

Please note that the Controlled Equipment List also includes items that are strictly prohibited under JAG. .

Additional information on JAG controlled and prohibited items, along with the process for requesting a waiver to obtain BJA certification for any controlled item, can be found within the JAG FAQs: www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGFAQ.pdf.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

This solicitation does not require a match. However, if a successful application proposes a voluntary match amount, and OJP approves the budget, the total match amount incorporated into the approved budget becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals

OJP does not typically approve pre-agreement costs; an applicant must request and obtain the prior written approval of OJP for all such costs. If approved, pre-agreement costs could be paid from grant funds consistent with a grantee’s approved budget, and under applicable cost standards. However, all such costs prior to award and prior to approval of the costs are incurred at the sole risk of an applicant. Generally, no applicant should incur project costs before submitting an application requesting federal funding for those costs. Should there be extenuating circumstances that appear to be appropriate for OJP’s consideration as pre-agreement costs, the applicant should contact the point of contact listed on the title page of this announcement for details on the requirements for submitting a written request for approval. See the section on Costs Requiring Prior Approval in the [Financial Guide](#), for more information.

Prior Approval, Planning, and Reporting of Conference/Meeting/Training Costs

OJP strongly encourages applicants that propose to use award funds for any conference-, meeting-, or training-related activity to review carefully – before submitting an application – the OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting available at www.ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm. OJP policy and guidance (1) encourage minimization of conference, meeting, and training costs; (2) require prior written approval (which may affect project timelines) of most such costs for cooperative agreement recipients and of some such costs for grant recipients; and (3) set cost limits, including a general prohibition of all food and beverage costs.

Costs Associated with Language Assistance (if applicable)

If an applicant proposes a program or activity that would deliver services or benefits to individuals, the costs of taking reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to those services

or benefits for individuals with limited English proficiency may be allowable. Reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to services or benefits may include interpretation or translation services where appropriate.

For additional information, see the "Civil Rights Compliance" section under "Solicitation Requirements" in the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

Other JAG Requirements

Body Armor Certification

- Ballistic-resistant and stab-resistant body armor can be funded through two BJA-administered programs: the JAG Program and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program.
- The BVP Program is designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement through the purchase of ballistic-resistant and stab-resistant body armor. A jurisdiction is able to request up to 50 percent of the cost of a vest with BVP funds. For more information on the BVP Program, including eligibility and application, refer to the [BVP web page](#).
- JAG funds may also be used to purchase vests for an agency, but they may not be used to pay for that portion of the ballistic-resistant vest (50 percent) that is not covered by BVP funds. Unlike BVP, JAG funds used to purchase vests do not require a 50 percent match.
- Vests purchased with JAG funds may be purchased at any threat level, make, or model from any distributor or manufacturer, as long as the vests have been tested and found to comply with the latest applicable National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ballistic or stab standards. In addition, vests purchased must be American-made. Information on the latest NIJ standards can be found at: www.nij.gov/topics/technology/body-armor/safety-initiative.htm.

As is the case in BVP, grantees who wish to purchase vests with JAG funds must certify that law enforcement agencies receiving vests have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect. FAQs related to the mandatory wear policy and certifications can be found at www.bja.gov/Funding/JAGFAQ.pdf. This policy must be in place for at least all uniformed officers before any FY 2015 funding can be used by the agency for vests. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it being a mandatory wear policy for all uniformed officers while on duty. The certification **must** be signed by the Authorized Representative and **must** be attached to the application. If the grantee proposes to change project activities to utilize JAG funds to purchase bulletproof vests after the application period (during the project period), the grantee must submit the signed certification to BJA at that time. A mandatory wear concept and issues paper and a model policy are available by contacting the BVP Customer Support Center vests@usdoj.gov or toll free at 1-877-758-3787.

A copy of the certification related to the mandatory wear can be found at: www.bja.gov/Funding/BodyArmorMandatoryWearCert.pdf.

DNA Testing of Evidentiary Materials and Upload of DNA Profiles to a Database

If JAG Program funds will be used for DNA testing of evidentiary materials, any resulting eligible DNA profiles must be uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS, the national DNA database operated by the FBI) by a government DNA lab with access to CODIS. No profiles

generated with JAG funding may be entered into any other non-governmental DNA database without prior express written approval from BJA. For more information, refer to the NIJ DNA Backlog Reduction Program, available at www.nij.gov/topics/forensics/lab-operations/evidence-backlogs/Pages/backlog-reduction-program.aspx.

In addition, funds may not be used for purchase of DNA equipment and supplies when the resulting DNA profiles from such technology are not accepted for entry into CODIS.

Interoperable Communications

Grantees (including subgrantees) that are using FY 2015 JAG Program funds to support emergency communications activities (including the purchase of interoperable communications equipment and technologies such as voice-over-internet protocol bridging or gateway devices, or equipment to support the build out of wireless broadband networks in the 700 MHz public safety band under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Waiver Order) must ensure:

- Compliance with the [FY 2015 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants](#) (including provisions on technical standards that ensure and enhance interoperable communications).
- Adherence to the technical standards set forth in the FCC Waiver Order, or any succeeding FCC orders, rules, or regulations pertaining to broadband operations in the 700 MHz public safety band.
- Projects support the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) and are fully coordinated with the full-time Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) in the state of the project. As the central coordination point for their state's interoperability effort, the SWIC plays a critical role, and can serve as a valuable resource. SWICs are responsible for the implementation of the SCIP through coordination and collaboration with the emergency response community. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications maintains a list of SWICs for each of the 56 states and territories. Contact OEC@hq.dhs.gov.
- All communications equipment purchased with grant award funding (plus the quantity purchased of each item) is identified during quarterly performance metrics reporting.

In order to promote information sharing and enable interoperability among disparate systems across the justice and public safety community, OJP requires the grantee to comply with DOJ's Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative guidelines and recommendations for this particular grant. Grantee shall conform to the Global Standards Package (GSP) and all constituent elements, where applicable, as described at: www.it.ojp.gov/gsp_grantcondition. Grantees shall document planned approaches to information sharing and describe compliance to the GSP and appropriate privacy policy that protects shared information, or provide detailed justification for why an alternative approach is recommended.

Potential Funding Reductions

Prison Rape Elimination Act

On June 20, 2012, DOJ published the final rule that created the National Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards which were promulgated to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual victimization and abuse in confinement settings. The National PREA Standards are found at 28 C.F.R. Part 115. They took effect on August 20, 2012, and apply to confinement

facilities including adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, police lockups, and community corrections facilities.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 provides that a state whose Governor does not certify full compliance with the National PREA Standards is subject to the loss of 5 percent of certain DOJ grant funds, including JAG, that it would otherwise receive for prison purposes unless the Governor submits an assurance to DOJ that no less than 5 percent of such funds will be used solely for the purpose of enabling the state to achieve and certify full compliance with the standards in future years. 42 U.S.C. § 15607 (c)(2). A 5 percent JAG reduction will be applied each year a jurisdiction does not certify full compliance.

For additional information concerning PREA implementation, send inquiries to the PREA Management Office at PREACompliance@usdoj.gov.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, required that the 50 states, District of Columbia (DC), 5 principal territories, and some federally recognized tribes substantially implement SORNA by July 27, 2009. Two full-year deadline extensions have been provided, and a final statutory deadline of July 27, 2011 was established.

SORNA mandates a 10-percent reduction in JAG funding if a state, territory, or DC failed to substantially implement SORNA by the July 27, 2011 deadline. For those jurisdictions, the 10-percent reduction was first applied in FY 2012 and will continue to be applied in each subsequent year until the JAG funding recipient has substantially implemented SORNA. Further, jurisdictions that have substantially implemented SORNA have an ongoing obligation to maintain that status each and every year. A JAG reduction will be applied each year a jurisdiction has failed to have substantially implemented SORNA. The 10-percent reduction will not be applied to the portion of the JAG award that is reserved for local or tribal jurisdictions.

For additional information regarding SORNA implementation, including requirements and a list of states/territories that will be impacted in FY 2015 by the 10-percent reduction, contact the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Policy Advisor Samantha Opong at Samantha.Opong@usdoj.gov or 202-514-9320.

JAG Showcase

The [JAG Showcase](#) was designed to identify and highlight JAG projects that have demonstrated success or shown promise in reducing crime and positively impacting communities. BJA has now expanded the concept of the JAG Showcase to other BJA grant programs and created a new [BJA Success Story web page](#). This web page will be a valuable resource for states, localities, territories, tribes and criminal justice professionals who seek to identify and learn about JAG and other successful BJA funded projects linked to innovation, crime reduction, and evidence based practices.

BJA strongly encourages the recipient to submit annual (or more frequent) JAG success stories. If you have a JAG Success Story you would like to submit, sign in to your [My BJA account](#) to access the Success Story Submission form. If you do not have a [My BJA account](#), please [Register](#). Once you register, one of the available areas on your *My BJA* page will be "*My Success Stories*." Within this box, you will see an option to add a *Success Story*.

Once reviewed and approved by BJA, all success stories will appear on the [BJA Success Story web page](#).

C. Eligibility Information

For eligibility information, please see the Title Page.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirement

For additional information on cost sharing or match requirement, see Section B. Federal Award Information (page 8).

Limit on Number of Application Submissions

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, BJA will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. For more information on system-validated versions, see [How to Apply](#).

D. Application and Submission Information

What an Application Should Include

Applicants should anticipate that if they fail to submit an application that contains all of the specified elements, it may negatively affect the review of their application; and, should a decision be made to make an award, it may result in the inclusion of special conditions that preclude the recipient from accessing or using award funds pending satisfaction of the conditions.

Applicants may combine the Budget Narrative and the Budget Detail Worksheet in one document. However, if an applicant submits only one budget document, it must contain **both** narrative and detail information. Please review the “Note on File Names and File Types” under [How to Apply](#) to be sure applications are submitted in permitted formats.

Refer to the BJA Grant Writing and Management Academy and OJP’s Grants 101 for an overview of what should be included in each application requirement. These trainings can be found at bj.ncjrs.gov/gwma/index.html and www.ojp.gov/grants101/.

OJP strongly recommends that applicants use appropriately descriptive file names (e.g., “Program Narrative,” “Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative,” “Timelines,” “Memoranda of Understanding,” “Resumes”) for all attachments. Also, OJP recommends that applicants include resumes in a single file.

Failure to submit the required information will result in an application being returned in the Grants Management System (GMS) for inclusion of the missing information OR the attachment of a withholding of funds special condition at the time of award.

1. Information to Complete the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

The SF-424 is a required standard form used as a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications, and related information. GMS takes information from the applicant’s profile to populate the fields on this form.

Intergovernmental Review: This funding opportunity is subject to [Executive Order 12372](#). Applicants may find the names and addresses of their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at the following website: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/. Applicants whose state appears on the SPOC list must contact their state's SPOC to find out about, and comply with, the state's process under Executive Order 12372. In completing the SF-424, applicants whose state appears on the SPOC list are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 once the applicant has complied with their state's E.O. 12372 process. (Applicants whose state does not appear on the SPOC list are to make the appropriate selection in response to question 19 to indicate that the "Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.")

2. **Project Abstract**

Applications should include a high-quality project abstract that summarizes the proposed project in 400 words or less. Project abstracts should be—

- Written for a general public audience and submitted as a separate attachment with "Project Abstract" as part of its file name.
- Include applicant name, title of the project, a brief description of the problem to be addressed and the targeted area/population, project goals and objectives, and a description of the project strategy, any significant partnerships and anticipated outcomes.
- Identify up to 10 project identifiers that would be associated with proposed project activities. The list of identifiers can be found at www.bja.gov/funding/JAGIdentifiers.pdf.

As a separate attachment, the project abstract will **not** count against the page limit for the program narrative.

3. **Program Narrative**

The following sections should be included as part of the program narrative:

- a. Statement of the Problem – Identify the state's strategy/funding priorities for the FY 2015 JAG funds, the subgrant award process and timeline, and a description of the programs to be funded over the four year grant period. States are strongly encouraged to prioritize the funding on evidence-based projects.
- b. Project Design and Implementation – Describe the state's strategic planning process that guides its priorities and funding strategy. This should include a description of how local communities are engaged in the planning process and the data and analysis utilized to support the plan; it should identify the stakeholders currently participating in the strategic planning process, the gaps in the state's needed resources for criminal justice purposes, and how JAG funds will be coordinated with state and related justice funds.
- c. Capabilities and Competencies – Describe any additional strategic planning/coordination efforts in which the SAA participates with other criminal justice criminal/juvenile justice agencies in the state.
- d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures – To assist the Department with fulfilling its responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103-62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Public Law 111-352, applicants that receive funding under

this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work done under this solicitation. **Quarterly accountability metrics reports must be submitted through BJA's PMT, available at www.bjaperformancetools.org. The accountability measures can be found at: www.bjaperformancetools.org/help/JAGMeasuresQuestionnaire.pdf.**

Submission of accountability measures data is not required for the application. Instead, applicants should discuss in their application their proposed methods for collecting data for accountability measures.

Note on Project Evaluations

Applicants that propose to use funds awarded through this solicitation to conduct project evaluations should be aware that certain project evaluations (such as systematic investigations designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge) may constitute "research" for purposes of applicable DOJ human subjects protection regulations. However, project evaluations that are intended only to generate internal improvements to a program or service, or are conducted only to meet OJP's performance measure data reporting requirements likely do not constitute "research." Applicants should provide sufficient information for OJP to determine whether the particular project they propose would either intentionally or unintentionally collect and/or use information in such a way that it meets the DOJ regulatory definition of research.

Research, for the purposes of human subjects protections for OJP-funded programs, is defined as, "a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge" 28 C.F.R. § 46.102(d). For additional information on determining whether a proposed activity would constitute research, see the decision tree to assist applicants on the "Research and the Protection of Human Subjects" section of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](http://www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm) web page (www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm). Applicants whose proposals may involve a research or statistical component also should review the "Data Privacy and Confidentiality Requirements" section on that web page.

4. Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative

a. Budget Detail Worksheet

A sample Budget Detail Worksheet can be found at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/BudgetDetailWorksheet.pdf. Applicants that submit their budget in a different format should include the budget categories listed in the sample budget worksheet.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the Financial Guide at www.ojp.gov/financialguide/index.htm.

b. Budget Narrative

The budget narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheet. OJP expects proposed budgets to be complete, cost effective, and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allocable, and necessary for project activities). This narrative should include a full breakdown of administrative costs, as well as an overview of how funds will be allocated across approved JAG purpose areas.

Applicants should demonstrate in their budget narratives how they will maximize cost effectiveness of grant expenditures. Budget narratives should generally describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and the goals of the project. For example, a budget narrative should detail why planned in-person meetings are necessary, or how technology and collaboration with outside organizations could be used to reduce costs, without compromising quality.

The narrative should be mathematically sound and correspond with the information and figures provided in the Budget Detail Worksheet. The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated all costs, and how they are relevant to the completion of the proposed project. The narrative may include tables for clarification purposes but need not be in a spreadsheet format. As with the Budget Detail Worksheet, the Budget Narrative should be broken down by year.

c. Non-Competitive Procurement Contracts In Excess of Simplified Acquisition Threshold

If an applicant proposes to make one or more non-competitive procurements of products or services, where the non-competitive procurement will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (also known as the small purchase threshold), which is currently set at \$150,000, the application should address the considerations outlined in the [Financial Guide](#).

d. Pre-Agreement Costs

For information on pre-agreement costs, see “Pre-Agreement Cost Approvals” under Section B. Federal Award Information (page 8).

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a current federally approved indirect cost rate. (This requirement does not apply to units of local government.) Attach a copy of the federally approved indirect cost rate agreement to the application. Applicants that do not have an approved rate may request one through their cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or, if the applicant’s accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. For the definition of Cognizant Federal Agency, see the “Glossary of Terms” in the [Financial Guide](#). For assistance with identifying your cognizant agency, please contact the Customer Service Center at 1-800-458-0786 or at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov. If DOJ is the cognizant federal agency, applicants may obtain information needed to submit an indirect cost rate proposal at www.ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/IndirectCosts.pdf.

6. Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable)

Tribes, tribal organizations, or third parties proposing to provide direct services or assistance to residents on tribal lands should include in their applications a resolution, a letter, affidavit, or other documentation, as appropriate, that certifies that the applicant has the legal authority from the tribe(s) to implement the proposed project on tribal lands. In those instances when an organization or consortium of tribes applies for a grant on behalf of a tribe or multiple specific tribes, the application should include appropriate legal documentation, as described above, from all tribes that would receive services or assistance under the grant. A consortium of tribes for which existing consortium bylaws allow action without support from all tribes in the consortium (i.e., without an authorizing resolution or comparable legal documentation from each tribal governing body) may submit, instead, a copy of its consortium bylaws with the application.

Applicants unable to submit an application that includes a fully-executed (i.e., signed) copy of appropriate legal documentation, as described above, consistent with the applicable tribe's governance structure, should, at a minimum, submit an unsigned, draft version of such legal documentation as part of its application (except for cases in which, with respect to a tribal consortium applicant, consortium bylaws allow action without the support of all consortium member tribes). If selected for funding, *BJA* will make use of and access to funds contingent on receipt of the fully-executed legal documentation.

7. Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status

Any applicants currently designated as high risk by another federal grant making agency must disclose that status. This includes any status requiring additional oversight by the federal agency due to past programmatic or financial concerns. If an applicant is designated high risk by another federal grant making agency, you must email the following information to OJPComplianceReporting@usdoj.gov at the time of application submission:

- The federal agency that currently designated the applicant as high risk
- Date the applicant was designated high risk
- The high risk point of contact name, phone number, and email address, from that federal agency
- Reasons for the high risk status

OJP seeks this information to ensure appropriate federal oversight of any grant award. Unlike the Excluded Parties List, this high risk information does not disqualify any organization from receiving an OJP award. However, additional grant oversight may be included, if necessary, in award documentation.

8. Additional Attachments

a. Review Narrative

Applicants **must** submit information documenting that the date the JAG application was made available for review by the governing body of the state, or to an organization designated by that governing body, not less than 30 days before the application was submitted to BJA. The attachment must also specify that an opportunity to comment was provided to citizens prior to application submission to the extent applicable law or established procedures make such opportunity available.

Below are notification language templates that can be utilized in completing this section of the application.

The (**provide name of State/Territory**) made its Fiscal Year 2015 JAG application available to the (**provide name of governing body**) for its review and comment on (**provide date**); or intends to do so on (**provide date**).

The (**provide name of State/Territory**) made its Fiscal Year 2015 JAG application available to citizens for comment prior to application submission by (**provide means of notification**); or the application has not yet been made available for public review/comment.

b. Strategic Plan

Attach a current version of your state’s strategic plan with this application. DOJ is in the process of assessing the extent to which states are engaged in strategic planning allocation decisions regarding JAG funds, and the extent to which these efforts include all criminal justice stakeholders, to ensure fairness in the criminal justice system. If such a strategic plan or planning process does not currently exist, the program narrative should describe the state's plan and timeline for developing such a process.

c. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

Applicants are to disclose whether they have pending applications for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation. The disclosure should include both direct applications for federal funding (e.g., applications to federal agencies) and indirect applications for such funding (e.g., applications to State agencies that will subaward federal funds).

OJP seeks this information to help avoid any inappropriate duplication of funding. Leveraging multiple funding sources in a complementary manner to implement comprehensive programs or projects is encouraged and is not seen as inappropriate duplication.

Applicants that have pending applications as described above are to provide the following information about pending applications submitted within the last 12 months:

- The federal or state funding agency
- The solicitation name/project name
- The point of contact information at the applicable funding agency

Federal or State Funding Agency	Solicitation Name/Project Name	Name/Phone/E-mail for Point of Contact at Funding Agency
DOJ/COPS	COPS Hiring Program	Jane Doe, 202/000-0000; jane.doe@usdoj.gov
HHS/ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	Drug Free Communities Mentoring Program/ North County Youth Mentoring Program	John Doe, 202/000-0000; john.doe@hhs.gov

Applicants should include the table as a separate attachment, with the file name “Disclosure of Pending Applications,” to their application. Applicants that do not have pending applications as described above are to include a statement to this effect in the separate attachment page (e.g., “[Applicant Name on SF-424] does not have pending applications submitted within the last 12 months for federally funded grants or subgrants (including cooperative agreements) that include requests for funding to support the same project being proposed under this solicitation and will cover the identical cost items outlined in the budget narrative and worksheet in the application under this solicitation.”).

d. Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity

If a proposal involves research and/or evaluation, regardless of the proposal’s other merits, in order to receive funds, the applicant must demonstrate research/evaluation

independence, including appropriate safeguards to ensure research/evaluation objectivity and integrity, both in this proposal and as it may relate to the applicant's other current or prior related projects. This documentation may be included as an attachment to the application which addresses BOTH i. and ii. below.

i. For purposes of this solicitation, applicants must document research and evaluation independence and integrity by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:

a. A specific assurance that the applicant has reviewed its proposal to identify any research integrity issues (including all principal investigators and sub-recipients) and it has concluded that the design, conduct, or reporting of research and evaluation funded by BJA grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts will not be biased by any personal or financial conflict of interest on the part of part of its staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients responsible for the research and evaluation or on the part of the applicant organization;

OR

b. A specific listing of actual or perceived conflicts of interest that the applicant has identified in relation to this proposal. These conflicts could be either personal (related to specific staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients) or organizational (related to the applicant or any subgrantee organization). Examples of potential investigator (or other personal) conflict situations may include, but are not limited to, those in which an investigator would be in a position to evaluate a spouse's work product (actual conflict), or an investigator would be in a position to evaluate the work of a former or current colleague (potential apparent conflict). With regard to potential organizational conflicts of interest, as one example, generally an organization could not be given a grant to evaluate a project if that organization had itself provided substantial prior technical assistance to that specific project or a location implementing the project (whether funded by OJP or other sources), as the organization in such an instance would appear to be evaluating the effectiveness of its own prior work. The key is whether a reasonable person understanding all of the facts would be able to have confidence that the results of any research or evaluation project are objective and reliable. Any outside personal or financial interest that casts doubt on that objectivity and reliability of an evaluation or research product is a problem and must be disclosed.

ii. In addition, for purposes of this solicitation applicants must address the issue of possible mitigation of research integrity concerns by including, at a minimum, one of the following two items:

a. If an applicant reasonably believes that no potential personal or organizational conflicts of interest exist, then the applicant should provide a brief narrative explanation of how and why it reached that conclusion. Applicants **MUST** also include an explanation of the specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to identify and eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this

regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest.

OR

- b. If the applicant has identified specific personal or organizational conflicts of interest in its proposal during this review, the applicant must propose a specific and robust mitigation plan to address conflicts noted above. At a minimum, the plan must include specific processes and procedures that the applicant will put in place to eliminate (or, at the very least, mitigate) potential personal or financial conflicts of interest on the part of its staff, consultants, and/or sub-recipients for this particular project, should that be necessary during the grant period. Documentation that may be helpful in this regard could include organizational codes of ethics/conduct or policies regarding organizational, personal, and financial conflicts of interest. There is no guarantee that the plan, if any, will be accepted as proposed.

Considerations in assessing research and evaluation independence and integrity will include, but are not be limited to, the adequacy of the applicant's efforts to identify factors that could affect the objectivity or integrity of the proposed staff and/or the organization in carrying out the research, development, or evaluation activity; and the adequacy of the applicant's existing or proposed remedies to control any such factors.

9. Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire

In accordance with [2 CFR 200.205](#), Federal agencies must have in place a framework for evaluating the risks posed by applicants before they receive a Federal award. To facilitate part of this risk evaluation, **all** applicants (other than an individual) are to download, complete, and submit this [form](#).

10. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Any applicant that expends any funds for lobbying activities is to provide the detailed information requested on the form, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities ([SF-LLL](#)).

How to Apply

Applicants must submit applications through the [Grants Management System \(GMS\)](#), which provides cradle to grave support for the application, award, and management of awards at OJP. Applicants **must register in GMS for each specific funding opportunity**. Although the registration and submission deadlines are the same, OJP urges applicants to **register promptly**, especially if this is their first time using the system. Find complete instructions on how to register and submit an application in GMS at www.ojp.gov/gmscbt/. Applicants that experience technical difficulties during this process should e-mail GMS.HelpDesk@usdoj.gov or call 888-549-9901 (option 3), Monday – Friday from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, Eastern Time, except federal holidays. OJP recommends that applicants **register promptly** to prevent delays in submitting an application package by the deadline.

Note on File Types: GMS does not accept executable file types as application attachments. These disallowed file types include, but are not limited to, the following extensions: “.com,” “.bat,” “.exe,” “.vbs,” “.cfg,” “.dat,” “.db,” “.dbf,” “.dll,” “.ini,” “.log,” “.ora,” “.sys,” and “.zip.”

OJP may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the federal awarding agency is ready to make a federal award, the federal awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

All applicants should complete the following steps:

- 1. Acquire a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.** In general, the Office of Management and Budget requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal funds include a DUNS number in their application for a new award or a supplement to an existing award. A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and differentiating entities receiving federal funds. The identifier is used for tracking purposes and to validate address and point of contact information for federal assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. The DUNS number will be used throughout the grant life cycle. Obtaining a DUNS number is a free, one-time activity. Call Dun and Bradstreet at 866-705-5711 to obtain a DUNS number or apply online at www.dnb.com. A DUNS number is usually received within 1-2 business days.
- 2. Acquire registration with the System for Award Management (SAM).** SAM is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and subrecipients. OJP requires that all applicants (other than individuals) for federal financial assistance maintain current registrations in the SAM database. Applicants must **update or renew their SAM registration annually** to maintain an active status.

Information about SAM registration procedures can be accessed at www.sam.gov.

- 3. Acquire a GMS username and password.** New users must create a GMS profile by selecting the “First Time User” link under the sign-in box of the [GMS](http://www.gms.gov) home page. For more information on how to register in GMS, go to www.ojp.gov/gmscbt.
- 4. Verify the SAM (formerly CCR) registration in GMS.** OJP requests that all applicants verify their SAM registration in GMS. Once logged into GMS, click the “CCR Claim” link on the left side of the default screen. Click the submit button to verify the SAM (formerly CCR) registration.
- 5. Search for the funding opportunity on GMS.** After logging into GMS or completing the GMS profile for username and password, go to the “Funding Opportunities” link on the left side of the page. Select BJA and the **FY 15 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program**.
- 6. Register by selecting the “Apply Online” button associated with the funding opportunity title.** The search results from step 5 will display the funding opportunity title along with the registration and application deadlines for this funding opportunity. Select the “Apply Online” button in the “Action” column to register for this funding opportunity and create an application in the system.
- 7. Follow the directions in GMS to submit an application consistent with this solicitation.** Once submitted, GMS will display a confirmation screen stating the submission was successful. **Important:** In some instances, applicants must wait for GMS approval

before submitting an application. OJP urges applicants to submit the application **at least 72 hours prior** to the application due date.

Note: Duplicate Applications

If an applicant submits multiple versions of the same application, BJA will review only the most recent system-validated version submitted. See Note on “File Names and File Types” under [How to Apply](#).

Experiencing Unforeseen GMS Technical Issues

Applicants that experience unforeseen GMS technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must contact the [GMS Help Desk](#) or the [SAM Help Desk](#) to report the technical issue and receive a tracking number. Then the applicant must e-mail the BJA contact identified in the Contact Information section of this solicitation **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. The e-mail must describe the technical difficulties and include a timeline of the applicant’s submission efforts, the complete grant application, the applicant’s DUNS number, and any GMS Help Desk or SAM tracking number(s). **Note: BJA does not approve requests automatically.** After the program office reviews the submission, and contacts the GMS Help Desk to validate the reported technical issues, OJP will inform the applicant whether the request to submit a late application has been approved or denied. If OJP determines that the applicant failed to follow all required procedures, which resulted in an untimely application submission, OJP will deny the applicant’s request to submit their application.

The following conditions are generally insufficient to justify late submissions:

- Failure to register in SAM or GMS in sufficient time
- Failure to follow GMS instructions on how to register and apply as posted on the GMS web site
- Failure to follow each instruction in the OJP solicitation
- Technical issues with the applicant’s computer or information technology environment, including firewalls

Notifications regarding known technical problems with GMS, if any, are posted at the top of the OJP funding web page at www.ojp.gov/funding/Explore/CurrentFundingOpportunities.htm.

E. Application Review Information

Review Process

OJP is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for awarding grants. BJA reviews the application to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with the solicitation. BJA will also review applications to ensure statutory requirements have been met.

OJP reviews applications for potential awards to evaluate the risks posed by applicants before they receive an award. This review may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Financial stability and fiscal integrity
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in the Financial Guide

3. History of performance
4. Reports and findings from audits
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities

Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, the Assistant Attorney General will make all final award decisions.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

Federal Award Notices

OJP award notification will be sent from GMS. Recipients will be required to login; accept any outstanding assurances and certifications on the award; designate a financial point of contact; and review, sign, and accept the award. The award acceptance process involves physical signature of the award document by the authorized representative and the scanning of the fully-executed award document to OJP.

Administrative, National Policy, and other Legal Requirements

If selected for funding, in addition to implementing the funded project consistent with the agency-approved project proposal and budget, the recipient must comply with award terms and conditions, and other legal requirements, including but not limited to OMB, DOJ or other federal regulations which will be included in the award, incorporated into the award by reference, or are otherwise applicable to the award. OJP strongly encourages prospective applicants to review the information pertaining to these requirements **prior** to submitting an application. To assist applicants and recipients in accessing and reviewing this information, OJP has placed pertinent information on its [Solicitation Requirements](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) web pages.

Please note in particular the following two forms, which applicants must accept in GMS prior to the receipt of any award funds, as each details legal requirements with which applicants must provide specific assurances and certifications of compliance. Applicants may view these forms in the Apply section of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#) and are strongly encouraged to review and consider them carefully prior to making an application for OJP grant funds.

- [Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements](#)
- [Standard Assurances](#)

Upon grant approval, OJP electronically transmits (via GMS) the award document to the prospective award recipient. In addition to other award information, the award document contains award terms and conditions that specify national policy requirements³ with which recipients of federal funding must comply; uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements; and program-specific terms and conditions required based on applicable program (statutory) authority or requirements set forth in OJP solicitations and program announcements, and other requirements which may be attached to appropriated

³ See generally 2 C.F.R. 200.300 (provides a general description of national policy requirements typically applicable to recipients of federal awards, including the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)).

funding. For example, certain efforts may call for special requirements, terms, or conditions relating to intellectual property, data/information-sharing or -access, or information security; or audit requirements, expenditures and milestones, or publications and/or press releases. OJP also may place additional terms and conditions on an award based on its risk assessment of the applicant, or for other reasons it determines necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives of the program.

Prospective applicants may access and review the text of mandatory conditions OJP includes in all OJP awards, as well as the text of certain other conditions, such as administrative conditions, via OJP's [Mandatory Award Terms and Conditions](#) page of the [OJP Funding Resource Center](#).

General Information about Post-Federal Award Reporting Requirements

Recipients must submit quarterly financial reports, semi-annual progress reports, final financial and progress reports, an annual audit report in accordance with 2 CFR 200, if applicable, and Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reports through the FFATA Sub-award Reporting System ([FSRS](#)) as necessary. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

Special Reporting requirements may be required by OJP depending on the statutory, legislative or administrative requirements of the recipient or the program.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

For additional Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s), see Title Page.

For additional contact information for GMS, see the Title page.

H. Other Information

Provide Feedback to OJP

To assist OJP in improving its application and award processes, we encourage applicants to provide feedback on this solicitation, the application submission process, and/or the application review process. Provide feedback to OJPSolicitationFeedback@usdoj.gov.

IMPORTANT: This e-mail is for feedback and suggestions only. Replies are **not** sent from this mailbox. If you have specific questions on any program or technical aspect of the solicitation, **you must** directly contact the appropriate number or e-mail listed on the front of this solicitation document. These contacts are provided to help ensure that you can directly reach an individual who can address your specific questions in a timely manner.

If you are interested in being a reviewer for other OJP grant applications, please e-mail your resume to ojppeerreview@lmbps.com. The OJP Solicitation Feedback email account will not forward your resume. **Note:** Neither you nor anyone else from your organization can be a peer reviewer in a competition in which you or your organization have submitted an application.

Application Checklist

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program: FY 2015 State Solicitation

This application checklist has been created to assist in developing an application.

What an Applicant Should Do:

Prior to Registering in GMS:

- _____ Acquire a DUNS Number (see page 23)
- _____ Acquire or renew registration with SAM (see page 23)

To Register with GMS:

- _____ For new users, acquire a GMS username and password* (see page 23)
- _____ For existing users, check GMS username and password* to ensure account access (see page 23)
- _____ Verify SAM registration in GMS (see page 23)
- _____ Search for correct funding opportunity in GMS (see page 23)
- _____ Select correct funding opportunity in GMS (see page 23)
- _____ Register by selecting the "Apply Online" button associated with the funding opportunity title (see page 23)
- _____ If experiencing technical difficulties in GMS, contact the NCJRS Response Center (see page 24)

*Password Reset Notice – GMS users are reminded that while password reset capabilities exist, this function is only associated with points of contacts designated within GMS at the time the account was established. Neither OJP nor the GMS Help Desk will initiate a password reset unless requested by the authorized official or a designated point of contact associated with an award or application.

General Requirements:

- _____ Review [Solicitation Requirements](#) web page in the OJP Funding Resource Center.

Scope Requirement:

- _____ The federal amount requested is within the allowable limit(s) of the FY 2015 JAG Allocations List as listed on BJA's [JAG web page](#)

Eligibility Requirement:

- _____ State/Territory listed as the legal name on the application corresponds with the eligible State/Territory listed on BJA's [JAG web page](#)

What an Application Should Include:

- _____ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (see page 15)
- _____ Project Abstract (see page 16)
- _____ Program Narrative (see page 16)
- _____ Budget Detail Worksheet (see page 17)
- _____ Budget Narrative (see page 17)
 - _____ Read OJP policy and guidance on conference approval, planning, and reporting

available at

www.ojp.gov/financialguide/PostawardRequirements/chapter15page1.htm

(see page 11)

- _____ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (if applicable) (see page 22)
- _____ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 18)
- _____ Tribal Authorizing Resolution (if applicable) (see page 18)
- _____ Applicant Disclosure of High Risk Status (see page 18)
- _____ Additional Attachments
 - _____ Review Narrative (see page 19)
 - _____ Strategic Plan (see page 20)
 - _____ Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications (see page 20)
 - _____ Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity (see page 20)
- _____ Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire (if applicable) (see page 22)